

City Manager's Weekly Update

March 25, 2016

PARKS AND RECREATION

Louden Nelson Community Center

Senegalese Dance and Drum event, Saturday, March 26th at 7:00 pm



And the **Mission Hill Middle School Art Reception** is scheduled for Friday, March 25th 5:30 – 8:00 pm.

Civic

This weekend March 26 & 27 the Civic hosts Texas singer-songwriters Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen who, as friends spent many a night performing together on their front porches, will perform acoustic, stripped-down versions of their most well-known songs, and share the humorous and heartwarming stories behind them.

Saturday is nearing sell out – Sunday seats are still available. Shows start at 8pm.

[Great Tickets via SantaCruzTickets.com!](http://SantaCruzTickets.com)

Sister Cities Committee



Fifteen students from four different schools and 3 chaperones attended the City Council meeting last Tuesday to receive an official sendoff. The student delegation will be visiting our Sister City Shingu Japan for 10 days over the spring break. This yearly delegation is a wonderful opportunity for Santa Cruz student to experience the culture and warmth of one of our most treasured Sister Cities.

PUBLIC WORKS

Laboratory & Environmental Compliance

The Water Environment Research Foundation recently announced the appointment of Mohammad Karim, PhD, our Lab's Environmental Microbiologist II to its panel of experts on a 2-year project. The project titled "Evaluating Fate of Coliphages in WRRF and Potential Costs to reduce Coliphages in WRRF effluents" is important because it seeks to address the science and the financial costs of monitoring these indicators in reclaimed water manufacturing and in wastewater instead of commonly identified bacteria like E.coli. It is expected that the coliphages* will offer more reasonable and relevant indicators of the healthfulness of ambient waters in the country. Mohammad is the second scientist in the history of our lab to have been invited to participate at this important level of environmental health analyses by WERF.

*Coliphages are viruses that are only infective to bacteria, and are only present when their specific bacteria hosts are in the sample.

The picture below shows Mohammad at work at the current qPCR workstation at the City laboratory.

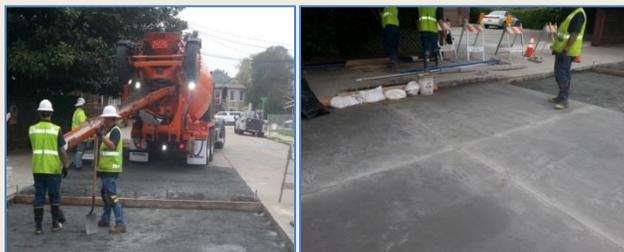


Engineering

West Cliff Path Sinkhole work began this week and is expected to continue the next couple of weeks. The City, aided by Mesiti-Miller Engineering, geotechnical engineers Haro Kasunich & Associates and the Don Chapin Company (general contractor), is moving forward with a plan to stabilize the wall and fill in the hole.

Streets/Traffic

Crew replaced a concrete segment of Spruce Street.



Resource Recovery

Facility and Processing

Landfill operations concluded wood and green waste processing operations this week. Approximately 500 tons of mulch (ground up green waste) was left on-site for intermediate slope cover for erosion control.

Green Business Program

Wednesday was the 2016 Santa Cruz Business Fair (Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce). We were front and center as attendees entered. It was a great opportunity to network with businesses and community members. We've already had one follow-up and new application!



We're now working on certifications for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center, Toadal Fitness (both locations), Santa Cruz Community Credit Union and Santa Cruz CORE Fitness + Rehab.

Waste Reduction

Our "Recycle Right!" videos went live this week. There is a comprehensive 14+ minute video and short individual segments for each material type: Glass, Metal, Cardboard, Paper, Plastic and Plastic Bags at: www.cityofsantacruz.com/recycleright.



Community Outreach

We announced our "Recycle Right!" video series in [Sentinel op-ed](#) on March 20 and [press release](#) on March 21. In four days, the videos have been viewed over 1000 times on our [YouTube page](#).

The videos aim to help everyone in Santa Cruz get the right material into the right bin which will reduce the amount of trash in the city landfill and conserve natural resources. Six different videos demonstrate exactly what can and cannot be curbside recycled within our City.



WATER

The good news from the Water Department this week is that our **\$25 million loan** application was unanimously approved by the I-Bank Board of Directors in Sacramento on Tuesday. This was a huge accomplishment and entailed a great deal of work by Water Department staff, with assistance from City Finance staff. The loan will become available to us once we have successfully completed the Prop 218 process for our upcoming rate increase.

Education was a big focus for us this week. Both the **Trout in the Classroom** and the **Watershed programs** with Santa Cruz City Schools have paid recent visits to Loch Lomond as part of curriculum field trips. We now have 98 new baby trout fry in the lake with more to come next week! Speaking of fish in the lake, the Loch Lomond Recreation Area has been very busy, with both the bait and the snack inventory being fully depleted last weekend. This weekend our monthly Loch Walks/Talks commence again with an overview of the watershed and service operations for participants. We began the monthly Loch Walks last summer when the Recreation Area was closed to enable some limited access for the public. The Loch Walks proved so popular that we are continuing the program this year even though the park is open to the public again.



Trout about to be released



Students releasing trout

Yesterday at 4:00 pm we opened bids for **Phase 3 of the North Coast project**. This project entails installing 16,500 feet of new pipe for the North Coast system. The low bid was \$4.7 million, which is \$1.3 million less than the engineers estimate.

Last, but certainly not least (!), there has now been enough runoff in the San Lorenzo River that the 2016 Water Year is officially classified as (drumroll) **NORMAL!** More to come on this topic.