



PAT MCCRORY

*Governor*

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**MEMORANDUM**

CRC- 16-40

**To: Coastal Resources Commission**  
**From: Michael Christenbury, Wilmington District Planner**  
**Date: November 14, 2016**  
**Subject: Certification of the 2016 New Hanover County Comprehensive Land Use Plan**

**Recommendation:**

Certification of the 2016 New Hanover County Land Use Plan with the determination that the County has met the substantive requirements outlined in the 15 NCAC 7B Land Use Planning Requirements and that there are no conflicts with either state or federal law or the State’s Coastal Management Program.

**Overview**

New Hanover County is seeking certification of the 2016 New Hanover County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (LUP). New Hanover County is located in southeast North Carolina, between Pender County to the north and Brunswick County to the south, and is home to the City of Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach.

In 2013, the county began the process to update and create a new comprehensive plan for the unincorporated areas of New Hanover County, and to replace the 2006 Wilmington-New Hanover County Joint Land Use Plan, originally certified by the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) on June 23, 2006.

New Hanover County is expecting to experience a high level of employment and population growth. Currently, New Hanover County’s population is approximately 214,000 and is projected to grow 57% to 337,000 within the next 25 years. The development of this plan was more than three (3) years in the making, utilizing a large and diverse stakeholder group for input. This citizen’s advisory committee consisted of participants representing more than 18 different special interest groups and organizations. Business and real estate groups were represented, along with education and medical interests, the State Port, tourism organizations and environmental groups. Community members provided feedback through several mediums, including numerous community meetings and surveys, as well as themed committees which led to the creation of 21 goals that aided in the creation of the plan.

New Hanover County held a duly advertised public hearing on July 11, 2016 and voted unanimously by resolution to adopt the 2016 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. DCM Staff reviewed the plan and has determined that the County has met the substantive requirements outlined in the CRC's 15A NCAC 7B Land Use Planning Requirements and that there are no conflicts with either state or federal law or the State's Coastal Management Program. DCM did not receive any comments from the public, written or otherwise regarding the plan. Staff recommends Certification of the 2016 New Hanover County Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The 2016 New Hanover County Comprehensive Land Use Plan may be viewed at:

<http://planningdevelopment.nhcgov.com/plan-nhc/>