


CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Division

FROM: Jason Crawford, Director of Community Development 

DATE: February 19, 2026

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S POLICY: ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

California law mandates ministerial approval of certain Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs), pursuant to Government Code §§ 66323 and 66339, respectively. The Santa Clarita Municipal Code (SCMC) implements these mandates, and the City of Santa Clarita (City) will review and approve ADUs and JADUs consistent with California law and the SCMC. Should any conflict arise between California law and SCMC, California law controls with respect to the conflicting portions, and all other portions of the SCMC will be deemed to be in full effect.

Government Code § 66323 mandates that the City ministerially approve a building permit¹ application to create any of the following categories of ADUs, or any combination of the categories, within a residential or mixed-use zone:

1. Single-Family Converted ADUs and JADUs –

One ADU per lot is permitted within the converted space of a proposed or existing single-family dwelling or accessory structure. In addition, one JADU is permitted per lot pursuant to Government Code § 66333-66339.

2. Single-Family Detached ADUs –

One detached new construction ADU is permitted on lots with an existing or proposed single-family dwelling and is limited to 800 square feet of livable space.

3. Multifamily Converted ADUs –

Portions within existing multifamily structures not used as livable space may be converted into ADUs. At least one ADU within an existing multifamily dwelling, and up to 25 percent of the existing multifamily dwelling units are permitted.

4. Multifamily Detached ADUs –

Up to two detached ADUs are allowed on a lot that has a proposed multifamily dwelling, or up to eight detached ADUs are allowed on a lot with an existing multifamily dwelling, not to exceed the number of existing units on the lot.

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¹ ADUs and JADUs remain subject to all applicable California Building Standards Codes in effect at the time of building permit issuance.