

# Groundbreaking on affordable house and health care campus in Santa Cruz County



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## **LIVE OAK, Calif. —**

Santa Cruz County leaders and health care partners broke ground on a new housing and wellness site.

"Today we put a shovel in the ground and say that Santa Cruz County goes forward together," said Manu Koenig, Santa Cruz County Supervisor.

Construction is now started in Santa Cruz's Live Oak community. Dientes Community Dental, Mid Pen Housing, Santa Cruz Community Health, along with numerous donors such as Dominican Hospital, Sutter Health, Kaiser Permanente, broke ground on a health care and affordable housing campus.

It's in a community where nearly 15% of Live Oak Elementary School students are homeless, 15,000 people don't have a doctor and 78% of adults on Medi-Cal are without a dentist. The new campus addresses those gaps.

"This will positively impact the community. And I'm sure there will be no more social injustice. Since we all have the right to decent care and easier access," said Diana Valadez, Santa Cruz County Health Clinic patient and mother.

"We are taking all the words and discussions about equity that have been circulating for the last year are we are turning them into actions and into buildings," said Manu Koenig, Santa Cruz County supervisor.

The project is a 3.7-acre health and housing complex. It'll include a medical clinic, dental clinic, residential buildings along with dozens of new job opportunities.

"The Live Oak Community will have the support we all need in a more accessible location. Having a new clinic is necessary so more people can have access to important care and services and can take better care of their health," said Angelica Cabellero, Santa Cruz Community Health patient and mother.

It's reaching the attention of congressman Jimmy Panetta, who vows to help provide funding to ensure projects like this are completed.

"We cannot solve these issues alone. We need to do everything we can at every single level of government to ensure people are allowed and have the opportunity to call the Central Coast their home," said Congressman Jimmy Panetta.

The clinics are expected to open in 2022. The construction of the housing buildings won't get started until spring 2022.