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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVE NEXT STEPS IN REDMAN-HIRAHARA HOUSE
HISTORIC INVENTORY UPDATE**

AUGUST 5, 2025 – Santa Cruz, CA — The Santa Cruz County Department of Community Development & Infrastructure (CDI) is moving forward with a proposal to formally remove the Redman-Hirahara House from the County's Historic Resource Inventory.

The action follows a unanimous vote by the County's Historic Resources Commission on February 10, 2025, recommending removal due to longstanding safety concerns and significant structural deterioration. The Commission also recommended forwarding the action to delist the house at the state and federal levels.

The Board of Supervisors approved this proposal at its August 5, 2025, meeting. The decision to remove the Redman-Hirahara House from the County's Historic Inventory followed a detailed structural inspection and a professional historic documentation report. The decision was based on Santa Cruz County Code 16.42 criteria, which considers the house's significant deterioration, failed restoration attempts, and the changing neighborhood due to nearby commercial development.

Public input was gathered throughout the process via open comment periods and community meetings. The Commission also recommended initiating rezoning to remove the historic landmark overlay, with further public hearings planned to ensure community involvement in future decisions.

As part of this process, the department will take the following steps:

- Coordinate with a professional historian to document the site for archival preservation funded by the property owner.
- Offer the structure to the public for salvage or relocation.
- This step will go through the standard zoning amendment process, which includes Planning Commission review and Board adoption.
- Forward the Board's August 5 resolution to delist the property to the California Office of Historic Preservation for use in initiating its removal from the National

Register of Historic Places.

Delisting of Redman-Hirahara House is consistent with the [2024 General Plan Policy ARC-8.2.2](#) that reads: "Maintain and update a County Historic Resources Inventory to describe those historic structures, objects, properties, sites, and districts which have been designated by the Board of Supervisors for protection of their heritage values."

The Redman-Hirahara Hare nose, located on Lee Road outside Watsonville, has been vacant since the 1980s and has experienced extensive deterioration, making preservation efforts no longer feasible.

ABOUT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

CDI serves all unincorporated areas in the county. The department's mission is to improve customer service, streamline projects, and to align public infrastructure and private development to further County goals in attainable housing, reliable transportation and sustainable environment. For more information, visit <https://cdi.santacruzcountyca.gov/> or follow the department on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Nextdoor](#).

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