

Wingspread opponents upset with hearing site

By DONALD MILLER
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SAN FRANCISCO — The controversial Wingspread Beach project will be considered by the California Coastal Commission in February — maybe.

The commission decided Thursday to review the Wingspread plan at its February monthly meeting in Marina del Rey, near Los Angeles.

This decision was greeted with dismay by Wingspread opponents, who charge that by holding the

hearing in Southern California, the commission is making it extremely difficult for Santa Cruz County residents to attend.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors had asked the state coastal panel to consider Wingspread in February so that a "final" project could be put onto the June ballot.

The deadline for June ballot measures is March 1, according to county officials.

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Wingspread opponents

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The board had also asked the commission to split off its February 23-26 meeting so that the Wingspread portion could be held in this city.

But the commission upheld a recommendation by its Executive Director Peter Douglas and ordered only one meeting — in Marina del Rey.

Douglas said the commission simply does not have the money to hold two meetings in February. The Coastal Commission has lost a large chunk of its state and federal funding in the past year. It has been under assault by the Deukmejian administration and the federal government, which charges it with improperly blocking federal plans for offshore oil exploration and drilling.

To make matters even more dicey for the supervisors-backed Wingspread ballot measure, Douglas said that there is a chance his staff will be unable to get a report ready for the February meeting.

"We'll do our best," said Douglas. "We'll see in February what happens." Douglas said the same financial problems that prevent the commission from holding a February meeting in San Francisco might prevent the staff from finishing the Wingspread review.

Wingspread opponent Celia Scott Von der Muhll told the commission that the state Coastal Act requires "maximum public participation" in contested issues such as Wingspread.

After the commissioners voted 8-3 for the February hearing in Marina del Rey, Von der Muhll asked: "Why can't the ballot measure be in November?" Wingspread foes have said they would like the Coastal Commission to hear Wingspread in March, when the commission is scheduled to meet in San Francisco again.

Now, said Von der Muhll, if the Coastal Commission modifies the project, the board will have only one week after the meeting to consider the changes before the ballot deadline.

Von der Muhll said Coastal Commission w
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The board has appro
allow developer Rylan
the 66-acre Porter-Ses
The ocean-bluff comp