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**GRANT-FUNDED FREEDOM SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT - PHASE II
COMPLETED UNDER BUDGET AND AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**

Dec. 20, 2024 – Santa Cruz, CA – The County of Santa Cruz Department of Community Development & Infrastructure is pleased to announce the completion of the Freedom Sewer Rehabilitation Project - Phase II, a major upgrade to the sewer infrastructure in the neighborhood areas east of Green Valley Road between Trembley Lane and Mesa Verde Drive.

Work on this \$6.5 million project, funded by a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board, began in late February 2024 and finished ahead of schedule in September 2024. The contractor, SubTerra Construction, Inc. replaced 7,700 linear feet of sewer pipe and 14 sewer manholes, rehabilitated 20 sewer manholes, and resurfaced 43,500 square yards of pavement. This project came in under budget at \$5.5 million.

Phase I of the project was also completed under budget and ahead of schedule. It was funded by a \$4.5 million loan and \$4.5 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. Ranger Pipelines, Inc. rehabilitated more than 12,500 linear feet of sewer pipe and 42 manholes.

Grant funding for both phases enabled these costly projects to proceed without high increases in sewer charges for Freedom County Sanitation District ratepayers.

Before this rehabilitation project, the aging sewer system experienced frequent blockages and required costly repairs and maintenance due to aged pipes, substandard slopes, and inadequate pipe sizes. The improvements to the system protect local groundwater, reduce sewer spills, and reduce overall maintenance costs.

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