



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET - 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

February 18, 2015

Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission
Agricultural Extension Auditorium
1432 Freedom Boulevard
Watsonville, California 95076

Subject: Santa Cruz County Working Lands Resolution

Dear Commissioners:

On January 13, 2015, the Board of Supervisors considered the attached Santa Cruz County Working Lands Resolution (Exhibit A) on the consent agenda. Prior to action on this item, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission consider the resolution and provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

The Board of Supervisors letter, dated January 7, 2015, and Working Lands Resolution provide the background regarding balancing the economic necessity of continued use of farmland, rangeland, and timberlands in Santa Cruz County, while also providing necessary environmental protections of resources supported on these lands throughout the County.

Attached are the following web links that provide the background documents cited in the Board of Supervisors correspondence to aide your review of this topic. These include:

The Santa Cruz County Economic Vitality Strategy:

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/Portals/2/County/Planning/economicdev/Draft%20Economic%20Vitality%20Strategy.pdf>

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County Conservation Blueprint

<http://www.landtrustsantacruz.org/blueprint/>

The Resource Conservation District's report on Healthy lands and Healthy Economy:
Nature's Value in Santa Cruz County:

<http://www.rcdsantacruz.org/publications>

Recommendation

In accordance with the adoption of the Working Lands Resolution by the Resource Conservation District, Farm Bureau, and the preliminary recommendation of the Board of Supervisors, it is recommended that your Commission recommend the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Working Lands Resolution.

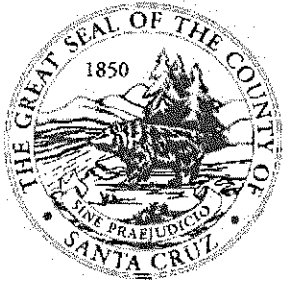
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila McDaniel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sheila McDaniel
Agricultural Planner
Development Review

Exhibits

A. Working Lands Resolution



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
(831) 454-2200 • FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JOHN LEOPOLD
FIRST DISTRICT

ZACH FRIEND
SECOND DISTRICT

RYAN COONERTY
THIRD DISTRICT

GREG CAPUT
FOURTH DISTRICT

BRUCE MCPHERSON
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 1/13/15

January 7, 2015

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: WORKING LANDS RESOLUTION

Dear Members of the Board:

Santa Cruz County is very fortunate to have a wealth of productive working land -- farm, timber, and range land. These working lands, both publicly and privately owned, support unique and important ecosystems which provide food, fiber, and materials while providing important diverse and high quality habitats for many species of native plants and animals. Our working lands also provide critical open space corridors for wildlife and greatly contribute to the economic foundation and well-being of Santa Cruz County residents.

Protection of these lands as both economic and natural resources is a priority of ours and a priority for the community. The Conservation Blueprint for Santa Cruz County identifies working lands as a cornerstone of our economy and tax base. Working lands also provide vital habitat and clean water and air. Santa Cruz County's Economic Vitality Strategy and the Resource Conservation District's report on Nature's Value in Santa Cruz County affirm the importance of good stewardship of working lands.

The viability of these lands is challenged in a variety of ways, including water shortages, climate change, regulatory demands, development pressure, and conversion to other uses. As a community, we are also discussing the possibility of the Coast Dairies property becoming a National Monument, the establishment of an open space district in Santa Cruz County, and a "Great Park" project in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

30.1
EXHIBIT A

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 7, 2015

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In evaluating those opportunities, we feel it is vital that the working lands and the benefits they provide be given the protection they need in order to sustain their operations.

We would like to affirm the critical importance of these privately and publicly owned lands by adopting the Santa Cruz County Working Lands Resolution. The Working Lands Resolution has been adopted by the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District and the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is expected to approve the resolution later this month. In addition, Cal Poly State University's Swanton Pacific Ranch College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences has expressed enthusiasm and is expected to be an early signatory of the resolution. Under the leadership of the Resource Conservation District, we also expect support from other regional land conservation groups and land trusts.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Board adopt the attached resolution indicating the County's support for the Santa Cruz County Working Lands Resolution.

Sincerely,



RYAN COONERTY, Supervisor
Third District



BRUCE MCPHERSON, Supervisor
Fifth District

RC/BAM:ted
Attachment

cc: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

1340K5

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EXHIBIT A

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO.

On the motion of Supervisor
duly seconded by Supervisor
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
WORKING LANDS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the residents of the County of Santa Cruz recognize the critical importance of Santa Cruz County's private and public working farm, forest, and range lands; and

WHEREAS, these lands support unique and important ecosystems which provide food, fiber, and materials while enhancing our local community with multiple benefits; and

WHEREAS, these working lands include a widely varied landscape of productive farm, forest, and range lands that provide important, diverse, and high quality habitats for many species of native plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, these working lands provide critical open space and corridors for the species that depend upon them; and

WHEREAS, these working lands greatly contribute to the economic foundation and social well-being of the county's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Blueprint for Santa Cruz County identifies working lands as a "cornerstone of our economy and tax base" that "support wildlife habitat and clean water and air," and both Santa Cruz County's Economic Vitality Strategy and the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District's report on Nature's Value in Santa Cruz County affirm the importance of good stewardship on working lands, which is critical to conserving open spaces for future generations, providing jobs, and developing industries that emphasize sustainability; and

WHEREAS, many of these working lands produce high quality water, provide critical access for firefighting efforts, enhance fire resiliency, and aid in the sequestration of carbon, which all become more critical in the face of a changing climate and growing population; and

WHEREAS, these working lands and all the benefits they provide are largely the result of committed, diligent, and experienced stewardship that will continue only if landowners and managers can continue to farm, harvest, and ranch; and

WHEREAS, these working lands are at risk of conversion to other uses; and

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WORKING LANDS
RESOLUTION

Page 2

WHEREAS, there are negative environmental and social consequences associated with importing food and fiber from distant lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it is our goal to work collaboratively to protect and enhance the County's working landscapes by:

- Supporting the long-term economic viability of farming, forestry, and ranching by minimizing the loss of available working land base, by providing economic, social, and other incentives, and by reducing the burdens to proactive, productive land stewardship;
- Providing opportunities for science-based research on working lands that will help inform future best management practices and support the sustainable stewardship of working lands;
- Increasing the availability of funding, technical expertise, and other assistance to support, enhance, and expand beneficial stewardship of working lands;
- Encouraging voluntary, collaborative, and locally-led conservation that assists in maintaining and enhancing working lands;
- Enhancing habitat for both common and unique species, while seeking to streamline regulations on working lands;
- Educating the public about the numerous benefits provided to the community by working lands; and
- Promoting the consumption and use of locally grown food and forest products.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this _____ day of _____, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS
NOES: SUPERVISORS
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS

ZACH FRIEND, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of said Board

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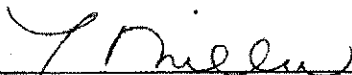
EXHIBIT A

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WORKING LANDS
RESOLUTION

Page 3

Approved as to form:



County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

1340K5

30.1

EXHIBIT A

Alicia Murillo

From: cbdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 9:52 AM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 1/13/2015

Meeting Type : County Board of Supervisors

Item Number : 30.10

Name : Kevin Collins

Email : bats3@cruzio.com

Address : P.O. Box 722 Felton,
CA 95018

Phone : 831-234-7306

Comments :

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean St. 5th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95018

January 12, 2015

Subject: Working Lands Resolution, Agenda Item 030-1

Supervisors,

This item needs to come off the January 13 agenda and be scheduled for a later Board Agenda so that the public can become aware of it and have the chance to comment.

This strange Board resolution with its hidden agenda will be alarming to anyone in Santa Cruz County concerned about wildlife conservation, water quality or the future value of parks and public lands designations in Santa Cruz County.

It is clear to me that the motivation behind this sly document comes from extractive land use industries, both logging and agriculture. Both industries compete for land ownership with conservation trust purchases and a genuine wildlife conservation agenda.

"Working lands" provide only degraded wildlife habitats from which many animals are completely extirpated. Anyone who wants to drink the water that flows off of agricultural fields needs a quick update on the chemical cocktails in agricultural run off.

This document speaks of "streamlining regulation".

With this Resolution, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors would now be directly advocating for the weakening of state and local regulations intended to protect wildlife, water quality, and the rural beauty of Santa Cruz County.

Our County once worked to improve the CA Forest Practice Rules to protect mountain residential homeowners and tenants. This proposal reverses this historical position.

Your own water supply from the City of Santa Cruz Water Dept. is massively contaminated by your own failure to supervise and direct the enforcement of the County's septic system and land use regulations. You yourselves are drinking septic ooze from the San Lorenzo Valley. My car tires splash through puddles of this open septic discharge on county public roads as I drive from my home to the County Government Building. I find this sadly amusing. I live up stream. I protect my water supply. Long ago I gave up making complaints to Environmental Health. That was useless and it remains so to this day.

This resolution is a s ly and deceptive attempt to serve the direct financial self-interest of specific county industries with the political power to influence government from behind the scenes. The public interests of the citizens of this county will be harmed if this bizarre resolution is passed by your Board.

Regards,
Kevin Collins
P.O. Box 722 Felton, CA 95018

Alicia Murillo

From: cdbbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 12:07 PM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 1/13/2015

Meeting Type : County
Board of Supervisors

Item Number : 30.10

Name : Betsy Herbert

Email : betsyherbert4trees@gmail.com

Address : 145 Estates Dr.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Phone : 831-425-1969

Comments :

I request that Item 30.1, Working Lands Resolution, on the consent agenda for Tuesday's Supervisors meeting be pulled off the agenda and continued to a later date.

The resolution and its pre-amble contain many controversial statements and far-reaching implications that warrant public vetting.

Placing such an item on the consent agenda where there is no opportunity for public discussion is not appropriate and not the way for the county to do business.

Alicia Murillo

From: cbdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 12:48 PM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 1/13/2015

Meeting Type : County Board of
Supervisors

Item Number : 30.10

Name : Kevin Flynn

Email :
kefflynn1@gmail.com

Address : 24401 Glenwood Dr. Los
Gatos, 95033 (Santa Cruz County
resident)

Phone : 408-832-7180

Comments :

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Sempervirens Fund I strongly urge the County Board of Supervisors to postpone a vote on this working lands resolution. As owners of the 8,300 acre San Vicente Redwoods property, the Sempervirens Fund is Santa Cruz County's third largest property owner of 'working lands'. As such, we request that we be given the opportunity to review this resolution, have it analyzed by our staff and our science advisory panel and then be given the opportunity to provide comment.

Regards,

Kevin Flynn
Board of Directors
Sempervirens Fund

Alicia Murillo

From: cbdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:40 PM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 1/13/2015

Meeting Type : County Board of
Supervisors

Item Number : 30.10

Name : Nancy Macy

Email : nbbm@cruzio.com

Address : 15485 Bear Creek Rd.
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Phone : 831-338-6578

Comments :

We are concerned about the Working Lands Resolution, both because it has far-reaching ramification and because it has had no public input. Please remove it from the Consent Agenda to give the community a chance to have its concerns addressed.

Thank you so much,
Nancy Macy, Co-Chair
Environmental Committee for the SLV
Valley Women's Club

30.1
EXHIBIT A

Alicia Murillo

From: cdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:31 PM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 1/13/2015

Meeting Type : County Board of
Supervisors

Item Number : 30.10

Name : Jim Coffis

Email : jcoffis@gmail.com

Address : 225 Rowardennan Dr
Ben Lomond CA 95005

Phone : 8313368812

Comments :

This resolution is very disturbing and should have a full public hearing.
Please remove from the consent agenda, schedule it for another day and
allow full public comment.

Alicia Murillo

From: cbdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:59 PM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 1/13/2015

Meeting Type : County Board of
Supervisors

Item Number : 30.10

Name : Shealagh Devlin

Email : Smartbooks@att.net

Address : 13870 Bear Creek Rd
Boulder Creek, ca 95006

Phone : Not Supplied

Comments :

Dear Santa Cruz County Supervisors,

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to read the Santa Cruz County Working Lands proposal. I am concerned by what I have read. The proposal while speaking about coexisting with local habitats, does not define ways to protect them. The environment and business must come to prescribed ways of working together so that protections are in place for both to preserve our precious Santa Cruz lands. Please remove this item from the Conscent Agenda until the public has time to review and come to conscientious on the Working Lands proposal. Thank you.

Alicia Murillo

From: cdbbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:59 PM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 1/13/2015

Meeting Type : County Board of Supervisors

Item Number : 30.10

Name : Shealagh Devlin

Email : Smartbooks@att.net

Address : 13870 Bear Creek Rd
Boulder Creek, ca 95006

Phone : Not Supplied

Comments :

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