

17. Adopt "Ordinance Adding Chapter 2.130 To The Santa Cruz County Code Establishing Redwoods Coastal Academy At Juvenile Hall" (approved in concept February 25, 2025) ()



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Clerk of the Board

**Subject:** Adopt Ordinance Adding Chapter 2.130 To The Santa Cruz County Code

**Meeting Date:** March 11, 2025

**Formal Title:** Adopt "Ordinance Adding Chapter 2.130 To The Santa Cruz County Code Establishing Redwoods Coastal Academy At Juvenile Hall" (approved in concept February 25, 2025)

### **Recommended Actions**

Adopt "Ordinance Adding Chapter 2.130 To The Santa Cruz County Code Establishing Redwoods Coastal Academy At Juvenile Hall".

(Approved in concept February 25, 2025)

### **Executive Summary**

n/a

### **Discussion**

On February 25, 2025, the Board approved the ordinance in concept and scheduled it for second reading/final adoption on March 11, 2025.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact associated with the recommended actions.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

N/A

### **Submitted By:**

Juliette Rezzato, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

### **Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

### **Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

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



## ORDINANCE NO. 5475

### **ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 2.130 TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE TO ESTABLISH THE REDWOODS COASTAL ACADEMY AT JUVENILE HALL**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz hereby finds and declares the following:

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2020, SB 823 was signed into law, which eliminated the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and required the closure of all state juvenile custodial facilities no later than June 30, 2023, effectively transferring back the responsibility care, custody, and supervision of the highest risk juvenile justice youth to local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, for several years, the Probation Department (Probation) has contracted with multiple counties to utilize the specialized rehabilitation services offered at their Ranch, Camp, and/or Secure Youth Treatment Facilities under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 880 et seq. and 1990 et seq., respectively; and

WHEREAS, Probation is now prepared to keep our juvenile justice youth closer to home in order to facilitate and strengthen critical family connections, foster and utilize local rehabilitation and reentry services to provide greater continuity of care, and provide a step-down placement level for youth transitioning from Secure Youth Treatment Facilities; and

WHEREAS, the current Juvenile Hall has two separate housing units with a total capacity of 40 youth and Probation wishes to designate up to 5 beds for a Camp program to be named the Redwoods Coastal Academy, with space for expansion when necessary and appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Redwoods Coastal Academy will result in significant annual cost savings to the General Fund by reducing contracts for out-of-county placements and leveraging medical and mental health treatment costs through CalAIM and Medi-Cal for operations, staff, and services;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz ordains as follows:

### **SECTION I**

Chapter 2.130 is hereby added to the Santa Cruz County Code, to read as follows:

### **CHAPTER 2.130 JUVENILE CAMP PROGRAM**

Sections:

- 2.130.010 Establishment—Juvenile Camp.**
- 2.130.020 Eligibility.**
- 2.130.030 Management and control.**

Ordinance 5475

### 2.130.010 Establishment—Juvenile Camp.

Pursuant to the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 880 et seq., there is created and established a Juvenile Camp program for the County of Santa Cruz. The program shall be known as the “Redwoods Coastal Academy” (“RCA”) and located at the current Juvenile Hall site, unless changed by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

### 2.130.020 Eligibility.

Only wards under the Juvenile Court’s jurisdiction pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 602 shall be eligible for commitment to the Camp program. Wards under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court of another county may be committed to the Camp upon approval of the Chief Probation Officer pursuant to a written agreement.

### 2.130.030 Management and control.

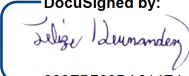
The Probation Department shall oversee the management and control of the Juvenile Camp, under the direction of the Superintendent or Director of Juvenile Hall, as appointed by the Chief Probation Officer.

## SECTION II

This Ordinance shall take effect on the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the date of final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of March 2025, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

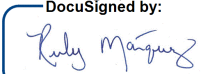
AYES: Supervisors Koenig, De Serpa, Cummings, Martinez and Hernandez  
 NOES: None  
 ABSTAIN: None  
 ABSENT: none

DocuSigned by:  
  
 309EB769DA614E4...

3/18/2025

Felipe Hernandez  
 Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

Attest:   
 466B074F3141450...  
 Juliette Rezzato 3/18/2025  
 Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
  
 57EE5DD2EEC8447... 2/10/2025  
 Office of the County Counsel

Ordinance 5475

cc: Board of Supervisors  
County Administrative Office  
Probation Department



Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 0B5890E3-D8A7-4BBE-BEAD-42F6576E4205		Status: Completed
Subject: Complete with Docusign: Ordinance Adding SCCC 2.130 Juvenile Camp Final 021025.pdf		
Source Envelope:		
Document Pages: 3	Signatures: 1	Envelope Originator:
Certificate Pages: 4	Initials: 0	Cynthia Bellatty
AutoNav: Enabled		701 Ocean Street
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled		Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)		Cynthia.Bellatty@santacruzcountyca.gov
		IP Address: 63.194.190.100

Record Tracking

Status: Original	Holder: Cynthia Bellatty	Location: DocuSign
2/10/2025 10:03:02 AM	Cynthia.Bellatty@santacruzcountyca.gov	
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: FedRamp	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: County of Santa Cruz	Location: DocuSign

Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Ruby.Marquez@santacruzcountyca.gov		Viewed: 2/10/2025 11:20:25 AM
Santa Cruz County Counsel's Office		Signed: 2/10/2025 11:21:48 AM
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	Using IP Address: 63.194.190.100	

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Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Completed	Security Checked	2/10/2025 11:21:48 AM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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## Certificate Of Completion

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Document Pages: 7

Signatures: 2

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 5

Initials: 0

CBD eSignature

AutoNav: Enabled

Stamps: 1

701 Ocean Street

Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

cbd.esignature@santacruzcountyca.gov

IP Address: 73.222.226.188

## Record Tracking

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Storage Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: County of Santa Cruz

Location: Docusign

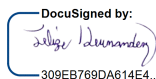
## Signer Events

Felipe Hernandez

Felipe.Hernandez@santacruzcountyca.gov

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

## Signature

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## Timestamp

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Signed: 3/18/2025 2:43:18 PM

Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image

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ID: 2a2f0d4d-8f3b-4197-9c0c-4b7e9be9c82a

Juliette Rezzato

Juliette.Rezzato@santacruzcountyca.gov

Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Cruz

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Viewed: 3/18/2025 3:30:11 PM

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CBD eSignature

cbd.esignature@santacruzcountyca.gov

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Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)



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Freeform Signing

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Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
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Cynthia Bellatty Cynthia.Bellatty@santacruzcountyca.gov Sr. Departmental Admin Analyst Santa Cruz County Probation Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) <b>Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:</b> Accepted: 7/8/2022 2:27:16 PM ID: 0a0841cf-3138-4682-ab0f-eff3b5a4cd36	<div>COPIED</div>	Sent: 3/18/2025 4:14:20 PM
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Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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- ii. send us an email to [nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us) and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

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**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Agenda Management Support](#)  
**Subject:** #17 comment\_Lass, K  
**Date:** Monday, March 10, 2025 4:59:38 PM

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**From:** Kathy Lass <kathy\_lass@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 4:53 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Cc:** Second District <Second.District@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** [Board of Supervisors Meeting March 11 Item #17} Request to review Ranch Camp Ordinance

\*\*\*\***CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am requesting that you pull Item #17, which asks you to adopt the ordinance that establishes Redwoods Coastal Academy, from the March 11th consent agenda and I ask you to not adopt the ordinance at this time.

I attended (and gave comment) at the February 25th Board of Supervisors meeting. I am writing today to ask you to hold the Probation Department to account for their lack of engagement and their misleading presentation in their effort to try to get part of the Juvenile Hall designated as a "ranch camp".

There are two topics that weren't discussed adequately at the February 25th meeting:

- the failure of the Probation Department to actually engage with the community
- the notion that the assignment of a youth to a ranch camp is out of anyone's control.

These two topics are directly linked: the 40 members of the community who spoke out last month didn't address the second point BECAUSE the Probation department failed to engage with the community. The one town hall that the Probation department held was, by all accounts, hastily convened with poor organization. One could imagine that all they had to do was ask the community: "What should we do if The Court assigns a youth to ranch camp?". Then the community would have provided answers.

The Board's sole request at the October 6th meeting was to ask the Probation department to engage with the community, and Probation DID NOT. That alone should cause a pause on this action.

When one talks about "The Court", do the Supervisors realize that there is only one judge involved in adjudicating juvenile cases? This is not some faceless entity over which we in the community have no ability to engage.

The Probation Department presented a misleading case; I ask you to give the community more time before you go down the path of cementing a "ranch camp" at our juvenile hall.

Thank you and regards,  
Kathy Lass  
Aptos, CA





**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Agenda Management Support](#)  
**Subject:** #17 comment\_Potenza, L  
**Date:** Monday, March 10, 2025 4:56:05 PM

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**From:** Leslie Potenza <lp@cruzio.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 3:35 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Agenda Item #17

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Dear Supervisors,

My name is Leslie Potenza, I live in Soquel and I am a small business owner.

I am writing to share my concerns regarding Consent Agenda item #17.

I was present at the Feb 25th meeting where the 2nd presentation was given by Probation for the Proposal for the "Redwoods Coastal Academy"

I spoke against the proposal and while I understand your reasoning for voting in favor I would like to address some ongoing issues. As mentioned at the meeting, Probation did not take seriously their stated value of engaging with community partners and the families and youth who are most impacted by their policies. I am also disappointed by their lack of engagement with our county's SB 823 sub committee. I think these are important markers to keep in the forefront when assessing our integrity, decisions, and policies.

I do support the Addition Direction, copied below, that was recorded in the meeting minutes and ask you all to stand by this commitment and know that we will hold you accountable to follow up. A true commitment to ending incarceration and building effective and proven pathways for our youth to either remain in their communities and strengthen their ties to the whole community or rejoin community, takes all of us working together. It begins with the commitment to listen and learn from each other and build together.

**"Additional Direction:** Direct staff to give an update during the 2025-26 budget

hearings on anticipated savings from the implementation of the ranch camp program, potential options to invest those funds in preventative youth programs, and to report back on the community engagement piece and the community meetings that are being held to ensure that the voices heard today are at the table.”

In community,

Leslie Potenzo

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Agenda Management Support](#)  
**Subject:** #17 comment\_Sexton, P  
**Date:** Monday, March 10, 2025 4:58:45 PM

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**From:** pamelabeth.sexton@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 4:42 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Reject 'camp'; Insist on least restrictive programming for youth

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Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to you about item #17 in the Consent Agenda for the 3/10/25 meeting. As a parent, a teacher, and an engaged community member, I ask you to reconsider your "approval in concept" from the BOS meeting on 2/25/25 and to reject reclassifying part of Juvenile Hall as a "ranch camp", with the deceptive name "Coastal Redwood Academy".

I work with young adults in Watsonville and also facilitate court-mandated Positive Discipline parenting classes for people involved with the Probation Department. In this work, I often see the connection between lack of services or opportunities for youth and entry into the criminal justice system. I am thrilled to be connected with other organizations that serve youth, and see the potential for collaboration in this County to offer wrap around services for youth at home or community based least restrictive programs.

I am unable to join BOS meetings due to it being scheduled when I teach. Last meeting, I tried to give comment during my lunch break but had technical problems. I have, however, watched the previous meetings addressing this issue via the County's online video system.

I want to reiterate two points from the comments I would have made last week:

1) Even a short stay in youth detention is bad for youth. The longer the more potential for harm. Understanding this data, we must commit to transitioning youth to the least restrictive appropriate environment, as we have seen successfully done in the county already, and we must use Probation Department funding now used for Juvenile Hall

incarceration for community based solutions.

2) I want to ask that you ask for an audit of the Probation Department, and invite them to answer questions such as:

- \* What are the existing racial disparities in youth sentencing and supervision practices?*
- \* How does the use of risk assessment tools influence conditions of their supervision?*
- \* Are probation officers adequately trained to address the complex needs of youth under supervision?*
- \* What data exists to demonstrate the effectiveness of probation in reducing recidivism rates?*
- \* Are probation conditions tailored to the specific needs of each individual offender, or are they often overly restrictive?*
- \* How can probation be better integrated with community-based support services to promote successful reintegration?*

I am very grateful for the community based organizations that exist in this county. Through transparency and accountability on the part of the Probation Department, and collaboration at the full county level, together we can take action together to meet the needs of youth in need, and make our community stronger, safer and more equitable.

Sincerely,  
Pamela Sexton  
831-254-0451

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When we dream alone, it is only a dream, but when we dream together, it is the beginning of reality.