

NEWS RELEASE Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Our Water Account Is Overdrawn Beyond Conservation: Achieving Drought Resilience

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – Santa Cruz County faces a water crisis. Periodic and sustained drought has become a fact of life. If we don't achieve drought resilience—and make real progress toward achieving it soon—the results may prove to be catastrophic.

Our water agencies have the means to create a water capture, transfer, and storage system which addresses this crisis. Solid, innovative plans to achieve drought resilience exist, but are nearly invisible to county residents. This lack of awareness has made water a very charged topic, especially regarding population and housing. The County, through the existing agencies, can achieve drought resilience. What's been missing is urgency and tightly integrated, cross-agency collaboration. The time to act is now.

This report is intended to give County residents a fresh look at our current water situation and the near-term investments that can create drought resilience within the next five to ten years. With these investments, our residents, businesses, and farms can thrive and avoid economic hardship during times of drought.

The report is available at: http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Portals/0/County/GrandJury/GJ2022_final/2022-2_Water_Report.pdf

For more information regarding the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury, please visit our website at <http://www.scgrandjury.org>.

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