



County of Santa Cruz



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The Winter Water Table Testing Period (WWTTP) is Open

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – The Winter Water Table Testing Period (WWTTP) for Santa Cruz County Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) is currently open from Tuesday, February 17 to Monday, March 16, 2026. The length of the WWTT period may be extended with continued rainfall.

If you are considering developing a previously undeveloped property, doing a major remodel or repairing property served by an OWTS that may be subject to high ground water levels, you should arrange to have groundwater on your property observed multiple times throughout this testing period.

“Determining groundwater levels is a critical constraining factor when designing an OWTS that meets current code standards,” said Heather Reynolds, Environmental Health program manager. “We encourage residents to act now and participate in the Winter Water Table Testing Period to ensure the safety and compliance of their property.”

Property owners are strongly encouraged to arrange for multiple groundwater observations on their property during this testing period. For this current WWTTP, applications must be received no later than February 20, 2026.

Piezometer readings, required at the beginning, middle, and end of the testing period, must be conducted by a Qualified Professional who must submit the Site Evaluation application with a monitoring plan that is approved by Environmental Health Land Use staff.

To assist property owners in this process, an updated list of Qualified Professionals can be found on the Environmental Health website at scceh.org.

Parcels with an active Winter Water Testing Site Evaluation application are encouraged to contact their Environmental Health Land Use District Inspector at Landuse@santacruzcountyca.gov to schedule readings.

For any inquiries or further information, please reach out to Landuse@santacruzcountyca.gov.

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