

City Manager's Weekly Update

June 2, 2017

POLICE

Retiring Police Chief Vogel Receives Memorable Farewell

Members of the Santa Cruz community and leadership turned out to this week to pay tribute to Chief Vogel. He was presented with numerous plaques and a commemorative badge to honor his time and achievements at the Santa Cruz Police Department. "It's been my honor and privilege to serve the City of Santa Cruz," said Chief Vogel.

To show their appreciation for more than three decades of dedicated service to the community, the department's officers gave him a send-off Thursday afternoon when he left his office for the final time.

The traditional "walk-out" when he left headquarters included a broadcast radio sign off duty

for the last time. SCPD also presented Chief Vogel with the flag that flew on his last day.

[Click here](#) for Chief Vogel's final radio log off with a photo montage.

<https://goo.gl/Oy8YW9>

"It has been an amazing journey working with our community. I am honored to have worked alongside the dedicated and brave officers at the Santa Cruz Police Department." - Chief Vogel



Another Successful Coffee with a Cop Event

This week at [The Buttery](#), SCPD Officers enjoyed a coffee to catch up, interact, and build relationships with the community. "Coffee with a Cop" is an opportunity for residents to develop relationships with neighborhood police officers and fellow community members. In light of recent national events, many people have questions and concerns about policing. This friendly and informal atmosphere is a great way to ask questions, voice concerns, discuss problems and craft solutions together.



In the end, police officers and the community have the same goal: healthy, thriving neighborhoods that are free of crime and dangerous conditions.

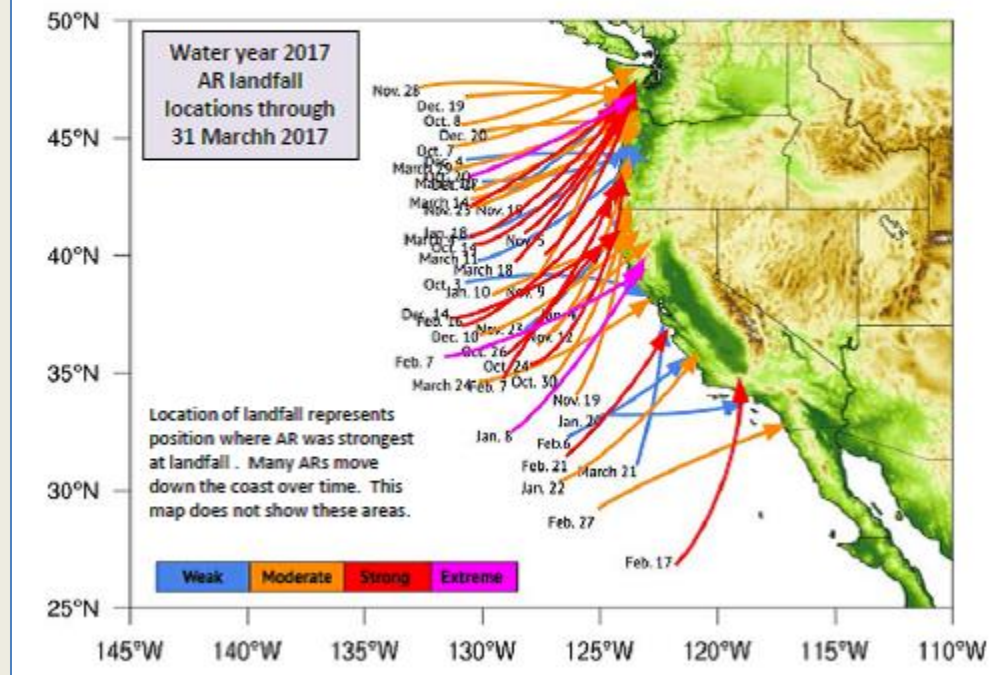
Coffee with a Cop is a “sip” in the right direction. More dates to come.



WATER

As a follow-up to our recent budget presentation, which underscored the impact of this year's storms on water infrastructure, I thought you might like to see a visual record of the number of "atmospheric river" storms that hit the west coast this year:

- 46 Atmospheric Rivers have made landfall on the West Coast thus far during the 2017 water year (1 Oct. – 31 March 2017)
- This is much greater than normal
- 1/3 of the landfalling ARs have been "strong" or "extreme"



A "fun fact" about atmospheric rivers: an average atmospheric river transports 20 times the average discharge of the Mississippi River, or 20M acre feet, per day, as water vapor!

And in related news, 2017 is officially the second wettest local year on record, as measured by cumulative annual runoff in the San Lorenzo River. The river generated a total of 271,000 acre feet of runoff so far this year, surpassing 1941's previous record as the second-wettest year. Only the 1983 water year was higher than 2017, with about 283,000 acre feet of runoff. (But the 2017 "water year" isn't over yet, either...)

Next week, a year's worth of work on organizational development will culminate with a strategic planning event. Water Department staff has identified the strategic issues that are most critical to our ability to complete the massive volume of work we have ahead of us. Though much work has already gone into the strategic planning phase, next week will serve as the nexus for implementing improvements to our work processes.

PUBLIC WORKS

Wastewater Treatment: Operations

Maintenance completed their work on the annual tank inspection and upgrades for Clarifier #2. Operations was able to place the system back into service. Odors are often present during tank cleanings and filling tasks, to mitigate potential odors Operators add bleach as the tank is filling. Bleaching causes the liquid to foam some as the oxidizing chemical interacts with the biological products in the water. The clarification process occurring in these secondary clarifiers provides gravity separation of accumulated microorganisms that have completed their task of breaking down organic molecules present in the water. These annual tank inspections are essential to ensuring optimal performance of the treatment processes.

Shown below an operator is hosing out a pipe chase in one of the recirculation pump rooms for one of the anaerobic digester. Anaerobic digestion provides a zero oxygen environment for biological stabilization of the separated wastewater solids. The stabilization reduces the odor generating potential and pathogenic content of the separated solids while producing methane gas (used in electricity generation by the Cogeneration engine) and improving its consistency for the next treatment process, dewatering. It was discovered that a drain in this particular pipe chase was clogged and the resulting standing, drying out sludge material (treated solids that have been removed from the wastewater) that turns out to be a great home for fly larvae. The very astute graveyard shift operator noticed a fly hatch occurring in this room and the day shift was quick to respond with clean up, including a thorough bleaching and drain clearing to prevent a reoccurrence.



Primary Sedimentation Basin #5 has been emptied and cleaned for an annual inspection. The annual tank inspections are essential to ensuring optimal performance of the treatment processes. The primary sedimentation process provides for gravity separation of solids which are too light to settle in the aerated grit removal tanks, yet too dense to remain in suspension.



Wastewater Treatment: Maintenance

An on-site contractor accidentally broke through a potable water-line this past Friday while they were chiseling out an old concrete pad, as preparation for its replacement. Although the water line isolation and repair occurred relatively quickly, we experienced a minor issue with a blow-off preventer valve elsewhere on the potable water line once the service was restored. Maintenance staff came in, on their day off, to repair the blow-off preventer and took the opportunity to train Operations staff on this particular repair. Blow-off preventer valves are used throughout the facility to protect potable water service lines from potential contamination from the various water qualities present on-site.



The maintenance team never ceases to amaze as they expertly removed and replaced a very large, 26,650 cubic feet per second, suction fan that draws foul odors off of various tanks in the solids dewatering section of the facility to be treated with ozone in the Odor Reduction Tower. The entire removal, installation and equipment testing has been completed in two days!



Wastewater Treatment: Electrical

Electrical staff have been assisting with the removal and installation of the large suction fan at the Solids Dewatering Odor Reduction Tower, unhooking the old fan and wiring up the new one. In between this scheduled task the electrical team came to the aid of Operations when the control box for the portable pump being used to clean out Primary Sedimentation Tank #5 stopped working. Electrical staff made quick work of the problem that had completely halted operational tasks, by removing and repairing weakened wiring that went into the plug for the control box from the pump itself.



Engineering

The Fall 2016 Surface Seal Project work completed this week consisted of finishing the cat-tracking and starting the installation of street striping. We also completed adjustment of sanitary sewer manhole frames and covers. The Fall 2016 Overlay Project work completed this week consisted of grinding existing asphalt concrete on Mission Street Extension and Swanton Blvd. Also, concrete work continued on Ocean Street including removal and replacement of damaged curbs and gutters, sidewalks and curb ramps.



Surface Seal



Overlay

Community Relations

On May 31 we held our Safety Awards Lunch for all Public Works employees. We celebrated employees with 1, 5 10 and 25+ years handling heavy equipment and other often technically

challenging jobs without incurring injury. Director Mark Dettle also awarded performance awards to Office Administrative Supervisor Filipina Warren and Waste Reduction Manager Mary Simmons.



Employee Promotions and Professional Achievements

Please congratulate Travis Gonsalves as he has been promoted to Assistant Engineer I, effective June 6. The newly approved position is to assist with development and implementation of the upcoming sewer lateral ordinance and to coordinate utility trenching in the public row. There will be some transition time where he will continue with his existing projects and other assignments.

And please join us in congratulating Scott Glucs on getting his PE license!

Community Relations

We are happy to announce that AT&T has increased its sponsorship of our Street Smarts campaign from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and both KION and Good Times have agreed to become substantial media sponsors. Details are in the works!