



County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

Agenda Date: May 23, 2000

May 18, 2000

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Request to Continue Public Hearing on Application No. 99-0419 and a Request by Santa Cruz Biotechnology for an Emergency Coastal Permit for Implementation of a Storm-water Pollution Prevention Plan

Members of the Board:

On April 11, 2000, your Board scheduled a noticed public hearing on May 23rd regarding the issuance of a follow-up Coastal Permit to emergency approval No. 99-0419, which authorized work intended to improve water quality on the site. Your Board also directed the Planning Department and Environmental Health to return on this date with an evaluation and recommendations regarding a Storm-water Pollution Prevention Plan prepared by Santa Cruz Biotechnology, along with recommendations pertaining to the establishment of water quality standards.

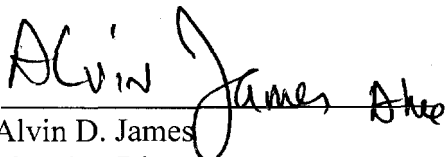
As requested by your Board, Santa Cruz Biotechnology made a timely submission of the Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan to the Planning Department on May 1st. Following a meeting with Planning Department and Environmental Health Services staff regarding questions and concerns about the plan, Santa Cruz Biotechnology submitted revised documents to attempt to address the concerns expressed by staff. The revised plans were received on Thursday, May 18 and there was insufficient time to allow for a meaningful review by the Planning Department and Environmental Health Services of this additional material. Because your Board has indicated a desire to consider the follow-up Coastal Permit to emergency approval No. 99-0419 in conjunction with the Storm-water Pollution Prevention Plan, we are recommending that this matter be continued to your agenda of June 6, 2000. This continuation will allow for a review of the revised proposal by staff and interested members of the public, and will allow staff to report on and respond to any action taken by the Regional Water Quality Control Board on this matter, scheduled for discussion at their meeting on May 19th.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board open the noticed hearing on the follow-up Coastal Permit to emergency approval No. 99-04 19 and a proposal to implement a Storm-water Pollution

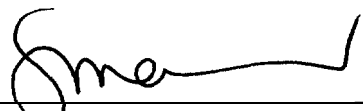
Request to Continue Public Hearing on Application No. 99-04 19
Board Agenda Date: May 23, 2000

Prevention Plan, and continue the matter to June 6, 2000 in order to have the benefit of a more thorough staff presentation and to allow the interested public with adequate time to review the revised proposal.

Sincerely,


Alvin D. James
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:


Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: Santa Cruz Biotechnology
Environmental Health
Notification List

AJ/kh:C:\files\Board letters, correspondence\SCBdeferMay23.wpd

TEL:

May 18,00 11:53 No. 001 P.01

Susan Samuels Drake2715 Monterey Avenue
Soquel, CA 95073-2805Phone: (831) 462-1889
Fax: (631) 462-3730
sdrake2@earthlink.netMay 18, 2000
via faxBoard of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.

I am trying hard to tailor my idealism with a realism that accepts changes to our lovely area. However, given our high-tech times, it's hard for me to understand why SCBI is having a problem with its pollution disposal. Why can't the Board enforce regulations imposed on SCBI?

In addition, with Nokia coming to our county and with our current high visibility with other industries, it's time to define our environmental and economic priorities. Are we so starved for income and good image that we will compromise quality? I hope not.

I am particularly distressed that, at SCBI, Performance Standards may be altered in ways that would lead to serious contamination of water for human consumption or contact. Isn't there some way to turn all that stuff into something useful-manure sales or ??? Or are there chemicals in the eliminated waste that make that unfeasible?

Every time I visit another, quieter and calmer area, I look at real estate prices and get the itch to move. Then I look at the lack of beauty, of culture, of ethnic diversity in those "elsewheres" and come home pleased to be a Santa Cruz County home-owner. Please don't make me sorry. Let's get a grip here and keep this county unique in spite of inevitable growth. And I don't mean uniquely polluted.

Please don't tell us, "These things take time." SCBI is breaking the law--would we say, "We'll arrest your activities later" to any other violator?

I'll appreciate your heartfelt decision-making instead of acting only with the county coffers in mind.



Susan Samuels Drake

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May 18, 2000

Chair Mardi Wormhoudt and
Board of Supervisors
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Santa Cruz Biotechnology Pollution Control Plan

Dear Chair Wormhoudt and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Center for Marine Conservation (CMC) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the health of coastal and marine environments and their living resources. Our Monterey Bay Office is active in a wide range of water quality protection issues affecting the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, including non-point source runoff. I am writing on behalf of CMC, to urge you to disapprove the proposed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan as submitted by Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc. (SCBI) and instead to direct staff to revise and strengthen the plan to prevent future surface and groundwater impairment by livestock pollution at this site.

CMC is extremely concerned with the long history of water quality violations associated with the SCBI livestock operation. As you know, in April of this year, SCBI's violations resulted in issuance of a County Notice of Violation and a Regional Water Quality Control Board Notice of Non-Conformance. CMC urges the County to ensure cessation of SCBI's water quality violations and adoption of an effective stormwater control plan, capable of preventing polluted runoff from leaving the SCBI property.

According to SCBI, implementation of the proposed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will, "result in significant reductions in the number of Fecal **Coliform**/E. Coli bacteria flowing off site in surface waters due to livestock operations." The vague goal of "significant reduction" is completely inadequate and cannot be considered a substitute for requiring SCBI to meet adopted state and County water quality standards. The solution to the significant water quality problems at the SCBI site is to require stronger and more defined actions to control pollution, not lowering the applicable water quality standards.

CMC strongly urges the County and the Regional Board to require SCBI, and all other landowners in Santa Cruz County, to comply with the state standards for "Safe Body Contact" for all runoff leaving their property. Meeting the "Safe Body Contact" standards is particularly important in this instance, because the runoff from SCBI's property flows directly through a neighborhood and eventually into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Gaffney".

Kaitilin Gaffney
California Central Coast Program Director

cc: William Arkfield, Regional Water Quality Control Board