



# County of Santa Cruz

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

April 1, 1999

Agenda: April 27, 1999

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: Schedule a public hearing to consider adoption of the 1997 Uniform Building Code, 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code, 1997 Uniform Plumbing Code, and the 1996 National Electrical Code, as amended by Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

Members of the Board:

### BACKGROUND:

The State Building Standards Commission has established July 1, 1999 as the adoption date for the 1997 Uniform Building Code, 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code, 1997 Uniform Plumbing Code, and the 1996 National Electrical Code, as amended by Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. In addition, **staff** has taken this opportunity to revise Chapters 12.10 of the County Code to reflect our present policies and to **clarify** areas of ambiguity.

Below is a summary of the major changes to both the model codes and County Code

### CHANGES TO THE MODEL CODES

The major change in the model codes is that the Uniform building Code chapter on Exiting has been completely rewritten. The format breaks the means of egress system into three components and contains the rules for each component, making the design and plan review requirements for the building exiting system clearer and consistent.

CHANGES TO COUNTY CODE

The changes to the County Code are summarized below:

1. Revisions in the exempted work relating to retaining walls, so that it is clear that walls less than 12 inches in height do not require a permit under any circumstances.
2. Revisions in the exempted work so that pole and cloth structures used to provide weather protection for cars, boats, and recreational vehicles do not require a building permit.
3. Removal of regulations concerning low flush toilets, because these requirements are now found in the 1997 Uniform Plumbing Code,
4. Removal of regulations requiring reinforcing steel in standard foundations, because this requirement is now found in the 1997 Uniform Building Code.
5. Revision to the procedures for the abatement of dangerous buildings to make them consistent with the current legal requirements and to remove some administrative details from the County Code.

Copies of the Codes are on file for public review at the office of the Clerk of the Board

Environmental review by the County is not required because this review was conducted by the State before adopting the code and mandating its adoption by local agencies.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Schedule a public hearing for May 18, 1999 for the morning agenda beginning at 9:00 a.m. to consider an ordinance amending Chapter 12.10 of the County Code to adopt the 1997 Uniform Building Code, 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code, 1997 Uniform Plumbing Code, and the 1996 National Electrical Code, as amended by Title 24 the California Code of Regulations; and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to take the appropriate actions to notice the hearing.

Sincerely,



ALVIN D. JAMES/  
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
County Administrative Officer