



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 26, 2018
Contact: Jason Hoppin
Communications Manager
831-454-3401

BOARD ADOPTS BUDGET, STRATEGIC PLAN

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a \$777 million County Budget that continues responsible stewardship of public funds while delivering high-quality services residents have come to expect.

The 2018-19 County Budget continues reductions in long-term pension obligations and improves fiscal reserves, while implementing new health care and mental health services, early childhood education programs, homeless services coordination and continued storm recovery. The budget also sets aside funding to address deferred maintenance within the county, including facilities and technology infrastructure.

"By making prudent choices, the Board set County government on a course that has allowed us to maintain County programs and services at a time when other local governments are curtailing them," Board of Supervisors Chair Zach Friend said. "Those choices have put the County on solid fiscal ground. However, we learned during annual budget hearings that there is more work to be done, and we look forward to working with the community on ways to address those needs."

During budget hearings that concluded Tuesday, several departments raised critical unmet needs in the areas of homelessness, mental health services and neighborhood-serving facilities, including parks. Funding for year-round homeless shelters, increased mental health intervention and funding for improvements to Simpkins Swim Center and several parks – including LEO's Haven at Chanticleer Park, which would be the County's first all-inclusive playground – have yet to be identified.

The Board directed County Administrative Officer Carlos Palacios will return August 7 with recommendations for addressing critical unmet needs.



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Building on the award-winning 2017-18 County Budget, the 2018-19 Budget includes user-friendly features including graphics, profile maps and local trivia, as well as accessible information designed for increased transparency and accountability. Residents may access an interactive budget tool at www.sccbudget.com.

Also on Tuesday, the Board approved the County's first-ever Strategic Plan, available at www.santacruzcounty.us/sp. The Strategic Plan includes a shared Vision, Mission and Values for County government, and sets goals in six focus areas: Comprehensive Health and Safety, Attainable Housing, Reliable Transportation, Sustainable Environment, Dynamic Economy and County Operational Excellence.

Santa Cruz County government provides a range of services to local residents, including state programs in health care, social services, environmental protection and more. The County also provides municipal services – including road repair, public safety/law enforcement, parks, libraries, planning/development and more – to residents in unincorporated areas.