

Wilson restores funding to buy Bombay parcel

Greenbelt

By **RICHARD COLE**
Sentinel city editor

8-29-98

✓ **SANTA CRUZ** — Bombay's back. That was the word from Sacramento on Friday as Gov. Pete Wilson reversed his veto of \$1 million for the purchase of the 246-acre parcel that will form Santa Cruz's northern-greenbelt.

Wilson credited fellow Republican and state Sen. Bruce McPherson of Santa Cruz with changing his mind.

"Sen. McPherson has been diligent in his efforts to get funding for the Bombay property restored," the governor said. "I agree with him that now is a good time to invest in the conservation of our coastal lands."

McPherson said he had bent the governor's ear about Bombay at the school bond signing ceremony Wednesday. He noted that with the \$5 million previously approved to for the Coast Dairies purchase, the North County conservation agenda for the state was complete.

"We got just a tremendous com-

mitment from the state for coastal preservation," the senator said.

Santa Cruz Mayor Celia Scott said she was thrilled with the governor's change of heart.

"That's terrific — that's wonderful," Scott said. "If the bond is passed, then there will definitely be enough to buy Bombay."

The state's \$1 million, along with other grants and private money already committed, will complete Bombay's \$3.9 million purchase price if Santa Cruz city voters approve a \$7 million multi-purpose bond in November.

The city's fallback plan if the veto had stood was to use more of the bond money to buy Bombay. But that would have meant the end of plans to build the fourth priority in the measure, a new Fire Department administration building.

With Thursday's reversal by the governor — and the approval of city voters — the department will eventually be able to move out of its makeshift Civic Auditorium headquarters, Scott said.