

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:

Prepared on: December 7, 2004
Department Name: Planning and Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: January 4, 2005
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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Val Alexeeff, Director
Planning & Development Department

STAFF CONTACT: Cintia Mendoza, Board Assistant, Supervisor
568-2058

SUBJECT: **Establishment of 2005 Window Dates for proposed Land Use Element and Local Coastal Program Amendments**

Recommendation:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set the 2005 window dates for acting on proposed Land Use Element and Local Coastal Program Amendments, as follows:

- a. January 25, May 17, July 19 and October 18, 2005 for proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments;
- b. March 15, July 19 and October 18, 2004 for proposed Local Coastal Program amendments.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: The recommendations are primarily aligned with actions required by law.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION:

State planning law specifies that no mandatory element of a general plan may be amended more than four times in any given calendar year, with certain limited exceptions (Government Code §65358). In practice, the only element of Santa Barbara County's Comprehensive Plan which is subject to this limitation is the Land Use Element, for which the Planning & Development Department commonly processes over several amendment requests per calendar year; other elements generally are proposed for amendment fewer than four times per year. It has been County policy to "batch" proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment cases for hearing by the Board on four predetermined "window dates" spread throughout the year.

In addition, the California Coastal Act specifies that proposed amendments to a certified local coastal program (LCP) may be submitted to the State Coastal Commission no more than three times in any given calendar year (Public Resources Code §30514.(b)). This effectively requires that proposed LCP amendments be "batched" for hearing and action by the Board on three predetermined "window dates," similar to the process for Comprehensive Plan amendment cases.

Unexpected events and circumstances may require later adjustments to the proposed schedule.

MANDATES & SERVICE LEVELS: Government Code §65358(b) specifies that each element of the general plan may only be amended four times per year. Public Resources Code §30514 specifies that local coastal programs may be amended up to three times per year.

FISCAL AND FACILITIES IMPACT: None.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Send a Minute Order to Cintia Mendoza, P&D, Hearing Support.

CONCURRENCE: Mary Ann Slutzky, Deputy County Counsel