



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### PROTECTIONS FOR MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED HOME RESIDENTS

On Dec. 10, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance protecting mobile and manufactured home residents while preserving affordable housing stock.

The new ordinance is consistent with State law, and requires park owners to justify park closures. This includes disclosing future plans for the property, to ensure that they are consistent with local low-income housing preservation policies.

“Santa Cruz County is an incredibly expensive place to live, and our mobile and manufactured homes are invaluable in offering affordable housing to some of our most vulnerable residents,” Supervisor John Leopold said. “It is incumbent upon us to do all we can to protect and preserve these homes so that people aren’t displaced from our community.”

One recent study found widespread circumvention of State law when it comes to mobile home park conversions, due to owners closing parks prior to submission of plans for future uses of the property. Between 1998 and 2019, 565 parks were converted throughout California, resulting in the loss of 17,149 housing units, according to the study.

The new ordinance would require park owners to seek approval and demonstrate legitimate reasons for closure. If the closure is approved, the ordinance further protects residents by allowing the County to attach reasonable conditions designed to mitigate the impact of park closure. The ordinance was reviewed by the Mobile and Manufactured Home Commission prior to approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Numerous residents and members of the Mobile and Manufactured Home Commission attended the Board hearing to support the ordinance. It is expected to go into effect in early 2020.