



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE



Date: May 2, 2025

Contact: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcountyca.gov

CEO PALACIOS NAMES HERRERA INTERIM HSA DIRECTOR

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Herrera as the interim director of the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency (HSA), effective June 4, 2025.

Herrera, currently HSA's assistant director, will replace Director Mónica Morales, who is returning to the Sacramento area to take a job as director of the combined Health and Human Services Agency in Yolo County. Morales' last day will be June 3.

Herrera brings a wealth of experience to the interim role, serving as Assistant Director, Chief of Public Health and Director of Nursing in nearly a decade with the County's Health Services Agency. Herrera has a bachelor's degree in nursing from USF and a master's degree in public health from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. She is well-regarded by HSA staff, played an instrumental role in the County's COVID-19 response and is an important liaison between HSA, local safety net providers and the community.

The appointment was made by County Executive Officer Carlos Palacios.

Morales will remain with the County through Health Services' scheduled budget hearing before the Board of Supervisors in early June. The County is conducting a nationwide search for a new director to guide the delivery of County health, behavioral health and environmental health services and programs to the community.

The Health Services Agency serves as a community safety net by providing a broad spectrum of services that address and promote health and equity, including meeting basic needs of health care for low-income and uninsured residents.