



# 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 12, 2008

Planning Commission  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Agenda Date:** March 26, 2008

**APN:** 086-041-34

**Application:** 07-0555

**Item 28**

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

Members of the Commission:

On September 18, 2007, the County Planning Department accepted this application for a rezoning to Timber Production (TP). This is a proposal to rezone 15.6 acres from the Special Use (SU) zone district to the Timber Production (TP) zone district. 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)<sup>1</sup>. 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>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:

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

(2) 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.

(3) (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.

(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 51130), 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.

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

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

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

(1) 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.

(2) 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 Quality Act and the County Environmental Review Guidelines (Article 17, Section 1703).

**Conclusion**

All of the criteria have been met for rezoning the 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. 07-0555 based on the attached findings (Exhibit B).

**EXHIBITS**

- A. Planning Commission Resolution, with Ordinance/ Findings
- B. APN Map
- C. Location, Current Zoning and General Plan Designation Maps
- D. Notice of Exemption from CEQA
- E. Timber Management Plan by Joseph Culver, RPF #2674, dated October 15, 2007.

Maria Porcila Perez  
Project Planner  
Development Review

Reviewed By:   
Mark Deming  
Assistant Planning Director

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

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has held a public hearing on Application No. 07-0555, involving property located on the north side of Highway 236 about ½ mile east of the intersection with Lodge Road, 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 (TP) 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 Planning Commission of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS  
NOES: COMMISSIONERS  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS  
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK DEMING, Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY COUNSEL

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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 north side of Highway 236 about ½ mile east of the intersection with Lodge Road; 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
1. The proposed zone district is appropriate for the level of utilities and community services available to the land; and
2. 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
3. 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:

<u>Assessor's Parcel Number</u>	<u>Existing Zone District</u>	<u>New Zone District</u>
086-041-34	Special Use (SU)	TP

**SECTION IV**

This ordinance shall take effect on the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the date of final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2008, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS  
 NOES: SUPERVISORS  
 ABSENT: SUPERVISORS  
 ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Assistant County Counsel

Exhibit: Rezoning Map

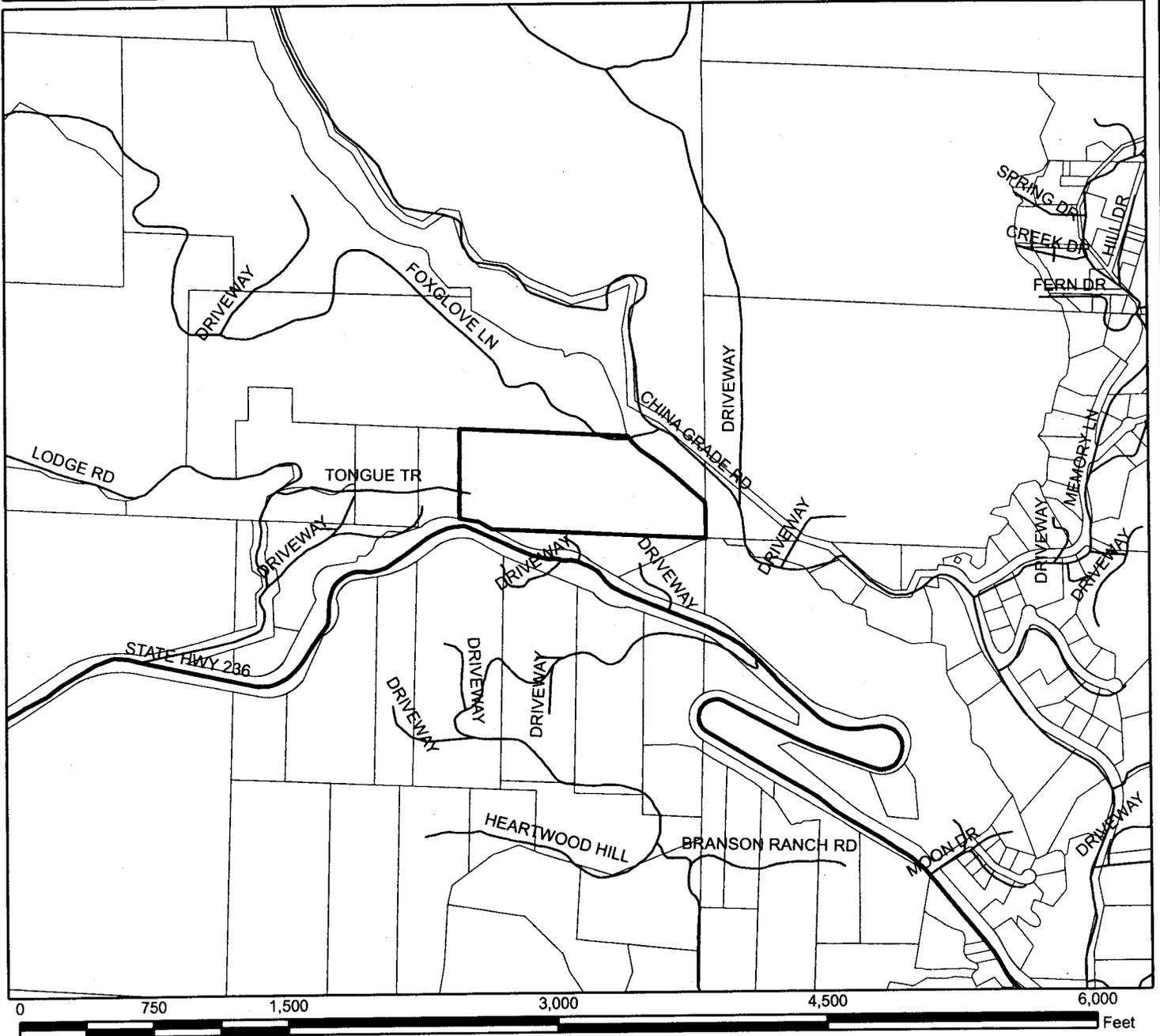
DISTRIBUTION: County Counsel  
 Planning  
 Assessor  
 County

GIS



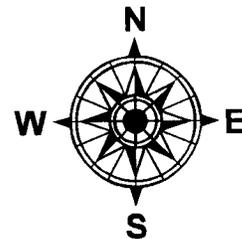


# Location Map



## LEGEND

-  APN: 086-041-34
-  Assessors Parcels
-  Streets
-  State Highways
-  County Boundary

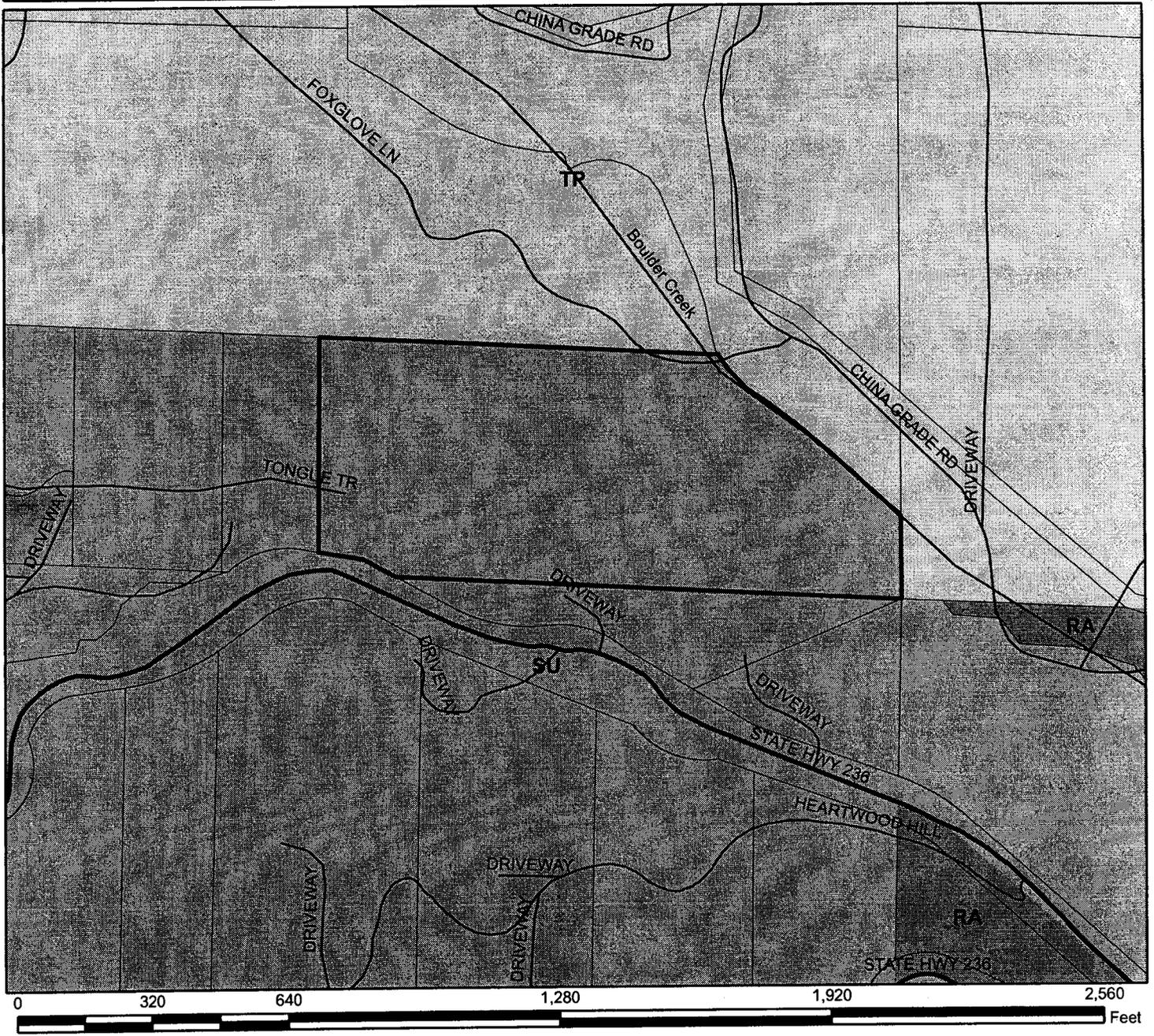


Map created by  
 County of Santa Cruz  
 Planning Department  
 August 2007

# EXHIBIT C

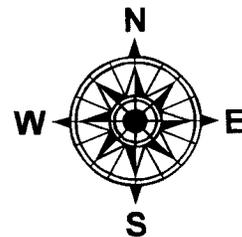


# Zoning Map



## LEGEND

- APN: 086-041-34
- Assessors Parcels
- Streets
- State Highways
- STREAMTYPE**
- PERENNIAL
- INTERMITTENT
- AGRICULTURE RESIDENTIAL
- SPECIAL USE
- TIMBER PRODUCTION

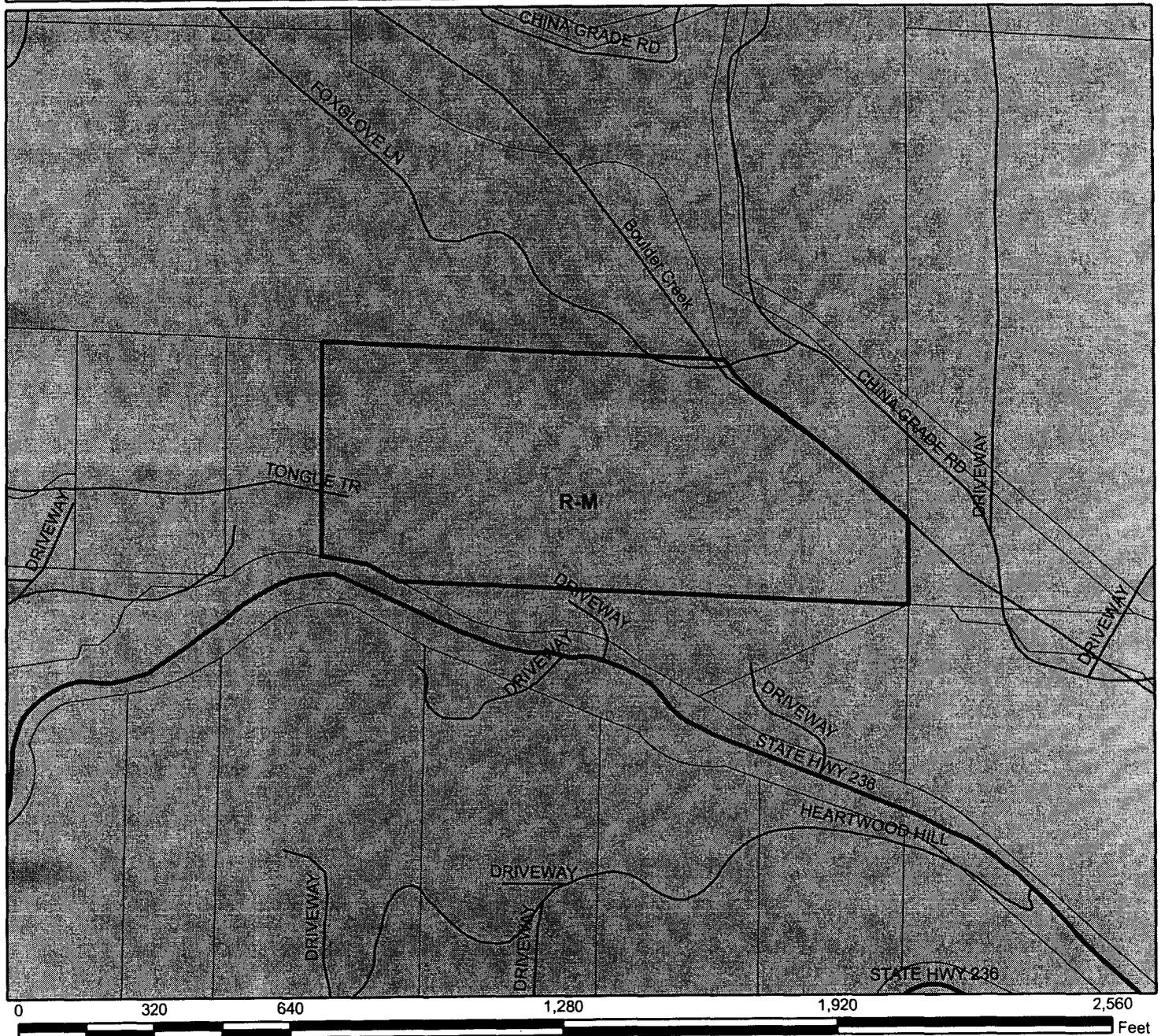


Map created by  
 County of Santa Cruz  
 Planning Department  
 August 2007

# EXHIBIT C

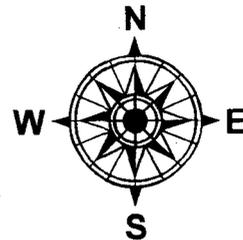


# General Plan Designation Map



## LEGEND

-  APN: 086-041-34
  -  Assessors Parcels
  -  Streets
  -  State Highways
- STREAMTYPE**
-  PERENNIAL
  -  INTERMITTENT
  -  Residential-Mountain



Map created by  
 County of Santa Cruz  
 Planning Department  
 August 2007

# EXHIBIT C

# 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.

Application Number: 07-0555

Assessor Parcel Number: 086-041-34

Project Location: Property located on the north side of Highway 236 about ½ mile east of the intersection with Lodge Road.

**Project Description: Rezone a parcel from the Special Use (SU) zone district to the Timber Production (TP) zone district.**

**Person or Agency Proposing Project: Joseph Culver**

**Contact Phone Number: (831) 469-7735**

- A.  The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
- B.  The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
- C.  **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
- D.  **Statutory Exemption** 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Porcila Perez, Project Planner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Timber Management Plan**

**Lands of Rodriguez  
Highway 236  
Santa Cruz County**

**APN# 086-041-34  
Portion of Section 3  
Township 9 South  
Range 3 West  
Mount Diablo Base & Meridian**

**Report Prepared By  
Joseph Culver, Consulting Forester  
October 15, 2007**

## **PREFACE**

In September 2007, Joseph Culver, Consulting Forester, was commissioned by Frances Rodriguez to prepare a Timber Management Plan for APN #086-041-34. The county assessor lists the parcel as 15.6 acres in size. Ms. Rodriguez would like to rezone the parcel to Timber Production and the TMP will be part of an application packet submitted to the County of Santa Cruz. The management plan incorporates field work and currently available resource data.

## **GENERAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

The parcel is located approximately five miles northwest of the community of Boulder Creek. The southwestern boundary of the property is adjacent to Highway 236. From a prominent ridge in the southwest portion, the property slopes steeply to the east. The eastern edge of the property is defined by a line 10 feet west of and parallel to Boulder Creek.

Elevation ranges from 880 feet along Boulder Creek to 1,200 on the prominent ridge. The legal description of the parcel is Township 9 South, Range 3 west, portion of section 3. Timber site classification on the forested portions of the property is site III.

The entire property is comprised of coniferous forest. The forest consists primarily of second growth redwood and scattered Douglas fir as the dominant overstory species. Redwood trees typically grow in tightly spaced clumps. Hardwood species of tanoak, Pacific madrone and coastal live oak are interspersed around these groves, generally as an intermediate species. The hardwood species are the dominant tree in some small areas, particularly along the upper slopes of the property. The Douglas-fir component of the forest also increases on the upper slopes. Understory species on the property consist mostly of tanoak seedlings, poison oak, bunch grasses, sword fern and clover.

Approximately one acre of the property near Boulder Creek is underlain by Soquel loam. This very deep, moderately well-drained soil is on plains and fans and formed in alluvium. Permeability of this Soquel soil is moderately slow and effective rooting depth is 60 inches. Surface runoff is medium, and the hazard of erosion is moderate. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Soquel soil is well suited to the production of timber.

The remainder of the property is underlain by the Lompico-Felton 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.

## **TIMBER HARVEST HISTORY**

The old-growth redwood logging in the Santa Cruz area, including this property, occurred approximately 110 years ago. As was common throughout the area, this clear-cut 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.

Based on stumps observed in the field, the property was next harvested about 30 years ago. This selective harvest removed approximately 50% of the larger second growth redwood and Douglas-fir trees. No commercial harvesting has occurred on the property since then.

## **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND GOALS**

Once the property is rezoned, Ms. Rodriguez intends to manage the forest land for high quality forest products, while maintaining the related values of aesthetics and wildlife. As there has been no harvesting on the property for almost 30 years the forest trees have begun to close in on themselves and the next harvest could occur anytime in the near future. Although State law allows for a harvest every 10 years, due to the small size of the timbered area it is recommended that future harvesting be spaced at a 15-20 year interval to maximize the volume removed in each harvest, and to minimize neighborhood 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 and improve wildlife habitat where possible as part of continuing forest management.

## **RECOMMENDED LOGGING SYSTEM**

Appropriate harvesting infrastructure would be developed during preparation of a Timber Harvest Plan.

## **PRESENT AND FUTURE STAND CONDITIONS**

In September of 2007 a 6% 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 15.6 acres of forest land have the following approximate stand conditions:\*

Species Composition	85% second growth redwood 15% Douglas-fir
Basal Area	106 square feet per acre
Gross Volume/acre (redwood)	16,400 board feet
Gross Volume/acre (Douglas-fir)	2,900 board feet
Gross Overall property volume	301,000 board feet

The volume per acre and overall property volume stated previously are gross volumes. In general, the net volume for redwood will be about 10% 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 268,300 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 2.7% per year. This growth rate is slightly lower than the average for managed stands of second growth trees as the property has not been harvested for about 30 years. A growth rate of 2.7% per year equates to an annual increase in the conifer resource of 8,130 board feet over the entire property. Converting this figure to cubic feet gives a current growth rate of 677 cubic feet over the entire property, or 43 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 field sample and an extrapolated growth rate for the previous ten years. The estimated volume is accurate to plus or minus 3,200 board feet per acre with a 67% confidence interval. 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

The property is currently used as watershed and wildlife habitat.

## CONCLUSION

The property is suited for timber management into the future. The forest resource is currently healthy but growth rates have begun to decline due to the time interval since the last timber harvest. Ms. Rodriguez has indicated that she wants to manage the timber resource and stand conditions warrant a harvest in the near future.

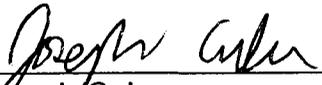
**TIMBER STOCKING:** To rezone a property to the "Timber Production" zoning a property must meet the timber stocking standards set forth in Section 4561 of the Public Resources Code. Section 4561 states in part that "The average residual basal area, measured in stems one inch or larger in diameter.....in 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 106 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 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 of coniferous wood fiber of 43 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:

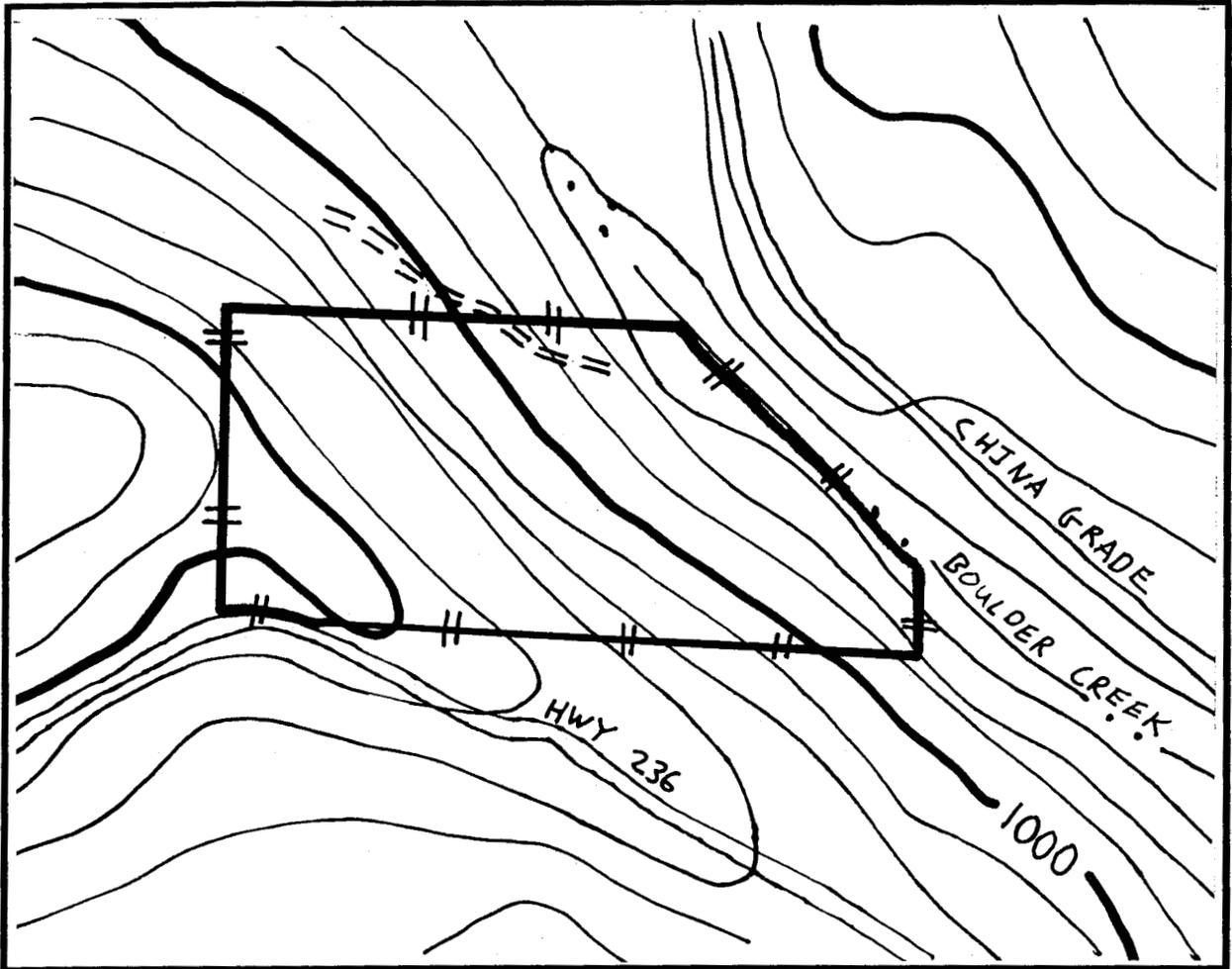
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Culver  
Registered Professional Forester #2674

10/15/07  
Date

# LANDS OF RODRIGUEZ

## PLAN AREA MAP

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
T9S, R3W, SEC. 3 MDB&M



### LEGEND

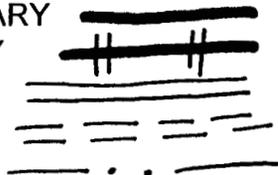
PROPERTY BOUNDARY

FOREST BOUNDARY

PERMANENT ROAD

SEASONAL ROAD

WATERCOURSE



SCALE: 1 INCH = 380

CONTOUR INTERVAL = 40 FEET

