



Amendment to the County of Santa Barbara CEQA Guidelines – Environmental Coordinator Requirements

Board of Supervisors
Santa Maria
May 25, 2010



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Staff Recommendation

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt a Resolution amending the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act regarding the environmental coordinator and hearing officer requirements for public projects (Attachment A); and,
2. Find that these amendments are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines (Attachment B – Notice of Exemption).



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2005 County CEQA Guidelines Amendments

I. Environmental Coordinator definition;

- Appointed by CEO or designee
- Ensure EIR Complies with CEQA
- Serve as project Hearing Officer

“The Environmental Coordinator shall not be an employee or officer of the department that is charged with the preparation of the public plan or program EIR.”



Proposed County CEQA Guidelines Amendment

Environmental Coordinator

- Other County departments
- External consultant

P&D Use of External Consultants

- Interdepartmental EC unavailable
- Project scope and complexity
 - Housing Element, Santa Ynez and Los Alamos Community Plans
- External EC expenditures (Dec 2005 to Jan 2010)
 - \$214,284



Proposed County CEQA Guidelines Amendment

Environmental Coordinator. Appointed by the County Executive Officer as the hearing Officer. Responsible for:

1. Ensuring that the preparation of the public plan or program EIR by the department that has the principle authority for the project complies with the requirements of CEQA and the County's CEQA Guidelines; and
2. Fulfilling the duties of the Hearing Officer for the respective project.

~~The Environmental Coordinator shall not be an employee or officer of the department that is charged with the preparation of the public plan or program EIR.~~



Proposed County CEQA Guidelines Amendment

Intended Benefits:

- Department flexibility
- Cost savings and efficiencies
- Retain independent and objective review



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Thank You



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