

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Brian Trautwein [btraut@edcnet.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 3:35 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Coastal Commission Certification of Land Use and Development Codes

Dear Clerk of the Board:

Please provide the Board of Supervisors with the following letter (previously submitted to the Planning Commission) for the Board's November 9th agenda:

SANTA BARBARA URBAN CREEKS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1467, Santa Barbara, CA 93102 (805) 968-3000

Dear County Planning Commissioners,

The Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council is a 501(c)3 non profit that has advocated for the interests of sound watershed planning for over 20 years on Santa Barbara County's south coast. Over that time we have served as a voice for over 3000 families and residents living in the region who are very interested in seeing that environmental protections are adopted that ensure the preservation and health of our dwindling coastal resources

We support the Coastal Commission and we support the Commission's Suggested Modifications a necessary to ensure that the County Code complies with the Coastal Act. The Coastal Act has been critical to protecting Santa Barbara's Coast including protection against water pollution, habitat loss, loss of farmland, and impacts to scenic views. The Coastal Act has been instrumental in helping to protect such places as Ellwood, Carpinteria Bluffs, Douglas Family Preserve, Goleta Beach and Gaviota Creek and has helped defend against unnecessary development and pollution at Gaviota. The Coastal Act is critical to protecting irreplaceable coastal resources such as at Naples.

The Suggested Modifications protect the public's right to participate in land use decision-making processes by clarifying and maintaining the opportunity for public notice, public hearings and appeals. The modifications would clarify that lot mergers- like those that fostered the planned development at Naples - require permits and are subject to public scrutiny and appeals. This debate over permits for lot mergers is part of the ongoing conflict and is part of the Environmental Defense Center's, Surfrider's and the Naples Coalition's litigation over Naples. The Suggested Modifications clarify when land use activities (e.g. home sizes, development envelope sizes and agricultural intensifications) trigger permits which in turn trigger public processes, rights to appeal, and better mitigation of environmental impacts. The Suggested Modifications - like the Coastal Act - are vitally important to the protection of our coast and should be embraced.

Thank you for considering the views of our membership, and for maintaining the expectations of Californians who helped pass the Coastal Act into state law.

Eddie Harris
President
Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council