



August 27, 2024

To: Mark Connolly, Project Planner, County of Santa Cruz Planning Department
CC: Santa Cruz County Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: 2023 Housing Element Rezoning Program

Santa Cruz YIMBY advocates for abundant housing at all levels of affordability to meet the needs of a growing population in Santa Cruz County. We support sustainable growth, including along transportation corridors and activity centers and a commitment to lower Vehicle Miles Traveled by housing people near services and jobs.

We applaud the County for moving forward with the necessary rezonings to implement the objectives of the Housing Element. As a reminder, the County must complete all necessary rezonings by December 15th, 2024, and we are glad to see this process moving forward. We encourage the County not to deviate from the plan to upzone the parcels identified in the HCD-certified Housing Element. This should be a simple approval process as the site inventory was already heavily discussed and debated by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, and the rezoning is simply fulfilling the county's obligation to see through the implementation of the Housing Element plan that has already been approved. Any deviation to the HCD-certified Housing Element's rezoning plan risks causing the County's housing element to become decertified, which could open up the County to the Builders' Remedy.

Thank you,

Rafa Sonnenfeld, Volunteer Lead
Santa Cruz YIMBY