



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711



## Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Date: January 6, 2026

Contact: Sandra Hughes

sandra.hughes@santacruzcountyca.gov

### **The Winter Water Table Testing Period (WWTTP) is Now Open**

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – The Winter Water Table Testing Period (WWTTP) for Santa Cruz County Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) is officially open, running from Tuesday, January 6 to Saturday, January 31, 2026. 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. The length of the WWTT period may be extended with continued rainfall.

“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 January 12, 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 [sceh.org](http://sceh.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](mailto:Landuse@santacruzcountyca.gov) to schedule readings.

For any inquiries or further information, please reach out to [Landuse@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Landuse@santacruzcountyca.gov).

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