



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## NEWS RELEASE



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### **COUNTY TO DEVELOP ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GUIDELINES**

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce it will begin developing policies for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) by County staff, placing it at the vanguard of local governments beginning to contemplate the future uses of AI.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to develop policies regarding AI usage by staff. In response, the County is establishing a working group to develop policies that include ethical considerations, risks, data privacy and opportunities associated with AI implementation, which will guide internal and external uses of AI.

AI is the fastest-growing technology launch of all time, and its rapid development and expansion hold both great promise and potential risk. AI could enhance efficiency while improving service delivery to residents, and the County will be encouraging staff to experiment appropriately with the use of AI.

In unanimously approving the development of an AI staff policy, the Board asked for a progress report within three months. The County intends to develop interim AI usage guidelines while more comprehensive policy development proceeds.

The Board directed staff to develop AI policies that address, at minimum:

- Data privacy and security, including refraining from sharing confidential and sensitive data with AI interfaces until the systems are determined to be operating in compliance with HIPAA and other data privacy laws.
- Transparency, assuring that the use of AI is explainable to users.
- Accountability, including evaluations to ensure AI systems are accurate and/or operating appropriately.
- Fairness and bias, assuring that AI does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or other protected classes.
- Informed consent, assuring users are informed and can opt out of using AI.
- Responsible, including the development of ethical guidelines for the use of AI technologies.