



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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Nicole D. Coburn, County Executive Officer

## News Release

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### **COUNTY CELEBRATES THE UPCOMING OPENING OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRIDGE HOUSE**

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – The County of Santa Cruz, Supervisor Manu Koenig and Housing Matters today marked the opening of the Santa Cruz County Bridge House, a 32-bed center that pairs temporary housing with integrated behavioral health services to help individuals transition out of homelessness, located at 2202 Soquel Avenue.

Bridge House offers amenities including individual and double occupancy units, internet access, heating and air conditioning, operable windows with blinds, bike racks, and a multi-purpose room. The facility also includes 24/7 on-site staffing and security.

“This transitional housing gives behavioral health patients an opportunity to heal over six months rather than just three days. That makes it about 35 times better than the current level of care. We anticipate improved outcomes and reduced recidivism as a result.” said District 1 Supervisor Manu Koenig.

The center is designed around a person-centered, trauma-informed care model, emphasizing culturally responsive services and individualized support. On-site services will be delivered through a partnership between Housing Matters and the County’s Integrated Housing and Recovery Team (IHART), which will provide behavioral health services.

“This is a collaborative effort that brings together multiple County departments and community partners to address one of our most pressing challenges,” Housing for

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Health Director Dr. Robert Ratner said. “It reflects our commitment to expanding effective, evidence-based solutions to reduce homelessness in our community.”

“Bridge House allows us to meet people where they are and provide the level of care they need to stabilize. Integrating housing with behavioral health services is essential to improving outcomes and helping individuals successfully transition out of homelessness.” Health Services Agency Director Connie Moreno-Peraza said.

Bridge House is a partnership among the County’s Health Services Agency Behavioral Health Division, the Human Services Department’s Housing for Health Division, and the County Capital Projects, in collaboration with service provider Housing Matters. For more information visit [santacruzhealth.org/bridgehouse](https://santacruzhealth.org/bridgehouse).

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