



# County of Santa Cruz

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### GRANT TO FUND FIRE RECOVERY WORKFORCE

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce that the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board (WDB) has been awarded a \$1.5 million Department of Labor grant through the State Employment Development Department (EDD), to fund the employment of workers who are unemployed or underemployed due to the CZU Lightning complex fires.

The WDB is coordinating with Goodwill Central Coast, the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services (Parks), and local State Parks are participating in administration of the grant, known as the Fire Impact Recovery Effort (FIRE). Through the program, 75 displaced workers will be hired for up to one year and be deployed to conduct fire recovery and resiliency activities in specific park and open space locations impacted by the fires, including Big Basin State Park, Henry Cowell State Park, Wilder Ranch State Park and more.

Through the agreement, partners will recruit and approve interested applicants, with Goodwill Central Coast providing case management services for the hired workers. All temporary employees will receive safety training before working on the disaster recovery projects and shall be eligible for up to \$300 in supportive services for items such as tools and work clothing. The workers will also receive assistance to locate and secure permanent employment at the conclusion of the disaster recovery grant.

An individual eligible to receive services through this Disaster Recovery Grant must be one of the following:

- Temporarily or permanently laid off because of the disaster
- Unemployed for 15 or more weeks
- Self-employed individuals unemployed or underemployed due to fires

For inquiries, please contact: [info@workforcesc.com](mailto:info@workforcesc.com).