

### COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

#### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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

#### TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

February 11, 2008

Planning Commission County of Santa Cruz 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Agenda Date: March 12, 2008

APN: 087-054-01,03 Application: 07-0482

Item #: 26

Time: After 9 AM

Subject: A public hearing to consider a proposal to rezone two parcels from the Special Use (SU) zone district to the Timber Production (TP) zone district.

Members of the Commission:

On September 4, 2007, the County Planning Department accepted this application for a rezoning to Timber Production (TP). This is a proposal to rezone two parcels totaling 49.3 acres from the Special Use (SU) zone district to the Timber Production (TP) designation. The uses on the property consist of vacant rural acreage.

#### Background

This project qualifies for a rezoning under California Government Code Section 51113. This section allows a property owner to petition the County to rezone land to the TP zone. The requirements for this type of rezoning are listed in Government Code section  $51113(c)^1$ . The County may not place any additional requirements on this petition to rezone the property to TP. County Code Section 13.10.375(c)—"Zoning to the TP District" implements Government Code section 51113 and specifies the six criteria which must be met in order to rezone to TP.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> c) On or before March 1, 1977, the board or council by ordinance shall adopt a list of criteria required to be met by parcels being considered for zoning as timberland production under this section.

The criteria shall not impose any requirements in addition to those listed in this subdivision and in subdivision (d). The following shall be included in the criteria:

<sup>(1)</sup> A map shall be prepared showing the legal description or the assessor's parcel number of the property desired to be zoned.

<sup>(2)</sup> A plan for forest management shall be prepared or approved as to content, for the property by a registered professional forester. The plan shall provide for the eventual harvest of timber within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the preparer of the plan.

<sup>(3) (</sup>A) The parcel shall currently meet the timber stocking standards as set forth in Section 4561 of the Public Resources Code and the forest practice rules adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for the district in which the parcel is located, or the owner shall sign an agreement with the board or council to meet those stocking standards and forest practice rules by the fifth anniversary of the signing of the agreement. If the parcel is subsequently zoned as timberland production under subdivision (a), failure to meet the stocking standards and forest practice rules within this time period provides the board or council with a ground for rezoning of the parcel pursuant to Section 51121.

<sup>(</sup>B) Upon the fifth anniversary of the signing of an agreement, the board shall determine whether the parcel meets the timber stocking standards in effect on the date that the agreement was signed.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4 (commencing with Section

<sup>51130),</sup> if the parcel fails to meet the timber stocking standards, the board or council shall immediately rezone the parcel and specify a new zone for the parcel, which is in conformance with the county general plan and whose primary use is other than timberland.

<sup>(4)</sup> The parcel shall be timberland, as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 51104.

<sup>(5)</sup> The parcel shall be in compliance with the compatible use ordinance adopted by the board or council pursuant to Section 51111.

<sup>(</sup>d) The criteria required by subdivision (c) may also include any or all of the following:

<sup>(1)</sup> The land area concerned shall be in the ownership of one person, as defined in Section 38106 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and shall be comprised of single or contiguous parcels of a certain number of acres, not to exceed 80 acres.

<sup>(2)</sup> The land shall be a certain site quality class or higher under

Section 434 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, except that the parcel shall not be required to be of the two highest site quality classes.

In accordance with County Code Section 13.10.375(c), the project meets the following six criteria for rezoning to Timber Production:

- 1. A map has been submitted with the legal description or assessor's parcel number of the property to be rezoned.
- 2. A Timber Management Plan, undated, prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted for the property (Exhibit E).
- 3. The parcel currently meets the timber stocking standards as set forth in Section 4561 of the Public Resources Code and the Forest Practice Rules for the district in which the parcel is located (see Exhibit E).
- 4. The parcel is timberland, as the entire parcel is capable of producing a minimum of 15 cubic feet of timber per acre annually and is almost entirely located within a mapped Timber Resource area.
- 5. The uses on the parcel are in compliance with the Timber Production Zone uses set forth in Section 13.10.372.
- 6. The land area to be rezoned is in the ownership of one person, as defined in Section 38106 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and is comprised of at least five acres in area.

This project qualifies for a statutory exemption (Exhibit D) in accordance with the California Environmental Ouality Act and the County Environmental Review Guidelines (Article 17, Section 1703).

#### Conclusion

All of the criteria have been met for rezoning this parcel to the Timber Production zoning designation. All required findings can be made to approve this application and the rezoning is consistent with the General Plan policies and land use designations.

#### Recommendation

Staff recommends that your Commission adopt the attached Resolution (Exhibit A), sending a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval of Application No. 07-0482 based on the attached findings (Exhibit B).

#### **EXHIBITS**

- Planning Commission Resolution, with Ordinance/Findings A.
- В. APN Map
- Location, Current Zoning and General Plan Designation Maps C.
- Notice of Exemption from CEQA D.
- Timber Management Plan by Joseph Culver, dated August 23, 2007. E.

Maria Porcila Perez

Project Planner

Development Review

Reviewed By:

### BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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On the motion of Commissioner duly seconded by Commissioner the following Resolution is adopted:

# PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION SENDING RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has held a public hearing on Application No. 07-0482, involving property located on the east side of Highway 9, approximately 600 feet north of the intersection with Sylvan Way, and the Planning Commission has considered the proposed rezoning, all testimony and evidence received at the public hearing, and the attached staff report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance by changing property from the Special Use (SU) zone district to the Timber Production zone district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission makes findings on the proposed rezoning as contained in the Report to the Planning Commission.

PASSED	AND ADOPTED by the Plan	ining Commission of the County of Santa Cruz, State
of California	, this day of	, 2007, by the following vote:
AYES:	COMMISSIONERS	
NOES:	COMMISSIONERS	
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONERS	
ABSTAIN:	COMMISSIONERS	
		Chairperson
ATTEST:		
M	IARK DEMING, Secretary	<del></del>
ADDDALED	AC TO FORM.	

<b>ORDINANCE</b>	NO.	

# ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE CHANGING FROM ONE ZONE DISTRICT TO ANOTHER

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz ordains as follows:

#### **SECTION I**

The Board of Supervisors finds that the public convenience, necessity and general welfare require the amendment of the County Zoning Regulations to implement the policies of the County General Plan and Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan regarding the timber resource property located on the east side of Highway 9, approximately 600 feet north of the intersection with Sylvan Way; finds that the zoning to be established herein is consistent with all elements of the Santa Cruz County General Plan and the Santa Cruz County Code, as modified by the *Big Creek* decision; and finds and certifies that the project is subject to a statutory exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act.

#### **SECTION II**

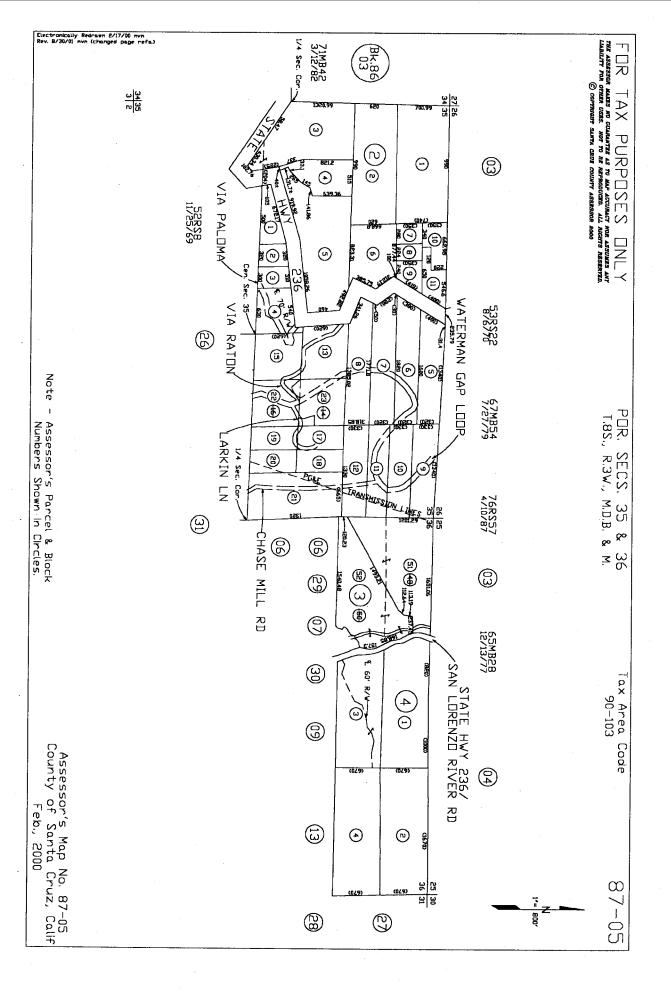
The Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the Zoning Plan Amendment as described in Section III, and adopts the findings in support thereof without modification as set forth below:

- 1. The proposed zone district will allow a density of development and types of uses which are consistent with the objectives and land use designations of the adopted General Plan; and
- 2. The proposed zone district is appropriate for the level of utilities and community services available to the land; and
- 3. The character of development in the area where the land is located has changed or is changing to such a degree that the public interest will be better served by a different zone district; and
- 4. The property meets the requirements of Government Code section 51113 or 51113.5 and County Code Section 13.10.375(c).

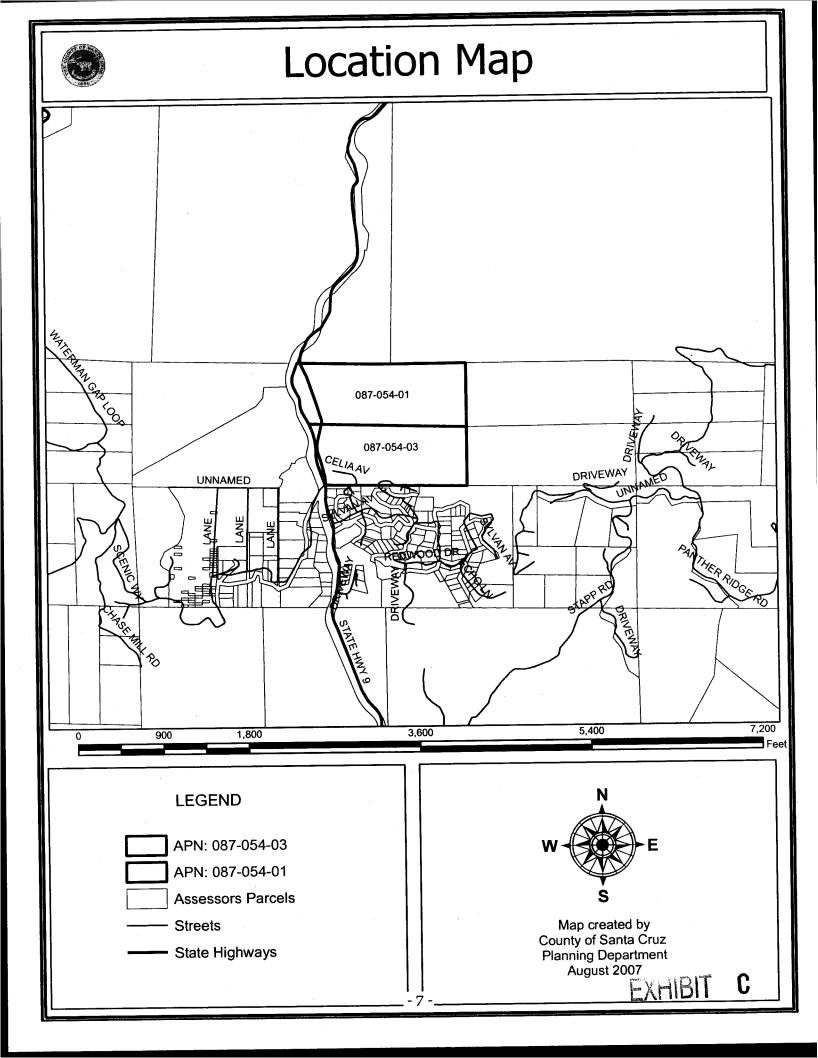
**SECTION III** 

Chapter 13.10 - Zoning Regulations of the Santa Cruz County Code is hereby amended by amending Section 13.10.210 - Zoning Plan to change the following properties from the existing zone district to the new zone district as follows:

Assessor's Parce	l Number	Existing Zone District	New Zone District	
087-054-01	,03	Special Use (SU)	TP	
		SECTION IV		
This ordinance sha	ll take effect on th	ne 31st day after the date of	of final passage.	
PASSED AND ALL of the County of Sa			_ 2007, by the Board of Super	visors
NOES: SUI ABSENT: SUI	PERVISORS PERVISORS PERVISORS PERVISORS			
		Chairman of the	Board of Supervisors	
ATTEST:Clerk of	the Board	_		
APPROVED AS T	O FORM:			
Exhibit: Rezoning	Мар			
DISTRIBUTION:	County Couns Planning Assessor County	sel		GIS

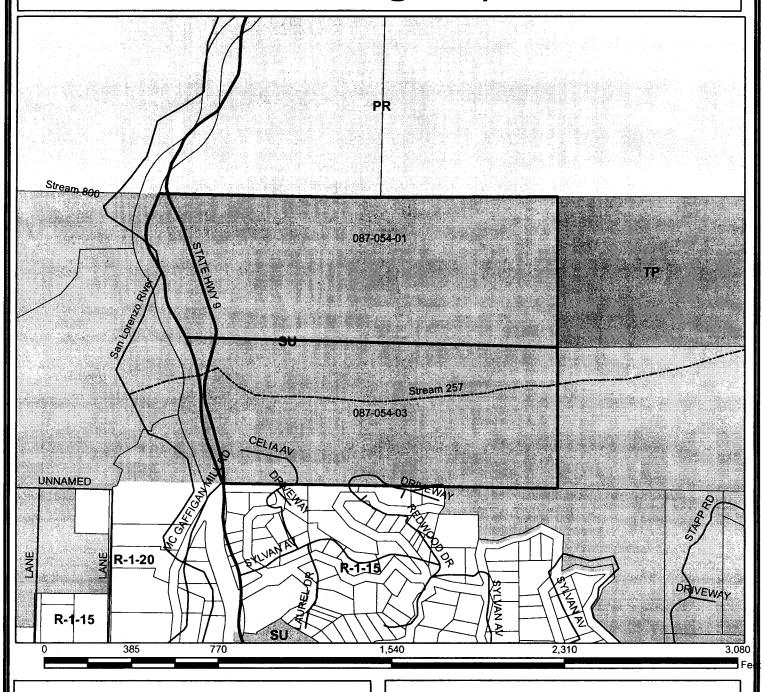


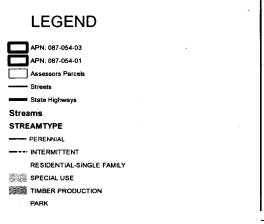
B





# **Zoning Map**





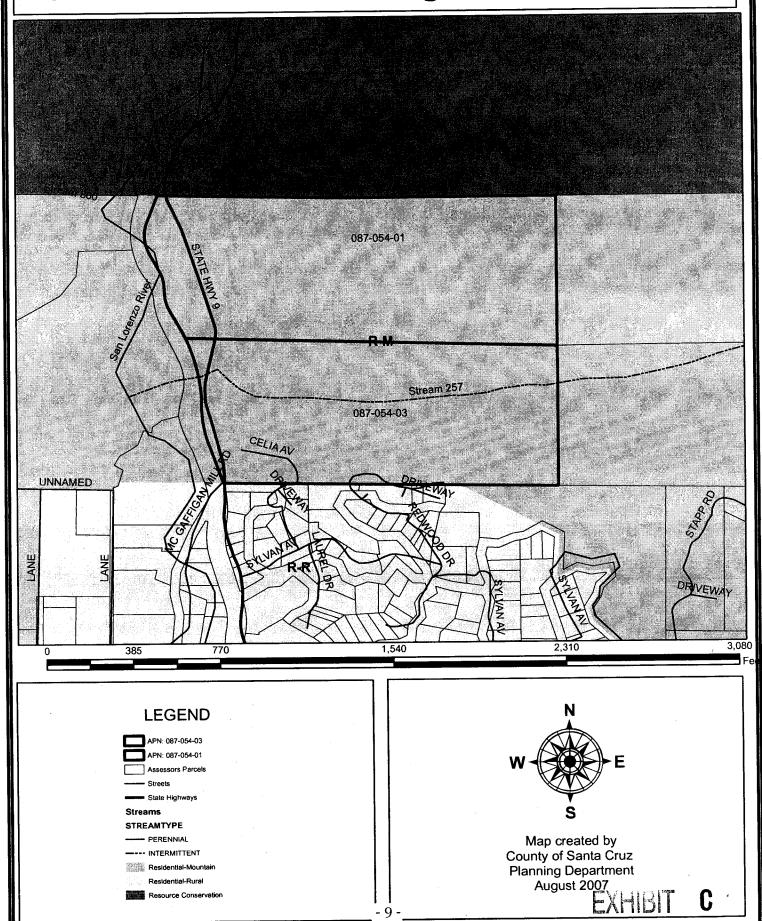


Map created by County of Santa Cruz Planning Department August 2007

EXHIBIT



## General Plan Designation Map



## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

	Number: 07-0482
Assessor Par	cel Number: 087-054-01,03
•	tion: Property located on the east side of Highway 9, approximately 600 feet north ection with Sylvan Way.
Project Des	cription: Rezone two parcels from the Special Use (SU) zone districts to the Timber Production (TP) zone district.
	gency Proposing Project: Joseph Culver for Elsie M. Beninato, Trustee one Number: (831) 359-5989
A	The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
A B	The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
C	
C	<u>Ministerial Project</u> involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
D. <u>X</u>	<u>Statutory Exemption</u> other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285). [Section 1703]
In addition,	none of the conditions described in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.
	Date
	Date:
Maria Porcil	a Perez, Project Planner

### **Timber Management Plan**

Lands of Beninato San Lorenzo Valley Santa Cruz County

APN #087-054-01, 087-054-03
Portion of Section 36
Township 8 South
Range 3 West
Mount Diablo Base & Meridian

Report Prepared By
Joseph Culver, Consulting Forester
August 23, 2007

#### **PREFACE**

In August 2007, Joseph Culver, Consulting Forester, was commissioned by Elsie Beninato to prepare a Timber Management Plan (TMP) for parcels APN# 087-054-01 and 087-054-03. The parcels total 49.3 acres in size according to Santa Cruz County Assessor records. Ms. Beninato would like to rezone the parcels to Timber Production and the TMP will be part of the application packet submitted to the County of Santa Cruz. The management plan incorporates information from the previous timber harvest plan, field work and currently available resource data.

#### **GENERAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

The property is adjacent to the east side of Highway 9 within the San Lorenzo River watershed. The legal description of the property is Township 8 South, Range 3 West, portion of section 36. The property is generally defined as a west trending valley with a perennial watercourse flowing through the valley bottom into the San Lorenzo River west of Highway 9. Hillsides slope steeply towards the creek from the north and south. Elevation ranges from 700 feet next to Highway 9 to 1,400 feet at the northeast end of the property. Timber site classification throughout the forested portions of the parcels is site III.

The lower slopes of the property consist primarily of medium to well stocked second growth redwood in the overstory, with some Douglas-fir and associated tanoak, madrone, and live oak. The second growth stand appears to be approximately 110 years old, a result of the clearcutting in the early 1900's. The redwood component of the forest decreases on the upper northern slopes of the property and is replaced by scattered Douglas-fir, coastal live oak and madrone. Undergrowth species are typical and include tanoak seedlings, huckleberry, bunch grasses, poison oak, California blackberry, sword fern and bracken fern. French broom covers the haul road and log landings in the southern portion of the property.

Three acres in the northeast portion of the property is underlain by the Sur-Catelli complex. This soil complex is moderately deep and somewhat excessively drained. The surface soil is stony sandy loam about 18" in thickness. Massive sandstone is at a depth of 35". Runoff is very rapid and the erosion hazard is very high. These soils are not as well suited for timber production due to a lack of moisture holding capacity, which is exacerbated by the general south facing aspect of this soil type. However, commercial stands of redwood trees are present on this soil type on the property.

The remainder of the property is underlain by the Lompico-Felton soil complex. Permeability of the Lompico soil is moderate and effective rooting depth is 20 to 40 inches. Runoff is medium or rapid, and the hazard of erosion is moderate or high. The Felton soil is deep and well drained and formed in residuum derived from sandstone, shale, siltstone, or schist. Permeability of the Felton soil is moderately slow and effective rooting depth is 40 to 72 inches. These soils are well suited to the production of redwood and Douglas fir.

August 23, 2007

#### TIMBER HARVEST HISTORY

The old-growth redwood logging in the Santa Cruz area, including this property, occurred around the turn of the previous century. As was common throughout the area, this clearcut logging was often followed by fire, usually intentionally set to burn bark and slash. Fire scars on the old-growth stumps are evidence of this fire activity.

Under the ownership of Ms. Beninato, the property was next harvested in 1999. This selective harvest appears to have removed approximately 50% of the larger second growth redwood and Douglas-fir trees.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Ms. Beninato intends to continue to manage the property for high quality forest products while enhancing the related values of aesthetics, wildlife, and recreation. As the previous selective harvest occurred eight years ago, the next harvest should occur within the next ten years. Although State law allows for a harvest every 10 years, it is recommended that the cutting cycle be maintained at a 15-20 year cycle to maximize the volume removed in each cycle and to minimize forestland impacts. Future harvests should focus on the following objectives:

- 1. Prescribe and implement a forest improvement program to improve stocking, increase tree vigor and maximize growth.
- 2. Maintain a healthy and vigorous forest of well spaced trees growing at the highest rates feasible considering the other values of the forest.
- 3. Maintain a high degree of aesthetic consideration during all aspects of forest management.
- 4. Maintain wildlife habitat as part of continuing forest management.

#### RECOMMENDED LOGGING SYSTEM

The recommended logging system for this property is to use ground based logging equipment such as tractors and log skidders. Most of the road and trail system is already in place from the previous harvest.

#### PRESENT AND FUTURE STAND CONDITIONS

In August 2007, a 7% timber inventory was conducted on the property to determine conifer volume per acre, species composition, basal area, stocking levels and stand growth. Based on the stand data gathered from the inventory, the 49.3 acres of forestland have the following approximate stand conditions:

Species Composition	94% redwood, 6% Douglas-fir
Basal Area	92 square feet per acre
Gross Volume/acre (redwood)	7,600 board feet
Gross Volume/acre (Douglas-fir)	500 board feet
Gross Overall property volume	399.300 board feet

The volume per acre and overall property volume stated above are gross volumes. In general, the net volume for redwood will be about 8% less due to fire scar, rot and other minor defects in the standing timber. The defect in the Douglas-fir is higher due to the presence of conk in many of the butt logs and is estimated at 14%. With these factors in mind the overall net conifer volume on the property is approximately 366,000 board feet.

Increment boring data gathered during the timber inventory combined with general tree growth rates in the Santa Cruz Mountains indicate that the redwood forest is growing at an approximate rate of 3.0% per year. The trees are well spaced and in good growing condition due to the previous selective harvest 8 years ago. A conifer growth rate of 3.0% per year equates to an annual increase in the forest resource of 12,000 board feet over the entire property. Converting this figure to cubic feet gives a current growth rate of 1000 cubic feet over the entire property, or 20 cubic feet per acre per year. This exceeds the required average of 15 cubic feet per acre per year to classify a property as timberland.

\*Limitation: This data is based on a 7% field sample and an extrapolated growth rate for the previous ten years. This data should only be used as a guide for management purposes, and should not be extended or taken out of context for other purposes.

#### OTHER PROPERTY USES

There are no structures located on either of the parcels.

#### CONCLUSION

The property is well suited for timber management into the future. The property was selectively harvested eight years ago and the forest resource is currently healthy and experiencing a growth rate consistent with managed forests. Ms. Beninato has indicated that she wants to continue to manage the timber resource and stand conditions warrant another harvest in the next ten years.

TIMBER STOCKING: To rezone a property to the "Timber Production" zoning a property must meet the timber stocking standards set forth in Section 4561 of the Public Resources Code. Section 4561 states in part that "The average residual basal area, measured in stems one inch or larger in diameter......in areas which the registered professional forester has determined are site II classification or lower, the minimum average residual basal area shall be 50 square feet per acre. Rock outcroppings and other areas not normally bearing timber shall not be considered as requiring stocking." The average conifer residual basal area in the timbered portions of the property is 92 square feet and therefore meets the stocking standards.

TIMBERLAND: To rezone a property to the "Timber Production" zoning a property must meet the definition of timberland. Section 51104 of the California Code states that "Timberland means privately owned land......capable of growing an average

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annual volume of wood fiber of at least 15 cubic feet per acre." The property proposed for rezoning is capable of growing an annual average volume of wood fiber of 20 cubic feet per acre and therefore meets the definition of timberland.

COMPATIBLE USE: Existing infrastructure on the property does not significantly detract from the use of the property for, or inhibit, growing and harvesting timber.

Timber Management Plan Prepared By:

Jøseph Culver

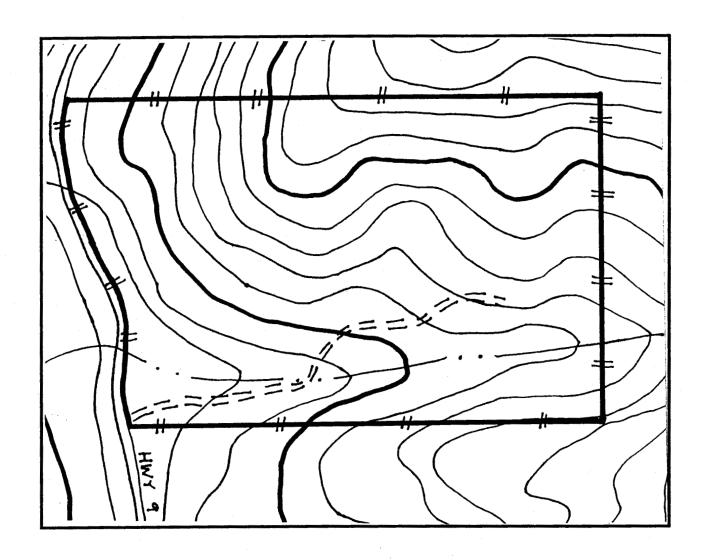
Registered Professional Forester #2674

Date

### **LANDS OF BENINATO**

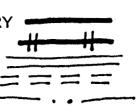
### **PLAN AREA MAP**

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY** T8S, R3E, SEC. 36, MDB&M



**LEGEND** 

PROPERTY BOUNDARY FOREST BOUNDARY PERMANENT ROAD SEASONAL ROAD WATERCOURSE



SCALE: 1 INCH = 400

CONTOUR INTERVAL = 40 FEET



#### PARCEL ONE

The South 25 acres of the West 54.65 acres of the 104.65 acre parcel.

BEING a portion of Section 36, T. 8 S., R. 3 W., M. D. M., and more particularly described as follows:

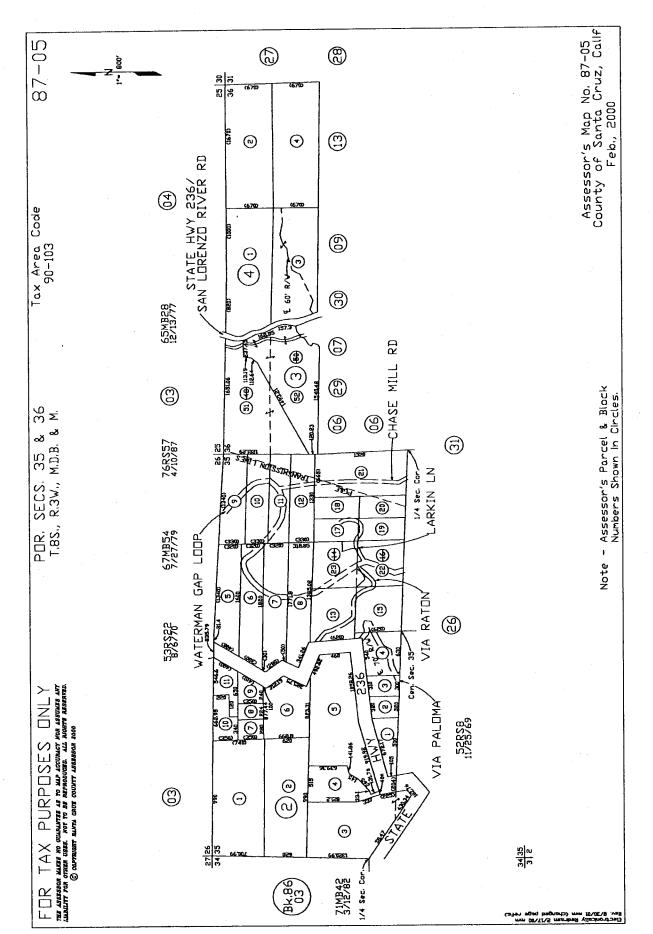
BEGINNING at the Northeasterly corner of said Section 36; thence from said point of beginning Westerly 3500 feet, more or less, along the northerly line of said Section 36 to a point on the Easterly line of State Highway 116-B, also known as San Lorenzo River Drive; thence leaving said Section line Southerly along the Easterly line of Said Highway to a pipe on the 1/16th Section line running East-West through the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 36, as said 1/16th Section is shown upon the map entitled, "San Lorenzo River Park, Subdivision No. 2, Santa Cruz County, California, Being part of Section 36, T. 8 S., R. 3 W., M. D. M., surveyed November 1931, Lloyd Bowman, County Surveyor", filed for record in the office of the County Recorder on December 12, 1931 in Map Book 25, Page 19, Santa Cruz County Records; thence leaving said Highway along said 1/16th Section line South 890 29' East 605.43 feet to the 1/16th Section corner on the Westerly line of said Northeast 1/4 and South 89° 50' East 2670 feet, more or less, to the 1/16th Section corner on the Easterly line of said Section 36; thence Northerly along said Section line 1340 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

#### PARCEL TWO

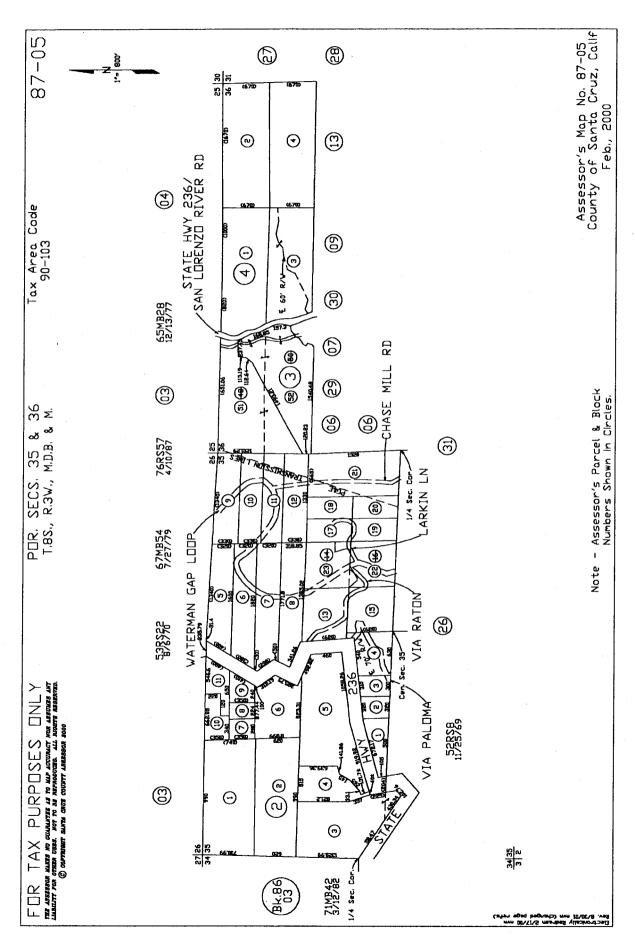
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SANTA CRUZ