



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER TO OPEN

To protect the unhoused from a severe weather system and possible flooding, temporary protective severe weather shelters will open beginning Saturday, Feb. 3, at 1 p.m. The shelter system is the result of a collaboration between the County of Santa Cruz, City of Santa Cruz, and City of Watsonville.

Severe weather shelters at Depot Park and Watsonville Veterans Hall will operate as 24-hour shelters and be open until noon on Monday, Feb. 5, when shelter operations will be reassessed. Shelter at the Santa Cruz Veterans Hall will operate as an overnight shelter from 8 p.m.-8 a.m.

Lineup begins one hour prior to shelters opening. The sites will be operated by The Free Guide. *Capacity is limited.*

The following sites will provide shelter:

Depot Park
119 Center Street
Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Veterans Hall
846 Front Street
Santa Cruz

Watsonville Veterans Hall
215 East Beach Street
Watsonville

Beds will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference for people with disabilities and those experiencing significant health/safety risk sleeping outdoors.

Guests will be provided with cots, blankets, and ready-to-eat meals. Pets are allowed if they are leashed and can be kept under voice control. No aggressive animals will be allowed at shelter sites.

Food will be available once intakes and bed assignments are completed. Belongings must fit in small storage areas near bed assignments.