

Attn: Board of Supervisors
Santa Cruz County

August 12, 2008

Re: Independent Appeals Board

The concern that many of us today are expressing is the lack of due process for the permit applicant.

The county has not informed the public of their appeals rights, has actively blocked applicants from their appeals rights, and has misinformed the public of their appeal rights. Has not followed state mandated time frames, and ultimately has charged unreasonable fees for that privilege, while again not informing the public of the process for protesting those fees.

The process of an applicant to receive even the most simple of permits in this county is broken.

The first step is to form the local appeals board and the housing appeals board consistent with state mandate. Then direct either one or both of those to examine the permit process and advise the board on true reforms.

The public trust is no longer with county bureaucracy in regards to these issues.

In order for the board to regain the public trust on these issues, it needs to provide active support for qualified and independent appeals boards to advise how these issues shall be addressed.

This is but the first step in a process of reform that the public needs and expects, but clearly cannot occur if the board continues to rely on the existing bureaucracy to resolve.

Thank you for the boards' attention.

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