

HEART OF THE CITY COASTAL COMMISSION APPLICATION UPDATE

During a telephone conversation on October 2, 2002 Melissa Stickney, lead California Coastal Commission Program Analyst for the Heart of the City Specific Plan, told Sean Guthrie that Redondo Beach's official application date was April 25, 2002 and by law they must take action within one year from that date or by April 25, 2003.

Ms. Stickney went on to tell Mr. Guthrie that if Redondo Beach does not withdraw their application immediately the Commission will need to restart to process very soon. This is because the Heart of the City Specific Plan is such a large and complex matter and the public hearing will need to be scheduled locally before the April 25, 2003 deadline.

The Commission public hearings only occur one week per month in different regions and Ms. Stickney expects next year's schedule will only have meetings for the Los Angeles area region prior to the deadline in January or February. So for the Commission to complete all the preparations for a January or February public hearing they need to restart the process as soon as possible.

Ms. Stickney further stated that she is planning to notify Redondo Beach of the current situation. If Redondo Beach chooses not to withdraw their application immediately the Commission will have no choice but to restart the process. If this happens, all those concerned will need to immediately submit any written comments for consideration in the project analysis and to be included in the final staff report given to the Commissioners prior to the public hearing.

The people should bear in mind that if by some chance the California Coastal Commission were to approve of the existing Heart of the City Specific Plan with very few modifications then the Redondo Beach City Council and Staff will have an even stronger argument for justifying all their prior actions as well as re-approving the same plan after the one year referendum/rescission delay expires next June.