

MEMO

DATE: 2 April 2024
TO: California Coastal Commission- North Central
FROM: Permit Sonoma
SUBJECT: Sonoma County Local Coastal Plan Submittal

On November 27, 2023, Permit Sonoma submitted the Local Coastal Program amendment application for Sonoma County's adopted Local Coastal Plan to the California Coastal Commission. The application materials were consistent with Coastal Act Sections 30510 through 30514 and Sections 13551 through 13555 of the Commission's regulations contained in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

On December 11, 2023, the California Coastal Commission responded with a filing letter requesting additional information from Permit Sonoma to analyze the proposed project for Coastal Act Conformance. The letter asked for clarification on the relationship between the adopted Local Coastal Plan and the existing Implementation Plan, which includes the Sonoma County Coastal Zoning Code and Administrative Manual. Policy C-LU-1a in the Land Use Element of the adopted Local Coastal Plan requires the Coastal Zoning Code and Administrative Manual to be consistent with the Goals, Objects, Policies, Programs, and Initiatives of the Local Coastal Plan. This means that Permit Sonoma must ensure that all new projects are consistent with the adopted Local Coastal Plan, which takes precedence over the Coastal Zoning Code and Administrative Manual.

Policy C-LU-1a: *The Coastal Zoning Code and the Coastal Administrative Manual shall be consistent with the Goals, Objectives, Policies, Programs, and Incentives of the Local Coastal Plan.*

Once the Local Coastal Plan is certified by the California Coastal Commission, Permit Sonoma staff can update the Coastal Zoning Code and Coastal Administrative Manual to be consistent with the adopted and certified Local Coastal Plan. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors Adopted Local Coastal Plan contains a series of guidance documents within the Appendices that will function side by side with the current Administrative Manual while the Implementation Plan update is underway. The guidance documents are intended to be incorporated into the Admin Manual with a future update to the Implementation Plan pending future certification of technical updates for reference in the Local Coastal Plan. These Appendices provide additional detail and instruction to staff and the public for implementation of new Policy language similar to the existing guidance in the certified Administrative Manual of our three part Local Coastal Program.

If any changes to the adopted Local Coastal Plan result from the California Coastal Commission certification hearing, Permit Sonoma will return to the Board of Supervisors to amend the adopted Local Coastal Plan to incorporate revisions consistent with the Coastal Commission certification proceeding and local policy direction.

Thank you,
Permit Sonoma

