

44. Schedule a public hearing pursuant to Beilenson Act requirements for Health Services Agency radiology and laboratory redesign, and take related actions ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Health Services Agency

Subject: Schedule a public hearing pursuant to Beilenson Act Requirements

Meeting Date: May 20, 2025

Formal Title: Schedule a public hearing pursuant to Beilenson Act requirements for Health Services Agency radiology and laboratory redesign, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. or thereafter, pursuant to §1442.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (Beilenson's Act), to consider a radiology and laboratory redesign;
2. Approve Notice of Public Hearing and authorize the Health Services Agency to post the Notice of Public Hearing all County health care facilities, pursuant to the Beilenson Act requirements; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the Notice of Public Hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation, at least 14 days prior to the hearing date, as required by §1442.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (Beilenson's Act).

Executive Summary

The Health Services Agency (HSA) requests that the Board set a Beilenson noticed public hearing for June 10, 2025, to fulfill California Health and Safety Code section 1442.5 requirements before proceeding with the proposed redesign of radiology and laboratory services, which may involve a reduction or changes to these medical services. The hearing was originally scheduled for May 20, 2025, but due to an advance noticing issue, the date must be moved to June 10th.

Discussion

A Beilenson hearing is a public hearing that is required by §1442.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (Beilenson's Act) for public input into proposed public health service reductions. Prior to closing, eliminating or reducing the level of medical services provided by the leasing, selling, or transfer of management of a county facility, the Board shall provide public notice of public hearings to be held by the Board prior to its decision to proceed. The notice should be posted at the entrance to all County health care facilities not less than 14 days prior to the public hearings. The notice shall contain a list of the proposed reductions or changes, by facility and service. The notice shall include the amount and type of each proposed change, the expected savings, and the number of positions affected. Further, notwithstanding the closing or reducing the level of medical services, the Board shall fulfill its duty to provide care to all indigent people, either directly through county facilities or indirectly through alternative means.

The Beilenson Act states that public notice must be "posted at the entrance to all county health care facilities, of public hearings to be held by the board prior to its decision to proceed". Due to an administrative error, there was insufficient posting at the clinics

locations with 14 days' advance notice of the May 20th public hearing. Board approval is therefore required to approve the updated notice and move the public hearing to June 10, 2025.

The County's laboratory and radiology departments are located at 1080 Emeline Avenue in Santa Cruz and 1430 Freedom Boulevard in Watsonville. As HSA continues to navigate a challenging budget environment, it has become increasingly evident that the financial viability of the County's laboratory and radiology services does not align with the current needs and priorities of the Health Centers Division (Health Centers). Referring HSA patients to external radiology and laboratory providers will reduce costs by approximately \$2,000,000.

Financial Impact

Approximately \$2,000,000 in cost reductions are expected with the radiology and laboratory redesign, as noted in the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget that is elsewhere on today's Board agenda, with staffing changes detailed in Attachment A - Beilenson Public Notice for Redesign of Radiology and Laboratory Services. Savings will come from the following budgets:

Emeline Health Center Laboratory	GL 361250-41675
Emeline Health Center Radiology	GL 361260-41675
Watsonville Health Center Laboratory	GL 361350-41675
Watsonville Health Center Radiology	GL 361360-41675

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Monica Morales, Director of Health Services

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.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** or thereafter, in the Board Chambers, at 701 Ocean Street, Room 525, Santa Cruz, California, Zoom Link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85660318161>, Telephone +1 669 900 6833, Webinar ID: 856 6031 8161, **to consider a redesign of radiology and laboratory services.** The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will conduct a Beilenson Hearing pursuant to Section 1442.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (Beilenson Act) on the proposed closure of a service provided at a County of Santa Cruz medical facility, the 1080 Emeline Medical Health Center/1430 Freedom Watsonville Health Center's Radiology and Laboratory, and transfer of all radiology and laboratory services to one or more private entities.

At this hearing, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz will consider the impact of the proposed closure of the County radiology and laboratory and transfer of radiology and laboratory services that will affect some of the County's indigent population.

The County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency has prepared an Impact Statement list that describes the radiology and laboratory services which will be transitioned to private companies in the community (Attachment A).

Note: The public may attend the public hearing and/or comment on this matter. Testimony may be presented in person or submitted in written form prior to the hearing and made a part of the hearing record.

If any person challenges an action taken on the foregoing matter(s) in court, they may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors at or prior to the public hearing.

The County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Questions regarding accommodation under the ADA should be directed for this hearing to the Clerk of the Board's Office at (831) 454-2323.

For more information on this subject contact the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency, to the attention of: Amy Peeler, Chief of Clinic Services, at (831) 454-4764.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
By: Juliette Razzato, Chief Deputy Clerk

Health Center Radiology and Laboratory Impact Statements for
Beilenson Hearing Notice
June 10, 2025

Description of the Reduction/Elimination of Services

- Closure of the County's Radiology and Laboratory located at 1080 Emeline Campus.
- Closure of the County's Radiology and Laboratory located at 1430 Freedom Campus.
- Contract with community companies to enhance radiology and laboratory services to the indigent population.

Positions Impacted

County Radiology:

- Eliminate 1.0 FTE Chief Radiology Technologist.
- Eliminate 1.0 FTE Radiology Technologist.

These positions aid the support for completion of radiology scans for the County's Health Centers.

County Laboratory:

- Eliminate 1.0 Senior Lab Assistant/Phlebotomist.
- Eliminate 3.6 FTE Lab Assistant/Phlebotomist.
- Eliminate 1.0 FTE Clinical Lab Scientist.

These positions aid in the completion of primary care diagnostic lab tests for the County's Health Centers.

Impact on Clients

- **County (Radiology):** Approximately 2,270 annual Imaging Appointments affecting approximately 1,832 consumers will decrease per year due to the redesign of the Radiology department.
- **County (Laboratory):** Approximately 15,027 annual lab appointments affecting approximately 7,835 consumers will decrease per year due to the

redesign of the Laboratory department.

- **Contracts (Radiology):** Approximately 2,270 annual Imaging Appointments affecting approximately 1,832 consumers will increase due to the redesigning of the Radiology department and transition to community radiology centers.
- **Contracts (Laboratory):** Approximately 15,027 annual lab appointments affecting approximately 7,835 consumers will increase per year due to the redesigning of the Laboratory department and transition to community lab centers.

Money Saved or Costs Avoided

- **County:** Approximately \$2,041,935 in savings is identified by closing the County radiology and laboratory and engaging with local community companies to fill the radiology and laboratory needs of those currently receiving services provided by the County radiology and laboratory.

Site Impacted

- Reduced radiology and laboratory services at the Emeline Campus health center located at 1080 Emeline Avenue Santa Cruz CA 95060 and the Watsonville Campus health center located at 1430 Freedom Boulevard Watsonville CA 95076.

THIS HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR June 10, 2025 ON OR AFTER 9 AM, LOCATED AT 701 OCEAN STREET SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS (5TH FLOOR).