PRESS RELEASE

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BOARD ADOPTS TWO-YEAR BUDGET, OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously adopted the County's first-ever two-year budget and operational plan.

The $1.6 billion 2019-21 Budget maintains fiscal responsibility while investing in critical public services. It represents an overall spending decline of 12 percent due to the resolution of capital projects, maintains healthy fiscal reserves and supports public safety, parks and other programs through Measure G, the voter-approved ½-cent sales tax in unincorporated areas.

The first two-year budget in County history provides for improved financial planning to address slowing revenue growth and increasing demands on public services. It is accompanied by adoption of the County's first Operational Plan, the first of three under the County's six-year Strategic Plan. The Operational Plan includes 178 specific objectives for County staff to accomplish over the next two years, and is available at www.sccvision.us.

Measure G, approved by two-thirds of County voters in the 2018 general election, provides funding for several key projects including ongoing construction at LEO's Haven at Chanticleer Park and the Focused Intervention Team pilot program. The budget also funds improved security and mental health services at County detention facilities, adding DNA analysis to the County's Forensic Services Laboratory, a new Probation Service Center and a new Aptos Public Safety Center.

Also funded is improved maintenance of County facilities, including a study of how County campuses can best meet community needs, including affordable housing.

The Proposed Budget and Operational Plan, as well as an online budget dashboard, can be found at santacruzcounty.us/Government/BudgetandFinancialReports.aspx. An interactive budget dashboard may be accessed directly at www.sccbudget.com

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