COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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Agenda: December 6, 2005

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Re: READING OF ALL ORDINANCES BY TITLE AND WAIVING A DETAILED READING

Dear Members of the Board:

Your Board directed this Office to examine the procedures employed for the adoption of ordinances to determine whether more efficient methods may be applied. Government Code § 25131 establishes the procedural requirement for the adoption of an ordinance by a board of supervisors. This section authorizes a board, by majority vote, to waive a "detailed reading" of the entire ordinance, and instead allows a board to proceed after the ordinances' title is read. The title of an ordinance describes the subject matter it contains, while a detailed reading requires that each word of the ordinance be read into the record. It is important to note that waiving a detailed reading does not eliminate the other procedural requirements for adoption of an ordinance, including, but not limited to, the requirements for public notice and allowing public testimony.

It is the opinion of this Office that your Board may take action to waive a detailed reading of an ordinance as part of your consent agenda. By taking this action on your consent agenda, a separate motion at the time that each individual ordinance is considered would not be required.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the reading by title of any ordinance considered for adoption that may appear on this agenda, and further waive a detailed reading of said ordinance.

Very truly yours,

DANA McRAE, County Counsel

RECOMMENDED:

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

DM:RG:rg