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**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**


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GOVERNMENTAL CENTER




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**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**


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701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 400, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060  
 (408) 454-2580 FAX: (408) 454-2131 TDD: (408) 454-2123

May 21, 1998

Agenda: June 2, 1998

Board of Supervisors  
 County of Santa Cruz  
 701 Ocean Street  
 Santa Cruz. California 95060

**AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM**

Dear Members of the Board:

On April 28, 1998 your Board directed the Planning Department to return on this date with a status report on the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program. As you know, staff is working with the Trust for Public Land and the Open Space Alliance towards the expenditure of funds granted under the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988 (Proposition 70) for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements on a portion of the Coast Dairies Lands and Cardoza Dairy on **Harkins** Slough Road in Watsonville.

Staff is reviewing the draft Deeds of Agricultural Conservation Easements and the Purchase and Sale Agreements. Once these documents are submitted into escrow and the escrow instructions are signed, the County may request payment of the grant funds. This will effectively secure the use of these funds even though the escrows will not close until after the June 30, 1998 statutory deadline.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board direct the Planning Department to return on or before June 16, 1998 with the Deed of Agricultural Conservation Easement and the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Coast Dairies Land and Cardoza Dairy for your Board's final approval.

Sincerely,

ALVIN D. JAMES  
 Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
 County Administrative Officer

cc: Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
 The Land Trust of Santa Cruz  
 The Trust for Public Land