



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE



Date: November 14, 2023

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BOARD APPROVES 2023-31 HOUSING ELEMENT

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved the 2023 Housing Element, providing a pathway to greater housing access and affordability for those impacted by the ongoing housing crisis.

The 6th Cycle Housing Element identifies policies and programs to meet existing and projected housing needs through 2031, including recommended zoning and other changes in order to foster adequate housing at all income levels within the community. The adopted Housing Element is the result of numerous public meetings, presentations and study sessions before the Board and Planning Commission, local advisory bodies and community groups.

“Housing and housing costs impact local government’s ability to provide quality services, our business community’s ability to attract and retain a highly-qualified workforce, and most importantly the ability of our residents to provide a stable and secure environment for their families,” County Administrative Officer Carlos Palacios said. “Few things are more important than stable housing, and this plan provides an opportunity to improve housing access for all residents living in unincorporated areas of the county.”

As required under State law, the Housing Element includes a review of potential environmental impacts. Of the more than 4,600 new units the County needs to accommodate, more than half are designated for those with low and very low incomes. Further, the Housing Element is designed to undo historic patterns of segregation and lift barriers that restrict access to housing in order to foster inclusive communities, achieve racial equity, and guarantee fair housing choice.

The Housing Element is subject to review and final certification by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. To learn more, visit <https://www.sccoplanning.com/2023HousingElement>.