



COUNTY OF MARIN

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOARD, PLANNING COMMISSION TO JOINTLY RELEASE NEW LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM DRAFT

San Rafael, CA. -- 30 years ago, Marin County was the first in the state to adopt a Local Coastal Plan under the California Coastal Act, controlling development in most of West Marin from Stinson Beach to the county line north of Tomales and Dillon Beach. Now significant amendments to that Plan are being considered to respond to changing conditions, and the Board of Supervisors is urging people throughout the County to participate in the process.

In a rare joint session, the Board and the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 to formally release the Public Review Draft of the Marin County Local Coastal Program Amendment, which has been developed by staff, the Planning Commission and interested groups and individuals over the past two years. During that time, the Planning Commission hosted twenty-two public workshops covering every aspect of the Local Coastal Program (LCP). In addition, staff held six community meetings throughout the area, and numerous discussions with local groups.

“Marin County has been a leader in sustaining a beautiful, productive, and accessible coast,” says Supervisor Steve Kinsey, whose district encompasses much of the LCP area. “But to stay effective, even the best of plans needs to adapt to new realities, whether they be the likelihood of sea-level rise, challenges to the viability of traditional agriculture, new techniques for controlling polluted runoff, better mapping of natural resources, changes in the law, or the many other factors addressed by the Local Coastal Program Amendment.”

The LCP Amendment has two parts. The Land Use Plan (LUP) contains detailed policies on biological resources, agriculture, environmental hazards, community design, public access and

a number of other planning issues. The Planning Commission gave tentative approval to the LUP on January 24, 2011. The second part is the draft Development Code Amendments, which provide the detailed rules, regulations and development standards that carry out the Land Use Plan policies. This part was just recently completed by the Community Development Agency (CDA) staff, and is being released for public review for the first time.

The County has designed the LCP Amendment (LCPA) process to be transparent, open and responsive. To support that, CDA Staff will also take the wraps off a new dedicated website – www.MarinLCP.org -- to provide easy access to all documents used in preparing the Draft LCPA, including the new LUP and Development Code provisions themselves, planning maps, previous staff analyses, line by line comparisons of existing and proposed policies, letters of public comment, and many other resources to support the public's participation in the upcoming presentations and hearings.

In July, the CDA will be hosting presentations of the Public Review Draft in communities throughout Marin County. These presentations are all open to the public, and will provide an overview of the LCP followed by a question and answer period. The dates and locations are:

Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 7pm-9pm – Stinson Beach Community Center

Monday, July 18, 2011, 7pm-9pm – Dance Palace Community Center

Wednesday, July 20, 2011, 7pm-9pm – Tomales Town Hall

Tuesday, July 26, 2011, 7pm-9pm – Marin Center, Friends of Marin Conference Room

Formal public hearings before the Planning Commission are scheduled for August through October, with Board hearings in November and December. The Coastal Commission will ultimately need to certify the LCPA to put it into effect.

In addition to availability on the www.MarinLCP.org website, copies of the Public Review Draft in paperback and on CD are also available at the CDA front Planning Counter located at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308, San Rafael, CA 94903, or by contacting Sharon Silver at (415) 499-7874 or ssilver@co.marin.ca.us.

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