



County of Santa Cruz 0311

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

September 19, 2000

AGENDA: September 26, 2000

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

SUBJECT: PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM RELATING TO THE REVISED RURAL ROAD STANDARDS

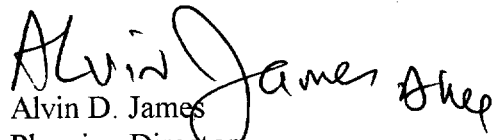
Members of the Board:

On December 14, 1999, your Board adopted a number of policy and ordinance amendments relating to the regulation of timber harvesting in Santa Cruz County. These included adding the Commercial Agricultural (CA) zone district as a zone district where timber harvesting is allowed, establishing locational standards for helicopter logging, establishing locational criteria (riparian) for timber harvesting, and revising the rural road standards. Following adoption by your Board, this package of amendments was forwarded to the Coastal Commission for its review. In May 2000, the Coastal Commission adopted the revised road standards as a minor amendment. The remaining portion of the County's amendment package is tentatively scheduled for Coastal Commission review in October 2000.

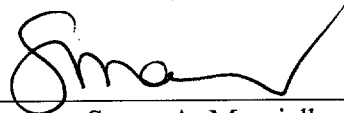
On June 20, 2000, your Board directed Planning staff to present a report outlining the efforts the Department was undertaking to educate and facilitate the implementation of the recently adopted standards. Since the early part of this year, however, Planning staff has been involved in discussions with the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association regarding the revised road standards and other issues regarding fire safety and roadways in the County. The Fire Chiefs Association has concerns about the ability of their vehicles to negotiate roads with the proposed surfacing. Planning staff is meeting with the Fire Chiefs Association on a monthly basis to resolve these concerns and others regarding minimum road standards, road standard exceptions, and inspection responsibilities. Following the discussions with the Fire Chiefs Association, Planning staff will present a report to your Board regarding the rural road surfacing standards and any other road-related fire safety issue that may need to be addressed.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board defer consideration of an implementation plan for the revised road standards until the concerns of the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association have been resolved.

Sincerely,


Alvin D. James
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

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