



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Brian J. Stretch  
Northern District of California**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SETTLES WITH HUMBOLDT COUNTY TO RESOLVE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT VIOLATIONS**

SAN FRANCISCO— The Justice Department announced a proposed consent decree today with Humboldt County resolving claims that the county violated Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The consent decree, which is still subject to approval by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, resolves the department’s complaint that the county’s facilities, programs, services and activities are inaccessible to individuals with disabilities in violation of the ADA, despite the county’s previous commitment to improve access by entering into a Project Civic Access (PCA) agreement with the United States.

“This office is committed to ensuring equal access to programs, both public and private,” said U.S. Attorney Brian J. Stretch. “The federal government will not tolerate discrimination that results when individuals are excluded from public access.”

“State and local governments must ensure that people with disabilities can access community services, programs and facilities without facing unlawful and discriminatory barriers,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “ADA compliance is not optional and the Justice Department works

tirelessly to make sure that people with disabilities can live their lives with the dignity, respect and independence they deserve.”

The consent decree is a court-enforceable commitment by Humboldt County to bring its facilities, programs, services and activities into compliance with the ADA and make the county more accessible to individuals with disabilities. Under the terms of the consent decree, the county will pay \$275,000 to compensate individuals with disabilities who faced barriers to access while attempting to use county facilities and programs. Under the decree, Humboldt County will also implement a wide range of actions to comply with the ADA, including the following:

- bring all county facilities, programs, services and activities into compliance with the ADA within three and a half years;
- ensure that the county website conforms to, at minimum, the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 Level AA Success Criteria;
- provide curb ramps at all county intersections;
- ensure that emergency management procedures, policies and shelters are accessible to individuals with disabilities; and
- hire an ADA coordinator, independent licensed architect, web accessibility coordinator and website accessibility consultant.

The United States has over 220 agreements with localities across the country under PCA, the department’s wide-ranging initiative to ensure that cities, towns and counties throughout the nation comply with the ADA. Humboldt County is one of the rare public entities that did not take the remedial actions required by a PCA agreement to comply with the ADA.

To read the consent decree and complaint, please visit [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov). For more information about the ADA, call the department’s toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (TDD 800-514-0383) or access the ADA website at [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov).

**Further Information:**

Case #: 16-5239

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/can](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/can).

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at [www.cand.uscourts.gov](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov).

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