

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
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W6a



MEMORANDUM

Prepared February 22, 2007 (for March 14, 2007 Hearing)

To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Persons

From: Charles Lester, Central Coast District Deputy Director
Dan Carl, Coastal Planner

Subject: Extension of Time Limit for Commission Action on UCSC Marine Science Campus Coastal Long Range Development Plan

The University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) has proposed a Coastal Long Range Development Plan (CLRDP) for its 100-acre Terrace Point property located at the periphery of the City of Santa Cruz, adjacent to Santa Cruz County's rural north coast. The University withdrew a prior CLRDP request in April 2006 and resubmitted the current version in an effort to address Commission and other concerns.

One of the issues associated with the University's proposed CLRDP is the extent of wetlands contained on the site. The University submitted a detailed wetland delineation that has been reviewed and accepted by the Commission's staff ecologist. As an extra measure, and as requested by various groups that do not agree with the University's wetland delineation and Commission staff's acceptance of it, the University and Commission staff agreed to pursue a third-party peer review of the wetland delineation by respected wetland delineators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Originally, this peer review was to have been completed in early February, and University and Commission staff agreed to target a March hearing for Commission consideration of the CLRDP. Unfortunately, however, the peer review was delayed and will not be completed until April. As a result, the University requested that the matter not be scheduled for the March hearing as originally planned, but rather be scheduled following completion of the third-party wetland peer review.

Pursuant to Section 13520 of the Commission's regulations, Commission staff deemed the revised proposed CLRDP package "submitted" (also often referred to as "filed") on December 22, 2006. Pursuant to Sections 30605 and 30512(a)(3) of the Coastal Act, the Commission is required to act on the revised proposed CLRDP no later than 90 days following its filing (i.e., by March 22, 2007). The action deadline is not, however, absolute. Section 30517 of the Coastal Act also allows the Commission to extend the action deadline for up to a year for good cause.

In order to accommodate the University's request for a later Commission hearing date and to allow for completion of the wetland peer review prior to a Commission hearing on this matter, an extension of the 90-day action deadline is necessary. A one-year extension would result in a new deadline for Commission action on the proposed amendment of March 22, 2008. Although staff believes that this matter will be resolved well 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



California Coastal Commission

March 2007 Meeting in Monterey

Staff: D. Carl Approved by:
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scheduling (including accommodation of any requested or otherwise necessary postponements, continuances, etc.) and in terms of allotting scarce staff resources. Staff fully expects to schedule the proposed CLRDP promptly following completion of the wetland delineation peer review.

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 UCSC CLRDP by one year.

Motion. I move that the Commission extend the 90-day time limit to act on the UCSC CLRDP to March 22, 2008.

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