



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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The County of Santa Cruz has been awarded a \$2 million Community Development Block Grant to help recycle North Coast water, connect chronically homeless and disabled persons with permanent housing and expand farmworker services.

With California's drought continuing, \$1.5 million of these state-administered funds are committed to a proposed recycled water facility to serve the community of Davenport, hopefully to help offset high residential water bills in the town. Up to 20 acre-feet of water per year could be reused, according to a recent County feasibility study.

Through the County's community partners, the rest of the CDBG award will fund case managers to work with disabled and medically vulnerable to connect them with existing housing resources in order to locate housing, and will provide outreach services to Davenport-area farmworkers, including parenting skills, translation services, financial literacy training and more.

"The projects are critically important, and the grants are the result of a lot of hard work on behalf of Santa Cruz County residents. Community Development Block Grant funds are highly sought-after, and our community will benefit once these projects are in place," said housing coordinator Julie Conway, who oversees the County's CDBG efforts. "We thank the Board of Supervisors for their leadership on this issue."

Once completed, the water facility will expand the capacity for recycled water in Santa Cruz County and help protect a precious resource as the state continues to navigate California's drought emergency. It will clean municipal wastewater to meet state standards for reuse, and help prevent wastewater discharge violations by the Davenport County Sanitation District.



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The total cost of the project is \$4.25 million. The County is seeking additional funding as well, including through the State Water Resources Control Board, which previously funded a feasibility study of the project.

Three other grants, totaling \$500,000, will be divided among three community partners: Encompass Community Services, the Homeless Services Center and the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County.

Federal Community Development Block Grants are a program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development aimed at improving low- to moderate-income communities. In smaller California communities, the grants are administered by the state Department of Housing and Community Development.