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**LCP-2-MAR-15-0029-1**

**Environmental Action Committee of West Marin**

**Support** Time Extension

Additional Comment

August 8, 2016

Jack Ainsworth, Acting Executive Director  
California Coastal Commission  
*Via Electronic Mail*

Re: EAC Additional Comment in Support of Extension of Time Limit for Commission Action on  
Marin County Local Coastal Program Amendment Number LCP-2-MAR-15-0029-1

Dear Mr. Ainsworth,

Throughout the more than seven-year process of updating the Marin County Local Coastal Program, the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin has consistently advocated for “the widest opportunity for public participation” in accordance with the letter and spirit of Coastal Act Section 30006. Recently, Marin County announced that on September 26, 2016 it will hold a Planning Commission hearing on the proposed amendments to Marin’s LCP. Those proposed amendments have already been approved by the Board of Supervisors, submitted to the Coastal Commission, and deemed complete. As such, there is no further role for a County-level process until after the Commission acts on the proposed amendments.

The county Planning Commission last considered the amendments to the certified LCP in 2012. Since that time, the Board of Supervisors has revised them numerous times, submitted them to the Coastal Commission, withdrawn them from Coastal Commission consideration, revised them again, and resubmitted them. At no time in the last four years did the County hold a Planning Commission hearing on the substantial modifications as required by its Interim and Development Codes. Now it is too late.

Nevertheless, the County’s announcement informs the public that the Planning Commission will focus on the amendments approved by the Board of Supervisors, and any modifications suggested by Coastal Commission staff. The County cannot now change the amendments approved by the Board of Supervisors. Moreover, to our knowledge, the Coastal Commission staff’s suggested modifications have not been completed, nor are they likely to be available to the public with adequate time prior to the Planning Commission hearing for the public to make meaningful comment on them. In any event, public comment at the Planning Commission will have no effect whatsoever.

We view the County's announcement of a Planning Commission hearing that would take place after submission of the LCP to the Commission as a hollow gesture at best; at worst, it is a cynical ploy to confuse the public and redirect their interest and energy into participating in a meaningless forum that will have no relevance to the Coastal Commission's consideration of the County's proposed LCP Amendments. There is no legitimate substitute for allowing the public to have their concerns heard directly by the Coastal Commission.

We therefore reiterate our request that the Coastal Commission approve the requested extension of time for action on Marin County's Local Coastal Program amendments. We also strongly urge that the Coastal Commission's future hearing on the amendments be held in Marin County so that county residents can express their views directly to the Commission.

Respectfully,



Bridger Mitchell  
President  
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Attachment: Save the Date announcement

Cc: MarinLCP  
Marin County Planning Commission