

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT POLICY/ORDINANCE  
INTERPRETATION**

Interpretation No.: AG&RES-TEMP-01  
Effective Date: 12/05/05

---

**Question**

*What minimum housing standards should apply to temporary agricultural caretaker's quarters and temporary living quarters during construction?*

**Applicable Regulatory Section(s)**

§13.10.631(d)

§13.10.683(a)

**INTERPRETATION:**

Only a mobile home or travel trailer is acceptable for use as a temporary agricultural caretaker's quarters.

Only a mobile home, travel trailer, or RV is acceptable for use as temporary living quarters during construction.

For both uses, a restroom (that is separated from other areas) and cooking facilities are required. The units must be connected to utilities.

**Reason**

Members of the public occasionally inquire about using camper shells, vans, storage containers, tents, yurts, etc. as temporary living quarters for agricultural caretaker purposes or during construction. The County Code Sections cited above specifically state the allowable items that may be used in these circumstances. The County Code does not, however, state what facilities are required to be provided within them. Because these mobile homes, trailers, RVs are often used for living quarters for multiple years, it is appropriate that a restroom (separated from other areas) and cooking facilities be provided. These minimum requirements are consistent with the Uniform Building Code and State Housing Code. Connection of these units to utilities is necessary for health and safety reasons.

The provisions of this policy interpretation do not apply to temporary construction trailers not used for human habitation.

---

Tom Burns, Planning Director

---

Date

*13.10.631(d)*  
*13.10.683(a)*