



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Dori Poles Decorate Graduation Ceremonies at No Cost to Schools or Environment

**SANTA CRUZ (May 29, 2014)** – The City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department helps local schools celebrate graduation with less waste. Schools may borrow Dori Poles and colorful pennants free of charge for their special events.

Students, teachers, school staff and family members are planning graduation celebrations throughout the City of Santa Cruz. Decorations for these special events often generate extra trash. The use of balloons at these festivities can cause problems for the environment if they get loose.

The City of Santa Cruz does not want balloons and other litter to end up on local beaches or in the ocean. The Dori Pole program offered through the Department of Public Works provides a no-cost alternative to balloons and other waste-generating decorations. Dori Poles are fiberglass flag-mounting devices that can be used again and again, leaving nothing for the trash can after the event. The City offers both poles and colorful pennants to school groups free of charge.

Six Santa Cruz schools have already pledged to reduce waste and not use balloons for graduation. They will decorate with Dori Poles and pennants instead. The colorful cloth pennants wave gently in the wind, creating a festive atmosphere.

For more information about borrowing Dori Poles and the City's School Recycling and Waste Reduction Program, please call Interim Waste Reduction Manager Mary Simmons at 831.420.5449 or visit: [www.cityofsantacruz.com/schoolrecycling](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/schoolrecycling).

### About the City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department

The [Public Works Department](#) provides the City of Santa Cruz with a variety of services including engineering design, traffic engineering and maintenance, storm water management, street maintenance, resource recovery management, waste reduction programs, wastewater management, flood control and parking control. The Public Works Department is committed to bringing the Santa Cruz community the highest possible quality of life.

### Photos:

Costanoa High School Graduation at De Laveaga Park, Santa Cruz, 2013

Eighth grade graduation ceremony at Gateway School, Santa Cruz, 2013

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