



# The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

▬ preserving natural lands and our agricultural heritage ▬

#5



July 23, 2010

Janet Wolf, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Coastal Commission actions regarding County LUDC  
July 27, 2010 Hearing: Item No. 5

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to urge you not to accede to the ill-conceived and ill-defined revisions to the Land Use and Development Code that the Coastal Commission staff is attempting to force upon the County.

I share the concerns you have heard from many of your constituents about the negative ramifications these revisions would have to productive agricultural, to families who live and work in the rural area, to fundamental property rights and to environmentally beneficial land stewardship activities. I am also appalled at the lack of any public process on the part of the Commission staff and its apparent unwillingness to engage in any face-to-face discussion with the people affected by its actions.

Of particular concern to the Land Trust are proposed LUDC revisions that will:

- Make it more costly and difficult for landowners to make necessary changes to their agricultural operations, thus threatening the viability of coastal agriculture.
- Limit the ability of ranch and farm families to meet their housing needs.
- Increase the permitting burden for voluntary restoration projects.
- Prohibit charitable non-profit organizations from the Coastal Zone.

It is unclear how a "charitable organization" is defined as a "land use," but the effect of this policy would be to force the Land Trust to abandon the coastal land it owns and manages at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve and the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. A marine wildlife rescue organization now operating in the Coastal Zone would presumably have to move inland. Channel Islands Restoration, a non-profit group that works with private landowners and public agency in riparian and wetland restoration would presumably not be allowed to do so.

I urge you to take the strongest possible stand on behalf of your local constituencies against the heavy-handed actions of this renegade state agency.

Sincerely,

Michael Feeney  
Executive Director

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