



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Board of Supervisors
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: June 4, 2013
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

Board of Supervisors

TO:

FROM: Board Member(s) Salud Carbajal – (805) 568-2186

Contact Info: Jeremy Tittle – (805) 568-2186

JG for SC

SUBJECT: Resolution of Support for Increased Funding for Local Coastal Planning

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a Resolution of Support for Increased Funding for Local Coastal Planning

Summary Text:

The Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, Charles Lester, is working with the California State Senate and Assembly to increase state funding for the California Coastal Commission and local governments to support enhanced Local Coastal Program (LCP) planning and updates consistent with local needs and the California Coastal Act. Mr. Lester has requested a resolution of support from affected local governments, including Santa Barbara County, to maximize the chances of securing increased funding.

Background: The Local Coastal Program (LCP) planning process was established by and implements the California Coastal Act in local government jurisdictions. The LCP includes the Coastal Land Use Plan, Community Plans from coastal areas, and implementing ordinances including the Coastal Zoning Ordinance. Updates to these plan level and implementation documents may be minor in nature or comprehensive, but all such updates are subject to a process that includes coordination between County staff and decision makers and Coastal Commission staff and the Commission. Improving the LCP planning process was the subject of a Coastal Commission workshop in December 2012. Substantial progress has been made working together to improve the LCP planning process, but additional state and local staff capacity is a necessity in order to reach process improvement goals more effectively. To this end, the Coastal Commission has requested increased funding from the California State Senate and Assembly. The requests for funding include \$4 million dollars/year increase for the Coastal

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Commission's budget and \$1 million dollars/year for local government LCP planning grants. Grant funding could be used to help address significant reductions in Santa Barbara County planning budgets that have occurred over the last several years. This funding will be used to increase collaborative state-local planning and streamline the process for approving and amending or updating Local Coastal Programs. The additional funding would be used to support early coordination between Coastal Commission and local government staff, including the identification of key issues and potential conflicts as early as possible in the process. The goal of early coordination is to provide for more predictable and mutually agreeable processing timelines for each stage of the amendment process and for mechanisms to provide maximum opportunity for the Commission and local governments to collaboratively address important and pressing coastal management issues. The California Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Coastal Counties Regional Association are in support of efforts to improve the LCP planning process.

Performance Measure:

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

If the requested increased funding is secured, it would provide for grant opportunities to local governments to support the LCP planning process.

Fiscal Analysis:

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Send adopted Resolution of support to Elizabeth Fuchs (Elizabeth.Fuchs@coastal.ca.gov)

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution of Support

Attachment B: Letter from Charles Lester, Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission

Authored by:

Jeremy Tittle

cc:

Draft resolution:

Resolved: The County of Santa Barbara strongly supports additional funding for the Local Coastal Program (LCP) planning process established by the California Coastal Act. This funding should be used to support efforts to increase collaborative state-local planning and streamline the process for approving and amending or updating Local Coastal Programs, including providing additional planning staff for the California Coastal Commission and funding for new state LCP planning grants for local governments. Additional funding should prioritize Commission staffing and resources to support early scoping, local coordination and communication on any proposed amendment, to help identify key issues and address potential conflicts, as early as possible. Early coordination provides for more predictable and mutually-agreeable processing timelines for each stage of the amendment process, and for mechanisms to provide maximum opportunity for the Commission and local governments to collaboratively-address important and pressing coastal management issues, including addressing the need for updated LCPs to support new economic development consistent with local needs and the California Coastal Act. Early coordination also provides for maximizing local participation and discussion of LCP issues, and enhancing efficiency and accountability in the local coastal planning process.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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May 7, 2013

TO: Local Government Coastal Partners

FROM: Charles Lester, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission

RE: Resolution of Support for Increased Funding for Local Coastal Planning

The Coastal Commission is continuing to work in Sacramento for increased funding for the Commission and local governments to support enhanced LCP planning and updates, including a focus on climate change and sea level rise. We are excited to report that on Thursday, April 25, after we discussed the issue of the need for updating LCPs, the Senate Budget Subcommittee #2 voted to increase the Commission's budget to allocate \$4 million dollars/year to the Commission, which would include \$1 million/year for local government LCP planning grants. We are hoping that the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3 will concur with this recommended action and that ultimately this would become part of the final 2013-14 budget. We are very thankful that Kiana Buss appeared on behalf of CSAC to speak in support of our joint efforts to improve the LCP planning process.

As was discussed at our December, 2012 workshop with local government, substantial progress has been made working together to improve the LCP planning process, but additional state and local staff capacity is a necessity if we are to reach our goals more effectively.¹ Accordingly, in order to best maximize our chances of securing increased funding, **we request that you please consider bringing forward a resolution to your Board or Council, as soon as possible, expressing support for increased funding for the Commission and local governments for LCP planning.** Below I have provided some language that expresses the core idea of such a resolution, that could be augmented with various whereas clauses and adjusted according to each jurisdiction's typical practices.

We hope that you will consider taking this action before the end of the month if possible. If you do, please let us know and send us any official resolutions so that we can compile them for the on-going process. You can forward your resolution to Elizabeth Fuchs, our manager of statewide planning, at the address above or by email (Elizabeth.Fuchs@coastal.ca.gov). In addition Kiana Buss (CSAC) has offered to compile them as well (kbuss@counties.org). Finally, please do not hesitate to call me or Chief Deputy Susan Hansch (415-904-5202) or our Legislative Director Sarah Christie (916 -445-6067) if you have any questions about the budget process. Of course, we would appreciate any general support of the coastal program and LCP planning that you might also voice to your Sacramento representatives. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

¹ For more detail see <http://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2013/4/F9b-4-2013.pdf>.