



Public Health

# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

## Press Release

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**Contact:** Sierra Ryan

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**Phone:** (831) 345-5202

### **Water Resources Status Report Highlights Preparations for a Changing Climate**

The 2022 annual Santa Cruz County Water Resources Status Report for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 31, 2023. The report outlines projects and activities being taken by regional partners to prepare Santa Cruz County for a changing climate and the impact it will have on water resources.

The report describes how water sources will become increasingly stressed as the effects of climate change become more pronounced. "The extreme shifts between wet and dry weather driven by climate change are symptomatic of a phenomenon known as 'weather whiplash,'" said Sierra Ryan, Water Resource Manager for County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health. "Our Water Resources Program, along with others across the County, are working at an unprecedented scale to take actions and implement projects to ensure that the future will bring a secure source of water supply for residents and protection for the environment."

A key accomplishment in 2022 was the completion of the Drought Response and Outreach Plan (DROP). DROP lays the foundation for development of comprehensive drought response actions and implements emergency preparedness as an integral part of water resources management. Additionally, the first phase of Soquel District's Pure Water Soquel project was implemented as well as successful pilot testing of the City of Santa Cruz Aquifer Storage and Recovery project.

The report highlights the grant funds that were awarded to numerous projects and programs, including nearly **\$150M** to the Pajaro Levee Project; **\$7.6M** to both Mid-County Groundwater Agency and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency for groundwater sustainability efforts; nearly **\$10M** for a pipeline between Scotts Valley Water District and the City of Santa Cruz Water

Department; and nearly **\$5M** to the City of Watsonville for water storage augmentation. Additionally, over \$650,000 was awarded to the County Water Resources Program for drought response. To read the report and learn more about local water management efforts, go to <https://bit.ly/sccwaterstatus2022>.

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