



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience

Subject: Accept grant funds for OR3 Climate Resilience Internship Program

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Formal Title: Adopt resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$30,000 from the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) for the Climate Resilience Internship Program, approve agreement with UCSC in the amount of \$30,000, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Adopt resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$30,000 from the University of California, Santa Cruz for the Climate Resilience Internship Program;
2. Approve agreement with University of California, Santa Cruz in the amount of \$30,000 for the Climate Resilience Internship Program; and
3. Authorize the Director of the Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience or designee to sign the agreement.

Executive Summary

The Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3) requests approval to accept and appropriate \$30,000 in unanticipated revenue from the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) and approval of a revenue agreement to support the Climate Resilience Internship Program. The agreement funded paid internships for students contributing to implementation of the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and wildfire recovery efforts. Interns supported CAAP implementation efforts, climate vulnerability mapping, and WUI (Wildland-Urban Interface) research. The Board is asked to adopt the resolution to accept the funds and approve the revenue agreement.

Discussion

The Climate Resilience Internship Program was funded during the 2024-25 Fiscal Year (FY) through a partnership between the County of Santa Cruz and UCSC's Science & Justice Research Center. The program provided students with a year-long opportunity to contribute to implementation of the CAAP, applied climate research and adaptation planning with a particular focus on climate vulnerability in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI).

The revenue agreement with UCSC includes the scope of work that outlines the intern contributions to climate vulnerability mapping using GIS, support for community engagement and resilience strategy development, and cross-agency coordination. The agreement also includes deliverables such as:

- An updated post-CZU fire map that incorporates equity and recovery indicators;

- Public presentation materials and summary reports; and
- Support for integrating findings into County climate planning tools.

The \$30,000 budget allocates \$27,000 to pay student interns directly through the County payroll system and \$3,000 to support geographic information system (GIS) mapping. OR3 administered the program and coordinated with UCSC to ensure alignment with County priorities and grant deliverables.

Approval of this item authorizes both the acceptance of revenue and the execution of the revenue agreement, which includes the scope of work and budget outlined above. This action will enable OR3 to fund work completed in FY 2024-25.

Financial Impact

Acceptance of these funds will increase appropriated revenues and expenditures in the OR3 FY 2024–25 budget by \$30,000. Revenues will be recorded under GL 186000/Object 42372 (Contributions and Donations). Expenditures will be appropriated as follows: \$27,000 under GL 186000/Object 51010 (Regular Pay – Extra Help) to support intern wages, and \$3,000 under Object 62349 (ISD – GIS Services) to support mapping work. No County General Funds are requested or required.

Strategic Initiatives

Supports CAAP Objective 27 (*Youth and families engage effectively with community climate change efforts*) by funding student internships that advance County climate action and resilience. The program contributes to strategies that: (1) expand youth climate internship opportunities across jurisdictions and community partners; (2) engage under-resourced students in government climate efforts; (3) support the development of climate and equity-focused curricula; and (4) foster academic partnerships that help secure sustained program funding and participation from historically underserved communities.

Submitted By:

David Reid, OR3 Director

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

ChatGPT, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) large language model tool, significantly contributed to the development of this agenda item, including Staff Report, in compliance with the County of Santa Cruz AI Appropriate Use Policy.