

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200



Th 9 d&e

DATE: April 6, 2009
TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Persons
FROM: South Central Coast District Staff
SUBJECT: Agenda Item Th 9 d&e, CDP 4-08-096 & Consistency Certification CD-012-09, City of Santa Barbara, Lower Mission Creek, City of Santa Barbara, Thursday April 9, 2009

The Commission staff proposes clarifications to reflect the most recently developed plans for work in the channel, and for the lagoon buffer below Cabrillo Bridge. Also, one letter is attached.

[Proposed new language is shown in underline text; language to be deleted is shown in ~~strikeout~~ text.]

1. Special Condition 3, page 6, shall be replaced as shown below:

3. Lagoon Buffer. In conjunction with the Tidewater Goby Management Plan, the City shall establish a 20-50 foot wide buffer zone along both sides of the creek/lagoon that extends an average of 150-200 feet/side (or a total of 300-400 linear feet, counting both sides together) downstream of the ends of the vegetated areas to be constructed as a part of the Cabrillo Bridge project on the south side of the Cabrillo Boulevard bridge. This buffer plan shall include clarification as to its effects and relationship to the existing bike path and periodic development such as dredging operations within this area. Prior to commencement of construction of the flood control project the City shall submit the final Tidewater Goby and Lagoon Management Plans (including buffers) to the Executive Director for his review and approval based on his determination that they continue to remain consistent with standards articulated in the draft Plans the Commission previously found consistent with the Coastal Act (in CD-046-06), and with the Commission's findings in that action. The Executive Director will only consider activities which are consistent with the Coastal Act and will involve all known interested parties prior to approving the final plan.

2. Water Quality, Sediment Testing, Erosion Control, and Habitat Monitoring Plans Findings page 24, shall be amended as follows, by adding the following footnote after the second sentence of the second (indented) paragraph, to clarify the project description:

... Prior to any dewatering all fish species would be captured and relocated from the construction area. A flume 3-6 feet in width would allow the creek to flow through the dewatered work area.¹

[New footnote:]

To clarify the current project description, the 3-6 ft flume has been revised and, rather than the originally designed narrow plume, the project will be conducted in a manner reflected in City CDP permit condition 33(b) from City CDP-2008-00012 (Exhibit 6, p. 14), which states that the channel will be divided, and one half at all times will remain available for fish passage, as follows:

- 33. Construction in the Channel.** No construction shall occur in the flowing water. If water is present during construction, the water shall be diverted by construction of a low flow channel or installation of a pipe as follows:
- a) No construction work is allowed in water in the estuary from December 1 to June 1st
 - b) Divide a suitable length of the estuary down the middle with an impermeable barrier, such as sheet piling. The length should be as long as practicable to minimize repetition of this divide and dry procedure for making temporary construction enclosures. A lateral coffer dam in mid-stream shall not be acceptable because of increased turbidity and fine sediments that would be conveyed downstream to the coastal lagoon.

Attachment - Letter of Opposition from Erik and Alex Funke, dated April 1, 2009.

ERIK AND ALEX FUNKE

115-135 KIMBERLY AVE
SANTA BARBARA, CA
FAMILY OWNERS SINCE 1944

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APR 3 2009

April first, 2009

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APR 06 2009

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT

Regarding permit # 4-08-096
Item no: Th 9d & e
IN OPPOSITION

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

WE are writing concerning the Mission Creek Project. This channelization is a misuse of public moneys. The funds would be better spent on improved management of storm run-off and increasing percolation. Rather than chopping up the West Beach neighborhood, why not build flood control reservoirs in the hills behind Santa Barbara? Has there really been any public call for this project, or is it the misguided peregrinations of bureaucracies and politicians looking for a problem to solve? IF it is completed, the public views of the creek will be less attractive than they are now. The Public must ask for the economic justification for this project, especially since Federal funding has dried up, and this is to be paid for with scarce local funds

The fundamental flaw within this project is that the benefits do not match the cost. It is just another public construction boondogle. Even the A.C.E. with their voodoo math could not justify this project. The money would be better spent on schools or on maintenance of the County's existing flood control system. Some version of La Entrada may be built someday, and this project will be a sort of concrete amenity for the timeshare people.

This project is sold as flood control but is actually a lineal park and should be named as such. The Funke family already has a difficult time with people staying in the creek. Several times a year we clean out nests left behind. Since food and clothes changes are readily available, the nests tends to grow huge. So if and when this is built, we hope some consideration is paid to patrolling and cleaning up after the nite-time activities along any walkways included in the design.

Locally speaking, the neighbors along Mission Creek have been good stewards of this urban creek, and it is unfair to take properties for this overpriced and questionable project. We pay our flood insurance bill as required by our lender, and we pay property taxes, dismayed that some of that tax money is going to this un-needed project.

Sometime in the future a visitor will stand on a new bridges across Mission Creek. The view will not have improved. The water will be green with thick algae because the exit to the Pacific sands shut and the climate is warm. There will be trash on the top of the water because there are a lot of us. The visitor will think something should be done to clean up the creek.

Sincerely,

ERIK and ALEX FUNKE