



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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Contact: Community Development Department (530) 879-6700

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

CITY OF CHICO PREPARES FOR CHANGES TO BUILDING CODE AFFECTING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

CHICO, CA — (December 9, 2022) -- The City of Chico’s Planning Department is getting ready for changes to the building code that goes into effect in January 2023.

One important change includes the current portfolio of pre-approved Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) building plans. An ADU is a second dwelling on the same grounds or attached to a single-family home, such as an apartment over a garage, a tiny house in the backyard, or a basement apartment.

The City has maintained a catalog of thirteen (13) different single story ADU designs, styles and sizes that are available in reverse or flipped floor plans that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The pre-approved ADU plans are available on the City’s website and can be built on existing property. A new 2-story plan was launched in July of 2022; however, due to changes in the building code, the plans will no longer be compliant starting in January.

“People build ADU’s for many reasons, but the most common reasons are for rental income or to house a family member. These plans were designed to expedite building and have been especially helpful post-Camp Fire with the housing shortages experienced in Butte County.” said Brendan Vieg, Director of Community Development at the City of Chico.

City staff is researching grant funding sources to update some of the pre-approved ADU plans for compliance with the new Building Code. Even if grant funds are secured, it is anticipated there will be fewer ADU options due to the changes in the Building Code and it may be several months until the updated plans are available.

For more information, please contact Bruce Ambo, AICP, Principle Planner in the Community Development Department at 530-879-67010 or via email at bruce.ambo@chicoca.gov.

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us.

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