



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### BOARD COMMITS TO PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Joining hundreds of cities, counties, states, universities and businesses, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has vowed to continue to global fight against climate change.

By joining the "We Are Still In" coalition, the County has committed to the principles of the Paris Agreements, a landmark effort between 197 parties to restrict global temperature rise this century to within 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The United States has announced its intention to withdraw from the agreement, effective November 2020.

"For many decades, Santa Cruz County has been a leader in environmental stewardship and protection," said Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, who led the effort to join the coalition on behalf of the Board. "With climate change threatening our environment, our economy and our way of life, doing nothing is not an option."

Santa Cruz County has adopted a Climate Action Strategy (<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/SustainabilityPlanning/ClimateActionStrategy.aspx>) that sets ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets exceeding existing U.S. commitments under the Paris Agreement. Additionally, the County led a multi-jurisdictional effort to establish Monterey Bay Community Power on the Central Coast, which will lead to increased renewable energy use and further aid in meeting local emissions reduction targets.

Proving that fighting climate change begins locally, the "We Are Still In" Coalition includes over 180 cities and counties across the U.S., including cities such as Santa Cruz and Los Angeles. It also includes universities such as UCSC and businesses such as Seagate Technologies, Lyft and Apple.



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With its delicate ecology and location adjacent to Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz County is particularly vulnerable to climate change. Increased coastal storm activity could further damage County homes, property and infrastructure, while sea-level rise threatens County beaches, water supplies and economies.

Furthermore, Santa Cruz County is the birthplace of surfing in the continental U.S., and the County's legendary surf breaks are all threatened by climate change.

"Climate change doesn't just threaten our air, our water and our redwood forests, it threatens our way of life," Coonerty said. "To paraphrase the late Jack O'Neill, we want to build a world that would allow us to surf a little longer."