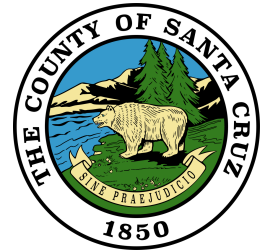


COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

COUNTY BUDGET MANAGER



Salary: \$226,117 – 303,056 Annually

Final Filing Date: Friday, July 24, 2026

To apply, go directly to: www.santacruzcountyjobs.com



County Equity Statement

Equity in action in Santa Cruz County is a transformative process that embraces individuals of every status, providing unwavering support, dignity, and compassion. Through this commitment, the County ensures intentional opportunities and access, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive and belong.

ABOUT THE POSITION

The County of Santa Cruz is seeking an experienced and forward-thinking County Budget Manager to lead one of the most critical functions in county government. This is a rare opportunity to serve as a member of the County's executive team as a trusted advisor to the County Executive Officer and the Board of Supervisors while helping guide fiscal decisions that shape public services, infrastructure investments, community programs, and the County's long-term financial sustainability.

As the County Budget Manager, you will manage the County's annual budget process and long-range financial planning efforts. You will work across departments to evaluate priorities, analyze emerging fiscal challenges, and develop innovative solutions that support the County's strategic goals.

Your work will influence decisions on issues ranging from healthcare, social services, and public safety to climate resilience, infrastructure needs, housing, economic development and workforce challenges amidst evolving federal and state budget matters.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The successful candidate is a collaborative and politically astute leader who combines exceptional financial expertise with strong communication and relationship-building skills. They will bring:

- Significant experience in public sector budgeting, financial planning, and fiscal analysis.
- Deep knowledge of California local government finance and budget practices.
- The ability to translate complex financial information into clear, actionable recommendations for executives, elected officials, and community stakeholders.
- A strategic mindset that balances immediate operational needs with long-term fiscal sustainability.
- The ability to communicate effectively.
- Exceptional analytical skills and sound judgment when addressing complex and sensitive issues.
- Experience leading teams, managing competing priorities, and driving organizational results.
- The confidence to advise executive leadership while building consensus among diverse stakeholders.
- A commitment to public service, transparency, innovation, and continuous improvement.

Experience leveraging business intelligence, automation, artificial intelligence, or advanced analytics to improve budgeting and decision-making is highly desirable.



SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain these knowledge and abilities would be:

Graduation from an accredited college with a major in business administration, public administration, management, finance, economics, accounting or a related field, AND four (4) years of progressively responsible experience in a governmental agency with responsibility performing professional-level budgetary analysis, including: systems, procedures and program evaluation.

A master's degree is desirable, and may be substituted for one (1) year of experience

To see the full job specification, including knowledge and abilities, please click below:
<https://www.jobapscloud.com/SCRUZ/specs/classspecdisplay.asp?ClassNumber=UT8>

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Describe your experience leading the development and administration of a complex public agency budget. Include the size of the budget, the number and types of departments involved, your specific responsibilities, and an example of a significant fiscal challenge you helped address.
2. Describe your experience serving as a key advisor to leadership and/or elected officials on budgetary and fiscal policy matters.
3. Describe a time you led a significant organizational change in response to changing fiscal conditions, community needs, technology, or strategic priorities. Explain how you developed your approach, engaged stakeholders, managed impacts on employees and services, and measured success.

TENTATIVE RECRUITMENT SCHEDULE

Advisory Panel Interviews: August 12, 2026

Final Selection Interviews: August 19, 2026

Anticipated Start Date: September 2026

HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at www.santacruzcountyjobs.com or mail/bring an application and supplemental questionnaire to: Santa Cruz County Human Resources Department, 701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. For information, call (831) 454-2600. Hearing Impaired TDD/TTY: 711. Applications will meet the final filing date if received: 1) in the Human Resources Department by 5:00 p.m. on the final filing date, 2) submitted online before midnight of the final filing date.

Women, people of color, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. If you have a disability that requires test accommodation, please call (831) 454-2600.

To comply with the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act, Santa Cruz County verifies that all new employees are either U.S. citizens or persons authorized to work in the U.S.

HIGHLIGHTED BENEFIT OFFERINGS

VACATION – 16 days 1st year, increasing to 31 days per year after 15 years of service. Available after 1 year of service.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE – One week advanced upon appointment; two weeks accrued each year; can be taken in cash or time off.

HOLIDAYS – 14 paid holidays per year.

SICK LEAVE – Six days per year.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE – 5 days – 3 paid & 2 unpaid in California, 5 days paid out-of-state.

MEDICAL PLAN – The County contracts with CalPERS for a variety of medical plans. For most plans, County contributions pay a majority of the premiums for employees and eligible dependents.

DENTAL PLAN – County pays for employee and eligible dependent coverage.

VISION PLAN – The County pays for employee coverage. Employee may purchase eligible dependent coverage.

RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY – Pension formula 2% at age 60 or 2% at age 62 as determined based on provisions of the CA Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA). Pension benefit determined by final average compensation of three years. County participates in Social Security.

LIFE INSURANCE – County paid \$50,000 term policy. Employee may purchase additional life insurance.

LONG TERM DISABILITY PLAN – Plan pays 66 2/3% of the first \$13,500, up to \$9,000 per month maximum.

DEPENDENT-CARE PLAN – Employees who pay for qualifying child or dependent care expenses may elect this pre-tax program.

H-CARE PLAN – Employees who pay a County medical premium may elect this pre-tax program.

HEALTH CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ALLOWANCE (HCFSA) – Employees may elect this pre-tax program to cover qualifying health care expenses.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION – A deferred compensation plan is available to employees.

Note: Provisions of this bulletin do not constitute an expressed or implied contract.