



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## PRESS RELEASE

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### CAO NAMES EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

County Administrative Office Carlos J. Palacios is pleased to announce two new members of his executive management team, both of whom will serve as Assistant County Administrative Officer.

"These individuals have demonstrated first-rate skills and abilities, and will be key team members as we move forward in implementing a new vision and organizational structure for the County," CAO Palacios said. "They each carry a unique set of perspectives and experiences into their new roles, and I welcome them to the County family and look forward to working closely with them for many years to come."

Nicole Coburn most recently served as a principal administrative analyst in the County Administrative Office, overseeing departmental operations and budgets. Coburn has helped the County implement numerous library services and criminal justice programs and initiatives, and was most recently tasked with overseeing the County's first-ever strategic planning process.

Coburn previously worked as a public sector management consultant, performing a range of analyses, audits and evaluations for local governments, and as a communications expert in Sacramento. She has a Master of Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California-Berkeley.



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"Serving the residents of Santa Cruz County has been a great honor, particularly as a member of the community for more than a decade," Coburn said. "I am excited about the new initiatives being launched in the County, and I look forward to continuing to work with our employees, partners and residents as we take additional steps together."

Elissa Benson most recently served as a deputy director within the King County (Washington) Department of Executive Services, overseeing the Facilities Management Division. She has an extensive background in policy and strategic initiatives, finance, and performance management.

Benson has served in various roles with Kings County since 1997, and previously worked as a fiscal analyst with the Washington State House of Representatives. She has a Master of Public Policy from the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

"My family has a strong connection to Santa Cruz, and I myself spent a summer working at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk," Benson said. "Returning to Santa Cruz County to help the community prosper has been a dream of mine, and I look forward to working with County staff and the community as we strive to improve County operations to better serve residents."