



County of Santa Cruz

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PRESS RELEASE

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CODE MODERNIZATION COMMUNITY MEETING

As part of an ongoing effort to update and modernize local planning and land use rules, the Santa Cruz County Planning Department will hold a meeting in South County to describe proposed changes -- with an emphasis on agricultural regulations -- answer questions and receive community input.

The meeting, which follows several earlier meetings held around the county, will be held from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1 at Casserly Hall, 562 Casserly Rd., Watsonville. An Environmental Impact Report on the proposals is also planned.

The proposed update of agricultural regulations is intended to support local commercial agriculture, while preserving agricultural land for agricultural uses consistent with Measure J.

Key proposals include:

- Allow agri-tourism such as produce stands, farm to table dinners, and school trips to farms.
- Support other agricultural uses, such as storage of agricultural equipment and agricultural research and development.
- Update regulations for agricultural employee (farm worker) housing as required by state law.
- Allow on-site marketing for wineries, such as public wine tastings, tours, and "Passport Days."

Additional proposals address temporary uses, accessory structures, permit processing, and updates to other zoning districts.