



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY RELEASES 2018-19 PROPOSED BUDGET

County Administrative Officer Carlos J. Palacios on Friday released a proposed \$777 million budget that reduces overall spending while maintaining excellent services and programs and preserving fiscal reserves.

The 2018-19 Proposed Budget includes funding to uphold the high standard of services county residents have come to expect, while continuing storm recovery efforts, homeless services coordination, implementation of the Whole Person Care and Coordinated Entry models, expanded Drug Medi-Cal programs and more. The budget also begins to set aside funding to address deferred maintenance on the county's facilities and technology infrastructure.

"County residents have come to expect high-quality services for their hard-earned dollars," Palacios said. "Through this budget and new strategic planning and continuous process improvement initiatives, we continue delivering responsible, innovative programs our residents count on, and lay the groundwork for assuring that our services and infrastructure meet the expectations of future generations."

Building on County's 2017 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the 2018-19 Proposed Budget includes even more user-friendly features, including better graphics and simplified terminology, community profile maps and county trivia, and more readable charts and appendices that offer increased transparency and accountability. Residents may also access an interactive budget tool at www.sccbudget.com.

Santa Cruz County government provides a range of services to local residents, and is the primary conduit for state programs including environmental protection, health care and social services. The County also provides municipal services – including road repair, public safety/law enforcement, parks, libraries, planning/development and more – to residents in the unincorporated area, which make up about half the county's 272,000 residents.