



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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**TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR**

May 20, 2009

Planning Commission  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Agenda Date: May 27, 2009

Item #: 13

Time: After 9:00 a.m.

Subject: Study Session on Proposed 2009-2010 Budget for the Planning Department

Dear Commissioners:

Annually, as part of the County's Budget process, staff presents your Commission a copy of the County Administrative Officer's (CAO) proposed budget for the Department for the next fiscal year. This is a requirement of the County Code. While the formal purpose of the discussion is in the context of the budget, these study sessions become the opportunity for a broad-level discussion of the Department's activities and future focus. A verbal overview is provided by the Director to introduce the item. As well, a copy of the proposed CAO's budget for the Department is provided for Commissioners.

As part of the item, Commissioners are encouraged to open broader topics for discussion than typically occur in the context of items before the Commission. At the conclusion of the study session, the Commission will be asked to make appropriate recommendations on the budget to the Board of Supervisors.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission discuss the proposed Planning Department 2009-10 Budget, provide additional guidance to the Department in terms of future activities, and recommend that the Board approve the budget as proposed.

Sincerely,

Tom Burns  
Planning Director

Attachment: CAO's Proposed Budget

**PLANNING**  
**Tom Burns, Planning Director**  
Unit Number: 54/00/00

Fund: General  
Function: Public Protection  
Activity: Other Protection

Requirements	Actual 2007-08	Appropriated 2008-09	Estimated 2008-09	Requested 2009-10	Recommended 2009-10	Change From 2008-09
Salaries & Benefits	\$9,163,920	\$9,816,439	\$9,620,310	\$8,780,124	\$8,780,124	(\$1,036,315)
Services & Supplies	\$3,142,862	\$3,164,787	\$3,024,001	\$2,537,112	\$2,537,112	(\$627,675)
Other Charges	\$0	\$1,045,851	\$1,045,851	\$992,189	\$992,189	(\$53,662)
Fixed Assets	\$12,144	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Intra-Fund Charges	(\$308,047)	(\$341,502)	(\$337,963)	(\$465,443)	(\$465,443)	(\$123,941)
<b>TOTAL EXPEND</b>	<b>\$12,010,879</b>	<b>\$13,685,575</b>	<b>\$13,352,199</b>	<b>\$11,843,982</b>	<b>\$11,843,982</b>	<b>(\$1,841,593)</b>
Less: Revenue	\$8,001,025	\$8,747,025	\$7,787,016	\$7,958,554	\$7,958,554	(\$788,471)
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	<b>\$4,009,854</b>	<b>\$4,938,550</b>	<b>\$5,565,183</b>	<b>\$3,885,428</b>	<b>\$3,885,428</b>	<b>(\$1,053,122)</b>
Positions		100.00	100.00	83.00	83.00	(17.00)
Unfunded Positions		0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

The Planning Department is responsible for providing comprehensive planning and permit processing services for the unincorporated County area. The Department is in charge of developing, implementing and enforcing County land use ordinances and policies; administering environmental protection programs; processing and issuing building, zoning, and other development permits; carrying out long-range housing and community development programs; overseeing a variety of affordable housing assistance efforts; and operating neglected property and hazardous site/building programs. The Planning Department also provides staff support to the following Commissions and Boards: Planning Commission, Historic Resources Commission, Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission, Housing Advisory Commission, and Building, Accessibility and Fire Code Appeals Board. Finally, the Department oversees programs financed by a variety of special funds required to oversee the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports and the County's affordable housing activities.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2008-09**

During the 2008-09 Fiscal Year, the Department has continued to improve its core services and has focused on enhancing permit processes and general customer services. In addition, it has pursued a series of new policy and planning initiatives.

#### **GOALS FOR 2009-10**

The Department will continue to pursue customer service improvements and management and business initiatives but at reduced levels, given the budget constraints. Highlights of those efforts include:

- Implementing the final phases of the Hansen system for land use information tracking and record keeping;
- Continuing a variety of affordable housing assistance efforts, including completing the current Housing Element Rezoning Program and adoption and certification of the next Housing Element; and
- Continuing to explore policy and regulatory changes to simplify the County's land use regulations and processes.

## **RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

The 2009-10 recommended budget provides for a decrease of \$1,841,593 in expenditures and a decrease of \$788,471 in revenues, for a \$1,053,122 reduction in Net County Cost.

### **Expenditures**

The recommended budget provides for a decrease of \$1,036,315 in salaries and benefits, which includes a reduction of 7.5% in salaries and benefits for unrepresented and middle management employees as a result of a 156 hour annual furlough effective July 1, 2009. The furlough is necessary to help address the County's fiscal constraints and to minimize staff layoffs and program reductions during this difficult economic period. Additionally, the decrease in salaries and benefits reflects the elimination of 17 positions and the unfunding of 4 positions. The budget also includes significant service and supply reductions, resulting in a recommended decrease in Services and Supplies of \$627,675. Intra-Fund Transfers increase due to billings for Housing Section staff costs. No fixed assets are requested or recommended.

The proposed budget will impact the department in a number of service areas. A reduction in staffing of 21 positions will have impacts throughout the department, other than the Housing Section, which is funded by the Redevelopment Agency's Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund. In anticipation of budget reductions, the Board had already authorized closing the Permit Centers in Felton and Aptos. Additionally, reduced staffing will result in lower levels of public services at the remaining permit center in Santa Cruz, reduced capacity to address code enforcement cases, longer processing times for discretionary permits, reduced capacity to address administrative needs of the department, reduced capacity to engage in special projects, and the associated challenge to adjust staffing levels when the economy begins to recover.

### **Revenue**

The recommended budget includes an overall decrease in revenues of \$788,471, which anticipates a continuation of the current housing downturn and credit crisis in our area, reflected primarily in decreased building permit related activities. The budget also provides for a 20% reduction in Net County Cost for the Department.

## **CENTRAL MANAGEMENT**

This Section provides overall management direction and support for the Department and includes the Director, an Assistant Planning Director for Operations, an Assistant Planning Director for Planning, a Fiscal Officer, and administrative and support services staff.

Support services staff perform a variety of functions, including accounting support and systems development, personnel services, computer support, cashiering, customer service enhancements and fiscal services. Staffing reductions of 2.25 positions in this Section will impact the Department's ability to address changes in the business environment and take full advantage of opportunities provided by the new Hansen system.

## **BUILDING SECTION**

The Building Section is managed by the Chief Building Inspector. The Building Section includes the life safety and structural plan check and field inspection functions. The plan check function also includes review for compliance with accessibility regulations. This Section also serves as staff to the Building, Accessibility and Fire Appeals Board. Staffing reductions of 2.75 positions are proposed, responding to reduced building permit activity. The building permit issuance rates and volume of inspections for recent years are as follows:

<b>Building Section: Permit Activity</b>					
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 EA	2009-10 Projected
Building Permits Issued	3,894	3,651	3,162	2,611	2,650
Building Permit Inspection Site Visits	12,157	11,862	10,061	9,353	9,370

Overall permit activity has dropped significantly in the past several years, beginning with permits for new homes and expanding into house remodels and additions. The budget anticipates continued low building permit activity through 2009, with a modest increase of activity starting in the first half of 2010.

### **CODE COMPLIANCE**

The Code Compliance Section is managed by a Principal Planner. The Section provides investigation of complaints of zoning and building violations, and staff and administrative support for Neglected Property, Hazardous Building/Site Abatement Programs and the Environmental Cleanup Revolving Fund. In contrast to other sections of the Department, the chart below illustrates that there has been minimal change in code compliance complaints over the past year. This Section includes staffing reductions of 3.25 positions, which will further challenge the Department's ability to address code complaints in a timely manner.

The following chart illustrates that the resolution rate for the past several years for code compliance cases has generally kept up with the rate of new complaints, a trend that will be more challenging to accomplish in future fiscal years as a result of lower staffing levels.

<b>Code Compliance: New Complaints v. Resolved Cases</b>					
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 EA	2009-10 Projected
New Complaints	995	790	587	580	600
Resolved Cases	907	871	1,192	528	530

### **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW SECTION**

The Development Review Section is managed by a Principal Planner. Project review staff is responsible for processing land divisions, commercial, coastal, residential, agricultural and other development permits. In addition, the Development Review Section offers pre-development services to assist applicants in designing their proposed projects. This Section also includes the Urban Design function. Project review staff makes presentations to the County Planning Commission, Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission, Zoning Administrator and the Board of Supervisors. The chart below illustrates that there has been some reduction in discretionary permit activity, but not at the scale of building permit activity. Staffing for this Section is proposed to be reduced by 3.0 positions. As this area of the Department is likely to be the first to experience workload increases whenever the economy begins to recover, the Department will be carefully monitoring workloads and potential backlogs in this Section.

As indicated in the following chart, the volume of discretionary applications over the past year has dropped somewhat, but it is anticipated that several large project applications will occur during the next fiscal year.

Discretionary Permit Activity					
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 EA	2009-10 Projected
Discretionary Applications	386	371	341	320	320

## PERMIT CENTER SECTION

The Permit Center Section is managed by a Principal Planner. Permit Center staff is responsible for the public information, application intake and the zoning plan check review functions. Staff assigned to this Section answer general zoning and building questions, provide pre-application information and accept permit applications. The budget proposes a reduction of 6.5 positions in this Section, reflecting the closure of the Felton and Aptos Permit Centers and reduced building permit activity. At the proposed staffing levels it will be critical for the Department to monitor signs of increased permit activity in order to avoid customer service issues in the future.

The following chart illustrates the volume of public contacts and permit processing activities conducted over time. While permit activity has dropped off substantially, public inquiries have not to the same degree.

Permit Center Activities					
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 EA	2009-10 Projected
Building Application Intake	3,539	3,383	2,881	2,451	2,200
Public Phone Inquiries	8,951	7,552	6,554	6,242	6,000
Walk-ins	14,931	13,878	13,368	12,106	11,500

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION

The Environmental Planning Section is managed by a Principal Planner. This Section is responsible for administration and enforcement of environmental protection ordinances related to geology, riparian and sensitive habitats, significant trees, mining operations, grading and erosion control and related permits and approvals. Environmental Planning staff also administers California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, including preparation and processing of Negative Declarations and Environmental Impact Reports. Permit statistics indicate a drop in activity related to building permits. Staffing in this Section is proposed to be reduced by 2.25 positions.

Environmental Permits and Technical Reviews					
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 EA	2009-10 Projected
Discretionary Applications & Technical Reviews	726	776	709	517	520
Building Permit Applications	736	640	481	416	420

## **POLICY ANALYSIS**

The Policy Analysis Section is managed by a Principal Planner. This Section has responsibility for the General Plan (including the Housing Element), community plans, housing policy, land use ordinance revisions, coastal planning, historic resources, demographics, and special studies. This Section is also responsible for preparing an annual update on the Measure C Program, which is included at the end of the Department's budget narrative. Also, staff provide support to the Historic Resources Commission. Staffing for this Section is proposed to be reduced by one position. As a result, the Department's capacity to address special projects and regulatory changes will be reduced.

## **HOUSING**

The Housing Section is managed by the Housing Manager. This Section has responsibility for overseeing a variety of County and Redevelopment Agency financed affordable housing programs and projects. Staff works cooperatively with the Policy Section in the development of new housing policy initiatives and provides support to the Housing Advisory Commission. Funds are provided in both the RDA Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund (in the proposed Redevelopment Agency Budget) and County Housing Funds. A detailed discussion of those housing projects and programs proposed for 2009-10 is included in those budget units. Unlike other sections of the Department, as the Housing Section is not funded by the General Fund, it is not proposed for staffing reductions.

## **OTHER PROGRAMS**

The Planning Department is also responsible for administering a number of activities funded through a number of special funds. Those funds include:

- The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Trust Fund (Trust Fund 72502) is where deposits and expenses are managed over time to reflect actual costs and charges related to the preparation of EIRs. When the Board of Supervisors approves a contract for an environmental report, this fund is used to keep the applicant's deposit separate from General Fund monies and functions.
- Various funds related to the County's affordable housing efforts. Those include Indexes 136150, 135436, 136160, and 136155.

The budgets for these funding sources are included on the pages that follow the staffing summary.

## CONSOLIDATED PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFFING SUMMARY

The budget includes a significant reduction in staffing. Of the 21 position reductions, four are proposed to be unfunded, to allow the department to quickly adjust to changes in the business environment.

POSITION	Salary Range	2008-09 Allowed	2008-09 Mid-Year	2008-09 Total	2009-10 Request	2009-10 Recomm	Change From 08-09	2009-10 Unfunded
Accountant II/III	HV/6B	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
Accounting Tech	V2	2.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	
Administrative Aide	LO	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Asst Civ Eng/Assoc Civ/Civ Eng	YO/NH/NM	2.00	(1.00)	1.00	1.00	1.00	(1.00)	
Asst Planning Director	YJ	2.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	
Bldg Counter Supv	IK	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Bldg Inspector I/II	BP/JI	7.00		7.00	6.00	6.00	(1.00)	
Bldg Permit Tech I/II/Senior	8D/86/HU	6.00		6.00	3.00	3.00	(3.00)	
Bldg Plans Checker	HY	3.00		3.00	2.00	2.00	(1.00)	
Chief Bldg Inspector	D9	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Clerical Supv II	JY	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Code Comp Inv I/II/III	DQ/IL/CZ	5.00		5.00	4.00	4.00	(1.00)	1.00
Code Comp Inv IV	TJ	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Dept Fiscal Officer	T9	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Dept Info Sys Analyst	61	1.00		1.00	0.00	0.00	(1.00)	
Executive Secretary	II	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Housing Manager	TG	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Imaging Technician	Y6	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Planner I/IV	DS/TH	24.00		24.00	18.50	18.50	(5.50)	2.00
Planning Director	4A	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Planning Technician	FX	7.00		7.00	6.00	6.00	(1.00)	
Principal Planner	D9	5.00		5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	
RDA Project Manager	MY	2.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	
Records Clerk	FB	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Reg Geologist	KV	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Resource Planner I/IV	DS/TH	5.00		5.00	4.50	4.50	(0.50)	
Sr Acct Clerk/Acct Tech	I9/V2	1.00		1.00	0.00	0.00	(1.00)	
Sr Acct Clerk/Acct Tech/Sr Acct Tech	I9/V2/JL	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Sr Bldg Inspector	X6	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Sr Bldg Plans Checker	X6	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Sr Civil Engineer	NK	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
Sr Dept Admin Analyst	LL	2.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	
Supv Bldg Inspector	MQ	1.00		1.00	0.00	0.00	(1.00)	
Typist Clerk I/II	J7/J8	2.00		2.00	1.00	1.00	(1.00)	
Typist Clerk I/II/III	J7/J8/JF	6.00		6.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	
Urban Designer	YK	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		100.00	0.00	100.00	83.00	83.00	(17.00)	4.00

## County Housing Programs

The Planning Department administers four County housing funds: two which receive revenues from past housing rehabilitation programs, the fund for the Paloma del Mar Rent Subsidy Program, and the fund receiving the County's In-Lieu Housing fees.

### Index Code 136150 - Housing Rehabilitation Program - 1993 CDBG Grant

Requirements	Actual 2007-08	Appropriated 2008-09	Estimated 2008-09	Requested 2009-10	Recommended 2009-10	Change From 2008-09
<b>Appropriations</b>						
Other Charges	\$26,986	\$1,494	\$0	\$100,600	\$100,600	\$99,106
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,986</b>	<b>\$1,494</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100,600</b>	<b>\$100,600</b>	<b>\$99,106</b>
<b>Increase Reserve</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$26,986</b>	<b>\$1,494</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100,600</b>	<b>\$100,600</b>	<b>\$99,106</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>						
Fund Balance Avail.	\$26,547	\$1,054	\$1,054	\$11,782	\$11,782	\$10,728
Cancel Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$1,493	\$440	\$10,728	\$88,818	\$88,818	\$88,378
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,040</b>	<b>\$1,494</b>	<b>\$11,782</b>	<b>\$100,600</b>	<b>\$100,600</b>	<b>\$99,106</b>

This budget receives and appropriates funds from the 1993 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program, which was completed in fiscal year 1994-95. As funds from loan repayments become available they are used for additional rehabilitation loans or other housing activities. The proposed budget commits \$100,600 for required reuse as housing rehabilitation loans.



Index Code 135436 - Housing Rehabilitation Program - General

Requirements	Actual 2007-08	Appropriated 2008-09	Estimated 2008-09	Requested 2009-10	Recommended 2009-10	Change From 2008-09
<b>Appropriations</b>						
Services & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,652	\$90,652	\$90,652
Other Charges	\$23,750	\$25,000	\$0	\$88,378	\$88,378	\$63,378
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,750</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$179,030</b>	<b>\$179,030</b>	<b>\$154,030</b>
Increase Reserve	\$15,015	\$147,548	\$147,548	\$0	\$0	(\$147,548)
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$38,765</b>	<b>\$172,548</b>	<b>\$147,548</b>	<b>\$179,030</b>	<b>\$179,030</b>	<b>\$6,482</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>						
Fund Balance Avail.	\$82,751	\$80,128	\$80,128	\$26,205	\$26,205	(\$53,923)
Cancel Reserve	\$0	\$85,649	\$85,649	\$147,548	\$147,548	\$61,899
Revenue	\$36,142	\$6,771	\$7,976	\$5,277	\$5,277	(\$1,494)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$118,893</b>	<b>\$172,548</b>	<b>\$173,753</b>	<b>\$179,030</b>	<b>\$179,030</b>	<b>\$6,482</b>

Expenditures from this budget are for housing-related program activities. They are funded by repayments of prior year affordable housing loans made through a variety of grant-funded programs. These programs pre-date the 1993 CDBG program and include the HAND and PROD rehabilitation loans. The \$90,652 appropriates all available funds for potential expenditures during FY 2009-10.

Index Code 136160 - Paloma del Mar Rent Subsidy Program

Requirements	Actual 2007-08	Appropriated 2008-09	Estimated 2008-09	Requested 2009-10	Recommended 2009-10	Change From 2008-09
<b>Appropriations</b>						
Other Charges	\$55,400	\$55,400	\$55,400	\$55,400	\$55,400	\$0
Approp. for Cont.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$0</b>
 Increase Reserve	 \$0	 \$0	 \$0	 \$8,354	 \$8,354	 \$8,354
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$63,754</b>	<b>\$63,754</b>	<b>\$8,354</b>
 <b>Available Funds</b>						
Fund Balance Avail.	\$28,499	\$20,529	\$20,529	\$28,883	\$28,883	\$8,354
Cancel Reserve	\$21,902	\$29,871	\$29,871	\$29,871	\$29,871	\$0
Revenue	\$25,528	\$5,000	\$33,883	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,929</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>	<b>\$84,283</b>	<b>\$63,754</b>	<b>\$63,754</b>	<b>\$8,354</b>

This budget provides funding for the Paloma del Mar Rent Subsidy Program. Funded through prior sales of affordable housing credits, this program allows a rent subsidy of \$100 per month for up to 42 low income senior households residing in the Paloma del Mar project and related administrative charges. This program is scheduled to expire in the year 2012.

Index Code 136155 - In-Lieu Housing Fees

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Actual 2007-08</b>	<b>Appropriated 2008-09</b>	<b>Estimated 2008-09</b>	<b>Requested 2009-10</b>	<b>Recommended 2009-10</b>	<b>Change From 2008-09</b>
<b>Appropriations</b>						
Services & Supplies	\$1,354,881	\$1,939,892	\$365,130	\$1,328,695	\$1,328,695	(\$611,197)
Other Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Approp. for Cont.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,354,881</b>	<b>\$1,939,892</b>	<b>\$365,130</b>	<b>\$1,328,695</b>	<b>\$1,328,695</b>	<b>(\$611,197)</b>
Increase Reserve	\$57,693	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$1,412,574</b>	<b>\$1,939,892</b>	<b>\$365,130</b>	<b>\$1,328,695</b>	<b>\$1,328,695</b>	<b>(\$611,197)</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>						
Fund Balance Avail.	\$1,293,930	\$1,369,987	\$1,369,987	\$1,233,695	\$1,233,695	(\$136,292)
Cancel Reserve	\$0	\$119,905	\$119,905	\$0	\$0	(\$119,905)
Revenue	\$1,488,631	\$450,000	\$108,933	\$95,000	\$95,000	(\$355,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,782,561</b>	<b>\$1,939,892</b>	<b>\$1,598,825</b>	<b>\$1,328,695</b>	<b>\$1,328,695</b>	<b>(\$611,197)</b>

This budget was created in 1997 at the direction of the Board of Supervisors to provide a means to appropriate funds received from developer housing fees as provided under County Code Chapter 17.10. The recommended budget totaling \$1,328,695 is available for housing projects in 2009-10. Of those funds, \$100,000 is earmarked for Community Action Board (CAB) Gemma House for the third year of a three-year funding program, \$94,485 for the Winter Shelter Program and \$5,354 for the Homeless Strategic Plan. In previous years, the CAB pre-eviction program was funded from this budget; for FY 2009-10 this program has been transferred to the RDA Housing Fund. The balance of recommended appropriations will be available for projects that are identified by staff during the year and approved by the Board of Supervisors, as part of the County's overall affordable housing assistance efforts.

## **Measure C – Decade of the Environment - FY 2008-09 Summary Report**

As requested by the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Department prepares an annual report on the Measure C "Decade of the Environment" Program, which identifies new initiatives throughout County government that have been undertaken to further program objectives related to energy conservation and environmental protection, as described in County Code Chapter 16.90. A summary of new and ongoing Measure C initiatives that took place in 2008-09 is noted below (more detailed reports from each individual agency are also available).

### **General Services:**

- o Staffed County's Commission on the Environment, including initial work on County greenhouse gas emission inventory.
- o Continued programs for integrated pest management.
- o Carried out various energy conservation-related activities, including upgrades and replacements at various County buildings and facilities, use of "green" vehicles, and promotion of alternative commute solutions.

### **Planning Department:**

- o Undertook an extensive effort to develop Green Building Program for use in the unincorporated area.
- o Participated in cooperative planning process with other land use and transportation agencies for AMBAG Blueprint and SB 375 planning processes.

### **Environmental Health Services:**

- o Undertook various efforts to improve ground and surface water quality and enhance riparian habitats.
- o Helped to address air quality concerns related to Davenport Cement Plant.

### **Public Works:**

- o Continued various efforts to improve landfill diversion rates (recycling, composting, etc.).
- o Continued work on various efforts to improve surface water quality (Stormwater Management Plan, sewer overflow prevention, polluted runoff prevention, education/outreach, etc.).
- o Continued Integrated Vegetation Management Program to reduce use of pesticides.
- o Continued participation in Green Business Program activities.
- o Participated in pollution prevention/hazmat disposal education programs.
- o Began construction on several bicycle lanes and pedestrian facilities.

### **Redevelopment Agency:**

- o Undertook various efforts to increase number of street trees.
- o Continued preliminary green building work for LEED certification for the Farm Neighborhood Park and Community Center Project and the Live Oak Resource Center Project.
- o Funded 4,583 linear feet of pedestrian improvements and over 4,450 linear feet of bike lanes in Live Oak. (on upper 7th Avenue, and sidewalk infill on Soquel Drive, 24th Ave. and S. Rodeo Gulch)
- o Continued to provide funding for new storm water pollution control devices.

### **Parks and Recreation:**

- o Planning for and implementation of energy conservation and recycling improvements at various Parks & Recreation facilities.
- o Continued design work for Moran Lake Monarch Butterfly Management Plan.