



# **Santa Barbara County Grading Regulations**

Proposed Amendments to  
Chapter 14 of the  
Santa Barbara County Code

# Proposed Amendments to Grading Regulations



- 2016 Grand Jury Report, Santa Barbara County – Grading Code, Where the Dozer Meets the Dirt, Poorly Defined and Unevenly Enforced recommended :
  - Changes to grading regulations to prohibit the possibility of multiple grading operations to avoid a permit.
  - Clarification of the definition of Compaction



# Multiple Grading Operations to Avoid a Permit

Proposed language:

- Section 14-6 Scope; general regulations:
  - (a) Except as herein provided or exempted elsewhere in this chapter, these regulations, including the incorporation of relevant best management practices, shall apply to all new grading, excavations, fills, non-agricultural land disturbance, erosion and sediment control measures, drainage devices, cuts, borrow pits, stockpiling, compaction of fill, and land reclamation projects on privately owned land where the transported amount of materials individually for any of the abovementioned operation(s) (I) exceeds fifty cubic yards, **except where multiple operations less than fifty cubic yards are undertaken to achieve a specific purpose that in total exceed fifty cubic yards and would otherwise require a grading permit.....**



# Clarification of the Definition of Compaction

Proposed language:

- **Section 14-7 Compaction:**

Compaction. The densification of a fill by mechanical means. **Compaction is not a factor in the calculation of cubic yardage for cut or fill.**



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## Recommendation:

- Approve the introduction (first reading) of an Ordinance, amending Chapter 14 of the Santa Barbara County Code, Grading Code; and
- Read the title of the Ordinance and waive full reading of the Ordinance; and
- Continue the hearing to the Administrative Agenda of September 19, 2017 to:
  - Consider and approve the adoption (second reading)
  - Determine that this ordinance amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Section 15061(b)(3), because there is no possibility that the action in question may have a significant effect on the environment (Attachment E).

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Conclusion

September 12, 2017