



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: November 7, 2018

Contact: Jason Hoppin

831-454-3401

COUNTY THANKS VOTERS FOR MEASURE G

The County of Santa Cruz would like to thank local voters for approving Measure G, a new half-cent sales tax to fund public safety and behavioral health programs, homeless services, parks facilities, and other critical needs.

"We take seriously the confidence voters have placed in the County and their desire to work as partners as we rise to meet the challenge of addressing community needs together, including those of vulnerable populations," said Zach Friend, chair of the Board of Supervisors. "The Board intends to act quickly to put these critically needed funds to work on residents' behalf."

"The results are consistent with the community concerns that the Board worked to address," Supervisor John Leopold said. "Now we have a funding plan to put the money to work immediately. We have designated \$1 million to pay for several parks projects, including Chanticleer Park and LEO's Haven, the County's first all-inclusive playground."

Santa Cruz County has a track record of responsible fiscal stewardship, including healthy County reserves and credit ratings, and lowering long-term employee retirement and health care obligations. The funding priorities for Measure G include new North and South County homeless shelters and navigation centers; a public safety and behavioral health outreach and deterrence program for low-level offenders; and completion of several new parks to serve residents throughout Santa Cruz County.

"We have critical public safety, behavioral health and substance use disorder needs to address with low-level, repeat offenders. I intend to work diligently with the Health Services Agency over the coming weeks to establish intervention teams as soon as possible," Sheriff Jim Hart said.

Park projects include a planned Felton Nature Park adjacent to the new Felton Library; the Heart of Soquel Linear Parkway connecting Soquel Village with Soquel Creek; completion of Mid-County's Farm Park; upgrades to Aptos Village Park; funding for South County parks; and restoration and upgrades to Simpkins Family Swim Center.