FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

62 LOCAL BUSINESSES TO EARN PRESTIGIOUS GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATES AT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

November 28, 2023 – Santa Cruz, CA – The County of Santa Cruz's Department of Community Development & Infrastructure announced that this year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Green Business Program and businesses who have earned their Green Business Certificates will be recognized by the County Board of Supervisors on December 5.

Since 2003, the Green Business Program has been an incentives-based certification program designed to encourage businesses to meet and exceed environmental standards while conserving natural resources. It is a multi-media (soil, water, air, greenhouse gases) pollution prevention effort intended to create a positive relationship between government, the public, and the business community.

As part of this prestigious program, 62 local businesses will be awarded Green Business Certificates at the December 5, 2023, County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors meeting. These certified businesses have voluntarily reduced water consumption in plumbing and irrigation, increased energy efficiency in lighting, equipment, and transportation practices, reduced solid waste through recycling and purchasing, and have gone above and beyond regulatory requirements by implementing pollution prevention practices in their businesses.

The Green Business Certificate awardees will be announced shortly after 10:45 a.m. on December 5, 2023, in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers on the 5th floor of 701 Ocean Street followed by a Green Business Mixer on from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Gazelle Experience Center in Santa Cruz!

During the mixer, attendees will have the opportunity to test e-bikes and network with fellow Green Businesses and sustainability leaders in a relaxed, social setting. Don't miss this opportunity to share ideas, foster collaborations, and enjoy FREE food and drinks. Register for the mixer online at: bit.ly/scmixer23.

For more information on the Green Business Program and how to become a certified Green Business, please contact Claudia Villalta-Mejia, Santa Cruz County Green Business Coordinator, at (831) 359-9277 or enroll at greenbusinessca.org.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Community Development & Infrastructure serves the unincorporated areas in the county. The department's mission is to improve customer service, streamline projects, and to align public infrastructure and private development to further County goals in attainable housing, reliable transportation, and sustainable environment. For more information, visit <u>https://dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us</u> or follow the department on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>X</u> and <u>Nextdoor</u>.

ENIVRONMENTAL INNOVATIONS

We are Environmental Innovations, Inc., a certified B Corp and California Green Business dedicated to helping businesses, institutions, government and individuals innovate beyond the status quo toward more equitable and sustainable futures that benefit people, planet and profit. *We turn environmental challenges into prosperous opportunities.* To learn more visit: www.environmentalin.com

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