

BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05

On the motion of Commissioner Shepherd
duly seconded by Commissioner Nickell
the following Resolution is adopted:

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY
OF SANTA CRUZ RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE AMENDING
SECTIONS 13.10.312, 13.10.352, 13.10.372, 13.10.681, AND 13.10.700
REGARDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS, AND
RECOMMENDING THE FILING OF A CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz (“County”) has maintained an accessory dwelling unit (“ADU”) ordinance since 1983; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 and 2021, the Santa Cruz County Code (“County Code” or “SCCC”) was amended to comply with state ADU regulations contained in California Government Code Sections 66310 through 66339 (formerly Government Code Sections 65852.2, 65852.22, 65852.23, 65852.150) and Health and Safety Code Section 17980.12; and

WHEREAS, in September 2020, the California Department of Housing and Community Development released the ADU Handbook, which was update in July 2022, and again in January 2025 and which provided interpretations and clarifications to the state ADU regulations; and

WHEREAS, in September 2022 Governor Newsom signed AB 2221 and SB 897, which took effect on January 1, 2023;

WHEREAS, in October 2023 Governor Newsom signed AB 976, which took effect on January 1, 2024;

WHEREAS, in May 2024 Governor Newsom signed SB 477, which makes organizational changes to the state ADU regulations, relocating the regulations to Government Code Sections 66310 through 66339;

WHEREAS, in September 2024 Governor Newsom signed four more ADU bills (AB 2533, Ab 3057, SB 1211, and SB 1077), that will each take effect on January 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, the County wishes to amend SCCC 13.10 to comply with the ADU Handbook and updated state ADU regulations, and resolve points of confusion in the existing County Code; and

WHEREAS, SCCC 13.10 is a Local Coastal Program implementing ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on May 14, 2025, and has reviewed the County's proposed County Code amendments and finds that they are necessary to implement the State's updated ADU regulations, are consistent with all elements of the General Plan/Local Coastal Program, and comply with the California Coastal Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed County Code amendments are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.17 because they serve to implement state ADU and JADU regulations and CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because the amendments present no possibility of a significant impact on the environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed amendments to the Santa Cruz County Code as presented on this date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors confirm that a Notice of Exemption is appropriate under CEQA.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 14th day of May, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Barton, Jimenez, Pavonetti, Nickell, Shepherd
NOES: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:

Signed by:
Trina Barton
0278FA2FA2B74B1...
Chairperson

DocuSigned by:
Sheila McDaniel
B7F7A99D43A942E...
ATTEST: Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signed by:
Natalie Kirkish
D52DG6AA0E74498...
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

cc: County Counsel
Community Development and Infrastructure Department

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 9697DB81-ECC2-4DE9-914E-468290EF0D1F

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Sheila McDaniel

Sheila.McDaniel@santacruzcountyca.gov

Principal Planner

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Trina Barton

Trina.Barton@santacruzcountyca.gov

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signed by:

Trina Barton

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David Carlson

David.Carlson@santacruzcountyca.gov

Resource Planner

County of Santa Cruz

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You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

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- Until or unless you notify County of Santa Cruz as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by County of Santa Cruz during the course of your relationship with County of Santa Cruz.