

Supervisors re-adopt law on rent control

A mobile-home rent-control ordinance was re-enacted this morning by Santa Cruz County supervisors.

The county lost a court battle with mobile-home park owners earlier this year when owners challenged the legality of the decade-old rent control ordinance on the grounds that it had not met requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The county submitted the ordinance to its own environmental review process and today re-adopted the ordinance.

Park-owners had complained that the ordinance does not allow them to make capital improvements to their park and then pass the costs along to the mobile-home park residents.

The county relied on an opinion from the accounting firm of Ernst and Young that a 12 percent rate of return (built into the old and new ordinances) on capital investments was reasonable.