

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COUNTY OF SONOMA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma on August 4, 2020 at ____ a.m. to consider a proposed ordinance entitled as follows: “An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, County of Sonoma, State of California, Amending Chapter 13, Fire Safety Ordinance.” The proposed ordinance clarifies the current requirements of Chapter 13, Article V of the Sonoma County Code.

- In Section 13-25(d), the current ordinance exempts 640 square foot dwellings from fire road upgrade access standards. That has been a longstanding exemption for accessory dwelling units (ADUs), but the square footage is outdated. The proposed ordinance deletes outdated square footage and replaces it with the new square footage limit of an ADU authorized by state law.
- In Section 13-25(h), the current ordinance has an exemption for existing driveways that is a bit confusing because it contains an exception within the exemption. The Board of Forestry staff suggested a rewrite to retain the same requirements but simply write them clearly for what is required for existing driveways. The proposed ordinance language would make this change.
- In Section 13-32, for new road and driveway construction, the proposed ordinance includes verbatim language from the Board of Forestry regulations about construction standards for horizontal curves width requirements for roads with horizontal and vertical curves.
- In Section 13-34, the current ordinance allows reduced widths for new subdivision roads if turnouts and turnarounds are included. The County’s current practice has been to only authorize this road width reduction for minor subdivisions (4 parcels or less). The proposed ordinance includes the word “minor” to reflect the County’s current practice.
- In Section 13-62, there is a process established to request alternative fire protection measures in accordance with State regulations. The Board of Forestry staff requested the County insert “the same practical effect” to explain that these alternatives may be offered only if they have “the same practical effect” as the other standards. This proposed change matches our current practice and the requirements in State law.

The most significant proposed change is in Section 13-25(f) pertaining to fire safety evaluations of existing roads. In Section 13-25(f), the current ordinance requires any pre-1991 road that serves a legal parcel to provide year round unobstructed access to conventional drive vehicles, including sedans and fire engines. The proposed ordinance clarifies that requirement. This change is not changing the current practice; this change is intended to create a checklist to document the current fire safety evaluation for existing roads. The proposed ordinance references an Administrative Policy for Fire Safety Evaluations of Existing Private Roads. The Administrative Policy includes a

checklist to clarify this fire safety evaluation requirement: (1) Any existing private road shall satisfy these criteria if it provides at least a twelve foot path of travel and at least one foot of vegetation clearance on each side of the road. For discretionary approvals, additional turnouts and turnarounds or other mitigation measures may be required to ensure concurrent fire engine access and civilian evacuation; (2) All of the other provisions of Sonoma County Code Chapter 13, Article V Fire Safe Standards shall apply to any road if it is extended, reconstructed or improved pursuant to a development approval, but only as to the portion of the road that is extended, reconstructed or improved; (3) All existing private roads shall comply with Sonoma County Code Chapter 13, Article V, Division C Signing and Building Numbering; (4) All vertical clearances must conform to the requirements in California Vehicle Code §35250. This requires a vertical clearance of 13 feet, 6 inches to ensure fire engine access; (5) Except as otherwise provided in the Fire Safe Standards, all applications for development approvals shall be accompanied by plans, engineering calculations and other data necessary to determine compliance with the provisions of the Fire Safe Standards.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that copies of the proposed ordinance will be available on the County of Sonoma website at <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Boards-Commissions-and-Committees/Items-of-Significant-Public-Interest/> and will be posted outside of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 575 Administrative Drive, Room 100A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 Board of Supervisors meetings will be held virtually. The August 4, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting will be facilitated virtually through Zoom. Members of the public can watch or listen to the meetings using one of the three following methods:

1. Livestream: <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
2. Join the live Zoom meeting on your computer, tablet or smartphone;
3. Call in and listen to the Zoom meeting.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO BE HEARD ON THESE MATTERS.

SHERYL BRATTON

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors