

# **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

**From:** ceo@santacruzcountyfair.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 2:40 PM  
**To:** 'Becky Steinbruner'; 'Santacruzcountyfair Info'; 'Rachel Wells'  
**Cc:** 'Legal Cdfa'; 'Francesconi'  
**Subject:** RE: Please Reconsider April 8, 2024 Board Approval Allowing Undetermined Number of Heritage Tree Removals at 14th DAA

Hi Becky,

I don't disagree that your letter should be in correspondence, and I'll include it as late correspondence for the board members. But it has long been the policy of the 14<sup>th</sup> DAA to require that you put the word "Correspondence" into the subject of any emails you want included into correspondence, as well as specifically requesting it in the email body. That policy hasn't changed. The reason is so that I can search for the word "correspondence" when I'm building the packet, and ensure I include everything that filters through – I get hundreds of emails a week. Your email did not get caught by my filter, and that is why it didn't initially get included.

Last year the board did approve a website upgrade to have a page specifically for correspondence with written instructions and a dedicated email address to send correspondence to. I'm happy to report that we're close to launching that change, and that should improve this process quite a bit.

Best,  
--Zeke

Zeke Fraser  
CEO/Manager  
14<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association  
Santa Cruz County Fair – Sept 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>  
*"Pioneer Days to Modern Ways"*

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**From:** Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 7:18 PM  
**To:** Santacruzcountyfair Info <info@santacruzcountyfair.com>; Rachel Wells <wells@santacruzcountyfair.com>; CEO <ceo@santacruzcountyfair.com>  
**Cc:** Legal Cdfa <cdfa.legaloffice@cdfa.ca.gov>; Francesconi <mike.francesconi@cdfa.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Please Reconsider April 8, 2024 Board Approval Allowing Undetermined Number of Heritage Tree Removals at 14th DAA

Dear CEO Fraser and President Wells,  
I am concerned that this letter is not included in "Correspondence" for the Board's April 23, 2024 meeting. Although you have responded, CEO Fraser, the letter is addressed to the Board as well, and I feel it should be included in Correspondence.

Please send it to the Board members. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner

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**From:** ceo@santacruzcountyfair.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:07 AM  
**To:** 'Becky Steinbruner'; 'Santacruzcountyfair Info'  
**Cc:** 'Legal Cdfa'; 'Francesconi'  
**Subject:** RE: Please Reconsider April 8, 2024 Board Approval Allowing Undetermined Number of Heritage Tree Removals at 14th DAA

Dear Becky,

Thank you for your concerns. We have had two arborists out here on related project proposals and both confirmed independently that every silver maple tree out here needs to eventually come down due to age, along with several trees that are badly infected with mistletoe. I'm not even addressing the latter issue at this time. These recommendations came as verbal confirmations, which is why there were no written records to provide for your PRA request. I'm certain we could get it in writing to allay your concerns, but I am surprised that you would want to dramatically slow down the process of creating a safer environment on the grounds considering that safety has always been one of your primary focuses. The maple trees are hollow and full of water and rot – if you'd like to see for yourself, I will gladly show them to you. It is a known issue by the board, and we are developing a multi-year plan to replace the trees over time so that there is minimal aesthetic impact to the fairgrounds while ensuring maximum safety for our patrons. The Building and Grounds committee will be involved in the entire process. It's not a blank check – it is an approval to begin the process, some of which critically needs to happen asap. There are six trees in particular that must be scheduled for removal as a safety concern for Fair-time this year, and at least two of those should come down as soon as is feasible.

We will follow any and all bidding and board approval requirements every step of the way, and we will involve professional companies as needed.

FYI - I have moved the board members to the bcc line of this email to ensure compliance to Bagley-Keene and avoid a serial meeting. They are still receiving this email.

Best Regards,  
--Zeke

Zeke Fraser  
CEO/Manager  
14<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association  
Santa Cruz County Fair – Sept 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>  
*"Pioneer Days to Modern Ways"*

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**From:** Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:31 AM  
**To:** Santacruzcountyfair Info <info@santacruzcountyfair.com>; Rachel Wells <wells@santacruzcountyfair.com>; CEO <ceo@santacruzcountyfair.com>  
**Cc:** Legal Cdfa <cdfa.legaloffice@cdfa.ca.gov>; Tony Campos <campos@santacruzcountyfair.com>; Nick Calubaquib <calubaquib@santacruzcountyfair.com>; Francesconi <mike.francesconi@cdfa.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Reconsider April 8, 2024 Board Approval Allowing Undetermined Number of Heritage Tree Removals at 14th DAA

Dear 14th DAA Board of Directors and CEO Fraser,

I was troubled by your approval at the April 8, 2024 Board meeting to allow an undetermined number of heritage silver maple trees to be removed from the Fairgrounds property without any arborist report to verify the claim that the trees are hazardous. I was also concerned that there was no request to obtain bids to professionally evaluate the trees, or to have them professionally pruned to remove any hazardous branches.

These concerns compelled me to file a Public Records Act request to obtain any and all documentation regarding trees on the 14th DAA property, especially the silver maples. I had asked at the April 8 Board meeting to see such evaluations, but the Board did not respond.

The PRA response was swift, and yielded no such documentation. The correspondence with CDFA regarding this Public Records Act request #14551 is copied below.

Therefore, I respectfully request that your Board reconsider and rescind the blank-check approval given CEO Fraser on April 8, 2024. I further request that your Board specify that no trees are removed at all until the Building and Grounds Committee evaluates with a licensed qualified arborist the silver maples that were reported as hazardous and required removal, as well as any other potentially hazardous trees such as the eucalyptus trees bordering the RV camping area.

If a licensed qualified arborist does indeed recommend tree removal, I request the Committee present the arborist report to the Board for public review and that the Board then request the removal and / or pruning be placed out for bid by a professional and insured tree company whose bid is publicly approved.

I do not feel that the maintenance staff or any volunteers should be responsible for any hazardous tree removals or pruning work of such.

Thank you. Please respond.

Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner  
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CDFA Legal Office@CDFA  
From:cdfa.legaloffice@cdfa.ca.gov  
To:Becky Steinbruner  
Tue, Apr 16 at 6:55 AM  
Dear Ms. Steinbruner:

Review of your Public Records Act request is complete. You requested copies of all reports, inspections, notes, appraisals, and bids regarding the health and status of the trees on the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds property from 11/1/2020 to the current date. After a diligent search and inquiry, the 14<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association has advised that no responsive records exist to your request.

With this response, I will close the file. Please contact the Legal Office at [cdfa.legaloffice@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.legaloffice@cdfa.ca.gov) if you have any questions and include PID 14551 on all communications regarding this request.

Thank you,

California Department of Food & Agriculture  
Legal Office - WB  
1220 N Street, Suite 315  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel: (916) 654-1393  
Fax: (916) 653-1293  
[CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov)  
Hide original message

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**From:** Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 13, 2024 8:39 AM  
**To:** CDFA Legal Office@CDFA <[CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** Public Records Act Request for 14th DAA

**CAUTION : [External Email]** - This email originated from outside of our CDFA organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is expected and is safe.

Dear CDFA Legal,

I am hereby filing a Public Records Act request for any and all reports, inspections, notes, appraisals, and bids regarding the health and status of the trees on the grounds of the 14th DAA, including but not limited to the silver maple trees on the Fairgrounds property.

I request this information from dates 1/1/2020 to current date.

Please notify me when these responsive materials are ready for my review.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner

# REPORTS

## Santa Cruz County Fair 2024 Livestock Entry Guide

### **Market/Breeding/Dairy Animal Rules**

#### **Proposed Change**

- 5. The Santa Cruz County Fair Livestock Department will accept up to 10 market beef and no more than 30 market hogs, lambs and goats, 10 per species, from our Extended Area to show and sell at the fair. Number of hogs, lambs and goats may change depending on number of entries and barn space available.** Confirmed entries will be selected via drawing. Extended Area exhibitors who have been confirmed to show/sell market beef for this fair may enter the hog-lamb-goat drawing, but will be included only if there are spots left for the species after the deadline. If a confirmed beef exhibitor is also confirmed through this drawing, they will be allowed to show and sell both animals. Exhibitors who are confirmed but who do not actually enter/show their animal in 2024 will not be allowed to enter the drawing in 2025.

Drawings for each species will take place during the week of April 15, 2024, to select the exhibitors who will be accepted to show and sell. No waiting lists will be maintained. Beef entries are selected in October/November for the following year and have already been selected for 2024. See Market Beef Division for information about 2025 Beef Drawing.

**All sellers, regardless of area, are encouraged to bring buyers to the Junior Livestock Auction.**

#### **Original Text – as approved on April 8, 2024**

- 5. The Santa Cruz County Fair Livestock Department will accept up to 10 market beef, 10 market hogs, 10 market lambs and 10 market goats from our Extended Area to show and sell at the fair.** Confirmed entries will be selected via drawing. Extended Area exhibitors who have been confirmed to show/sell market beef for this fair may enter the hog-lamb-goat drawing, but will be included only if there are spots left for the species after the deadline. If a confirmed beef exhibitor is also confirmed through this drawing, they will be allowed to show and sell both animals. Exhibitors who are confirmed but who do not actually enter/show their animal in 2024 will not be allowed to enter the drawing in 2025.

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**All sellers, regardless of area, are encouraged to bring buyers to the Junior Livestock Auction.**