



Central Coast Forest Association

CCFA CONTINUES TO INTERVIEW SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SUPERVISORS

By Doug White, CCFA Director

CCFA Board member Cate Moore and I first spoke with the new Supervisor of District 1, John Leopold, whose interview was featured in the Spring issue of The Log. We continue with interviews of Ellen Pirie, District 2 and Tony Campos, District 4. The following are the set of questions asked of each supervisor:

- As a supervisor, what do you consider to be Santa Cruz County's most pressing problems, and how do you intend to go about correcting them?
- Is there an Economic Development Department funded by the county? If there is, why does it have such a low profile?
- In your opinion, how important is the tax revenue income generated by the lumber industry within Santa Cruz County?
- Santa Cruz County currently appears to be unable to fully fund some of the governmental operations that all California counties are obliged to conduct. How would you seek to increase this county's revenue stream?
- To what extent should the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, exercising its authority over land use issues, be allowed to prevent a landowner from cutting and selling trees growing on his property?
- How would you rationalize the taking of a citizen's right to cut down and sell trees growing on his property?
- What effect should the elimination of potential logging activities on a real estate parcel have on the County's assessment of the parcel, for property tax purposes?

INTERVIEW WITH TONY CAMPOS

Edited from a taped interview, April 20, 2009

CCFA: What do you consider to be Santa Cruz County's most pressing problems?

TC: When it comes to the lumber business, I've been very supportive of timber harvesting. The wood business is a big business and there has to be a fair mix of how we can harvest redwood. We do have different people out here that are activists that don't want any trees harvested. We have areas that really need cleaning so we don't find ourselves in a fire war. There has to be a better working relationship, communication, and trust between the environmentalists and the business interests.

CCFA: Is there an Economic Development Department funded by the county? If there is, why does it have such a low profile?

TC: It comes down growth and environment. We're looking at certain kinds of energies now that certain types will use any tools available to prevent from happening. We're the ones

who make the rules, and if we don't want some type of growth, just say so, but don't camouflage it under another excuse.

CCFA: In your opinion, how important is the tax revenue income generated by the lumber industry within Santa Cruz County?

TC: It's very important but it doesn't get talked about, so somehow you have to get it out in the open. The lumber industry isn't promoting the value of its product like, say, the strawberry growers. Basically, the lumber industry is just another form of agriculture.

CCFA: To what extent should the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, exercising its authority over land use issues, be allowed to prevent a landowner from cutting and selling trees growing on his property? How would you rationalize the taking of a citizen's right to cut down and sell trees growing on his property?

I voted against raising the minimum acreage for timber harvesting to 40 acres. I was really surprised that (former Supervisor) Jan Beautz voted against it; when we lost Jan we lost the third vote (to keep the acreage at its former level of 5 acres.)

Doug stated that there are many people who have been cut out by this ruling, because they may have a smaller acreage with a few redwoods on it, but they would now be unable to harvest.

Campos said it would be beneficial to have the State work with timber property owners to facilitate harvesting permits, but he recognized there are many people so strongly opposed to harvesting.

Doug asked about property assessment based on redwoods growing there, but with the right to be able to harvest having been taken away from the owner, whether there is any way to have property assessed at a lower rate. Campos advised contacting the assessor's office.

Campos thinks sooner or later the acreage restriction may be overturned, because there are enough people who own smaller parcels to band together against what is considered a "unlawful taking" of their right to use their own land.

Campos says some people rationalize their opposition to harvesting by saying that the landowners would put in logging roads and then use the roads to do lot splits and subdivide their land. He believes 99% of this is not true.

Doug stated he does not believe in irresponsible development of land, nor does Campos.

CCFA intends to sit down with the rest of the Supervisors (Stone and Coonerty) and interview them. Campos said he would be curious about our conclusion after "doing the loop" of all the Supervisors. ■

See page 3 for the interview with Ellen Pirie.

We'll be printing the remaining interviews in future issues.

CCFA ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 20

By Barbara McCrary

CCFA's annual membership meeting was held at Big Creek Lumber's private recreation site off Swanton Road, the same location as last year's meeting.

Once again, we had Sandy Lydon, historian and professor emeritus of history-Cabrillo College, as our guest speaker. Sandy is the author of the book, "Coast Redwood, A Natural and Cultural History", among several others. He spoke on the history and value of tan oak in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Andy Egger, a native of Switzerland, skilled forester, and now a North Coast resident, presented a demonstration of logging with his team of horses. From the winter-downed tree to the finished lumber, Andy secured the tree, skidded it to his portable mill with the horses and sawed it into lumber. Andy was involved in horse logging the Soquel Demonstration Forest a few years ago.

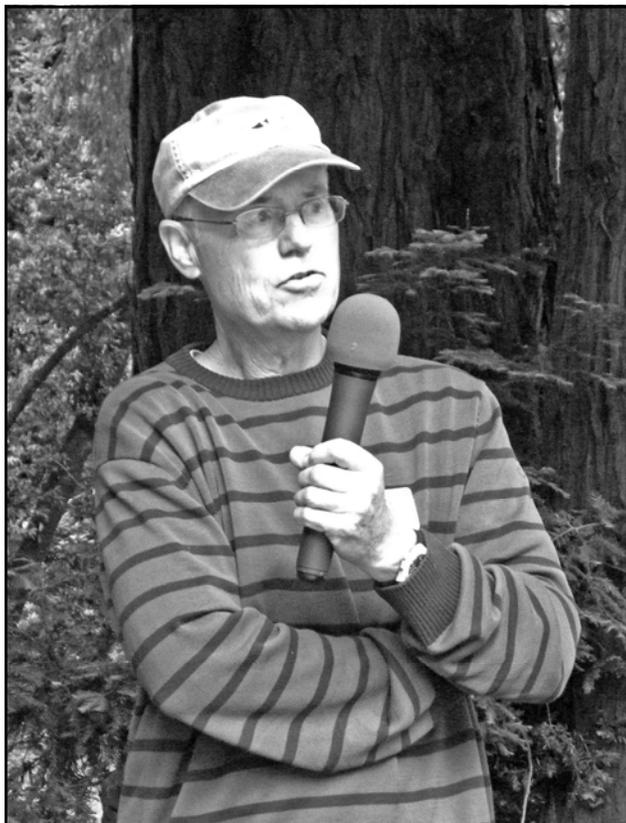
We provided meat - barbecued at the picnic grounds by Bob Berlage and Trish McCrary - a big pot of beans, coffee and other beverages. Members brought salads, deserts and hot dishes.

We brought our membership up to date on our efforts in behalf of timberland owners, and generally had a good time.

The CCFA annual Forestry Excellence Award was presented to Mildred Holmes of Scotts Valley, a long time forestland owner and member of the timber industry. Since she was unable to attend due to health reasons, her son, Larry Holmes received it in her absence. ■

PHOTOS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

All photos by Barbara McCrary



Larry Holmes accepts the CCFA Forestry Excellence Award for his mother, Mildred Holmes



Trish McCrary and Bob Berlage barbecued the very tasty tri-tip



Lud McCrary demonstrates peeling of tanbark, a job he did professionally, though briefly, in the late 1940s. Guest speaker, Sandy Lydon, looks on.



Andy Egger demonstrates logging with his team, Jed and Josh

Final photo on page 5

INTERVIEW WITH ELLEN PIRIE

Edited from a taped interview. May 6, 2009

CCFA: What do you consider to be Santa Cruz County's most pressing problems?

EP: The economic crisis. There will be budget cuts in June that are just unthinkable. The law says our budget must be balanced. Thousands of people have asked for re-assessment of their property reflecting the lowered values. Several large businesses have left the county. These reductions in tax sources leave the county cutting funding for meals for homebound seniors, social workers for abused children, treatment programs for drug addicts, and supervision of people on probation.

CCFA: Is there an Economic Development Department funded by the county? If there is, why does it have such a low profile?

EP: The Redevelopment Agency works to develop new businesses. Now is not the time to encourage new businesses. There is not a lot of room for new businesses inside urban services area. We cannot put businesses on a septic tank or well.

CCFA: In your opinion, how important is the tax revenue income generated by the lumber industry within Santa Cruz County?

EP: It doesn't contribute a lot to the tax base in the county.

CCFA: To what extent should the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, exercising its authority over land use issues, be allowed to prevent a landowner from cutting and selling trees growing on his property? How would you rationalize the taking of a citizen's right to cut down and sell trees growing on his property?

EP: I am not anti-timber harvesting at all. I am probably the most supportive of the five supervisors. Tony Campos and I are the most middle-of-the-road, but two votes in a board of five doesn't help much. I voted against the 40-acre harvesting limit; forty acres is too big. If redwood trees on someone's property of under 40 acres were now included in the value of that property and the landowner was prevented from harvesting, the trees should then be removed from the value of the property.

Cate stated that if the County would reduce some of the restrictive regulations against businesses, new ones might be more receptive to coming here. Ellen said the County doesn't have that much to do with regulations; those are mostly within the City limits or even the State.

Doug brought up the subject of economic development, to which Ellen responded that the Redevelopment Agency working in the Live Oak, Soquel, Aptos areas helps some, but no one is talking about new departments now. ■

WATER QUALITY BOARD ADOPTS CHANGES TO WAIVER

By Gary Paul

On July 10, 2009, The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board adopted modifications to the General Conditional Waiver for Timber Harvesting Activities. The Board stated that the reasons for these modifications are that monitoring information submitted to date have shown little or no impact from tim-

ber harvesting to water quality, and that budgetary considerations mandate that staff time be devoted to higher priority issues.

The modifications are summarized as follows:

1. Water Board staff will only attend pre-harvest inspections for plans with higher potential risk to water quality. Inspection time will be prioritized with active, post-harvest, and violation inspections;

2. Prior to the pre-harvest inspection, the applicant will determine whether it is a Tier IV plan (requiring an individual waiver and a public hearing) using the Eligibility Criteria in place. If the plan is Tier IV, the applicant will notify staff, and the application can begin to be processed, so that less delay will result in getting set for the hearing. If the plan is not Tier IV, it will be automatically enrolled under the General Waiver, after approval of the THP by CAL FIRE, and receipt by the Board of a streamlined application form.

3. Required monitoring for all plans except Tier IV will be limited to visual inspections and forensic monitoring. Photo monitoring will no longer be required. Water column monitoring (turbidity and temperature) will no longer be routinely required, and will be limited to specific instances as established by staff during or after the pre-harvest inspection. Visual monitoring will be required in the first year, as it is currently, up to 3 times/winter after 2"+ storms over a 24 hour period. In years 2 and 3, two inspections will be done, one in the dry season and one in the wet season. In years 4 and 5, one dry season inspection (to prepare for winter) will be required. The winter inspection will only be required after 4"+ storms in a 24-hour period.

4. Plans will automatically enter monitoring years 2-5 without written approval of the Board. Upon receipt of a completed Notice of Termination by the Board after year 5, monitoring will automatically terminate.

5. An annual report will still be required.

6. Inspections by staff, which indicate that management practices are failing, may result in recommendations for additional monitoring, including visual, photo, or water column, plus possible extension of monitoring past the five-year period.

CCFA Board Members made good points at the hearing. Eric and Cate Moore, Brian Campbell, and Pat Driscoll testified. All made the point that the changes would help out the beleaguered, small landowner. Pat referred to a new endangered species, "The ten-toed forest landowner in Santa Cruz County." Brian pointed out that timber harvest was highly regulated, but that waste discharge requirements do not apply to State Park activities, such as mountain bike riding and horseback riding. He stated he could see State Park trails bleeding into the creek, which divides his land from Wilder Ranch State Park.

Local foresters testified in support of the changes. Local anti-logging activists, Jodi Frediani, Kevin Collins, and Dennis Davie testified against the proposal, basically stating that more, not less, monitoring and oversight was needed. Steve Shimek, of the Ocean Conservancy, stated that landowners and foresters could not be trusted to monitor themselves. Julia Dyer, Water

See **Water Board** (Continued on page 4)



Notes From the Nut-House



WIZARD OF ID

by parker and hart



Water Board (Continued from page 3)

Board staff in charge of the program, pointed out a serious misrepresentation by Mr. Collins. Mr. Collins showed a photograph of a damaged road section, implying that the damage was caused by timber harvesting activities. However, Ms. Dyer correctly pointed out that the photograph was hers, taken by herself prior to harvesting and had nothing to do with logging. It appeared that a significant loss of credibility was sustained by the activists in this hearing due to this misrepresentation.

It was refreshing to hear a couple of Water Board members saying that, in these troubled economic times, government should be more interested in facilitating business activities, rather than indulging in costly programs that hinder business interests. Executive Officer Roger Briggs said, at the end of the hearing, that they could have adopted these changes without a public hearing, and apparently had made up their minds about this much earlier on. He said the hearing was held to allow the public (activists) to have their say.

In a related matter, the Board put off a modification of the 303d listing for San Vicente Creek. The listing for sedimentation, potential cause - silviculture - was obtained in 2006. This listing was based on activist hearsay, and woefully inadequate data, presented to the State Board. The data was based on included cherry-picked records of the Davenport Sanitation District, indicating elevated turbidity in certain high rainfall months. Essentially, the argument before the State Board was: "There is high turbidity. There is logging in the watershed. Therefore, logging is causing high turbidity."

See Water Board (Continued on page 5)



Central Coast Forest Association
Membership / Renewal / Contribution

Name _____ Date _____
 Enclosed is \$ _____ for: New Membership Membership Renewal Legal Fund
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 Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
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Central Coast Forest Association P.O. Box 1670 Capitola, CA 95010

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Dues</u>
Individual	\$50
Business	\$500

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CCFA is a 501-(c) 4 tax-exempt organization. Donations may be tax-deductible as a business expense.

Water Board (Continued from page 4)

Mike Duffy, forester for Redwood Empire, obtained a complete record of turbidity readings, which was submitted to the Central Coast board. Based on the complete record, which showed some high, but mostly low turbidity during the period recorded, Staff recommended delisting of San Vicente Creek. It appeared the Board would have supported this change, but it was determined that the 45-day notice period for this change was not met. This matter will be taken up again next year.

The last item was a small private landowner's Tier IV harvest waiver, which was approved by the Board at this meeting. His THP was approved by CDF last September - it took over 10 months for the Water Quality Board to hear his application. Although other Tier IVs have been approved in less time, the lesson here is to plan well ahead. ■



After skidding it to his portable Lucas sawmill, Andy renders the log into several dimensions of lumber

**CCFA CO-FOUNDER, BOB BRIGGS
 SUCCUMBS**

Adapted from Santa Cruz Sentinel
 Additional comments by The Log Editor



Robert Owen Briggs, 84, one of the founders of CCFA and a strong, driving force in the organization, died at his home on Rancho del Oso, north of Davenport, CA on May 26.

He was a research scientist and engineer who advised two presidents on marine and coastal issues. He did extensive studies on everything from how much water trees soak up from nearby Waddell Creek to whether Coho

salmon really are native to streams south of San Francisco.

Bob's career included work at NASA-Ames Research Center in Sunnyvale, jobs as Vice-president of Dillingham Corp. of Hawaii and president and director of research for Oceanographic Engineering Corp. in La Jolla. He served as an adviser of on marine and coastal issues to former California Governor and President Ronald Reagan, former President Richard Nixon, and former President Bill Clinton.

He once lobbied the California Dept. of Fish and Game for a permit to clear debris from Waddell Creek so steelhead could swim through to spawn.

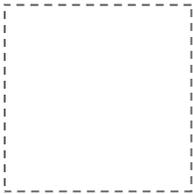
Under his supervision, he and his wife, Anne, rented the farm land on the ranch to Route One Farms, a popular organic produce grower that sells to local markets.

He managed the Rancho del Oso private timberland and was in favor of periodic selective harvesting as a way to protect and preserve the quality of the forests growing there and the wildlife living therein.

He was a past president of CCFA and will be missed by its many members who knew him.

His wife, Anne, has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to CCFA. We are very appreciative of Anne's generosity and dedication to the organization that Bob helped found and support with his boundless energy.

We're on the web!
www.ccfassociation.org



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The forests must be, and will be, not only preserved but used, and the experience of all civilized countries that have faced and solved the question show that the forests, like perennial fountains, may be made to yield a sure harvest of timber while at the same time all their far-reaching beneficent uses may be maintained unimpaired.

John Muir
Founder of the Sierra Club in 1895

CCFA's Mission

The Central Coast Forest Association is a non-profit alliance of small forestland owners, forestry professionals and forest-oriented businesses with close affinity to the woods, mountains, streams and wildlife of the Central Coast. Our purpose is to uphold and preserve our values, our property rights and our way of life. To advance this objective, CCFA will:

- *Interact with community, political and environmental interests as a voice for forestland owners.*
- *Understand the news, law and technology of forestry and apply this knowledge for the benefit and protection of forestland owners.*
- *Inform members of matters affecting their lands and forests.*
- *Take political and legal action to defend the rights and property of all Central Coast forestland owners.*