



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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PURCHASE OF NEW COUNTY FACILITY FINALIZED

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce it has finalized a major step forward in improving the delivery of services for South County residents.

On October 8, the County of Santa Cruz closed escrow for the acquisition of the property located at 500 Westridge Drive in Watsonville. After further investment and renovations, the 121,000-square-foot building will allow the consolidation of existing and additional South County services into one location to better support the health, safety and well-being of South County residents.

Facility upgrades and improvements represent the next phase of the project and are expected to commence soon. The County plans to work closely with existing tenants and impacted departments and staff to begin planning for the relocation of services to Westridge. Completion of the full project is expected to take up to three years, with existing County leases expected to be maintained through 2023. Medical and behavioral health services are expected to remain at their current location at the Freedom Boulevard campus.

Currently, South County services are spread across numerous buildings. The County's Long-Range Facilities Plan calls for the consolidation and co-location of services to improve customer experience and provide a more efficient service delivery model.