

Proposed Zone Text Amendment ZTA14-0001; De Minimis Local Coastal Program Amendment LCPA14-0001 – Set for Public Hearing on April 7, 2015

Reasons to Reject the above Amendments and Maintain the Current Nuisance Ordinance and Residential Zoning Prohibition on Poultry in the City of Dana Point

Why it's Important to Maintain the Current Policy on Poultry

- Simplifies Code enforcement for the City of Dana Point rather than creating a more complex administrative process that may include permits, regulations, and numerous site visits to determine compliance with the new Code provisions.
- Prevents problems with additional vermin such as rats, which are attracted to chicken feed, and carry diseases which endanger humans, hens, and other pets.
- Prevents problems with increased vectors such as flies, which are attracted to chicken droppings, and breed rapidly in manure. Flies spread disease and contaminate food.
- Prevents additional problems with predators such as coyotes, which are attracted to easy prey like backyard hens.
- Reduces the burden on the Coastal Animal Services Authority (CASA) for sick, lost, or abandoned birds (and CASA has admitted it is not prepared to handle hens).
- Reduces the risk of negative environmental impacts if many residents raise chickens because the nitrogen and phosphorous in chicken droppings will wash into the ocean.
- Maintains property values because the sight, sound, and smell of backyard chickens may make homes less desirable for habitation and sale.
- Fosters more neighborhood harmony because chickens are animals that live outside. They make noise that can be very annoying and disruptive to sleep and quiet enjoyment. Chicken manure creates ammonia-like odors that can be noxious.
- Is more consistent with the City's image as a resort town that offers residents and visitors a wide range of activities, culture, and fine dining.
- Prevents the City from becoming a "safe haven" for people who want to keep chickens because the proposed Ordinance is much more lax than most of our neighbors' policies.

Reasons to Change the Law and Allow Poultry in Residential Neighborhoods

- Provides opportunities to raise your own food. Only slightly since it's just eggs, which can be purchased at the Farmer's Market. It does not restrict one's right to grow fruits and vegetables in a backyard garden.
- Gives property owners independence. All actions of property owners affect their neighbors, and part of owning property in the City means you've agreed to abide by the law and respect the rights of others.
- Allows residents to own cute pets. Other domesticated animals and indoor birds are welcome, and are far more appropriate for dense residential living.
- Allows residents to enjoying family-bonding time. There are plenty of activities in Dana Point that help foster the bonds between parents and children. Raising hens is not the only option.