



## PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

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GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished  
Budget Presentation  
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Santa Cruz County  
California**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

**July 1, 2019**

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to **Santa Cruz County, California**, for its Two-Year Budget for the fiscal years July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, and as a communications device.

This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

# **THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

# **PROPOSED BUDGET**

## **FISCAL YEAR 2021-22**

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Manu Koenig, First District

Supervisor Zach Friend, Second District

Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, Third District

Supervisor Greg Caput, Fourth District

Supervisor Bruce McPherson, Chair, Fifth District

### **PRESENTED BY**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

### **BUDGET COMPILED BY**

Christina Mowrey, County Budget Manager

Sven Stafford, Principal Administrative Analyst, Editor

#### *Reviewers*

Elissa Benson, Assistant County Administrative Officer

Nicole Coburn, Assistant County Administrative Officer

Melodye Serino, Deputy County Administrative Officer

Marcus Pimentel, Special Projects Loaned Executive

David Brown, Senior Administrative Analyst

Erich Friedrich, Senior Administrative Analyst

Rita Sanchez, Associate Administrative Analyst

Trish Daniels, Senior Administrative Analyst

Jason Hoppin, Communications Manager

Maite Arce, Administrative Aide

Nancy Weitzel, Executive Secretary to the CAO





**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



**First District**  
**Manu Koenig**



**Second District**  
**Zach Friend**



**Third District**  
**Ryan Coonerty**



**Fourth District**  
**Greg Caput**



**Fifth District**  
**Bruce McPherson**



## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

Members of the Board:

I am pleased to present the 2021-22 Proposed Budget for the County of Santa Cruz. The Proposed Budget incorporates our priorities for the coming year and reflects many of the challenges we have faced over the preceding year, as well as the challenges that lie ahead.



As you will see, we have recommitted ourselves to strategic investments based on the shared values that have helped guide us through these difficult times. The past year was not one any of us would

want to repeat, but we are now seeing the first signs of recovery here and throughout the U.S., and we are grateful for the commitment of County staff who have gone to extraordinary lengths to help navigate us through the COVID-19 pandemic and CZU Lightning Fires.

The groundwork we committed ourselves to in previous years have helped guide our work, including Strategic Planning and Continuous

Process Improvement. In addition to our pandemic and emergency response activities, we successfully completed numerous community amenities during the last budget cycle, including establishing a network of year-round shelters for people experiencing homelessness, a youth-focused program to deliver mental health services in the community, the new Felton Branch Library, renovations at La Selva Beach Library, the Seacliff Skate Park and Chanticleer Park, which includes LEO's Haven, the County's first fully accessible playground.

This \$881 million 2021-22 Proposed Budget allocates funding consistent with the vision, policies and priorities established by the Board. It continues investments in our community and our workforce. As we emerge from the pandemic and COVID-19-related costs begin to decline, the Proposed Budget represents a 13 percent reduction in spending from the prior fiscal year, while the proposed \$603 million General Fund represents a 3.1

## COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ 2021-22 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

percent reduction. The Proposed Budget includes an additional 56.6 positions, primarily limited term positions added mid-year for the COVID-19 response.

Despite much-needed fiscal support expected through the American Rescue Plan Act, we still have challenges ahead of us, including rising health care and employee retirement costs, as well as a significant projected deficit in the years beyond this Proposed Budget. We expect to bring forward potential solutions to these issues for your consideration in the months ahead.

The Proposed Budget includes investments in the community, including in the new Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience, the three-year Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz framework to reduce homelessness, the public health response to COVID-19, restoration of the Focused Intervention Team, and targeted investments previously specified by the Board. And we must continue our focus on equity not just in the services we deliver, but in assuring that all residents are supported in accessing housing, employment, education, transportation and other means to improve the lives of themselves and their families.

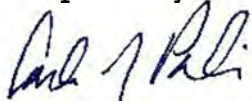
I would like to thank County employees for their commitment to the community by preserving critical services through furloughs, and for their patience as we adjust to a “new

normal” once COVID restrictions are eased and we develop a hybrid remote work model. I would also like to thank the Board for their leadership in navigating through an unprecedented pandemic.

This has been a trying year for everyone. But the work we did together in these unprecedented times is a reminder of the need for effective, accountable and compassionate leadership in County government. When residents need us most, we must rise to meet that need.

County staff, led by the Board of Supervisors, have met that challenge.

Respectfully submitted,



Carlos J. Palacios

County Administrative Officer



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