

Subject: Santa Cruz County Planning Department  
From: "ElaineKennedy"  
Date: Tue, August 05, 2008 8:47 am  
To: <[Editor@StraightTalkNews.org](mailto:Editor@StraightTalkNews.org)>

Hi

I have two stories for you. One on the permits and one on road conditions.

In 1998 or 1999 I applied for a permit to add on to my home in the Santa Cruz Mountains. When the architect presented our application, he was told there was no record of my home ever being built with permits; and I would have to have the entire place inspected and brought up to code before they would consider the permit application.

My home was started in 1951 and was permitted from day one. Granted the house grew like topsy, one room at a time, my Father built the house by code and over code in several areas.

My mother, bless her soul, saved everything, she brought out the **SIGNED OFF** permits and my architect was able to take the permits to the county and was granted the permit to build our addition. What he was told was that the County Planning Department does not have any records of permits issued within the county and since the one person in the office who knew everything, died, they are lost.

Last week I was told, by a contractor, that there is a room at the County building that has all the records. Not in any order. Seems that "Rose" kept everything; just not in any order. I recommend we raid the county building, take possession of all records, and at the county's expense, enter the information into a database, BY PARCEL NUMBER, so the Santa Cruz county Planning Personnel cannot railroad new home owners into RED TAGGING legal residences. We were lucky to be the original owner, what if I had purchased the property and did not have the support documents?

When UCSC came into our county in 1963, the county of Santa Cruz and the UC administration, selected private roads to act as access roads to the campus. No public notice was ever given to the property owners. As owner of the property since 1951, I am certain no notice was ever given to us. We would have objected. The road I use, Glengarry, is too narrow and too steep for the county to maintain. Therefore it is the homeowners who live on top of the mountain, to maintain the road for access. Originally, we maintained it as a fire escape access, and most recently we have been using the road as our main access as the road has become very well maintained and passable.

In the 46 years, neither the county nor the UC System, have provided any financial support to the private road owners. As one of those owners, whose road is being abused by bicyclists driving up to UC property line; dropping off 5 bicycles and riders, driving down to Highway 9, picking them up as they end their ride, and returning up my privately maintained road to do this again and again (every half hour from 9:00 am-8:00 pm); and who the Sheriff will not assist in keeping trespassers off our roads because of the UCSC selection process; to say I'm upset is putting it mildly. This is another case of abuse to the tax paying citizens of the county. The Bicycle cycle happens every nice day from Spring through Fall and the numbers are between 1 and 6 trucks daily doing this round trip. The 30 homeowners who maintain this road spent \$20,000.00 two years ago only to have non-residents damage the road?????

Santa Cruz County and City governments have bypassed citizen's rights for years. I cannot believe that the county is not made to answer to the people. NOW is the time to bring all these strong armed tactics to the attention of EVERYONE!

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