CALIFORNIA – SANTA CRUZ
Santa Cruz is known for its moderate climate, the natural beauty of its coastline, redwood forests, alternative community lifestyles, and socially liberal leanings. It is also home to the University of California, Santa Cruz, a premier research institution and educational hub, as well as the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, an oceanfront amusement park operating continuously since 1907.
Santa Cruz is one of America’s surfing capitals, complete with its own museum devoted to the sport, and a beach whose waves are known all over the world. Spend some time enjoying the amusements on the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, or head over to the local “mystery spot” where gravity doesn’t seem to work normally. For outdoor recreation, the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary and Natural Bridges State Park are the places to be.

WEATHER

CITIES & AIRPORTS
Closest international airport: San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
About 1.5 hours from San Francisco
About 5.5 hours from Los Angeles
About 7.5 hours from San Diego

COMMUNITY GROUPS & RESOURCES
We only have one employer in this community, and they do a great job with offering resources.

PROS & CONS
PRO: They offer very inexpensive housing across from the beach and work place. Close to San Francisco, Monterey, Hwy 1. Very cool beach town.
CON: Other housing options are very expensive. I suggest they stay with the employer. Not much night life.
THINGS TO DO & CULTURAL EVENTS
- Attend a free concerts at the Boardwalk
- Visit the Monterey Aquarium (check with employer for discounted tickets)
- Visit Redwoods State Park
- Bike from Natural Bridges to Capitola Wharf
- Visit the Museum of Art and History
- See the Farmers Market on Wednesday
- Attend an employer-provided event like a night at the beach, bowling night, arcade night, or beach volleyball

HOT TIPS
Students think of hot weather in California, but Santa Cruz is known for the fog and cold weather in the morning. Every year, participants complain about “how cold” it is and how they didn’t expect the lower temperatures.

MAP OF THE AREA
http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/USA/california_map.htm