



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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News Release

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17 PROJECTS, \$2.74M RECOMMENDED FOR MEASURE Q FUNDING

The Santa Cruz County Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (COAB) will meet tonight to consider final staff funding recommendations for the inaugural cycle of the Measure Q Grant Program, totaling \$2,740,000 across 17 projects countywide.

The meeting will be held tonight, May 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Simpkins Family Swim Center, 979 17th Ave. Final recommendations will advance to the County Board of Supervisors for final approval at its June 9, 2026 meeting.

The Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction and Wildlife Protection Act – known as Measure Q -- was overwhelmingly passed by Santa Cruz County voters in November 2024. The program distributes 40 percent of annual revenue to community projects aligned with a five-year Vision Plan, which prioritizes wildfire risk reduction and forest health, water resources management, and parks, recreation, access and equity.

The program received 53 complete applications in its first cycle requesting nearly \$8.9 million – more than three times the available funding. Awards were determined through a competitive scoring process conducted by internal County staff and independent external reviewers, with final portfolio decisions shaped by COAB deliberation on geographic balance, scale of impact, and spread of projects across priority areas.

Tier 1: Community Catalyst Grants (\$266,897 across 7 projects) support education, stewardship, and smaller-scale restoration and planning work. Recommended organizations include the Coastal Watershed Council, Santa Cruz County Parks, Vista Center, Black Surf Santa Cruz, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, Santa Cruz County Fire Department, and South Skyline Firesafe Council.

Tier 2: Community Impact Grants (\$2,473,103 across 10 projects) fund larger, multi-benefit projects spanning habitat restoration, flood risk reduction, wildfire resilience, and community access improvements. Recommended organizations include Watsonville Wetlands Watch, the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, the City of Watsonville, Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks, the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency, the Community Action Board, the City of Santa Cruz, Long Term Recovery Group, and Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Complete application materials, evaluator scores, and award documentation are publicly available at <https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/MeasureQ.aspx>.

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