

City Manager's Weekly Update

August 26, 2016

CITY MANAGER

Following up on **river levee safety**, the Neighborhood Safety Team met yesterday and developed a plan to improve conditions. Action items include (1) making and posting signs to implement a closure of the inner reach of the river and park rule to limit access to paved paths/areas; (2) enhanced levee patrols; (3) increased levee cleanups and maintenance; (4) evaluating potential environmental design improvements (fencing, lighting, etc.); and (5) outreach to current river partners. We will have a more detailed outline of the action plan for Council and community next week.

The recruitment for our **Principal Management Analyst** position closed on August 11th and interviews are scheduled for mid-September. The candidate pool is strong and we are hoping to find an excellent new addition to our office. Once the position is in place later this year, our office will be fully staffed and functional for the first time in over a year. We will finalize assignments and workflow, which I will share with you so you know your best contact, by issue or need.

PARKS AND RECREATION

RECREATION DIVISION

Aloha Polynesian Festival

We had a very successful 24th annual Aloha Polynesian Festival and outrigger races last weekend. We had lots of our community come out to race, cheer on racers and enjoy the Polynesian feel. There was music, vendors and outrigger racing all day as we highlighted our Santa Cruz Wharf.



WATER

This week the Water Department got over two important financial hurdles: adoption of the resolution approving new water rates and rate structures, and completing the agreement with I Bank for our \$25M loan. Completion of the agreement with I Bank means that we will be able to immediately submit claims against the \$25M loan to reimburse ourselves for some \$22M in infrastructure that we've already completed. Many thanks to Council members for your direction on our financial planning and rate studies, as well as your support for the new direction we are going with incentive-based water rates.

We had some nice press this week, beginning with an article in Sunday's Sentinel on our North Coast project: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/environment-and-nature/20160819/santa-cruz-water-departments-north-coast-pipereplacement-continues>, and a wonderful letter to the editor complimenting the Department on Monday: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/opinion/20160825/praiseworthy-letters-to-the-editor-aug-22-2016-100-years-of-santa-cruzwater-plus-good-service> and positive press in both the Sentinel and on KSBW on the approved changes to our rates and on our online water rate calculator <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/business/20160823/santa-cruz-council-encourages-conservation-with-new-water-rate-structure>

Work on the Cedar Street main replacement continues. The contractor has installed about 50% of the water main. After a slow start due to all the misinformation we were given on the placement of other underground utilities, we are now picking up the pace and are currently two weeks behind schedule.

We are preparing for Phase 4, the final phase, of the Bay Street Reservoir project. The final phase includes landscaping, grading, some hardscape and a restroom. The project engineer is working closely with the neighborhood on the landscape plans to be sure that security is maintained for property owners as well as for the tanks site.

Tomorrow is the August "Loch Walk". This month's ranger-led program focuses on the birds who call Loch Lomond home. There are two more programs in September and October, before the Recreation Areas closes for the season. I hope you've had a chance to enjoy some time at Loch Lomond this summer; it really is a hidden jewel and a wonderful escape from the dreary weather downtown!



An osprey on the shore of Loch Lomond

PUBLIC WORKS

Operations

The annual San Lorenzo River vegetation maintenance project is nearly completed. The next phase will be disking which will help promote scour of the riverbed.



Streets/Traffic

Crews worked on Brookwood Drive to improve drainage by scraping, backfilling, compacting and asphaltting as needed.



Engineering

2016 Overlay Program pavement work has been completed this week with the installation of asphalt concrete at [King Street](#), [Grant Street](#) and [North Plymouth Street](#). Adjustment of utility structures will continue through next week. Final striping of the new pavement will occur next week. This project is expected to be completed by the second week of September.



Wastewater Operations and Maintenance

Emergency's repairs have been completed to an underground 2-water leak. The 2-water system is recycled water used at the facility for equipment lubrication, chemical makeup water and hose bibs located all around the facility. The section of 2-water distribution line was installed back in the 1988 advanced primary upgrade project.

Maintenance has started the rebuild process of primary sedimentation tank #1. Tank drive sprockets, chains and scum collector will be replaced in this process. Photo below shows the new scum collector from primary tank #2 that was fabricated and installed by our maintenance staff.



Wastewater Collection

Line cleaning crews are working in Zone 10 Harvey West/River Street and Zone 06 Lower Ocean Street areas. Construction crews completed 6 manhole removals and replacements on Keystone and Arbor Streets. Flood Control continued to identify sewer laterals that are in service or dead on Cedar, Elm and Maple Streets for future sewer upgrade.

Resource Recovery Facility and Processing

Cell 3 excavations have started on the eastern slope; work addressing some unconsolidated fill will be done this week.



Administration

Staff worked with six state and federal environmental agents over the period of a month, successfully resulting in issuance of new permits allowing the City to implement new management practices for the San Lorenzo River lagoon and outlet channel. These important new practices, which will be implemented beginning Monday 8/29, will allow the City to

maintain the outlet channel in an “open” configuration. This will end the extremely dangerous illegal breach events which the lifeguards have been grappling with all summer, as well as end the flooding problems for the Boardwalk and surrounding neighborhood.



Waste Reduction

Waste Reduction Staff met with members of the school community this week in preparation for the new school year including key teachers, food services director and head custodial staff. Recycling center school tours are scheduled for the fall season with Westlake and De Laveaga 4th and 5th grade classes visiting in September, October and November.

The final public summer tour of the Resource Recovery Facility took place this week. We had 17 very enthusiastic participants who toured the facility and received answers to their individual recycling questions.

Still, we will be hosting 1:30 p.m. trolley tours of the facility every Wednesday in September. Details and reservation information can be accessed [here](#).

**PUBLIC WORKS
TROLLEY TOURS**

Wednesdays at 1:30, 3, 4 p.m.
September 7, 14, 21, 28
Board at Cedar & Lincoln streets

Reserve: jbisgaard@cityofsantacruz.com

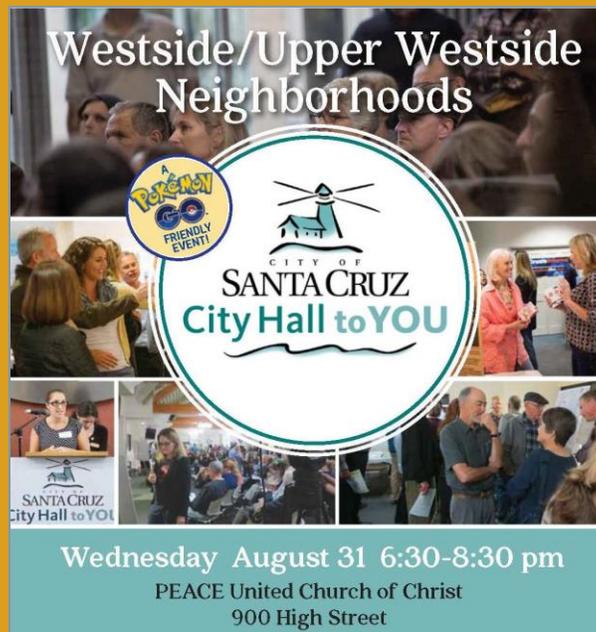
Waste Reduction staff is working with the Arts Program Manager on the SCRAP- Santa Cruz Recycle Art Program to develop an educational component to the artist residency. Artists will give short presentations to students about their artwork using reclaimed waste materials as part of the recycling tours this fall.

The number of Green Business quarterly e-newsletter recipients has increased from 500 to 700 over the first year. The open rate is very strong at 30%.

Community Relations

Our 15th story was published in Santa Cruz Waves City Beat column: [WHAT DOES POKÉMON GO AND THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ HAVE IN COMMON?](#)

Promotional work and event planning continued for our [Aug. 31 Westside City Hall to YOU](#). Over 20 displays are planned featuring City programs and projects relevant to the Westside.



Staff prepared El Nino community outreach information for annual FEMA CRS rating application.

Resource Recovery Collection

After 30 + years we are moving our foot print in the corporation yard. We have cleaned out bays 7, 8, 9 in building C to move over to bays 12, 13 and 15. This also has allowed us to do some much needed spring cleaning.



Wastewater Collection

Our Pump Crew is busy preparing for the annual Army Corp inspection with standby generator service and housekeeping.

Laboratory & Environmental Compliance

Our laboratory has been preparing to adapt to the pathogen indicator standard proposed for monitoring environmental water quality. The indicators are called bacteriophages, and USEPA is working with regulators, scientists and laboratories in a move to promulgate them as the standard to assess water quality starting in 2018. Our laboratory processed its first batch of

bacteriophages this week. Bacteriophages are viruses that infect only bacteria hosts, and will help to more closely correlate the indicators with calculations of health related risks. Picture below shows the Environmental Microbiologist II attempting to score a petri dish that could be harvested for the bacteriophages.



Picture 1. Scoring bacteriophage plate in the lab

The laboratory received another batch of septage samples to evaluate as part of its ongoing support for Plant operations to assess the load from a septic hauler this week. Samples are brought in to the lab in a program coordinated with Operations and Environmental Compliance. They are currently analyzed for toxicity as in the picture below before they are accepted as presented; with pretreatment; or rejected. Environmental Compliance is in the process of acquiring a respirometer to strengthen the resource kits for this type of evaluation very shortly.



Picture 2. Chemist at Microtox station this week.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

La Bahia Hotel - The Santa Cruz Seaside Company, owner of La Bahia, is finalizing operator and financing agreements. Once complete they will develop detailed construction plans, go through the City's plan-check review and obtain permits. So the actual demolition and construction is not expected to begin until next year.

Courtyard Marriott (313 Riverside) - The building permits for the new 4 story Marriott Hotel are issued and the job-site is fenced off. Demolition of the existing buildings had begun, but is now halted due to the presence of additional building materials requiring abatement. The Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) is the authority having jurisdiction over the abatement protocol and permit at this time. They are monitoring the job-site while further testing and evaluation is being conducted. Demolition of the remaining structures will not commence until the remaining abatement is completed.

Downtown Recovery Plan Amendments - On September 15, 2016, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider accepting draft Amendments to the Downtown Recovery Plan (DRP) to allow construction of additional mixed use projects and housing. These changes would allow higher buildings in the area of Pacific and Front, from Cathcart to Laurel Street – similar to the heights allowed on upper Pacific since the earthquake. This is another opportunity to receive input on amendments that have been discussed over the past 18 months. This meeting is the 14th in a series of public hearings and community meetings, including the Downtown City Hall to You meeting that was held June 1st. The purpose of the September 15th Planning Commission meeting will be to consider making a recommendation to the City Council to accept the draft DRP Amendments for the purposes of beginning the environmental analysis in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). After the CEQA analysis is completed, there will be additional public hearings with the Planning Commission and City Council in early 2017. These amendments are focused on areas south of Soquel Avenue on Pacific Avenue and Front Street.

