

Hello to the 73 of you receiving this message ~

Eleven of us were at our first face-to-face meeting Monday evening. We were from the west side and the east side, heavy on the Live Oak neighborhoods. We had a lot to discuss and we covered a lot of ground in an hour and a half. We made the following decisions:

1. We will go forward with the campaign.
2. We will introduce our campaign to the Board of Supervisors during Oral Communications at their August 18 meeting (five of us will stand together at the podium). We will have a copy of our statement available for the Sentinel reporter who covers the BOS meetings.
3. Freedom From Fireworks will make contact with both the County Sheriff and the City Police Dept. to arrange meetings with them about this issue, hopefully by mid-September. We will advertise these meetings as forums for residents to express their personal problems created by fireworks.
4. Kaycee Beames will form a group separate from FFF to research the idea that a permitted fireworks show on July 4th could stop or reduce the use of fireworks in SC neighborhoods throughout the year as well as between July 2nd and July 6th.

There was some confusion about terms, including

what to call fireworks. "*Illegal*" fireworks is not really an accurate term because in both the City and County of Santa Cruz, the possession and use of **all** fireworks (including "safe and sane" fireworks) is [prohibited by ordinances](#).

However, when speaking with neighbors, people might consider using the word illegal to first catch the ear of the listener. Still, it will be important, in terms of education and full disclosure, to always clarify that all fireworks are illegal and that the goal of our campaign is to have government enforce the law. There was some concern that if we do this, we risk not having enough support from people unless we just focused our efforts on explosions or explosives.

Without consensus on this, we have decided to proceed, accepting differences of opinion on this matter for the time being. The mission of FFF as stated on our [web site](#) continues to be "*Freedom From Fireworks seeks to reduce and eventually eliminate fireworks and the problems they cause to people, pets and wildlife in all Santa Cruz County neighborhoods.*"

To fully understand that all fireworks in Santa Cruz are prohibited, here's the CA Definition of "Fireworks" (California Health and Safety Code):

Section 12511. "**Fireworks**" means any device containing chemical elements and chemical compounds

capable of burning independently of the oxygen of the atmosphere and producing audible, visual, mechanical, or thermal effects which are useful as pyrotechnic devices or for entertainment. The term "fireworks" **includes**, but is not limited to, devices designated by the manufacturer as fireworks, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, rockets, Daygo bombs, sparklers, party poppers, paper caps, chasers, fountains, smoke sparks, aerial bombs, and fireworks kits.

If one goes to our [Existing Ordinances](#) web page, you'll see the state definition at the top of the page. Then scroll down to the City Municipal Code and the County Code. Both City and County use the CA state definition in their ordinances. The ordinances say they are "prohibited" so I assume that means they are illegal.

Let me know:

1. If you want to be subscribed to our e-discussion list to share your ideas (there are 27 subscribed now).
2. If you have any further questions.

All the best,

Jean

<http://freedomfromfireworks.weebly.com/>