

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 4, 2021
To: Interested Persons
From: County of Santa Cruz Planning Department
Subject: Demolition of the Sea Breeze Tavern (101 Esplanade in Aptos)

The County has received inquiries regarding the County's approval of the demolition of the former Sea Breeze Tavern, located at 101 Esplanade in Aptos.

The Sea Breeze Tavern is a designated historic building which was severely damaged by a fire, and which presented a danger to public safety due to risk of collapse.

The County Building Official directed that the owner hire an engineer to inspect and prepare a report regarding the status and structural condition of the building.

In accordance with the County Code and the 1997 Uniform Code for the Abatement of Structural and Geologic Hazards, a licensed engineer evaluated the building and submitted a report to the County Building Official, indicating that the building was structurally compromised and at risk of collapse.

Section 16.42.090 of the County Code, Unsafe and Dangerous Conditions, provides an exception to requirements in SCCC Chapter 16.42 (Historic Preservation), authorizing measures up to and including demolition of a historically designated building, where the Building Official determines such measures are necessary to correct a dangerous condition that constitutes an immediate threat to public health and safety.

The Building Official agreed with the findings of the engineer's report, and after conducting several site inspections authorized demolition to address the immediate threat to public health and safety. The Chair of the Historic Resource Commission was provided notice as required by SCCC 16.42.090(C). A demolition permit was issued.

All Santa Cruz County Code requirements pertaining to historic properties, including notification, historic documentation, public hearing requirements for future development of the site, and other measures have been and will be carried out.

For further information, contact Building Official Martin Heaney at Martin.Heaney@santacruzcounty.us