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PROPERTY OWNERS IN UNINCORPORATED SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MUST COMPLY WITH THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE ORDINANCE BY NOV. 1

July 15, 2026 – Santa Cruz County, CA — The Santa Cruz County Department of Community Development & Infrastructure today began notifying property owners who are not complying with the Universal Service Ordinance, which requires all developed properties in unincorporated areas to subscribe to waste collection service or register as a self-hauler.

The outreach effort marks the start of a countywide compliance campaign ahead of the Nov. 1, 2026, enforcement deadline. Non-compliant property owners will receive letters in the mail explaining how to comply. To meet the requirement, property owners must:

- Subscribe to garbage, recycling, and organics collection service through GreenWaste Recovery, the County's exclusive franchise hauler.
- Register with the County as a self-hauler and meet program requirements, including transporting separated waste materials to County approved waste management facilities.

The ordinance supports California's waste reduction, recycling, and organics diversion requirements by ensuring waste is properly collected and managed throughout the community.

Property owners who fail to comply by Nov. 1 may face administrative penalties, including fines of \$100 for a first violation, \$200 for a second violation and up to \$500 per day for third and subsequent violations. Property owners can find more information about service options, self-hauler registration, and frequently asked questions at: santacruzcountyca.gov/universalservice

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