

MONTEREY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting: February 11, 2009 Time: A.M/P.M		Agenda Item No.:
Project Description: Review the Draft Monterey County Voluntary Oak Woodland Stewardship Guidelines that will be considered by the Board of Supervisors. An oak woodlands management plan would allow landowners, non-profit organizations and local government entities to be eligible to apply for funds from the State Wildlife Conservation Board for the preservation of oak woodlands primarily through the establishment of voluntary conservation easements.		
Project Location: County-wide		APNs: County-wide
Planning File Number: PD061171		Name: Monterey County Voluntary Oak Woodland Stewardship Guidelines
Plan Area: All		Flagged and staked: N/A
Zoning Designation: All		
CEQA Action: Categorically Exempt according to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies		
Department: RMA - Planning Department		

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission review and provide staff feedback on the draft Monterey County Voluntary Oak Woodland Stewardship Guidelines.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Attached are the draft “Monterey County Voluntary Oak Woodland Stewardship Guidelines” for review prior to going to the Board of Supervisors. On January 8, 2008, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors directed the RMA- Planning Department to move forward on two separate endeavors:

1. Prepare an Oak Woodlands Management Plan for approval by the Board of Supervisors and for submission to the Wildlife Conservation Board. An approved Plan would allow local government entities, landowners and non-profit land trusts to be eligible to apply for funds for the preservation of oak woodlands primarily through the establishment of conservation easements.
2. Develop options for applicants to mitigate impacts to oak woodlands to satisfy State requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act. (Exemptions include agricultural land use and affordable housing.)

Purpose

To allow County landowners, non-profit and public agencies to be eligible to apply for funds for voluntary oak woodland conservation. In order to participate in this program, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors must adopt an “Oak Woodlands Management Plan” by resolution that meets the State program’s minimum requirements. After that, the County is required to certify that applications submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board are consistent with this document to compete for grants. Please see the attached “Q&A” for more information.

Attached are Exhibit A: Questions and Answers on what the Voluntary Oak Woodland Stewardship Guidelines is about; Exhibit B, the draft Monterey County Voluntary Oak Woodland Stewardship Guidelines; and Exhibit C, Appendix B to the Monterey County Voluntary Oak Voluntary Woodland Stewardship Guidelines, a technical document and references for the Stewardship Guidelines. The Stewardship Guidelines were written in collaboration with Mark Stromberg, Ph.D., Resident Director at University of California

Hastings Natural Reserve in Carmel Valley, who volunteered his time in order to get this document completed in 2008.

In a separate effort, as directed by the County Board of Supervisors, staff will develop options to mitigate impacts to oak woodlands pursuant to CEQA (PRC 21083.4) and present recommendations to the Planning Commission for revisions to policies and ordinances to incorporate oak woodlands preservation.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

- ✓ Public Works Department
- ✓ Environmental Health Division
- ✓ Water Resources Agency
- ✓ Parks Department
- ✓ Monterey County Regional Parks District
- ✓ Agricultural Advisory Committee
- ✓ Cal Fire – Robert Taylor, Division Chief

The above checked agencies and departments have reviewed the stewardship guidelines and some have provided feedback to staff. Informally other organizations, public entities, and private landowners were asked to review the guidelines.

The project was not referred to any Land Use Advisory Committees (LUAC) for review. Based on the current review guidelines adopted by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors per Resolution No. 04-236, this application did not warrant referral to the LUAC because the project as no Initial Study was required.

Paula Bradley, MCP, AICP, Associate Planner
(831) 831 755-5158 or [e-mail: bradley@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:bradley@co.monterey.ca.us)
January 8, 2009

cc: Front Counter Copy; Planning Commission Members (10); County Counsel; Public Works Department; Parks Department; Environmental Health Division; Water Resources Agency; Taven Kinison Brown, Planning Services Manager; Paula Bradley, Planner; Carol Allen; File PD061171

Attachments: Exhibit A Monterey County Voluntary Oak Woodlands Q & A
 Exhibit B Monterey County Voluntary Oak Woodlands Stewardship Guidelines
 Exhibit C Appendix B – Oak Woodlands in Monterey County

This report was reviewed by Taven Kinison Brown Planning Services Manager