



The Coastal Long Range Development Plan allows for the areas bordered in white near the Long Marine Lab to be developed.

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Growth

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vens, a Santa Cruz resident and member of the Coalition to Limit University Expansion. “But don’t you think it’s kind of ironic that their mission is to preserve and protect our coastal resources and at the same time they want to develop on what is a valuable coastal resource?”

The plan has been in the works for eight years. It’s been the subject of numerous public hearings and protests due to its ecologically sensitive location and traffic on Delaware Avenue.

Although the city of Santa Cruz is suing the university over its Long-Range Development Plan — which plans for an additional 4,500 students and several new facilities on the campus by 2020 — it never took a stance on the Long Marine Lab expansion, given its reputation as one of the premier marine research facilities in the country, Mayor Ryan Coonerty said.

“The city had a few small concerns, mostly access for fire vehicles,” he said. “... I think anybody who’s been out there has to be impressed with the kinds of research that’s being done. It’s vital not only for this region but it has worldwide implications on climate change.”

Gary Griggs, director of the Institute of Marine Science and Long Marine Laboratory, said he was pleased with the vote, and added that UCSC was going to work to address the Coastal Commission’s changes by mid-June when the approval goes into effect.

“We couldn’t have asked for more. This was a big project. This

wasn’t just a single house,” said Griggs. “But we managed to work out all the issues. It took eight years, but we got it right.”

Some obstacles included convincing the public that wildlife corridors and sensitive habitats in the area would not suffer as a result of the expansion, and that docents would be allowed to give tours of the nearby Younger Lagoon Reserve.

According to the university, 80 percent of the expansion would consist of marine research and education facilities, accounting for 254,000 of the total 322,000 square feet. The rest of the space would be devoted to support facilities, such as equipment and maintenance warehouses and rooms where visiting researchers would be able to spend the night.

Because the plan was submitted to the Coastal Commission and includes modifications suggested by commission staff, it must be approved by the UC Regents, after which it can receive final certification from the Coastal Commission on June 13.

The 100-acre site currently has research and education facilities on 16 acres, including Long Marine Lab, the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, and research laboratories of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.

This plan in particular allows for the development of an additional 12 acres for new research and education facilities, setting aside 72 acres of the site for environmental restoration and preservation.

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