



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 12, 2016
Release: Immediately
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454-3401

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday took steps to address the problem of illegal dumping in rural areas of the county, approving the draft of an ordinance that helps protect the environment and improve the quality of life for residents.

Illegal dumping one of county residents' leading concerns, and negatively impacts local riparian corridors and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The ordinance, which was approved by the Board 4-1, clarifies existing law by defining illegal dumping and setting forth an administrative penalty process for violators.

Fines begin at \$100, with violators also subject to cleanup costs. Serious violations may also result in criminal penalties.

"Illegal dumping is not just an eyesore, it has serious consequences for our environment," Supervisor John Leopold said. "County residents have long been leaders when it comes to protecting natural resources, and we are pleased to take this action on their behalf."

"Dumping has an incredibly negative effect on the environment, watersheds and open spaces," Supervisor Ryan Coonerty said. "Taking steps to address this problem is important to all residents of Santa Cruz County."

The new ordinance establishes a "cradle to grave" standard for illegal dumping, making owners responsible for assuring refuse is properly disposed. If a disreputable intermediary waste hauler is hired and illegally disposes of refuse, individuals may still





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be responsible under the proposed new law. The law gives violators a chance to rebut fines through administrative review.

The ordinance also includes an “evidence of ownership” standard for identifying parties responsible for illegal dumping, meaning discarded bank statements, prescription bottles and other identifying information may be used to determine the source of refuse.

Normal curbside garbage pick-up is not impacted by the new law. The County maintains a list of approved haulers at <http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/www.santacruzcountyrecycles/Law/nero.html>.

The County is also exploring ways to fund increased cleanup activities, as well as a public outreach program to prevent illegal dumping.

The ordinance would go into effect 30 days after final approval by the Board of Supervisors.