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**Praiseworthy, Aug. 23, 2010: First 5 puts county's children first**

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, I want to recognize and thank First 5 Santa Cruz County for its generous, annual investment in the health of local children. For the past 11 years, First 5 has supported our local Health Care Outreach Coalition's efforts to identify, enroll and retain thousands of local children into Healthy Kids, Healthy Families and Medi-Cal coverage. First 5's support specifically enables us to cover children in their early years, when access to care and knowledge about healthy habits can set the stage for a lifetime of good health. First 5 has also supported our efforts to partner with other agencies to continue and expand this important role in the community. Thanks to First 5's leadership, we are working to ensure that all local children enjoy the healthiest possible start in life.

Maria Love, Health Services Agency, Santa Cruz