



County of Santa Cruz

GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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BOB WATSON, DIRECTOR

August 20, 2001

Agenda: August 28, 2001

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

Use of Certified Wood in County Contracting

Dear Members of the Board:

During last year's discussion of the County's ordinance setting forth environmental principles and policies for County government, your Board directed that an analysis be provided on the feasibility of requiring environmentally certified wood in County contracting. A preliminary evaluation of this issue was provided to your Board by the County Administrative Office in February, 2001 which indicated a growing interest by a variety of organizations and jurisdictions in the utilization of certified wood. Additionally, there are a number of monitoring organizations which promote and certify that wood and wood products are developed through environmentally sound methods. The report also indicated that the availability and cost of certified wood and wood products would require further review.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was identified in the report as an international association that has developed a comprehensive set of principles and criteria for certification. This organization also accredits third party organizations who, in turn, certify whether the forest products are in compliance with the FSC's principles. FSC has also been working with State and federal legislators to develop various measures that address the development, use, and availability of sustainable wood products. At least two local firms, Big Creek Lumber of Santa Cruz and Hayward Lumber in Monterey, are committed to providing FSC-certified wood products.

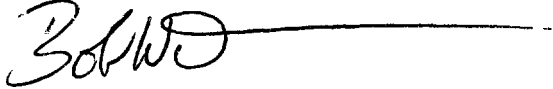
In order to complete a feasibility analysis regarding requiring environmentally certified wood in County contracts, the County Administrative Office has requested that the General Services Department contact local lumber supply companies and local construction contractors regarding the availability and cost of certified wood products. GSD will also be reviewing certified wood policies from other jurisdictions and their experience. GSD will then provide your Board with a final report and recommendation, including proposed vendor contract provisions, as appropriate.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

- 1) Accept and file this status report on the development of a policy requiring environmentally-certified wood in County contracting; and

- 2) Direct the General Services Department to provide a final report and recommendation on or before November 20, 2001.

Very truly yours,



Bob Watson
Director

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Counsel
Department of Public Works

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