

**Siskiyou County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
December 18, 2024**

The Siskiyou County Planning Commission meeting of December 18, 2024, was called to order by Vice Chair Lindler at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 311 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor, Yreka, California.

Present: Commissioners Hart, Melo, Lindler and Veale

Absent: Commissioner Fowle

Also Present: Hailey Lang, Deputy Director of Planning; Dan Wessell, Deputy Director of Environmental Health; James Phelps, Senior Planner; William Carroll, Assistant County Counsel; Janine Rowe, Commission Clerk

Minutes: Due to the lack of a quorum to approve the November 20, 2024, Planning Commission Minutes, review was continued to the January Planning Commission meeting.

Unscheduled Appearances: None

Conflict of Interest Declaration: None

Presentation of Documents and Availability of Public Records: Read by Vice Chair Lindler

Public Hearing Protocol: Vice Chair Lindler announced that the protocol is detailed in the Agenda.

Right of Appeal Statement: Read by Vice Chair Lindler

Changes to the Agenda: None

Due to difficulties with connecting to Zoom, the Vice Chair called for a brief recess at approximately 9:04 a.m. The Vice Chair reconvened the meeting at approximately 9:06 a.m., and Assistant County Counsel William Carroll announced that due to technical difficulties, Zoom was not available for today's meeting.

New Business:

Agenda Item 1: McDonagh Timberlands Zone Change (Z-24-01) / Categorically Exempt

The project is a proposed zone change for approximately 323 acres from Rural Residential (RR-B-40) to Timber Production (TPZ) in order to better align with the current use of the property as forest management for forest products, conducive to growing and harvesting timber. The project site is located five miles southwest of Highway 3 (SR-3) and the community of Callahan; APN 031-290-010; Township 39N, Range 8W, Section 7 MDB&M.

**Categorically Exempt
Zone Change**

**Recommending Adoption
Recommending Approval**

Staff Report:

The previously circulated Staff Report was reviewed by the Commission, and a presentation of the project was provided by Mr. Phelps.

Mr. Phelps told the Commission that the project involved rezoning a 323-acre parcel south of Callahan from Rural Residential (RR) to Timberland Production Zone (TPZ) to align with its current use for timber production. The project is consistent with the General Plan and zoning ordinances for

the area. The property has an approved California Cooperative Forest Management Plan and meets the requirements for the TPZ district, as well as the stocking standards of the 2024 California Forest Practice rules and Public Resources Code Section 4561.

Mr. Phelps said no public comments were received, and both Siskiyou County Environmental Health and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife had no objections. He told the Commission that staff recommended approval of the project and finding it exempt from CEQA under Section 15264.

Commission Questions:

Commissioner Veale asked Mr. Carroll to explain why one of the conditions of approval requires that the project applicant indemnify the County if a lawsuit were filed as a result of the project being approved. Mr. Carroll explained that the applicant is being asked to provide the legal cost to defend any challenges to approval of the project by third parties since the county has no actual interest in the project itself.

Agency Input: None

The Vice Chair opened the Public Hearing.

Public Comments: None

There being no comments, the Vice Chair closed the Public Hearing.

Commission Discussion:

Vice Chair Lindler confirmed with the project proponent that since it is proposed that the zoning be converted to TPZ, he understood that they are committing to long term timber management which included a commitment by future landowners that the trees have to be harvested when they are of age and size. Mr. McDonagh acknowledged that he was aware of those requirements.

Motion: Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Melo, seconded by Commissioner Hart, to Adopt Resolution PC 2024-028, a resolution of the Planning Commission of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, recommending that the Board of Supervisors determine the Project exempt from CEQA and approve the McDonagh Timberlands Zone Change Request (Z-24-01).

Voted upon and the Vice Chair declared the motion carried unanimously by those Commissioners present on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Hart, Melo, Veale and Lindler

Noes:

Absent: Commissioner Fowle

Abstain:

Items for Discussion/Direction:

Ongoing Staff Update Regarding the General Plan Update

Ongoing agenda item pertaining to the Siskiyou County 2050 General Plan Update. Staff will be providing an update on the project schedule, deliverables, and any other updates relating to this project.

Staff Report:

Ms. Lang told the Commission that staff is currently revising the Vision and Guiding Principles based on feedback received at the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors joint workshop and that staff is aiming for a concise bullet point format. She said there are plans to meet with the TAC in a few weeks and then staff would be presenting the update at the January Planning Commission meeting.

Ms. Lang said the goal is to have the approved Vision and Guiding Principles by February after Board of Supervisors review. After that, updating the zoning code will begin which will focus on streamlining and making Title 10 more user-friendly. She said the Environmental Impact Report process will commence in tandem and that these steps are part of the next phases of work for the coming year.

Miscellaneous:

- 1. Future Meetings:** The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Vice Chair Lindler said she had a conflict with the January meeting date and would not be present.
- 2. Correspondence: None**
- 3. Staff Comments:** Ms. Lang provided an update on the Shasta Way road abandonment project. She said following a recommendation from the Planning Commission and neighborhood opposition, the matter was elevated to the Board of Supervisors for further direction, and the Board of Supervisors directed staff to continue processing the abandonment application. Ms. Lang said she and Supervisor Valenzuela would be meeting with the residents to discuss the issues and potential solutions, aiming to finalize property negotiations before the matter returns to the Planning Commission. She said resolution will possibly take a month or more.
- 4. Commission Comments: None**

Adjournment: The meeting was concluded at approximately 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Hailey Lang, Secretary