
CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Prepared June 18, 2009 (for July 9, 2009 Hearing)

To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Persons

From: Dan Carl, District Manager
Susan Craig, Coastal Planner

Subject: Extension of Time Limit for Commission Action on Santa Cruz County Local Coastal Program Amendment Number 1-09 Part 2 (Timber Harvest in Ag Zones)

Santa Cruz County has submitted the above-referenced Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendment request intended to add timber harvesting as an allowable use in LCP-designated agricultural areas.

Coastal Act Section 30510 allows a proposed LCP amendment to be submitted if the submittal contains materials sufficient for a thorough and complete review. Once that requirement is satisfied and the amendment is filed as complete, the Coastal Act requires that the Commission act on an Implementation Plan (IP) amendment within 60 days and a Land Use Plan (LUP) amendment or combined LUP/IP amendment within 90 days. If Commission action is not taken within the applicable timeframe, then the amendment is deemed approved and certified by the Commission (Coastal Act Sections 30510, 30512, 30513, and 30514).

LCP amendment 1-09 Part 2 was filed as complete on May 13, 2009. The proposed LCP amendment includes both LUP and IP components and thus the 90-day requirement applies; the 90th day is August 11, 2009. Therefore the amendment would have to be scheduled for action by the Commission's July 2009 meeting if it were to be decided within 90 days of filing. However, Coastal Act Section 30517 allows the Commission to extend, for good cause, the 90-day time limit for a period not to exceed one year. A one-year extension would result in a new deadline for Commission action of August 11, 2010.

In this case, the proposed amendment presents critical LCP resource issues with respect to allowed uses in the County's agriculturally-designated areas (i.e., most of the rural portion of the County's coastal zone) and there is insufficient time before the July 2009 hearing to analyze the changes proposed to ensure coastal resource protection consistent with the Coastal Act and the LUP. A later meeting date would allow for adequate review time, as well as allow for consultation with the County regarding any possible amendment modifications. 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. Staff recommends a **YES** vote on the motion below. Passage of the motion will result in a new deadline for Commission action on this proposed LCP amendment. The motion passes only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.

Motion. I move that the Commission extend the 90-day time limit to act on Santa Cruz County Local Coastal Program Major Amendment Number 1-09 Part 2 to August 11, 2010.

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

