



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073
(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcounty.us

BOARD TO CONSIDER RECOVERY PERMIT CENTER EXTENSION

On Tuesday, May 14, the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors will consider a contract extension with 4Leaf Inc. to extend recovery-related services through the Recovery Permit Center (RPC) to CZU Fire survivors and their families.

With the Recovery Permit Center originally scheduled to sunset at the end of June, the proposed \$600,000 contract extension will extend dedicated services to fire survivors for an additional six months while creating an integrated service model that places 4Leaf staff within the Department of Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) and Environmental Health Division.

The Recovery Permit Center was established by the Board in 2021 to help survivors through the rebuild process, including navigating insurance and Federal Emergency Management Agency claims, state building, fire and environmental codes, local ordinances and other issues related to the rebuilding process.

While the new service delivery model will return the community room at 701 Ocean Street to public use, CZU survivors will continue to receive priority customer service, including same-day appointments and walk-ins, as well as expedited preclearance and building permit review. The Board is also being asked to approve a phase one transition plan for the RPC to integrate the RPC into CDI's Unified Permit Center, as well as direct staff to return in November with a phase two transition plan.

According to the report, of 697 parcels with damaged dwellings on the property, 95 have completed construction and another 158 have permits for single-family residents and are currently in construction. A total of 454 parcels – approximately 65 percent -- have submitted preclearance applications, while 35 percent of impacted parcels have never submitted a pre-clearance application. A total of 193 CZU-impacted parcels have been sold.