



22 October 2010

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: California Coastal Commission Staff Recommended Modifications to
County Land Use and Development Code

Chair Wolf and Supervisors,

We are writing again in regard to the California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff's recommended modifications to the Santa Barbara County Land Use and Development Code (LUDC). As the owners of Por La Mar Nursery we continue to have concerns about the modifications mandated by CCC staff and the potential impact upon agricultural operations. For your information I have attached copies of my previously submitted correspondence on this topic. Again, we appreciate that County staff has been working diligently with Coastal Commission staff to address many of the concerns expressed by constituents.

We attended the Review of Coastal Commission Recommended Modifications to the County Land Use & Development Code hosted by Planning and Development in Goleta on October 12th. We remain concerned about the impacts of these modifications not only on our agricultural operation but on the viability of agriculture throughout the Coastal Zone in Santa Barbara County. At least one message was very clear at the October 12th community meeting in that constituents actively engaged in agriculture are extremely concerned about increased costs associated with additional permit and hearing requirements that will result from the proposed modifications such as the following:

Modification #9

- We believe if an operator wants to expand their ag activities they may be faced with significant cost associated with documenting existing resources on site.
- Why is the Coastal Commission attempting to delete uses currently allowed via a CDP or CUP in agricultural zones (when the uses could be permitted in other zones in the Coastal Zone)? Is the Coastal Commission tasked with deciding what land uses are compatible with agricultural along with their mandate to protect coastal resources? We feel this is an issue best decided at the local level.

Por La Mar Nursery

600 South Patterson, P.O. Box 6354, Santa Barbara, CA 93160 • Phone (805) 964-8831 • Fax (805) 967-3266

Modification #10

- The 5,000 square foot limit on dwelling floor area and the 10,000 square foot limit on lot area devoted to development seem arbitrary. We understand that these limits can be exceeded with a hearing. A hearing adds additional time and costs. At the very least we believe these limits should be consistent with the Ag Preserve Uniform Rules as recommended by Planning and Development.
- We support Planning and Development's proposal to include artist studios and guest houses as principally permitted uses.

We do not believe there is an existing problem in the coastal ag community that necessitates the proposed modifications and related costs that will be passed on to ag operators who are already significantly burdened with local, state and federal regulations.

As documented in our previous correspondence, we continue to believe there is great benefit to agriculture to move forward separately with the economic hardship provision discussed in Modification, #25 (administrative time extensions). We believe this is especially necessary and prudent in the current economic climate.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

 (STEVEN M. FORT)
Authorized Agent For -
Ron Caird & Brian Caird
Por La Mar Nursery
905 South Patterson Avenue

Attachments



#7

3 August 2010

County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: California Coastal Commission Staff Recommended Modifications to
County Land Use and Development Code

Chair Wolf and Supervisors,

We are writing again in regard to the California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff's recommended modifications to the Santa Barbara County Land Use and Development Code (LUDC). As the owners of Por La Mar Nursery we continue to have concerns about the modifications mandated by CCC staff and the potential impact upon agricultural operations. Our specific comments were documented in our previous letter to you dated June 30, 2010.

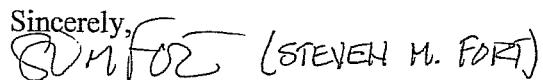
We appreciate that County staff has been working diligently with CCC staff to address many of the concerns expressed by constituents. Review of the July 28, 2010 CCC staff report indicates that some of County staff's requested changes have been incorporated but we still remain concerned about the impacts of these modifications not only on our agricultural operation but on the viability of agriculture throughout the Coastal Zone in Santa Barbara County. We are also troubled by organizations and individuals expressing support for the suggested CCC modifications and their assertions that the modifications are good for agriculture. Please take the opportunity listen to the people that are actually engaged in agricultural operations and more fully understand the potential impacts of these modifications to the viability of agriculture. We request that all ag operators and relevant representative organizations in the Coastal Zone be notified of the proposed modifications, informed of potential options, and that County staff develop responses to the CCC based on the input of these stakeholders.

Por La Mar Nursery

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As documented in our June 30, 2010 letter, we continue to believe there is great benefit to agriculture to move forward separately with the economic hardship provision discussed in Modification, #25 (time extensions). We believe this is especially prudent in the current economic climate.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,
 (STEVEN M. FORD)

AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR
Ron Caird & Brian Caird
Por La Mar Nursery
905 South Patterson Avenue