

## **ATTACHMENT D: FINDINGS (Coastal Zoning Ordinance)**

### **CASE NO. 11ORD-00000-00023**

#### **1.0. CEQA FINDINGS**

##### **1.1 CEQA Guidelines Exemption Findings**

**1.1.1** The County Planning Commission finds, and recommends that the County Planning Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors find, that the proposed project, 11ORD-00000-00023, is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308. Please see Attachment E, Notice of Exemption.

#### **2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS.**

In compliance with Section 35-180.6 of the Santa Barbara County Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance, the following findings shall be made by the County Planning Commission in order to recommend approval of a text amendment to Article II, and the Board of Supervisors shall adopt the following findings in order to approve a text amendment to Article II:

##### **2.1 The request is in the interests of the general community welfare.**

The proposed ordinance amendment is in the interest of the general community welfare since the amendment will serve to clarify the discretionary development permit process without compromising community values, environmental quality, or the public health and safety. The proposed ordinance amendments will clarify that, in all applications of hydraulic fracturing to new or existing wells, discretionary approval of an Oil and Gas Production Plan and Coastal Development Permit by the County Planning Commission is required (a Condition Use Permit may also be required in certain zone districts). This process will result in full disclosure of potential impacts and potential alternatives and mitigation to avoid or minimize any potentially significant impacts.

##### **2.2 The request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the Coastal Land Use Plan, the requirements of State planning and zoning laws and this Article.**

Adoption of the proposed ordinance will provide more effective implementation of the State planning and zoning laws by clarifying the permit process for conducting hydraulic fracturing on new or existing wells. The proposed ordinance will not result in any inconsistencies with the adopted policies and development standards of the Comprehensive Plan including the Community and Area Plans, and the Coastal Land Use Plan. The proposed ordinance amendment is also consistent with the remaining portions of Article II that would not be revised by this ordinance. Therefore, this ordinance may be found consistent with the Comprehensive Plan including the Community and Area Plans, the Coastal Land Use Plan, the requirements of State Planning and Zoning Laws, and Article II.

##### **2.3 The request is consistent with good zoning and planning practices.**

The proposed ordinance is consistent with sound zoning and planning practices to regulate land uses for the overall protection of the environment and community values since it will clarify the

discretionary permit process required for hydraulic fracturing. This process requires adequate environmental review to identify and disclose potential significant environmental impacts, including those to public health and safety, along with an examination of alternatives and mitigation to avoid or minimize such impacts. As discussed in Finding 2.2, above, the amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan including the Community and Area Plans, the Coastal Land Use Plan, and Article II.