

From: Scheuring Chris
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 11:38 AM
To: Drumm, Kristin
Cc: BOS; McDonough Nancy; Chasteen Dianne K.; Fredrickson Justin; Rice Jack; Matteis Richard
Subject: LCPA - February 26, 2013

Dear Ms. Drumm:

Please accept these brief comments on agenda item # 18 for today's hearing of the Marin County board of supervisors, as it relates to certain Local Coastal Program Amendments under consideration. They are presented on behalf of the California Farm Bureau Federation ("CFBF"), its membership, and its policy. Please present them to the board of supervisors with our respect.

CFBF has a long history of engagement on coastal issues, as they affect agriculture and come up before the Coastal Commission and local county boards under the aegis of the Coastal Act. We apologize for presenting only this brief and informal written statement, but the CFBF attorney who is most familiar with these issues had a conflict today, and could not appear personally or prepare his own remarks.

CFBF has enacted written policy which calls for the authority of the Coastal Commission relative to agriculture and agricultural practices to be rescinded, and that authority returned to local government. (CFBF # 130.) That is a call for legislative action regarding the Coastal Act that cannot be addressed by your board today; however, we believe that decisions about the disposition of resources and agricultural land use should be a matter of local prerogative before boards such as yours, under the auspices of local planning processes which include the agricultural community.

CFBF is committed to the overall protection of the agricultural industry (CFBF # 140), and believes that this commitment should also be Marin County's and should express itself through policy actions such as the one the board may take today.

With respect to your local coastal planning efforts, we believe that agricultural lands should not be designated as open-space or viewshed for land use planning purposes (CFBF # 144), unless supported by the local agricultural community (CFBF #136). That support is not evident in the case of the Marin County Farm Bureau today, and the amendments the board is considering.

We also believe that landowners should not be required to donate rights-of-way for recreational trails or other recreational uses as a condition for obtaining any use permit (CFBF # 149). We oppose any requirement for a permit to undertake ordinary agricultural activities, or to support the same. We hope that your board will make sure that these principles are reflected by its actions today.

With respect to Marin County's Local Coastal Program overall, the CFBF stands in support of its membership within Marin County. We urge you to consider and address the issues presented in the comment letter of the Marin County Farm Bureau, dated February 19th.

Thank you.

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