

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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September 20, 2004

Monterey County Board of Supervisors
PO Box 1208
Salinas, CA 93902

Chairperson Calcagno and Honorable Members of the Board:

The Coastal Commission respectfully submits to you the preliminary findings and recommendations of the Periodic Review of Monterey County's certified Local Coastal Program (LCP) and comments that we received on it during the course of the Commission's review.

Coastal Act Section 30519.5 requires that the Commission periodically review the implementation of certified LCPs. Our staff prepared these documents pursuant to Coastal Act Section 30519.5 and your May 2001 request that we select the County for our next LCP review. The documents were released in December 2003, and the Commission held a public hearing on March 18, 2004. At that hearing, the Commission did not take a formal vote to adopt recommendations pursuant to PRC 30519.5. Rather, the Commission directed staff to provide the County with the documents and to use them in providing input into the County's ongoing General Plan/LCP update process. By not formally adopting the recommendations the one year timeline specified in PRC 30519.5 for the County to formally respond to the periodic review transmittal would not be triggered. Given limited resources available both to the County and to the Commission, this would provide additional time for our staffs to discuss and coordinate input and responses in conjunction with the County's General Plan update process.

We understand that you have directed your staff to prepare a new draft General Plan update. As part of that effort, your staff will be reviewing existing policies to determine their continued relevance and adequacy. That directly parallels the work that our staff undertook in the periodic review with regard to certain local coastal program policies. We urge you to give serious consideration to the information and recommendations contained in the periodic review documents in preparing the new General Plan draft. The issues raised and the documentation provided in this periodic review give the County guidance in preparing an updated LCP that conforms with and carries out the policies of the Coastal Act in light of new information and changed conditions. The periodic review documents represent our staff's best effort at this time. Because there is flexibility in how specific responses are developed, our staff is available to assist you to the extent that our resources allow.

As the Periodic Review has demonstrated, Monterey County's current Local Coastal Program continues to be an exemplary document, although it does need updating. We hope that the General Plan update work that you are undertaking will continue the County's strong tradition of carrying out the Coastal Act. And, in the interim, we believe the information generated by the Periodic Review may be useful in your consideration of coastal permits. Based on the progress made on the new County General Plan, we will evaluate in the future what additional steps may be necessary to formally complete the Monterey County LCP Periodic Review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Reilly".

Mike Reilly
Chairman