



# COUNTY CURRENTS

Santa Cruz County

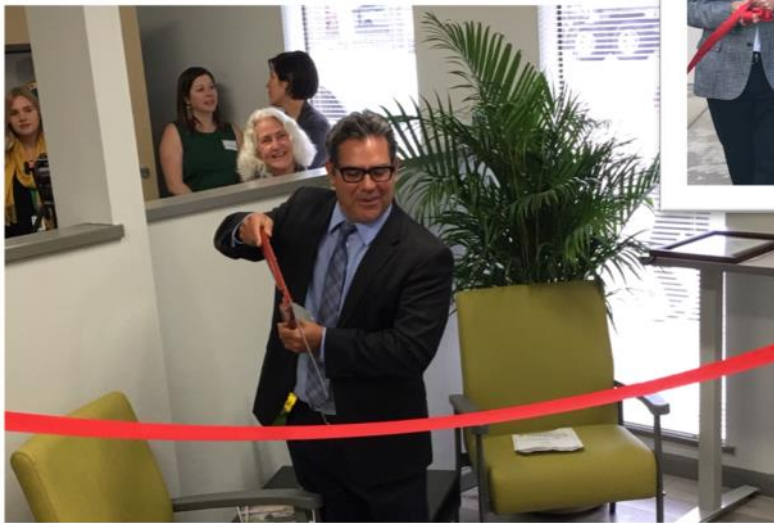
[www.santacruzcounty.us](http://www.santacruzcounty.us)

Summer 2019

A publication of the County Administrative Office Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrator



## *Aptos Public Safety, Santa Cruz Probation Service Centers Open*



**I**n the span of a few recent weeks, the County opened two new facilities to improve public safety and reduce recidivism. The Aptos Public Safety houses a Sheriff's Office substation, and staff for the District Attorney and Probation Department, bringing much-needed services to Mid-County.

At the Probation Service Center on Water Street, a dozen community organizations provide a one-stop shop for people returning to the community from jail or prison, helping make sure offenders meet their post-release objectives and providing everything from counseling to a wardrobe available to borrow for job interviews.

**JOB FAIR:** On May 22, Santa Cruz County held its first-ever job fair, which was attended by hundreds of job seekers. To apply for County jobs, [click here](#).



## In This Issue

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## Newel is named new County Health Officer

Dr. Gail Newel has been confirmed as the next Health Officer for Santa Cruz County.



Newel is an obstetrician-gynecologist with a background in public health, including serving as San Benito County's Health Officer and as Medical Director for Maternal Child and Adolescent Health in Fresno County's Department of Public Health. She has worked in clinical practice for over 30 years in a variety of settings, as well as serving as clinical faculty with the UCSF training program and as Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Newel received her undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and attended UC Irvine School of Medicine. After beginning her career at UC San Francisco-Fresno OB-GYN residency program, she returned to UC Berkeley for a Master of Public Health degree, with an emphasis in maternal child health.

Newel's background includes private practice, HMOs, clinical faculty and public health. Dr. Newel formed and co-chaired the San Benito County Opioid Task Force, and has worked as an OB-GYN hospitalist at both the Sutter Maternity and Surgical Center and Dominican Hospital.

While working in Fresno County, Newel was instrumental in establishing the UCSF Preterm Birth Initiative there. For the past five years she has served as an expert advisor to Fresno County's Collective Impact effort, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Coalition of California Health Officers and Chair of the the group's Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Committee.

## Enforcement of unpermitted cannabis operations continues

*Cash, environmental damage, dangerous electrical work – even a landslide – among discoveries*



*Investigators discovered a landslide below an unpermitted cannabis operation in Boulder*

Sheriff's Office personnel with the County's Cannabis Licensing Office (CLO) continued work to address dangerous and damaging unpermitted grow operations throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The CLO has licensed dozens of legal operators and hundreds of thousands of square feet of cannabis canopy, with more than a million square feet still in the pipeline. However, numerous operators continue growing cannabis without permits, sometimes for out-of-state sales that come at a steep cost to the local environment.

On June 13, investigators found 3,321 plants under cultivation, located within a Boulder Creek residence and nine non-permitted greenhouses. The site

also had dangerous wiring and a landslide (above) due to improper grading.

On June 4th, they found 369 cannabis plants, 695 pounds of processed flower, 100 pounds of cannabis plant material for manufacturing, more than 11 pounds of concentrated cannabis wax and \$126,469 in cash. At a nearby site on May 30th, they found 9,734 cannabis plants inside 11, 3,000-square-foot non-permitted greenhouses. On May 6th, they seized more than 1,000 pants from a Boulder Creek property and an illegal stream diversion.

These discoveries follow numerous other abatement actions. For more information on local cannabis activities, visit [www.santacruzcounty.us](http://www.santacruzcounty.us).

 COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT OF  
**PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND CULTURAL SERVICES**



**2018-19 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES**

Looking for something to do?

Whether you're 8 or 85, the '18-'19 Parks Department's Activity Guide is a great place to start.

[Check it out!](#)



## Grant expands youth mental health services

The County is pleased to announce a \$416,000 State grant to expand mental health services for children and families.

The grant will fund clinical staff and a mobile behavioral health office to establish the first Mobile Emergency Response Team for Youth dedicated to South County. The new team will provide crisis services and evaluations for children and youth age 5-21, delivering culturally appropriate and clinically relevant services to bilingual and monolingual youth and their families.

"Our Mobile Emergency Response Teams are a key pillar of the County's full suite of mental health crisis intervention and stabilization services," said Erik Riera, Director of Behavioral Health Services for Santa Cruz County. "The need for mobile crisis team capacity, particularly for youth and families, was identified through behavioral health's community stakeholder meetings, our local NAMI chapter, as well as the work of the local Mental Health Advisory Board."

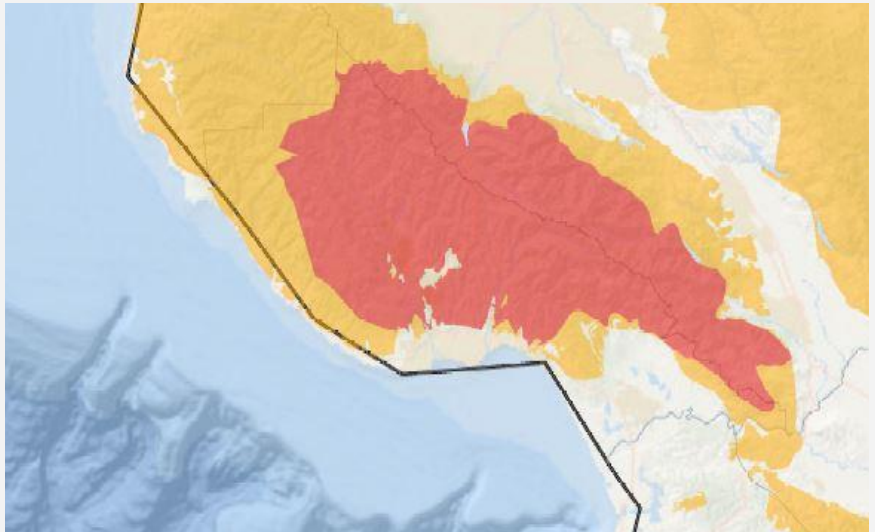
Sixty-two percent of all youth clients served by County Behavioral Health live in the South County region.

Mobile Emergency Response Teams provides crisis intervention, stabilization and field-based response to acute mental health crisis situations, and liaison with youth and families to provide safety planning and short-term clinical follow-up and linkage to appropriate treatment services. Services can be accessed by calling (800) 952-2335.

My Santa  
Cruz  
County



We're always updating our award-winning My Santa Cruz County app to give you access to anytime, anywhere services. [Download My Santa Cruz County](#) for iTunes and Google Play.



Much of Santa Cruz County is considered to be a high-risk fire area.

## Vulnerable residents asked to prepare for power shutoffs

As residents prepare for the upcoming fire season, the County of Santa Cruz is asking residents who depend on electricity for medical and mobility devices to be aware of the likelihood of extended power outages during certain weather conditions.

To help mitigate the risk of catastrophic forest fires, Pacific, Gas & Electric plans to proactively de-energize portions of the electricity grid during periods of high temperatures and extreme winds. PG&E is warning Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) could last 1-2 days or longer than a week, depending on the severity of the weather event. Individuals relying on ventilators or respiratory devices, dialysis, feeding devices, motorized equipment, and refrigerated medication at all at risk during extended power outages.

To identify and help residents prepare for Public Safety Power Shutoffs, the County is asking residents who rely on such equipment to fill out a brief survey. The survey is available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRBCNZN](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRBCNZN).

Filling out the survey assures that County officials have accurate contact information to help deliver notifications and critical information to residents. Information will be kept confidential.

The County encourages impacted residents and their families to be prepared by keeping a list emergency phone numbers, securing alternative power supplies such as safe generators, and being prepared to relocate if necessary. During an actual event, supplies and communications may be limited, and residents are encouraged to act now. Eligible residents are also encouraged to sign up for PG&E's [Medical Baseline Program](#).

During a Public Safety Power Shutoff event, some advanced notice is expected. The County Office of Emergency Services encourages people to sign up for emergency notifications by visiting [www.scr911.org](http://www.scr911.org) and following the prompts, or by downloading the CodeRed app.

For more information: [prepareforpowerdown.com](http://prepareforpowerdown.com).



Looking for employment?  
[www.santacruzcountyjobs.com](http://www.santacruzcountyjobs.com)



# Shelter services increased, census released

**T**aking measures to reduce homelessness throughout Santa Cruz County, the Homeless Action Partnership of Santa Cruz County in June announced a public-private partnership to provide year-round shelter and housing navigation services to local homeless persons.

Under the plan, shelter services at the Salvation Army Community Corps Center on Laurel Street would remain open year-round, and shelter at 1220 River Street would be extended through March 15, 2020. In addition, the Homeless Action Partnership (HAP) approved funding to provide mobile hygiene and housing navigation services to accelerate transitioning homeless persons out of shelters and into permanent housing.

"Ending homelessness demands a Housing First approach," Santa Cruz County Homeless Services Coordinator Rayne Marr said. "Expanding shelter and day services will help stabilize vulnerable homeless persons, and the need for housing resolution services is so great that the HAP is moving forward with a plan to provide them while we continue searching for an appropriate venue to establish a permanent Navigation Center."

Also in June, preliminary numbers from the 2019 Point-In-Time count were re-

leased, indicating more than 2,100 Santa Cruz County residents were homeless, including 1,700 who did not have shelter.

The total of 2,167 homeless persons represents a 3.6 percent decline from 2017. Chronic and veteran homelessness in particular showed positive trends, with chronic homelessness decreasing by nearly one-third. However, youth and family homelessness showed slight increases.

The combined shelter sites would extend availability of 50 beds and 60 tent sites, with both venues previously set to close June 30. Both are operated by the Salvation Army, and include beds, meals, security, transportation, access to health services and more. The Salvation Army also operates the seasonal Winter Shelter Program in Live Oak, as well as the Salvation Army Day Center and 38-bed shelter in Watsonville, which will now operate 24/7 with expanded service capacity.

"The Salvation Army works to assure that all Santa Cruz County residents have a place to access food and lodging, and we are pleased to extend our partnership with the HAP. The Salvation Army has been serving the local community for more than 130 years

and we greatly appreciate the support of our volunteers, donors and especially our clients," Salvation Army Capt. Harold Laubach said.

The Homeless Action Partnership plan includes funding assuring the continued availability of the Paul Lee Loft emergency shelter at the Homeless Services Center, which provides beds for up to 40 adults along with hygiene, client assessment, advocacy and other services.

The Housing First model is a recognition that substance use disorder and mental health treatment are most effective when clients first have stable housing, which increases the likelihood that clients remain housed. The model has been endorsed by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and numerous federal, state and local agencies. The HAP expects to begin providing housing navigation and related services at the River Street property by August 1.

Funding for the plan was provided through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP). The Homeless Action Partnership continues working to identify additional appropriate sites for future navigation and shelter services. No sites have been identified at this time.

## HOMELESSNESS

## Mid-County groundwater plan to be released July 18

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) is set to release of a draft Sustainability Plan for the Mid-County groundwater basin, which includes the opening of a 60-day window for review and comment.

The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin is an essential source of water that is in a state of overdraft. Working with community members and experts, the MGA is developing a plan under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to restore the basin to sustainability by 2040.

The MGA ([www.midcountygroundwater.org](http://www.midcountygroundwater.org)) encourages all community members to get involved. The Sustainability Plan will have long-term community implications and includes the following information:

- ◆ Detailed information about the Ground-

water Basin including geology, hydrology, and political boundaries;

- ◆ Detailed information about water use within the Basin;
- ◆ Definition of sustainability for the following indicators: seawater intrusion; surface water depletion; groundwater in storage; groundwater levels; groundwater quality.

The plan includes proposed programs and projects to reach sustainability.

The draft Sustainability Plan will open for public comment on July 18th at the MGA Board meeting. Members of the public will have 60 days to review the Plan and provide written comments.

The plan will be available on the website along with a survey for stakeholders.

The MGA will host a series of community events regarding the draft Plan, including two open houses in July, a community Q&A in August, and a public hearing in September so that residents may learn more about the Plan and its impacts on the future of local water supplies.

The MGA is a regional partnership between local agencies and the public to help ensure our groundwater remains a high-quality, reliable water supply today and into the future. It is governed by a board with two agency representatives each from Central Water District, City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, and Soquel Creek Water District, and three private well representatives.



# Board approves first two-year budget; Operational Plan provides roadmap

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on June 25th unanimously adopted the County's first-ever two-year budget and operational plan.

The \$1.6 billion 2019-21 Budget maintains fiscal responsibility while investing in critical public services. It represents an overall spending decline of 12 percent due to the resolution of capital projects, maintains healthy fiscal reserves and supports public safety, parks and other programs through Measure G, the voter-approved ½-cent sales tax in unincorporated areas.

"While there are challenges ahead, Measure G and the voters of Santa Cruz County have placed the County on sound financial footing as we work together to bring residents quality, cost-effective services that address our community's most critical needs," County Administrative Officer Carlos J. Palacios said. "I would like to thank County staff for leading the way on improving how the County does business, resulting in our first two-year Op-

erational Plan and other key initiatives that will position us well for the future."

The first two-year budget in County history provides for improved financial planning to address slowing revenue growth and increasing demands on public services. It is accompanied by adoption of the County's first Operational Plan, the first of three under the County's six-year Strategic Plan. The Operational Plan includes 178 specific objectives for County staff to accomplish over the next two years, and is available at [www.sccvision.us](http://www.sccvision.us).

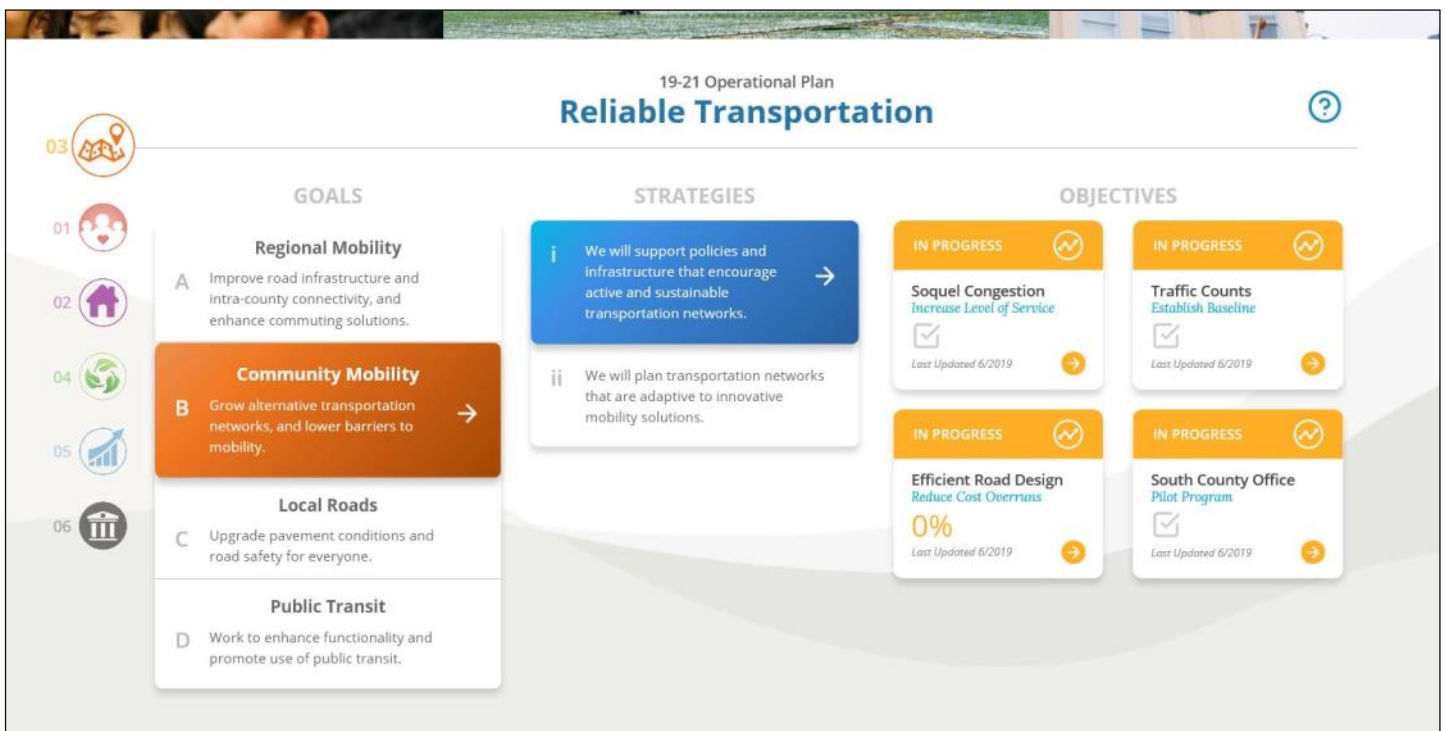
Among the objectives are plans to eliminate medical clinic wait times, establish progress on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, study neighborhood courts, review the County's model of public defender services, make traffic improvements and resurface 25 miles of local roads, create a new recreation camp for County youth, expand the County's Thrive by Three program, expand voter access, provide a sustainability update to the General Plan, and expand housing opportunities in-

cluding for farm workers.

Measure G, approved by two-thirds of County voters in the 2018 general election, provides funding for several key projects including ongoing construction at LEO's Haven at Chanticleer Park and the Focused Intervention Team pilot program. The budget also funds improved security and mental health services at County detention facilities, adding DNA analysis to the County's Forensic Services Laboratory, a new Probation Service Center and a new Aptos Public Safety Center.

Also funded is improved maintenance of County facilities, including a study of how County campuses can best meet community needs, including affordable housing.

The Proposed Budget and Operational Plan, as well as an online budget dashboard, can be found at [santacruzcounty.us/Government/BudgetandFinancialReports.aspx](http://santacruzcounty.us/Government/BudgetandFinancialReports.aspx). An interactive budget dashboard may be accessed at [www.sccbudget.com](http://www.sccbudget.com).



The interactive Santa Cruz County Operational Plan dashboard is available at [www.sccvision.us](http://www.sccvision.us), giving residents a look at progress on 178 different objectives for improving government operations and the community over the next two years.



## Meet Your Supervisor

### John Leopold

District 1 includes Live Oak, Summit Road, Soquel and parts of Capitola and Santa Cruz.



### Zach Friend

District 2 includes Aptos, Corralitos, part of Capitola and the South County coast.



### Ryan Coonerty

District 3 includes much of Santa Cruz and the North Coast.



### Greg Caput

District 4 includes most of Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley.



### Bruce McPherson

District 5 includes the San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and parts of Santa Cruz.



Click on each supervisor to learn more about them and their responsibilities, including how to reach them during constituent office hours.

# Complete Count efforts underway for '20 Census

The County is working closely with local cities and the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County to help make sure everyone is counted in the 2020 Census/

Residents wishing to learn more about 2020 Census activities or get involved can visit [www.santacruzcountycounts.us](http://www.santacruzcountycounts.us). The site offers information about the importance of the Census, the local Complete Count Committee, opportunities to volunteer and even find a job with the Census Bureau, a community-based calendar of events for local Census-related events and a countdown clock to the 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census will be the first to rely heavily on online responses. The Census guides more than \$675 billion in annual

funding, including \$77 billion in California alone. Uncounted persons can cost

communities thousands of dollars over the next decade. Responding to the Census helps create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, build schools, roads and hospitals, and much more.

Santa Cruz County includes a large number of populations considered at risk of being undercounted. Under federal law, all information collected is strictly confidential.



## Parks host FREE Family Movie Nights

Did you know Santa Cruz County Parks hosts FREE outdoor movies on Fridays throughout the summer? Screenings will be held at Heart of Soquel Park, Felt Street Park, Highlands Park and Pinto Lake County Park, and include blockbusters such as Captain Marvel (July 5), Incredibles 2 (July 12), Coco (July 26) and more.

Attendees are welcome to bring a picnic and low-backed chairs, but no alcohol is allowed. In the event of rain, events may be canceled. For more information including a full schedule, please visit [www.scparks.com](http://www.scparks.com).



## Quick Guide

Citizens rely on county government for many needed services. Use this handy guide to find who to call, or come find us on the web at: [www.santacruzcounty.us](http://www.santacruzcounty.us).

**Main Number**  
(831) 454-2000

**Board of Supervisors**  
(831) 454-2200

**Agricultural Commissioner**  
(831) 763-8080

**Animal Services**  
(831) 454-7303

**Assessor's Office**  
(831) 454-2002

**Benefits**  
(888) 421-8080

**County Clerk/Elections**  
(831) 454-2060

**Economic Development**  
(831) 454-2728

**Environmental Health**  
(831) 454-2022

**Health Services Agency**  
(831) 454-4800

**Parks and Recreation**  
(831) 454-7900

**Planning Department**  
(831) 454-2580

**Public Works**  
(831) 454-2160

**Recycling Information**  
(831) 454-2333

**Sheriff/Coroner**  
(831) 471-1121  
(call 911 if emergency)

**Superior Court**  
(831) 763-8060

**Tax Collections**  
(831) 454-2510