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**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES SB-9 ORDINANCE
TO INCREASE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN SINGLE-FAMILY ZONES**

December 10, 2024 – Santa Cruz, CA – In a step towards addressing local housing needs, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has approved an ordinance aligning County land use codes with Senate Bill 9.

The ordinance will give Santa Cruz County property owners the option to build two-unit residences and have urban lot splits within single-family zones, providing new opportunities to build housing across the region.

Highlights of this ordinance include property owners in single-family zones, including R-1 Single Family and Rural Residential zones, now have the option to add a second unit or build two residences on a parcel, contributing to the diversity of the housing options in the County. It also authorizes lot splits of eligible single-family parcels, significantly expanding potential housing capacity within existing neighborhoods.

The ordinance is expected to contribute meaningfully towards Santa Cruz County's goal of creating 4,634 new housing units under its Regional Housing Needs Allocation. By approving small-scale residential developments in single-family zones, the County is working to address a housing crisis that has led to one of the most expensive housing markets in the U.S. and contributed to local homelessness, housing insecurity for local families, and difficulty recruiting new employees for schools, government agencies and local businesses.

In addition to complying with SB 9, the ordinance includes updates from Senate Bill 450 (2024), which will enhance transparency and simplify the application process for community members seeking to build or subdivide properties.

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