
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

Alvin D. James
Planning Director



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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September 23, 1998

Agenda: October 6, 1998

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

RE: STATUS REPORT ON THE PROCESSING OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREST PRACTICE RULES AND RELATED TOPICS

Members of the Board:

On June 2, 1998, your Board considered proposed Forest Practice rules (FPRs) and zoning ordinance amendments related to timber harvesting. At that meeting, your Board:

- 1) approved the proposed Forest Practice Rules, with amendments as proposed by Supervisor Almquist and directed Planning to submit these Rules changes to the Board of Forestry for processing, and
- 2) directed Planning staff to track the processing of the Forest Practice Rules changes, assist the staff of the Board of Forestry in the review of the submittal and to attend the hearings before the Board of Forestry, and
- 3) appointed Supervisor Almquist as the Board's representative at the Board of Forestry hearings on the proposed Forest Practice Rules changes, and
- 4) approved, in concept and with amendments, the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes, and
- 5) scheduled a public hearing on June 16, 1998, to consider extending the Interim Ordinance relating to helicopter logging, and
- 6) directed the Planning Department to return on October 6, 1998, with a status report on the processing of the Forest Practice Rules changes by the Board of Forestry and with a recommendation regarding an analysis which justifies an appropriate parcel size for an SU zoned property to be designated as a timber resource.

This report will focus on the status of the Forest Practice Rules changes, the status of the ordinance amendments and the analysis to determine the appropriate minimum parcel size for designating timber resource in the SU zone district.

Forest Practice Rules - Status

The current status of the Forest Practice Rules was discussed in Supervisor Almquist's letter of September 18, 1998, to your Board. So far, the Forest Practice Committee, a sub-committee of the Board of Forestry, has considered the proposed Forest Practice Rules changes in August and September. They are scheduled to do so again on October 5, 1998, in Sacramento.

A public hearing has been scheduled on November 3, 1998, before the Board of Forestry to consider the revised Forest Practice Rules approved by your Board on September 22, 1998. This hearing is the last opportunity for the Board of Forestry to act on the County's Forest Practice Rules changes so that they could go into effect on January 1, 1999. A report on the actions of the Board of Forestry will be presented to your Board in November as a parallel item to the public hearings on the proposed General Plan/Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan and ordinance amendments (see below).

Zoning Implementation - Status

In June, your Board directed that two packages of policy and ordinance amendments be prepared and processed: one to compliment the adoption and implementation of an acceptable set of Forest Practice Rules changes and the second to be considered should the Board of Forestry not approve an acceptable set of Forest Practice Rules. The two packages of proposed policy and ordinance amendments are scheduled for a public hearing by the Planning Commission on October 28, 1998. Following the Planning Commission review, a public hearing will be scheduled before your Board in late November. In order for the ordinance amendments to become effective by January 1, 1999 (at least outside the Coastal Zone), your Board must take final action by November 24, 1998.

Analysis of "SU" Zoned Parcels

Staff is in the process of finalizing the analysis of the "SU" zoned properties in the rural areas of the County as requested by your Board. Because of the size of this data base and the number of parcels involved in the analysis, additional time is necessary to complete the work. We intend to present the analysis to your Board on October 20, 1998, prior to the Planning Commission's October 28, 1998, hearing on the proposed ordinance amendments. This will allow your Board to refer any specific conclusions from the analysis to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

Recommendation

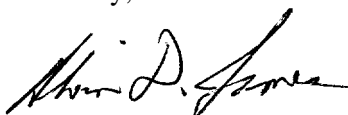
Staff continues to track and actively participate in the review of the Forest Practice Rules changes

by the Board of Forestry. The development of the ordinance and policy amendments requested by your Board is on schedule and will be presented to the Planning Commission at their October 28 meeting. The analysis of the appropriate size for designating SU zoned properties for timber harvesting will be presented to your Board in two weeks.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file this status report, and
2. Direct the Planning Department to return on October 20, 1998, with the SU zone district parcel size analysis as requested on June 2, 1998.

Sincerely,



Alvin D. Jam
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Counsel
California Department of Forestry, Central Coast Ranger Unit
Santa Cruz Farm Bureau
Big Creek Lumber
Mark Morgenthaler
Steven M. Butler
Citizens for Responsible Forest Management
Sierra Club
Summit Watershed Protection League
Valley Women's Club
City of Santa Cruz Water Department