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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ LAUNCHES SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT SURVEY

Community input needed to shape the future of the county's coastline

June 23, 2025 – Santa Cruz, CA – The County of Santa Cruz Department of Community Development & Infrastructure (CDI) is inviting residents, stakeholders, and coastal users to help shape the future of the County's 32-mile coastline and determine approaches to help protect it from future climate impacts.

CDI has launched its Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Project (SLRVA), a science-informed, community-driven planning project to identify current and future vulnerabilities—physical, environmental, and economic—to explore adaptation strategies to protect our coastline. The SLRVA will enable the County to complete its local coastal program or LCP, a state-mandated plan that guides land use and development along the coast, balancing environmental protection, public access, and sustainable growth. To kick off this project, CDI has released a bilingual community survey to collect local knowledge and community input: <u>bit.ly/slrva-survey</u>

"This project is a community-driven effort and relies heavily on public input to inform the decision-making process," said David Carlson, CDI Resource Planner. "We need our community to help us build a vision for our coastline that is both realistic and resilient."

Community engagement opportunities are available now and throughout the process. A community working group is part of the effort and helps the County by providing a diverse set of opinions and ideas on ongoing technical work, as well as by expanding engagement through their communities. Learn more about the project, the community working group, explore the interactive bilingual story map, and learn more about ways to get involved, visit <u>https://cdi.santacruzcountyca.gov/slrva</u>

ABOUT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

CDI serves all unincorporated areas in the county. The department's mission is to improve customer service, streamline projects, and to align public infrastructure and private development to further County goals in attainable housing, reliable transportation and sustainable environment. For more information, visit https://cdi.santacruzcountyca.gov/ or follow the department on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Nextdoor.

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