

Urgent Action Needed – Santa Barbara Creek Buffer Ordinance

The City of Santa Barbara is currently advancing an ordinance that could have substantial impacts on your property. First introduced in January 2025, **the Creek Buffer Ordinance seeks to impose very strict land use restrictions on properties near creeks within city limits.** The City’s definition of creek is very broad, meaning that thousands of properties and hundreds of existing structures will be impacted.

The key provisions of the ordinance include:

- Introduction of a buffer zone that extends up to 50 feet from the top of a creek’s bank.
- Inside the buffer zone, new development is severely limited. Structures and landscaping are generally prohibited, with very few exceptions.
- Reconstruction after major property loss is not guaranteed to be approved, and the City can force you to move damaged structures to other parts of your lot, losing usable outdoor space in the process. This also applies in the event of natural disasters.

The City is moving quickly toward approval, with the **deadline for public comments set for March 24, 2025.** Please review the full details and make your voice heard.

What You Can Do:

1. **Learn More & Stay Updated:** Visit www.sbcreekneighbors.org for more information and to sign up for updates.
2. **Submit Your Public Comments to the City:** Share your concerns by emailing CreekBuffers@SantaBarbaraCA.gov and your councilmember before the March 24 deadline. Your feedback is crucial to shape the outcome of this ordinance.
3. **Sign Our Petition** at www.sbcreekneighbors.org/cbo-petition
4. **Help Us Spread the Word** to your neighbors, friends, and family. We need as many signatures and public comments submitted to the City as possible.

The time to act is now—once this ordinance is passed, reversing its effects may be extremely difficult. Please take a moment to review the details and speak up before it's too late.

