

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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Filed: 8/21/02  
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Staff: MV-LB  
Staff Report: 8/22/02  
Hearing Date: 9/9-13/02  
Commission Action:

**STAFF REPORT: APPEAL**  
**SUBSTANTIAL ISSUE**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** City of Laguna Beach

**LOCAL DECISION:** Approval with Conditions

**APPEAL NUMBER:** A-5-LGB -02-285

**APPLICANT:** Laguna Shoals, LLC

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 1601 So. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, Orange County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Appeal of City of Laguna Beach approval of coastal development permit for improvement to private bluff stairway.

**APPELLANT:** Commissioners Wan and Dettloff

**SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The staff recommends that the Commission **open and continue** the public hearing to determine whether a substantial issue exists with respect to the grounds on which the appeal has been filed for the following reasons:

Pursuant to Section 30621 of the Coastal Act, a hearing on a coastal development permit appeal shall be set no later than 49 days after the date on which the appeal is filed with the Commission. An appeal of the above-described decision was filed on August 21, 2002. The 49<sup>th</sup> day falls on October 9, 2002. The Coastal Commission meeting scheduled for September 9-13, 2002 meets the 49 day requirement. Only the first two days of the Commission's October 8-11, 2002 would meet that requirement. However, it would require extraordinary scheduling to assure that South Coast district items are heard within the first two days. Therefore to assure that the required 49 day time limit is met, the appeal is being scheduled for the Commission's September 9-13, 2002 hearing.

In accordance with Section 13112 of the California Code of Regulations, staff requested on August 22, 2002 that the City of Laguna Beach forward all relevant documents and materials regarding the subject permit to the Commission's South Coast District office in Long Beach. The documents and materials relating to the City's approval of the project are necessary to analyze the project's consistency with the Coastal Act and the certified Local Coastal Program (LCP) in relation to the grounds of the appeal.

As of August 22, the date of this staff report, the City's documents and materials relating to the local approval have not been received in the Commission's Long Beach office. Therefore, it is not possible to thoroughly analyze the appealed project and City approval in time to prepare a staff recommendation in time for the Commission's September 9-13, 2002 meeting.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 13112 of the California Code of Regulations, the staff recommends that the Commission open and continue the Substantial Issue Hearing at the September 9-13, 2002 meeting.

Section 13112 of the California Code of Regulations (Effect of Appeal) states:

(a) Upon receipt in the Commission office of a timely appeal by a qualified appellant, the executive director of the Commission shall notify the permit applicant and the affected local government that the operation and effect of the development permit has been stayed pending Commission action on the appeal by the Commission as required by Public Resources Code Section 30623. Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal the local government shall refrain from issuing a development permit for the proposed development and shall, within five (5) working days, deliver to the executive director all relevant documents and materials used by the local government in its consideration of the coastal development permit application. If the Commission fails to receive the documents and materials, the Commission shall set the matter for hearing and the hearing shall be left open until all relevant materials are received.

As required by the above stated regulation, the Substantial Issue Hearing will be reopened at a subsequent Commission hearing after staff receives and fully analyzes the local approval of the appealed project.