



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Draft Environmental Impact Report
for the
SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATE
SCH #: 2020079005

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of Santa Cruz has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) addressing the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Sustainability Policy and Regulatory Update of the County's General Plan/Local Coastal Program (LCP) and County Code (Sustainability Update or proposed project). The notice is to inform the public and interested agencies of the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), indicating where and how copies of the Draft EIR can be obtained or are otherwise available for public review. Also indicated herein are the start and end dates of the public review period, within which time, comments on the Draft EIR can be submitted to the County of Santa Cruz Planning Department.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located within Santa Cruz County and includes all unincorporated lands within the county.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project consists of amendments to the County's existing General Plan/LCP and several sections of the Santa Cruz County Code (SCCC), as well as two other components described below. The proposed Sustainability Update is a comprehensive update to the County's General Plan/LCP and modernization of the County Code. The goal of this update is to implement new policies and code regulations that support more sustainable communities in Santa Cruz County. The proposed project consists of four key components: (1) General Plan/LCP amendments to goals, objectives, policies, and implementation strategies, and text revisions to five chapters; (2) revisions to the SCCC primarily to Title 13—Planning and Zoning Regulations and Title 18—Procedures, but also include some proposed revisions to Title 5—Business Regulations, Title 12—Building Regulations, Title 15—Community Facilities, and Title 16—Environmental and Resource Protection in order to ensure regulations incorporate current State law and modern practices, reflect General Plan/LCP proposed revisions, and are internally consistent; (3) adoption of County Design Guidelines; and (4) land use and/or zoning map amendments to implement map corrections and identify opportunity sites and vacant and underutilized properties.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR found that adoption and implementation of the proposed project may result in potentially significant and unavoidable environmental impacts related to farmland conversion, sensitive habitats, historical resources, water supply at both a project level and cumulative level, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) at both a project level and cumulative level.

REVIEW AND COMMENT: The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR is from April 14, 2022 through May 31, 2022. Comments on the Draft EIR must be received in writing by email to CEQA-NEPA@santacruzcounty.us or mail to the contact listed below by 5:00 p.m. on May 31, 2022. Please include a return address and contact name.

Stephanie Hansen, Assistant Planning Director
Santa Cruz County Community Development & Infrastructure Department
701 Ocean Street, Fourth Floor
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Online review of the Draft EIR is encouraged. The Draft EIR and information on how to comment are available for review online at: <https://sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/Environmental/CEQA/InitialStudiesEIRs/CEQADocumentsOpenforPublicReview.aspx>.

A printed copy of the Draft EIR, including technical appendices, may be reviewed at the County of Santa Cruz Planning Counter (701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor, in Santa Cruz) between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, or other times by appointment. Please email CEQA-NEPA@santacruzcounty.us or call (831) 454-2580 to schedule an appointment.

A printed copy of the Draft EIR is also available at the libraries below:

- Felton, located at 6121 Gushee Street, in Felton
- Downtown, located at 224 Church Street, in Santa Cruz
- Watsonville, located at 275 Main Street, Suite 100, in Watsonville

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you require special assistance in order to review this information, please contact the Community Development & Infrastructure Department at (831) 454-2580 to make arrangements.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS: One public information meeting regarding the Draft EIR will be held at the following time:

- **Monday, May 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

To minimize exposure to COVID-19 and comply with social distancing guidelines, the meeting will be held virtually. Information on how to attend the meeting will be posted on the County's website at: <https://sustainability-update-sccgis.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/get-involved#events>.