



**Environmental
Health**

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Press Release

For Immediate Release:

Date: 05/08/08

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - San Lorenzo Watershed Low Interest Septic System Loan Program

The County of Santa Cruz wants to inform residents of the San Lorenzo River Watershed about a low interest loan program available to property owners needing to repair a failing septic system with an alternative treatment system. Funding for this program will end in 2009, so the County encourages those who might qualify for the program to apply now.

The County, working in conjunction with the California State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, developed this program to address failing systems that may be contributing pollution to the San Lorenzo River. Ongoing management efforts have reduced the occurrence of septic system failure from 18% to 2% and there has been a substantial improvement in water quality of the San Lorenzo River.

To be eligible, applicants must own real property in the San Lorenzo River Watershed, have a failing septic system, and replace that system with an alternative technology system. Repair or replacement with a traditional septic system is not eligible for assistance through this program. All applicants wishing to participate in the loan program must receive certification from Environmental Health Services that their project is in compliance with the San Lorenzo Wastewater Management Plan, and have an approved septic permit application prior to loan approval. Applicants must also secure written bids to establish the cost of the project.

Loans may cover the cost of permit, design, and installation, and will be made at an APR of approximately 5.25% and amortized for a period of up to 20 years.

Persons considering applying for a loan should contact Rick Jones, Environmental Health Services, (831) 454-2746 between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Tuesday through Thursday; or by email, at rick.jones@co.santa-cruz.ca.us. For more information on the overall program contact Chris Coburn at chris.coburn@co.santa-cruz.ca.us or (831) 454-2763.

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