



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

January 2, 2001

Board of Supervisors  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

AGENDA: January 9, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Land Use Internet Applications

Members of the Board:

On November 7, 2000, your Board directed the Planning Director and Information Services Director to report back on Geographic Information System (GIS) accessibility through the Internet. In addition, on December 5, 2000, your Board directed the Planning Director in conjunction with the Information Services Director, to report on provision of land use application information on the Internet. This letter presents a plan for implementation of these initiatives.

Over the past two years, the Planning Department has developed an extensive inventory of feasible Internet applications, directed toward service improvement by providing information and interactive capabilities to the public from their homes and offices. We intend to move ahead methodically, insuring that the applications can be properly supported before making them available to the public. Below we discuss our plans for both GIS and application tracking on the Internet.

## GIS ON THE INTERNET

Many members of the public and land use professionals have indicated that they are very interested in being able to gather land use information without going to County offices. Accordingly, we intend that our initial Internet offering would target requests for information about individual parcels of land. Because the application would have to serve the development professional as well as the novice, Internet applications would be designed to be easily used by an advanced or occasional user. We believe an effective Internet application could significantly reduce requests for basic parcel information that currently must be handled by Planning Department staff and conveyed by phone, mail, or in person. Such an application would also provide the opportunity for higher quality service by enabling applicants to be more informed prior to visiting the Planning Department and freeing up Planning staff to focus on the complexities and details of individual applications.

The Internet application would be designed to provide zoning and General Plan land use, resource, and constraint information about a parcel, as well as information about water, sewer and other services. As your Board knows, a contract has been approved with Book Publishing Company to publish the Santa Cruz County Code on the Internet. The GIS site would include specific links to the online County Code; for example, if the zoning on the property is residential, the link would be to the use charts and site standards for the residential zone districts.

In December 2000 the Information Services Department received delivery of the County's Internet Server to be used for the GIS and permit application status reporting on the Internet. The server will be configured and ready for hosting these applications by February 23, 2001.

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PERMIT APPLICATION INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

Initially, this Internet presence will have project applicants as its target audience. The applicant will access a tabular (text, as opposed to graphics) data base that will give the current status of a permit application. The information will come from the mainframe ALUS permit tracking system, and will be converted to a more user friendly format for Internet users.

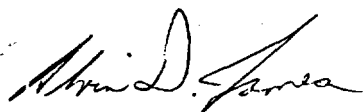
Information Services will begin work on the web-based permit application status reporting application in January 2001, to be available to the public by March 1, 2001.

This timeframe, however, may be affected by recently chaptered legislation (AB2799) which provides guidelines for making information available to the public in electronic format. Interpretation of AB 2799 and the sections of government code that govern the disclosure of public records may affect both the content and timing of permit application and GIS/property information on the Internet. The Planning Department, the Assessor and the County's Information Services Department are working with County Counsel to develop procedures responsive to this legislation, and other privacy issues.

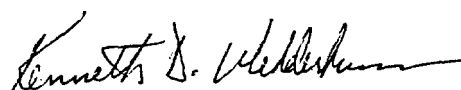
It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Direct the Planning Department GIS, in cooperation with the Assessor, to design and implement a GIS Internet application as described above by June 1, 2001, and
2. Direct the Planning Department, in cooperation with Information Services, to adapt ALUS permit application tracking information to an Internet application and to publish this information on the Internet by March 1, 2001.

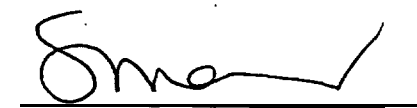
Sincerely,

  
Alvin D. James  
Planning Director

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth D. Wedderburn  
Information Services Director

RECOMMENDED:

  
Susan A. Mauriello  
County Administrative Officer

ix: Robert Petersen, County Assessor  
Diane Evans, Director, Environmental Health Services  
Tom Bolich, Public Works Director  
47 Fire Chiefs' Association