



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
495 UPPER PARK DRIVE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 458-7150 FAX: (831) 458-7139
MICHAEL J. DEVER, ADMINISTRATOR

September 17, 2002

AGENDA: SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Amendments to the Santa Cruz County Fire Code and
Fire Ordinances from Autonomous Districts

Members of the Board:

In June 1999, your Board adopted the 1997 Uniform Fire Code (UFC), by reference and incorporated it into the Santa Cruz County Code. Concurrently, the autonomous fire districts in the county adopted the UFC and established their own district ordinances consistent with the County Fire Code.

With the pending publication of the 2000 UFC, the State begins a process of review and amendment that will be finalized on November 1, 2002. State law offers local fire authorities the opportunity to incorporate the latest UFC and adopt their own fire code by the date the State code goes into effect. Following this date, any jurisdiction without a locally adopted code will be governed by the State code. This time line affects County Fire and all other fire districts.

In the interests of preserving specialized fire code enforcement and safety standards already in force in Santa Cruz County, and to support the county wide effort toward consistent code enforcement, the 2000 UFC has been reviewed by the county wide subcommittee of the Fire Prevention Officers Section of the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association. This subcommittee has formulated a proposed ordinance incorporating the new UFC and other code amendments. Considerable effort has been invested by the Fire Prevention Officers and County staff to ensure that the proposed ordinance will continue to provide for consistent countywide fire regulations.

Health and Safety Code (HSC) 13869.7 allows fire districts to adopt more stringent regulations than those published in the Uniform Fire Code. After a fire board makes a finding that special conditions warrant more stringent standards, an ordinance addressing those concerns will be proposed and forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors. The county has thirty days to respond in writing to those sections of the proposed ordinance that pertain specifically to the California Housing Code, with any comments becoming a part of the public record. If any changes are made as a result of the County's comments or the districts' public hearings, the proposed ordinance is revised by the fire district, adopted and then submitted back to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance, modification, or denial of the State Housing Code sections. The Board of Supervisors acceptance, modification or denial must happen within fifteen days following the fire district's final submission to the Board. This time line is running concurrently with the UFC adoption schedule.

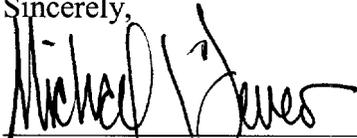
Proposed ordinances were' submitted to your board with agenda materials for the September 17, 2002 board meeting from the fire protection districts of Aptos/La Selva, Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Branciforte, Central, Felton, Pajaro Valley, Scotts Valley and Zayante and have been placed on file with the Clerk of the Board. Your Board has until October 3, 2002 to provide written 'comments on the building standards portions of the code which are included in Section 1003 of the various ordinances.

In preparation for adopting a local ordinance for the Santa Cruz County Fire Department, the Health and Safety Code requires the local board of supervisors to hold a public hearing and adopt various procedural resolutions.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

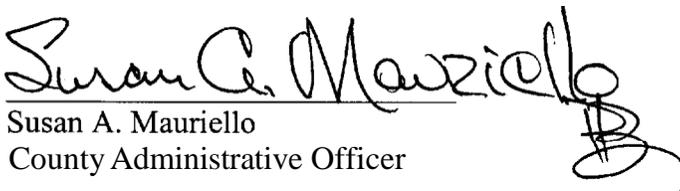
1. Direct the Emergency Services and County Fire staff to review the fire ordinances, Section 1003, from the autonomous fire districts and return on the October 1, 2002 agenda with recommendations regarding any written comments on the respective autonomous fire district ordinances; and
2. Adopt the attached resolution of intent to adopt the Uniform Fire Code with amendments (attachment 1); and
3. Adopt the attached resolution of findings to modify state housing law (attachment 2); and
4. Set a public hearing on October 8, 2002 to consider amendments to Chapter 7.92 of the Santa Cruz County Code and direct the Clerk of the Board to post notice of such hearing as prescribed by law.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Dever
Emergency Services Administrator

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

MD;jp

Attachments:

- 1 Resolution of Intent
- 2 Resolution of Findings

Cc: County Counsel
County Fire Chief Wert
Aptos/La Selva FPD
Ben Lomond FPD
Boulder Creek FPD
Branciforte FPD
Central FPD
Felton FPD
Pajaro Valley FPD
Scotts Valley FPD
Zayante FPD

RESOLUTION # _____

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT THE UNIFORM FIRE CODE 2000 EDITION WITH AMENDMENTS AND PRESCRIBING REGULATIONS GOVERNING CONDITIONS HAZARDOUS TO LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND EXPLOSION AND FOR PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND ESTABLISHING CERTAIN FEES.

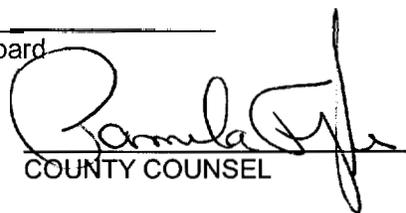
The Board of Supervisors for the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT, on October 8, 2002 at 9 a.m. will conduct a public meeting to consider adoption of a District Ordinance which would adopt the Uniform Fire Code, 2000 Edition, with amendments, and to prescribe regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire and explosion and to provide for the issuance of permits and establishing certain fees. The hearings will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chamber, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for review at the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CLERK OF THE BOARD, located at 701 OCEAN ST, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060.

AYES	_____	SUPERVISORS
NOES	_____	SUPERVISORS
ABSENT	_____	SUPERVISORS
ABSTAIN	_____	SUPERVISORS

Chairperson of the Board

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
COUNTY COUNSEL

DATED: 9/17/02

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. #_____

**RESOLUTION FINDING MODIFICATION OF STATE
HOUSING LAW BY ORDINANCE _____, REASONABLY
NECESSARY BECAUSE OF LOCAL CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7 permits a fire district to adopt an ordinance which changes or modifies the State Housing Regulations adopted pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17922 upon a determination that such changes or modifications are reasonably necessary because of local conditions; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7 requires that a Board making any changes or modifications pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7 shall make an express finding that such changes or modifications are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that insofar as Ordinance _____ of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT may change or modify the State Housing Regulations adopted pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17922, as to the requirement for installation of an automatic sprinkler system in residential buildings, the Board of Supervisors of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT, after duly noticed and held public hearing, expressly finds that such change or modification is reasonably necessary because of local conditions as more specifically set forth as follows:

The affected area within the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT;

1. is extraordinarily inaccessible for firefighting purposes due to mountainous topography; or
2. poses an extreme fire hazard due to the high percentage of forested land (approximately 50%),
3. the National Fire Protection Association statistics indicate that automatic fire sprinkler systems established an efficiency record of approximately 96% satisfactory performance in the United States during the past 77 years since 1925,
4. Santa Cruz County is subject to major disasters such as earthquakes, flooding and major wildland fire which could greatly limit traditional fire suppression capabilities for individual property protection, and
5. the water supply in the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT makes extensive use of automatic fire sprinkler systems feasible. The area is favored with many sources of high quality water, including springs, wells, reservoirs, and surface streams, mutual and municipal water companies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Clerk of the Board shall file a copy of the change or modification together with a copy of this resolution with the Department of Housing and Community Development, and shall obtain an endorsed copy from said department to be filed with the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

ATTACHMENT 2

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE Board of Supervisors of the **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**, County Santa Cruz, State of California, at a regular meeting held on the 24th day of September, 2002, by the following roll call vote:

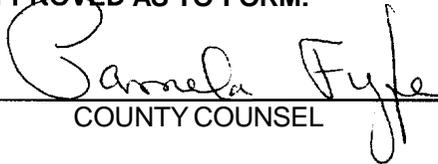
AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSENT: _____
ABSTAIN: _____

Chairperson of the Board

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



COUNTY COUNSEL