

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2026 11:05 AM

To: Donovan Arteaga <donovanarteaga@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Trina Barton <Trina.Barton@santacruzcountyca.gov>

Cc: Sheila McDaniel <Sheila.McDaniel@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>

Subject: CORRESPONDENCE FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION re: Historic Resources Preservation

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Dear Santa Cruz County Planning Commission,

Thank you for recognizing the problems inherent with a proposed Santa Cruz County Code update that would eliminate the involvement of the County Historic Resources Commission in delisting historic structures subsequent to calamity, which staff clarified would include arson.

Your questioning of staff about whether or not the County Historic Resources Commissioners were aware of this change elicited response from Planning Staffmember Mr. Connolly that *"Yes, they are aware of it."*

However, on April 28 County Historic Resources Commission Special Meeting, I testified during open communication about this claim. NONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS WERE AWARE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE. Because it was not an agenda item, they could not discuss it, however, they were all surprised that Mr. Connolly had made such a statement to your Commission.

Thank you for recommending the Board of Supervisors NOT adopt the language, for the reasons your Commission discussed on April 22 deliberation , and which I submitted in my April 19, 2026 e-mail to you:

"I also request that your Commission NOT approve amendment (E) of Section XLIV 16.42.050 (page 205 in the agenda packet, Exhibit D):

(E) Delisting of an Historic Resource that Longer Exists.

In the event of a natural disaster or

calamity that destroys an historic resource, the structure shall be delisted from the County Historic Inventory.

The Director of Community Development and Infrastructure or their designee shall inform the Historic Resources Commission of the delisting *at a regularly scheduled Historic Resources Commission meeting). The County Zoning Map shall subsequently be amended to remove the Landmark "L" Combining District pursuant to SCCC 18.40.055)*

I oppose this amendment because it incentivizes owners of historic structures who would like to quickly remove any historic designation of properties to easily accomplish that, without the expense of providing any structural analysis or rehabilitation feasibility studies.

It also makes the de-listing ministerial, thereby removing all significant involvement by the County Historic Resources Commission. "

Thank you again for supporting the continued involvement of the County Historic Resources Commission and for recognizing the importance of historic preservation in Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner