



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: General Services Department

Subject: Adopt Resolution Summarily Vacating a portion of Lodge Road

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Formal Title: Adopt resolution summarily vacating a portion of Lodge Road abutting Assessor Parcel Numbers 086-041-59, 086-041-60, 086-041-61, 086-041-62, 086-041-63, 086-041-64 and 086-371-14, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Adopt summary vacation resolution abandoning a portion of Lodge Road abutting APNs 086-041-59, 086-041-60, 086-041-61, 086-041-62, 086-041-63, 086-041-64, & 086-371-14;
2. Find the proposed summary vacation consistent with the General Plan; and
3. Authorize Real Property to record the Resolution in the Official Records of Santa Cruz County.

Executive Summary

Certain portions of Lodge Road adjacent to Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 086-041-59, 086-041-60, 086-041-61, 086-041-62, 086-041-63, 086-041-64, and 086-371-14 lie within the boundaries of Big Basin State Park. California State Parks has requested to assume control of this segment of Lodge Road, which is entirely surrounded by parkland and serves only park-related purposes. The Department of Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) supports this request, as the roadway has no public utility beyond providing internal access within the Park. Pursuant to California Streets and Highways Code Section 8334(b) et seq., the Board of Supervisors is authorized to summarily vacate a road segment that lies entirely within a single ownership and does not continue through or terminate at another property. Staff therefore recommends the summary vacation of this portion of Lodge Road and its removal from the County Maintained Roads System.

Discussion

This request is part of a greater effort to update our County Maintained Roads system to remove the responsibility and liability for roads that are no longer needed for current or prospective public use and that fit the criteria for Summary Vacation under the California Streets and Highway code.

The County acquired Lodge Road under the Collier Burns Act in 1947. The County currently maintains a 2.43-mile stretch of Lodge Road, extending from its eastern connection with Highway 236 to the eastern property boundary of APN 086-011-27. Approximately 1.2 miles of Lodge Road falls within the boundaries of Big Basin State Park and is not utilized for public access beyond park use. In the wake of the CZU fire in 2020, State Parks has placed a gate at postmile 1.25 and this portion of lodge road has been blocked to public access since that time.

The County has received a request from State Parks to convert this portion of Lodge Road from County ownership to State. The proposed vacation will commence at the

point where Lodge Road crosses the Western property boundary of APN 086-041-47 and will extend 1.2 miles to the Easternmost property boundary of APN 086-041-62. CDI supports this transfer, as the segment serves no public use other than access to the state park. To streamline maintenance responsibilities and align with the current usage of the road, we propose to vacate the county's maintenance responsibility for the 1.2-mile portion of Lodge Road that falls within the state park boundary. The County will continue to maintain the eastern portion of Lodge Road that is surrounded by private ownership and outside the state park boundary.

California Streets and Highways Code Section 8334 (b) allows the Board of Supervisors to summarily vacate a street or highway lies within property under one ownership and that does not continue through such ownership or end touching property of another. Additionally, California Streets and Highways Code Section 8313 (a) requires the Board to consider the General Plan before vacating a street, highway or public service easement. To support the Board's finding, the Planning Director has determined that the proposed summary vacation does not conflict with the General Plan.

Real Property therefore now recommends approval of the Resolution to Summarily Vacate Lodge Road.

Financial Impact

There is no cost associated with this action other than staff time which was charged hourly to Community Development and Infrastructure (GL 621100/ JL 62330).

Strategic Initiatives

3.A (Reliable Transportation: Local Roads)

Submitted By:

Michael Beaton, General Services Director

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.