



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



PRESS RELEASE

Date: June 29, 2021

Contact: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcounty.us

BOARD APPROVES 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved the 2021-22 Proposed Budget and supplemental changes, providing a roadmap for post-pandemic recovery while preserving critical services and programs.

The \$932 million budget is an 8 percent reduction in spending from the prior fiscal year, as the County concludes response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic and CZU Fire, while the \$653 million general fund represents a 5 percent increase. See sccbudget.com for further details.

“This budget represents our community’s first steps toward recovery as we emerge from these twin disasters, which have challenged all of us,” County Administrative Officer Carlos Palacios said. “At the same time, it lays the groundwork for a more just and equitable County government that serves the needs of all residents.”

Among the actions included in the budget are full funding for the new Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience, and the new Housing for Health Division to address homelessness; the continuation of remote work policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide flexible work options for staff; \$1.2 million to provide apprenticeship training for residents moving into higher-paying careers, expand broadband access, and support women- and minority-owned businesses; the restoration of Focused Intervention Teams to address serial offenders in urban areas; the resumption of hybrid in-person/remote Board meetings beginning in August; and more.

The budget is also the last for longtime County Budget Manager Christina Mowrey, who is retiring in October after 32 years. After graduating from San Jose State University, Mowrey spent two years in the Auditor’s Office and 15 with County Parks before beginning oversight of the annual County Budget process.

Mowrey plans to tour the country in her new Coachmen Galleria RV with her wife and dog. The County family wishes her well and expresses its deepest gratitude for her service.