



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.  
**C-6**

For the meeting of: May 31, 2016

Date: May 26, 2016  
To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Supervisor Virginia Bass  
Subject: Letter of Support for SB 1190 (Jackson) California Coastal Commission Ban on Ex-Parte Communications

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support for SB 1190.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The California Coastal Commission was created to serve as a quasi-judicial body, deciding land use issues based solely on the evidence and information presented in public hearings. SB 1190 would ban ex-parte communications between members of the Coastal Commission and those lobbyists, advocates or other interested parties who would seek to influence the Commission's decisions behind closed doors. SB 1190 would ban such ex-parte communications in a manner that is fair and equal to all sides. The Board is being asked to send a letter in support of this important legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Letter of Support.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature Virginia Bass

REVIEW: Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ITEM:  
 Consent  
 Departmental  
 Public Hearing  
 Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Bass  
Ayes Sundberg, Fennell, Lovelace, Bohn, Bass  
Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent \_\_\_\_\_

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: May 31, 2016  
By: Kathy Hayes  
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

May 31, 2016

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Senator, 19th District  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for SB 1190 (Jackson) California Coastal Commission**

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for your Senate Bill 1190, which would ban ex-parte communications between members of the California Coastal Commission and those lobbyists, advocates or other interested parties who would seek to influence the Commission's decisions behind closed doors.

The California Coastal Commission was created to serve as a quasi-judicial body, deciding land use issues based solely on the evidence and information presented in public hearings. When commissioners have private meetings with interested parties, or with lobbyists, agents or local elected officials acting on their behalf, the public is deprived of any real ability to know what is being discussed, what information is being shared, what arguments are being advanced or what assurances are being given behind closed doors. Disclosing that a meeting took place does nothing more than acknowledge that a meeting took place to which the public was not privy.

SB 1190 would ban such ex-parte communications in a manner that is fair and equal to all sides, so that neither applicants nor opponents would have an advantage. Critically, SB 1190 includes local elected officials in this ban, preventing them from being placed in the position of being back-door surrogates for one side or the other.

Transparency is always a good thing. Thank you again for authoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

Mark Lovelace, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

ML:kh