MEMORANDUM

Prepared September 20, 2007 (for October 12, 2007 Hearing)

To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Persons
From: Charles Lester, Senior Deputy Director
       Katie Morange, Coastal Planner

Subject: Extension of Time Limit for Coastal Commission Action on Monterey County Local Coastal Program Major Amendment Number 2-07 Part 3 (Gorman-Tanglewood Parcel Rezone)

Central Coast District staff has received the above-referenced Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendment request from Monterey County. The proposed amendment would modify the LCP’s Implementation Plan (IP) by rezoning a 17.03-acre parcel in the Prunedale area of North Monterey County from LDR/B-7(CZ) to LDR(CZ).

Coastal Act Section 30510 requires proposed LCP amendment submittals to contain materials sufficient for a thorough and complete review. Once that requirement is satisfied and an amendment request is deemed submitted (or “filed”), the Coastal Act requires the Commission to act on IP amendments within 60 days, and on Land Use Plan (LUP) amendments and combined LUP/IP amendments within 90 days (Coastal Act Sections 30512, 30513, and 30514).

LCP amendment 2-07 Part 3 was filed as complete on August 16, 2007. The proposed LCP amendment is IP only and thus the 60-day requirement applies; the 60th day is October 15, 2007. Therefore, the proposed amendment would have to be scheduled for action at the Commission’s October 2007 meeting if it were to be decided within 60 days of filing. However, Coastal Act Section 30517 allows the Commission to extend, for good cause, the 60-day time limit for a period not to exceed one year. In this case, the proposed amendment presents significant Coastal Act issues and Commission staff has not yet had sufficient time to analyze the changes proposed, including in terms of their relation to complicated water supply and saltwater intrusion issues in North Monterey County. A later meeting date would allow for adequate review time as well as consultation with the County regarding possible amendment modifications. A one-year extension would result in a new deadline for Commission action on the proposed amendment of October 15, 2008. Although staff believes that this matter will be brought to hearing before the new deadline, it has generally been the Commission’s practice to extend such deadlines for a full year as provided by the Coastal Act to allow for flexibility in hearing scheduling (including to accommodate any requested or otherwise necessary postponements, continuances, etc.) and in terms of allotting scarce staff resources. Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission extend the deadline for Commission action by one year.
Summary of the Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission extend the deadline for Commission action on the proposed amendment by one year.

Motion. I move that the Commission extend the 60-day time limit to act on Monterey County Local Coastal Program Amendment Number 2-07 Part 3 to October 15, 2008.

Staff Recommendation. Staff recommends a YES vote. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present is needed to pass the motion.