

BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 12-01

On the motion of Commissioner
duly seconded by Commissioner
the following Resolution is adopted:

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AMENDMENT TO COUNTY
CODE SECTION 16.20.180 – GRADING ORDINANCE DESIGN STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE
ROADS, DRIVEWAYS AND BRIDGES

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Planning Department in conjunction with the County Public Works Department and the Fire Chiefs Association of Santa Cruz County is proposing amendments to County Code Section 16.20.180 – Grading Ordinance Design Standards for Private Roads, Driveways and Bridges; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments would ensure that firefighting and other emergency service trucks/equipment can safely and effectively use the County's rural private roads built or improved under the proposed guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments would make the Grading Ordinance Design Standards for Private Roads, Driveways and Bridges consistent with the County Fire Code and the County General Plan/Local Coastal Program (GP/LCP); and

WHEREAS, this amendment is intended to reduce the deterioration of private roads and the resultant erosion problems; and

WHEREAS, the proposed minimum roadway widths have been increased, to 18-feet for more than two habitable structures and 12-feet for two or fewer habitable structures, to allow fire apparatus to gain access to the structures in the event of an emergency while allowing residents to exit the area, with an exception clause that allows for the reduction to 12-feet (with approved turn-outs) in cases where there would be significant environmental impacts resulting from meeting the full width standard; and

WHEREAS, at their February 27, 2001 meeting, the Board of Supervisors gave their preliminary approval to the proposed changes and directed staff to formally process the amendment through the environmental review and Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors public hearing processes;

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments have been found to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and consistent with the provisions of CEQA and the County of Santa Cruz Environmental Review Guidelines;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission recommends that the amendments to the Grading Ordinance's Design Standards for Private Roads, Driveways and Bridges (Section 16.20.180), as set forth in Attachment A-1, and the CEQA Categorical Exemption,

Exhibit A

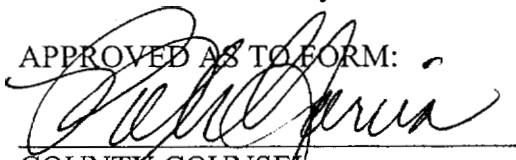
incorporated herein by reference, be approved by the Board of Supervisors and submitted to the Coastal Commission as part of the Local Coastal Program Update. 0478

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 8th day of August, 2001 by the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS Bremner, Durkee, Holbert, and Osmer.
NOES: COMMISSIONERS
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS Shepherd and/or DeAlba.
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: 
Secretary


Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

COUNTY COUNSEL

cc: County Counsel
Planning Department

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING COUNTY CODE SECTION 16.20.180 - GRADING
ORDINANCE DESIGN STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE ROADS, DRIVEWAYS AND
BRIDGES

SECTION I

The Santa Cruz County Code Section 16.20.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**16.20.180 DESIGN STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE ROADS, DRIVEWAYS AND
BRIDGES**

(a) **All** private road, bridge and driveway construction, including all secondary access roads required by a land division, requiring a grading approval shall conform, to the provisions of this section. These requirements may be modified for emergency access, temporary roads or roads leading to an agricultural building or well site if approved in writing by the Planning Director and the Fire Chief **of** the applicable Fire Protection District.

(b) Unobstructed width of roadbed for a roadway serving more than two habitable structures shall be ~~16~~ **18** feet minimum; unobstructed width of a driveway serving two or fewer habitable structures shall be 12-foot minimum. Where these criteria conflict with other Chapter **16** standards ~~it is environmentally infeasible to meet these criteria (due to including excessive grading, sensitive habitats or tree removal), a 12-foot wide all-weather road with 12-foot wide by 35~~ **30-foot long turnouts, with approved approach and departure access, located approximately every 500 feet may be approved with the approval of the fire department. The distance between turnouts may be adjusted at the discretion of the Planning Director and the Fire Chief of the applicable Fire Protection District if deemed appropriate for reasons of topography, environment or emergency access.**

(c) All roadways and driveways shall have a minimum ~~centerline radius shall be of 36 35-feet. (EXCEPTION: Driveways which serve as access to any habitable structure and which are 150 feet or less from the main road.)~~

(d) The maximum grade of the road or driveway shall not exceed ~~15~~ **20** percent; however, grades ~~of up to 20 over 15 percent are permitted for up~~ **limited to stretches of 200 feet.**
~~at a time~~

(e) All roadways, secondary access roads and driveways shall have ~~a~~ **The structural section shall consist of a minimum 5 6 inches of compacted Class II baserock. , Class II or Class IV. Compaction to 95% required and certified by a licensed engineer. Class IV aggregate base should have a minimum R value of 50, and not more than 10 percent of**

the aggregate shall pass the number 200 sieve. **Exceptions to this standard are as follows:**

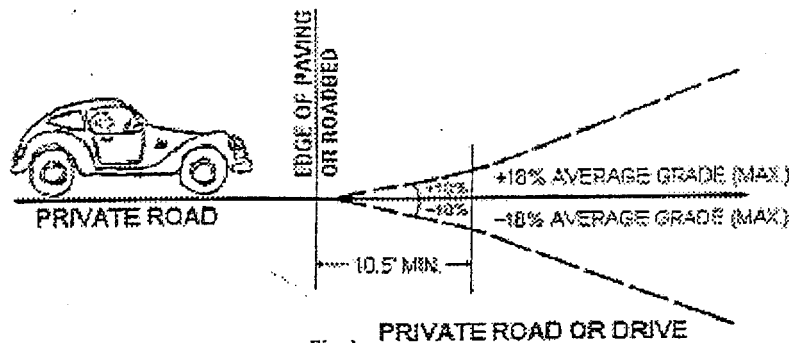
0480

- (f) i. Where the subgrade is designated as an expansive clayey soil, the structural section should be determined using the California Design Procedure.
- (g) ii. The aggregate base required by these design standards can be omitted if the Planning Director determines that the native material provides sufficient **equivalent** bearing capacity for all-weather use to that specified in (e) above, as **certified by a licensed soils or civil engineer.**

(h)(f) In all cases, where road gradients exceed 15 percent, ~~1 1/2~~ **2** inches of asphaltic concrete shall be ~~provided~~ **placed over the baserock.** (EXCEPTION: aggregate base and asphaltic concrete may be omitted if a structural section of 4 inches of concrete is used.) ~~Where road gradients exceed 10 percent and a high erosion hazard has been identified by field review, Oil and screen, at a minimum, may be~~ is required **over the baserock at the discretion of the Planning Director. for all grades up to 15%. All secondary access roads shall be surfaced with 2 inches of asphaltic concrete.**

(i)(g) Asphalt or concrete berms or their equivalent may be required to control drainage. Discharges shall be at points of natural drainage courses with energy dissipaters installed where necessary to prevent erosion.

(j)(h) Entrances from private roads or driveways into private roads shall be limited in gradient as shown by Figure 4.



~~(k)~~(i) Any roadway or driveway which is more than ~~300~~ **150** feet long and a dead end shall have a turn-around area with a minimum of ~~35~~ **36** feet unobstructed radius, or equivalent.

0481

~~(l)~~(j) A horizontal clearance of 16 feet and a vertical clearance of 14 feet shall be maintained on all roadways, driveways, bridges, and turnouts.

~~(m)~~(k) Where a private driveway will connect to a County-maintained road, an Encroachment Permit shall first be obtained from the Public Works Department.

~~(n)~~(l) Bridges shall be at least ~~16~~ **20** feet of clear width. The Fire Chief of the authority having jurisdiction may allow the width to be reduced in accordance with the adopted fire code and Fire Safety Element of the Santa Cruz County General Plan. Bridges and culverts shall be designed by a civil engineer for a ~~H-20~~ **HS-20-44** (25 ton) loading. The bridge weight limit shall be posted at both ends of the bridge. If the bridge crosses a stream or drainage channel, hydraulic calculations based on a 100-year storm shall be submitted showing hydraulic adequacy of the **spanned** cross-section of the stream or drainage channel.

(m) All roads, secondary access roads, driveways and bridges shall be permanently maintained **as** originally constructed in conformance with these standards. Failure to maintain all roads, secondary access roads, driveways, drainage improvements and bridges that were constructed pursuant to these standards is subject **to** the code enforcement provisions of Chapter **19.01 of** the County Code.

SECTION II

This Ordinance shall take effect upon certification by the California Coastal Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2001, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS

NOES: SUPERVISORS

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS

ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM: _____
County Counsel

Copies to: Planning Department
County Counsel