



HOUSING

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

November 2021 Newsletter

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HSCC Governing Board News

Your HSCC Board is hard at work on several fronts. We continue to review requests for endorsement of specific projects and proposals every month (see below). We are on the verge of engaging the services of a new, highly talented staff person to lead our work and extend our reach into the community. We are shaping plans for a membership drive after the first of the year in conjunction with the first anniversary of the launch of HSCC. We are convening a South County

working group to ensure that we focus a significant portion of our advocacy on the needs of South County residents. And we are in the process of adopting a work program with specific, measurable objectives for our organization's work in 2022.

— **Don Lane**, HSCC Interim Governing Board Chair

HSCC Supports the Library/Housing Mixed-Use Project

HSCC believes the Library/Housing/Parking Project in Downtown Santa Cruz offers a significant, substantive, and realistic opportunity to address the critical need for affordable housing in our community and we ask the public to join in facilitating that goal. In an affordable housing crisis it is imperative that jurisdictions prioritize resources and expedite projects with significant numbers of affordable units. HSCC would like the public to evaluate this project in that light [for the following reasons...](#)



State Intervenes With 831 Water Street Project

On October 12th, the Santa Cruz City Council voted to deny the Water Street project. Last week the city received a letter from the state's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) stating that the reasons for the denial were not permitted by state law. [Read more...](#)



Empty Home Tax Endorsement

The HSCC Governing Board has endorsed the Empty Home Tax Initiative for the City of Santa Cruz. Homes occupied fewer than 120 days a year would be taxed at a rate of \$3000 for townhomes and condos. Single family homes would be levied a tax of \$6000. [Read more...](#)



Pacific Station South Receives Tax Credit Funds

In our October newsletter, we reported that four local housing projects had received disaster tax credit funds. Since then, one more project has been awarded tax credit funds. Pacific Station South will receive \$22.6 million in tax credit funding for 85 affordable rental apartments. The seven-story infill project will include studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments. The development will also include an onsite health clinic operated by Santa Cruz Community Health Centers and a dental clinic operated by Dientes Community Dental Care. The project is located at 818-822 Pacific Avenue and 325-329 Front Street.



Cabrillo Pursues Grant Funds for Student & Faculty Housing

The 2021-22 State budget provides for an unprecedented one-time investment in affordable student housing: \$25M per year in funds for feasibility and planning work, \$500M in 2021-22 for project delivery, and another \$750M in 2022-23 and 2023-24 for further project delivery. In order to qualify for many of these funds, projects must be shovel-ready. With that in mind, [Cabrillo is moving swiftly building on momentum from a housing feasibility study conducted this spring to be eligible for these funds.](#)



County Seeks Community Input on Tiny Homes

Santa Cruz County has scheduled several meetings to obtain input from the public on regulations under consideration for tiny homes.

What is a tiny home?

Tiny homes are small dwellings, generally less than 400 square feet, either on foundations or on wheels. Tiny homes on foundations are already allowed in Santa Cruz County and are subject to building and zoning codes. Tiny homes on wheels are considered recreational vehicles or trailers and are not currently allowed as housing in the county except within designated RV parks or as temporary housing. At this time, the county is considering allowing tiny homes on wheels as permanent housing, with appropriate regulations.

Join the Conversation!

Three virtual community meetings have been scheduled to seek community input.

All meetings are scheduled for 6:00 - 7:30 PM

- Wednesday, December 1: Special Focus on Coastal Urban Area
- Tuesday, December 7: Special Focus on Rural Concerns (Septic, CZU Fire Recovery)
- Thursday, December 9: Special Focus on South County

Click here for more information on how to [participate in these virtual meetings](#).

Track Affordable Housing Projects

Housing Santa Cruz County is making an effort to track all the affordable housing projects "in the pipeline." Real projects are being worked on every day in our five local government jurisdictions. We invite you to [follow these projects with this LINK](#) and weigh in on them at appropriate times. If you know of a project that should be included, please feel free to email us at admin@housingsantacruz.com.

Keep Up With HSCC on Social Media!

We invite you to follow us on social media! We are on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). While our newsletter is an excellent resource to get developed information from us month to month, our social media is being updated almost daily and following us is a great way to truly stay up to date with all things HSCC.

Thank you to our Premier Sponsors!



*Our community thrives when all community members
have access to safe, stable, affordable homes.*

Sign up now to become a member!

Organizational Sponsorships

- \$500 Sustainer
- \$1,000 Supporter
- \$2,000 Patron
- \$5,000 Sponsor
- \$10,000 Premier Sponsor

Individual Memberships

- \$25 - Limited Income
- \$100 - Friend
- \$250 - Supporter
- \$500 - Advocate
- \$1,000 - Champion

Visit www.housingsantacruzcounty.com/join-us to securely submit your donation or mail check to Housing Santa Cruz County, 132 Van Ness Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

All donations are tax deductible.

Contact Us: admin@housingsantacruzcounty.com