

Planning Department sets permit application rules

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Building 1-16-90

SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has developed an elaborate applications process to contend with a possible 1,000 new building permit applications.

The department plans to start accepting new applications Jan. 24 after having been closed to regular business since Oct. 17. Telephone service for questions will begin Jan. 22.

Since the earthquake, county planners have focused their efforts on issuing permits for earthquake-related repairs only. More than 3,000 emergency permits have been issued since Oct. 17, Planning Director Diane Guzman said.

"Reopening after a three-month shutdown presents some significant challenges," Guzman said.

Appointments will be needed for most types of permit applications, she said. The department will issue appointments by mail to applicants who fill out request cards. Packets detailing application instructions and procedures will be available at six county locations beginning Wednesday.

Guzman said as many as 1,000 applications may be waiting to be filed.

"The worst thing we could do is open our doors at 8 a.m. some morning and try to deal with it on a first-come first-serve basis," she said. "It would be a disaster."

Instead, the department will schedule appointments on a random selection basis for people who submit completed cards by 5 p.m. Jan. 22, or who mail them by Jan. 19.

Guzman said she has assigned additional staff to answer planning questions by phone

from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. beginning Jan. 22. Building permit information will be available at 425-2745. Zoning information will be available at 425-2701.

Permit applications can be picked up starting Wednesday at the following locations:

- Santa Cruz — County Planning Department, Fourth Floor, County Government Center Building, 701 Ocean St. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Aptos — Aptos Library, 7695 Soquel Drive, Monday, noon to 9 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Live Oak — Live Oak Library, 2—1511-A East Cliff Drive, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Scotts Valley — Scotts Valley Library, 230-D Mount Herman Road, Kings Village Shopping Center, Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- San Lorenzo Valley — Boulder Creek Library, 13390 West Park Ave., Monday, noon to 9 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 1 to 5 p.m.

- Watsonville — Supervisor Sherry Mehl's office, Westridge Business Park, 175 West Ridge Drive, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Guzman said a separate earthquake recovery office is scheduled to open today across the street from the County Government Center Building. General information is available at 458-7281; geologic or environmental information, 458-7282; building permits, 458-7283; building inspections, 458-7285.