

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: April 18, 2003
Department: General Services
Budget Unit: 063
Agenda Date: May 6, 2003
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ronald S. Cortez, Director
General Services Department

STAFF CONTACT: Ronn Carlentine, SR/WA
Real Property Manager (568-3078)

SUBJECT: California Coastkeeper Alliance
Requesting Letter of Permission on 2002-2003 Kelp Restoration Plan
First Supervisorial District

Recommendation:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve the attached Notice of Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.
- B. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the attached Letter of Permission to grant a license to the California Coastkeeper Alliance for permission to apply to the California Coastal Commission for the necessary permit for a kelp restoration project to restore the marine habitat near Carpinteria Reef. The grant of permission shall be valid for a period of three (3) years from the project's start date, estimated date of May 2003.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1.: An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community and with actions required by law or by routine business necessity.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The California Coastkeeper Alliance, through a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries' Community Based Restoration Program, launched a regional project to restore kelp forests to depleted reefs in Southern California. The Southern California Regional Kelp Restoration

Subject: California Coastkeeper Alliance
Requesting Letter of Permission on 2002-2003 Kelp Restoration Plan
Date: May 6, 2003
Page 2

Project has established kelp restoration and/or monitoring sites at Point Loma in San Diego County, Crystal Cove in Orange County, and Escondido Reef in Los Angeles County. The California Coastkeeper biologists identified an area in Santa Barbara County, Carpinteria Reef, where kelp was historically present but is now a barren reef.

The State of California in the early 1900's granted to the County of Santa Barbara the public trust responsibility/ownership of the tidelands and waters off Carpinteria. The County's responsibilities include administering the activities in these waters and therefore, a letter of permission is being requested in order to facilitate an amendment to include the Carpinteria Reef site in the California Coastal Commission Administrative Permit (No. E-01-018). A letter of support from the County of Santa Barbara granting permission to the California Coastkeeper Alliance to restore kelp at Carpinteria Reef is attached for the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute.

For the past several months, the California Coastkeeper Alliance have been working to obtain letters of permission, as required, from other regulatory agencies to commence restoration work at Carpinteria Reef. These letters of permission from other agencies include; U.S. Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard; United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; and the State of California Department of Fish and Game.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No change in programs or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The California Coastkeeper Alliance is a nonprofit organization and does not have a project budget that anticipated administrative cost to reimburse local public agencies for the cost of service. Therefore, the cost of Real Property services associated with this project in the amount of approximately \$800 is not reimbursable from the California Coastkeeper Alliance.

Special Instructions: After Board action, distribute as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Copy of original Letter of Permission | Board's Official File |
| 2. Original Letter of Permission & Minute Order | Facilities Services, Ronn Carlentine |

The General Services Department, Real Property Division will send the executed original Letter of Permission to the California Coastkeeper Alliance. The Clerk of the Board should retain a copy of the executed Letter of Permission for the Board's official file.

Concurrence:
General Services
County Counsel

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: General Services Department, Facility Services Division, Real Property

Based on a preliminary review of the project the following activity is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s): N/A

Santa Barbara County Project No.: (Real Property Folio No. 003447)

Location: Carpinteria Reef

Project Title: California Coastkeeper Alliance Requesting a Letter of Permission on Kelp Restoration Plan near Carpinteria Reef.

Project Description: Letter of Permission to grant a license to the California Coastkeeper Alliance permission to apply to the California Coastal Commission for the necessary permit for a kelp restoration project to restore the marine habitat near Carpinteria Reef..

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption [15307]
- No Possibility of Significant Effect

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources).

Reasons to support exemption findings: CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 “Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources,” states that a project is exempt from CEQA “to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment” Therefore, this real estate transaction is categorically exempt from CEQA.

Exemption Prepared by Ronn Carlentine, Santa Barbara County, General Services Department, Facilities Services Division.

Department/Division Representative
Mark Mittermiller, Assistant General Services Director

Date

Note: A copy must be filed with the County Clerk after project approval and posted by the Clerk for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Date File of the Clerk of the Board

May 6, 2003

Chantal Collier
California Coastkeeper Alliance
Regional Kelp Project Manager
c/o Southern California Marine Institute
820 South Seaside Avenue, Room 108
Terminal Island, California 90731

Dear Ms Collier:

California Coastkeeper Alliance – Carpinteria Reef Kelp Restoration Project

In response to your fax submittal dated March 18, 2003, for kelp restoration work off Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, the County of Santa Barbara by way of this letter grants to the California Coastkeeper Alliance permission to restore kelp at Carpinteria Reef under the following restrictions:

1. The California Coastkeeper Alliance obtains the necessary amendment to include the Carpinteria Reef site in your California Coastal Commission Administrative Permit (No.E-01-018). A copy of the permit shall be sent to the County General Services Department, Facilities Services Division, 1100 Anacapa Street, Courthouse Annex, Santa Barbara, California, 93101.
2. The California Coastkeeper Alliance obtains any and all necessary permission, permits, and other regulatory authority from the appropriate agency.
3. The permission granted to California Coastkeeper Alliance shall be valid for a period of three (3) years from the project's start date (estimated start date, May 2003).
4. The California Coastkeeper Alliance shall provide the County of Santa Barbara, through the General Services Department, with a written annual report on the restoration activities, and all CEQA documentation. Upon completion of the project, the California Coastkeeper Alliance shall provide the County with the final report.
5. The California Coastkeeper Alliance Carpinteria agrees that the Restoration Kelp Project on Carpinteria Reef will not interfere with any elements of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Project which is a project currently under environmental review at the County.

We support your effort to restore the marine kelp beds off the Carpinteria Reef. If you should have any question, please contact Ronn Carlentine, Real Property Manager, Real Property Division, General Services Department at (805) 568-3078.

Sincerely,

Naomi L. Schwartz
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara