June 24, 2016

To: Forestry Professionals Evaluating Less Than Three Acre Conversions in Trinity County

Good Day. As many of you know, Trinity County now has a designee for the review and approval of less than three acre conversion exemption applications. The designee is the Planning Director and/or myself on his behalf. This is to inform you that the County Board of Supervisors enacted an emergency ordinance on June 6, 2015 imposing a moratorium on most 3-acre or less conversions. Exclusions from the moratorium are narrowly defined to allow conversions under the following provisos:

1) a permanent dwelling already exists onsite, or
2) the applicant for the conversion has applied for a building permit or intends to obtain a permit to place a legal permanent dwelling on the property within 90 days’ time, and
3) completes a bona fide statement on the affidavit form provided by the County detailing the purpose of the conversion and attesting that any proposed conversion for agriculture is not for cannabis cultivation purposes. The affidavit must be notarized by the applicant prior to submittal to us, and the affidavit will be recorded by the County.

Providing an affidavit with clear detail about conversions of timberland for agriculture will be key as well as a good site plan documenting the conversion area within the parcel, grades, roads and watercourse locations.

Please inform your clients that they must submit a $250 processing fee as well as a $75 General Plan Update fee along with their conversion application. I also wanted to alert you that the County is studying the issue of whether bonding requirements for conversions should be enacted.

Please contact me in the event you have questions about the submittal process, or concerns (contact information is provided above in the header). Copy of the affidavit form is attached.

Sincerely,

Carson Anderson
Senior Planner