

# City Manager's Weekly Update

## May 25, 2018

### PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### PG&E Tree Removal

Last week, the Zoning Administrator approved Coastal Permits associated with PG&E's request to remove seven of eight trees in various locations throughout the Coastal Zone as part of the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative (CPSI) Program. The goal of the CPSI is to maintain clear areas above underground natural gas mains in order to provide adequate access for both maintenance and emergency services, thereby improving the safety of natural gas infrastructure throughout the service area. The CPSI includes removing large trees near natural gas mains where their location precludes access to the main or where the roots have the potential to compromise the integrity of the pipeline.

While some of the opposition addressed the CPSI tree removal program as a whole, there was focused concern with removal of a 21-inch diameter red flowering eucalyptus tree in the right-of-way adjacent to an office building at 200 Washington Street. In addition to obstructing the sidewalk, the tree in question is within five feet of a gas pipeline and was therefore one of the seven trees approved for removal. Another request involving a heritage yucca in front of a residence at 130 Jenne Street did not receive approval based on the City Arborist's opinion that a root barrier could feasibly be installed to preclude the necessity of removal. One or more appeals of the Zoning Administrator's actions are anticipated from opponents and/or the applicant. The appeal deadline is May 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Appeals of the Zoning Administrator's decision are heard by the Planning Commission. Planning Commission decisions are appealable to the City Council. Clara Stanger is the planner working on the applications.



201 Washington Street – Eucalyptus



130 Jenne Street – Yucca

## **Short-Term Rentals**

Following the California Coastal Commission's April 2018 approval of the City's new short term rental (STR) ordinance, this past week the City sent out over 500 letters to existing short-term rental owners and operators informing them of the upcoming STR registration process. The City implemented a new online transient occupancy tax registration and STR permit system, called Prime, to facilitate easy registration and online payments. Once the registrations are complete for existing STRs, applications for new hosted STR will be accepted. The Prime portal will be accessible at the City's Online Payments page (<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/how-do-i/pay>). More information about STRs can be found here: [www.cityofsantacruz.com/shorttermrentals](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/shorttermrentals), and updates will be posted on that page when applications are being accepted for new hosted STRs.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### San Lorenzo Park

Food Trucks are back in San Lorenzo Park **Friday May 25, 5:00 – 8:00 pm** with a HUGE Santa Cruz Block Party! Whether from Westside, Eastside, Seabright, Beach Hill or Downtown, Santa Cruzans are encouraged to come break bread with their neighbors, enjoy fantastic food truck cuisine and boogie down to the foot stompin' tunes of local favorites [Coffee Zombie Collective](#). Santa Cruz neighborhood police teams will be there to chat with folks and answer questions. Santa Cruz Neighbors will be on hand promoting September's neighborhood block parties and connecting people to their neighborhood group. This is a great opportunity to celebrate with the community before the summer rush begins.



### Civic

Thursday, May 24 at 5pm, Cabrillo College Nurses' Pinning Graduation: The Civic Auditorium is honored to host the Cabrillo College Nurses' Graduation ceremony. The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program at Cabrillo College begins in the fall and spring semesters of each year. It is a four semester program. We will have an expected attendance of about 350 community members. Doors open at 4pm.

The Civic is also excited to be recognized by the Public Works Department as a Clean Ocean Business 10 years running!

### Bay Street Median

Parks staff is currently testing "gator bags" which hopefully will improve the watering of newly planted trees. The bags can be filled rapidly from a water tank trailer. The bags are designed to gradually deliver water to saturate the tree's root zone. This product will hopefully improve efficiencies of the watering route as well as prevent overspray and weed growth. Five hundred trees are being planted at part of the Cal-Fire Grant Award.



### **Santa Cruz Riverwalk**

The Museum of Natural History's Earth Stewards Program, a program which provides youth natural resource restoration job skills, helped renovate the landscaping along the Riverwalk. The project involved weeding, mulching, composting, and planting more than 75 plants. Parks staff truly enjoys working alongside the stewards and appreciate the initiative, engagement, and enthusiasm – not to mention the help!



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Engineering

The Upper Park Road Slide Repair Project began Monday, May 21, and is expected to conclude by Aug. 1, 2018. The contractor is placing k-rail, installing temporary signals above and below the site, mobilizing equipment and delivering material to a staging area before beginning excavation. During this first project phase, there will be only minor traffic delays.

### Wastewater Treatment Facility

Mechanics completed fabrication of stainless steel scum skimmers for Primary Sedimentation Basin 5. Electricians and mechanics teamed up to replace an automatic by-pass valve on our Digester 1 gas mixing compressor. Electricians completed a repair to a blown effluent filter breaker.



### Community Relations

We concluded an action-packed National Public Works Week. Celebrations included the community ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new Bike Share program led by Mayor David Terrazas on Tuesday.



Also on Tuesday during the City Council meeting, the Mayor presented a proclamation declaring this National Public Works Week to Public Works Director Mark Dettle. The proclamation encouraged citizens to “join with the dedicated employees of our Public Works Department in activities and events celebrating the important projects and daily services of

public works professionals and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our health, safety and quality of life. “



The Mayor also presented Public Works staff with two regional American Public Works Association awards: 2018 Public Works Person of the Year was awarded to our Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Chris Schneider and 2018 Project of the Year Award for Projects Less than \$5 Million was awarded to the City of Santa Cruz, TRC Solutions and Graniterock Construction for the Branciforte Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge & Multi-Use Trail Project.



Chris’s infrastructure accomplishments began in 1987. He and his staff have been responsible for hundreds of major City of Santa Cruz improvements including the Arana Gulch Bridge and Multi-Use Trail Project, the retrofitting and replacement of our bridges, the construction of Depot Park, the San Lorenzo River Bike/Pedestrian Bridge and Highway 1 underpass path, various bike lane, erosion control and traffic signal projects, the Wharf and Depot Park roundabouts, three refuse cells and storm water bypass tunnels, the downtown parking structures, the Secondary Treatment Upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Facility and recently, the Branciforte Creek Bicycle/Ped Bridge & Multi-Use Trail Project which completed the gap in our 5-mile Riverwalk system and received the second APWA award.

We hosted 12 community trolley tours to our Recycling Center and Wastewater Treatment Facility in celebration of National Public Works Week. A wide range of ages participated including students from Santa Cruz High on their lunch hour break.



## **Street Smarts**

This week's Street Smarts message reminds drivers that they are required by law to yield to pedestrians at ALL intersections – even those without a crosswalk. The long form of this message can be read [here](#). The video can be viewed here in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

