

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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**Coastal Agricultural Protection Workshop Series**

Please Join Us for a Central Coast Workshop in collaboration with
California FarmLink:

Affirmative Agricultural Easements

When: Thursday, January 18, 2007, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Santa Cruz Public Library, Central Branch Meeting Room
224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Farmland protection is one of the most challenging land use issues facing California's rural coastal communities. Keeping coastal farmlands in agricultural production is increasingly difficult in the face of rising land costs, population growth, foreign competition, and environmental regulation, among other factors. The goal of the Coastal Agricultural Protection Workshop Series is to provide a forum where state and local government land use planners, farmland protection organizations, and farmers may work together to help preserve coastal farming in California.

We held an initial meeting in November of 2005 in San Francisco to explore the use of "affirmative clauses" as a means to secure continued agricultural production on lands held in agricultural conservation easements. There was a significant amount of interest in the topic. We will recap outcomes of the first meeting, review the issues and get input on key questions:

*Who benefits from an affirmative easement?
How would one be monitored and managed?
How can landowner and regulatory needs be balanced?*

A panel discussion will include representatives of the Coastal Commission, CA FarmLink and local farmers with easement experience. A question and answer period and group discussion will follow. We will also discuss potential topics, format, and scheduling for future workshops. Please join us in exploring this important issue!

For further information and to RSVP please contact Reggie Knox at CA FarmLink's Central Coast office at 831-761-8507, www.californiafarmlink.org.

