



# County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### BOARD FINALIZES NEW UNIVERSAL REFUSE AND RECYCLING LAW

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday finalized a Universal Services ordinance mandating refuse and recycling services for many residents living in unincorporated areas.

Aimed at beautifying the county, the new law addresses several interrelated problems. Residents and businesses frequently report household refuse being deposited in unauthorized bins or carts, or the use of public receptacles for personal and household waste disposal. Reports about illegally burying or burning trash on public property or someone else's private property are also common.

"Illegal dumping is among the most common complaints from neighbors," said Tim Goncharoff, resource planner for the County of Santa Cruz. "This won't eliminate the problem completely, but we really do believe this is going to help with some of the unauthorized use and illegal dumping issues."

In rural areas of the county, the proliferation of illegal dumpsites threatens the health and safety of residents and the environment. It also cost taxpayers about \$160,000 annually to clean up -- money that could otherwise be spent repairing roads and on other urgent needs.

Residents with existing refuse and recycling services are not affected. However, more than 3,000 properties countywide are potentially impacted and would be required to sign up for trash hauling services.

The new rule does not affect the entire county, but only parcels within the "Urban Services Line" and "Rural Services Line." Maps of the affected parcels and



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neighborhoods, along with the ordinance and other information, are available at [www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org](http://www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org) under “Universal Service.”

The law brings the county into accord with common practices throughout the region. Recycling and trash service is required in all local cities, as well as neighboring counties.

The ordinance provides exceptions for undeveloped or unoccupied properties, or in the case of demonstrated hardship. Residents who haul their own refuse to a local landfill or transfer station may also obtain an exemption, but they will need to establish an account and pay a modest annual fee.

To set up service or to get more information, interested residents can contact Greenwaste Recovery at (831)426-2711 or by email at [customerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:customerservice@greenwaste.com).

The new ordinance takes effect January 1, 2016.