

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT POLICY/ORDINANCE  
INTERPRETATION**

Interpretation No.: DA- AMEND (Discretionary Approvals - Review level for major amendments and modifications)

Effective Date: March 1, 2009

Revised: none

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**Question**

*What is the appropriate level of review for major amendments and modifications to discretionary approvals?*

**Applicable Ordinance Section(s)**

18.10.134(c)2(i)(2)

18.10.134(c)2(iii)

**INTERPRETATION:**

The appropriate level of review for major amendments and modifications to discretionary permits is the approval level for the project being considered under the amendment or modification, as specified in the appropriate Use Chart. However, if the amendment or modification affects any portion of the original project about which there was significant controversy, then the major amendment or modification shall be heard by the approving body which approved the original project.

**Reason:**

County Code subsection 18.10.134(c)2(i)(2) specifies that the processing level for major amendments and modifications initiated by the current holder of the planning approval shall be the processing level applicable to the planning approval sought, as indicated in the Use Chart for the appropriate zone district. However, subsection 18.10.134(c)2(iii) indicates that in situations where the project being considered under the amendment affects controversial aspects of the original project, then that amendment shall be heard by the original approval body. If a project was heard on appeal, then amendments or modifications to that project should be referred to the body that heard the appeal. Referral to the original approving body for amendments that affect controversial aspects of the original project will ensure that the approving body most familiar with project, and with the issues of concern to members of the public, will make decisions regarding project amendments or modifications.

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Tom Burns, Planning Director

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Date