



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### BOARD TO EXTEND EXPEDITED PERMITTING TO STORM SURVIVORS

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday authorized an extension of a contract with 4Leaf Inc. to help those rebuilding or repairing homes after January's atmospheric rivers, which caused widespread devastation throughout the county.

4Leaf is currently under contract with the County to provide exclusive permitting services to those rebuilding after the CZU Fire. By expanding the scope of services to include those impacted by the recent federally declared disaster, the Board is accelerating permitting for those working with insurance companies, contractors, FEMA, CalFire and other agencies involved in the rebuilding process.

"The County is doing everything in its power to not be a regulatory barrier to those who are trying to rebuild their homes, their businesses and their lives," Board Chair Zach Friend said. "By providing permit staff dedicated solely to recovery, we hope to streamline the process for those who have been impacted by disasters."

The Board of Supervisors also directed County staff to create a mediation process for those seeking permits, and to track and report back on progress for building and other necessary permits.

In November 2020, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors selected 4Leaf, Inc. to provide similar services to residents recovering from the 2020 CZU Wildfire. 4Leaf staff are available in a dedicated Recovery Permit Center, and survivors are encouraged to contact staff as soon as possible to discuss the recovery process.

For more on the Recovery Permit Center, visit

<https://www.santacruzcounty.us/FireRecovery/RecoveryPermitCenter.aspx>.