

Annie Murphy

From: Annie Murphy
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Becky Steinbruner; Lynda
Cc: Carolyn Swift
Subject: RE: Requesting that County Historic Resources Commissioners Contact County Board of Supervisors re:State Tax Credits for Historic Properties, Funding Distribution for Historic Museums Countywide, etc.

Hello Ms. Steinbruner,
Thank you for your email, which will be provided to the Commission at the April 5 meeting as public correspondence.

Annie Murphy
Planner IV, Sustainability and Special Projects
Santa Cruz County Planning Department
701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz
(831)454-3111

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 10:39 PM
To: Annie Murphy <Annie.Murphy@santacruzcounty.us>; Lynda <lyndaphillips@netscape.com>
Cc: Carolyn Swift <carolyn.swift@gmail.com>
Subject: Requesting that County Historic Resources Commissioners Contact County Board of Supervisors re:State Tax Credits for Historic Properties, Funding Distribution for Historic Museums Countywide, etc.

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January 11, 2021

Dear Ms. Murphy and Historic Resources Commissioners,

At today's Commission meeting, you discussed 2021 Goals. I requested the following and respectfully request that your Commission acknowledge and hopefully discuss them further as agenda items at your April, 2021 meeting.

1) I request that the Commissioners contact the Board of Supervisors to explore more equitable funding for historic museums countywide, all of which are struggling. Your Commission has discussed this issue in the past, notably at your July 1, 2019 meeting, Item 8A: <https://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/planning/plnmeetings/ASP/Display/ASPX/DisplayAgenda.aspx?MeetingDate=7/1/2019&MeetingType=5>

"The County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Department Budget helps to support to several community partners providing cultural and recreational services. The County Budget for the 2019-2021 fiscal years includes a \$154,594 annual contract with the County Museum of Art and History (MAH), which "provides for the operation and maintenance of the MAH, liaison services to the Historical Resources Commission, and development of historic preservation services throughout the County." As requested by your Commission, Marla Novo, the Archives and Collections Catalyst with MAH, is attending the Commission meeting today to provide an overview of how MAH has applied the County funding over the past several years to support historic preservation in the County"

(There is no audio recording available on the website for this meeting.)

2) I asked that the Commissioners contact the Board of Supervisors and their analysts to reach out to the State Historic Preservation Office to arrange a virtual presentation at a Board meeting or Supervisorial Virtual Town Hall meeting for constituents to learn more about the State Tax Credits available for owners of historic properties.

As I pointed out today, this tax credit is available for a very limited time and the sooner the information is made known to Santa Cruz County property owners, the better their chances will be of qualifying for the limited funding. <https://californiapreservation.org/tax-credit-2019/>

The Commission did not respond or ask that this be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

3) Today, I asked your Commission to meet with the Board of Supervisors to discuss the advancement of the proposed Demolition by Neglect Codes you approved but that are languishing. Staff today stated these Codes may be included in the County Sustainability Plan Update, but gave no indication how soon that may happen. The draft Environmental Impact Report for the Plan, part of the County General Plan update, There has been no update to public action on this CEQA review since September 4, 2020.
<http://sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/Environmental/CEQAInitialStudiesEIRs/CEQADocumentsOpenforPublicReview.aspx>

Two years ago, your Commission received a presentation by Commissioner Merriam regarding County Code changes that would address Demolition by Neglect of historic structures. Your Commission approved those changes, however the Board of Supervisors has not reviewed the matter to codify the changes. Doing so would help protect and preserve a number of historically significant structures, such as the Redman-Hirahara House and Farm in Watsonville, and the Bayview Hotel in Aptos Village (both are on the National Registry of Historic Places).

4) Finally, I asked that your Commission reach out to Supervisors regarding the benefits of approving and implementing the Mills Act to provide financial incentive to owners of historic properties to restore and maintain them with historic character. Your Commission did not acknowledge my request, but I again request that your Commission meet with your respective Supervisors to discuss the matter.

Please respond.

Thank you very much for your good work.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner

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