

City Manager's Weekly Update

January 22, 2016

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On October 21, 2015, the **Museum of Art and History (MAH)** submitted an application for a Design Permit, a Minor Historic Alteration Permit, and an Administrative Use Permit to convert the first floor of the building located at 725 Front Street and Abbot Square into a public marketplace. The proposal included the creation of four restaurant spaces with full kitchens, two food kiosks, and one bar with shared indoor and outdoor seating areas, and the creation of a "Secret Garden" behind the museum and accessible from Abbott Square. The project would also activate Abbott Square. It has been designed with movable tables and chairs so that the indoor and outdoor spaces can accommodate various forms of live entertainment that would be open to the public. By the zoning codes the project required Zoning Administrator approval at a noticed public hearing. The item was scheduled for the January 6, 2016 meeting and, after hearing public testimony, the item was continued to the January 20, 2016 meeting at the request of the applicant. The continuance was requested to allow the applicant time to coordinate the design of exterior improvements with the property owner of the adjacent building (the Neary Building). The item was heard again on January 20, 2016 and was approved with conditions by the Zoning Administrator. The Minor Historic Alteration permit for exterior improvements to the historic site was approved administratively with conditions on December 21, 2015. The project is appealable to the Planning Commission and City Council; otherwise this is the final zoning approval for the project to move forward. The City Council will have the opportunity to hear the details of the project in an informational presentation by the project applicant, Nina Simon, at the February 9, 2016 City Council meeting.

The proposal for **Santa Cruz Shakespeare (SCS)** to develop and operate an outdoor theater in **Delaveaga Park** was considered by the Planning Commission at a public hearing on January 26. The proposal would allow for a two year trial for use of the area near the former Stroke Center site as a theater for SCS and additional similar use. About 125 people attended the meeting, and those speaking represented positions both for and against the project. Primary issues of concern were related to traffic, noise, and habitat disturbance. The Commission asked many questions of Planning and Parks and Recreation staff, consultants, and the applicant - which served to clarify and understand the proposal in detail. Additional measures to address traffic and neighborhood concerns were offered by SCS. The Commission recommended by a 5-2 vote that the City Council approve the project. The two commissioners voting against supported the theater in Delaveaga Park, however, one thought the permit should be for a 4 year term and the other thought more site design refinement should be considered. The City Council will consider the application at a public hearing on February 9.

The **Corridor Planning and Rezoning Project** continues to move forward. The next Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting will be Monday, January 25th from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the ABC meeting room in the Civic. This meeting, as well as the February CAC meeting, will focus on Mobility and Parking and dovetails with the City's work on developing the **Active Transportation Plan**. The CAC meetings to follow over the next few months will address Design

and Development Standards, with recommendations to the Planning Commission scheduled for mid-summer. The Open House that was held Thursday, January 21st for general Corridor information and questions was productive; attended by about 10 interested residents. There will be monthly open houses through the spring to respond to questions about the purpose, details and process of this project.

Amendments to the Downtown Recovery Plan (DRP) continue to move forward. With the assistance of ROMA Design Group, a series of recommended development standards have been discussed with the Planning Commission DRP ad hoc committee. While there are several moving pieces in this amendment effort relating to the METRO site, the Devcon Properties, LLC, parking garages and other conceptual plans for Front Street development, the Planning Commission DRP ad hoc committee remains engaged and will be presenting recommendations to the full Planning Commission on February 4th. Once the full Planning Commission weighs in on the proposed standards, the amendments will proceed through the environmental review process and return for final consideration for adoption. These changes will help facilitate additional housing and other reinvestment in the area of Pacific from Cathcart to Laurel Streets.

The Planning Department has received comments from the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on the **Draft 2015-2023 Housing Element** and has been working with HCD staff to address the questions and comments. The overall minor modifications to the Draft Housing Element will be presented to the Planning Commission on February 18 for a recommendation to the City Council for final adoption, tentatively scheduled for March 22.

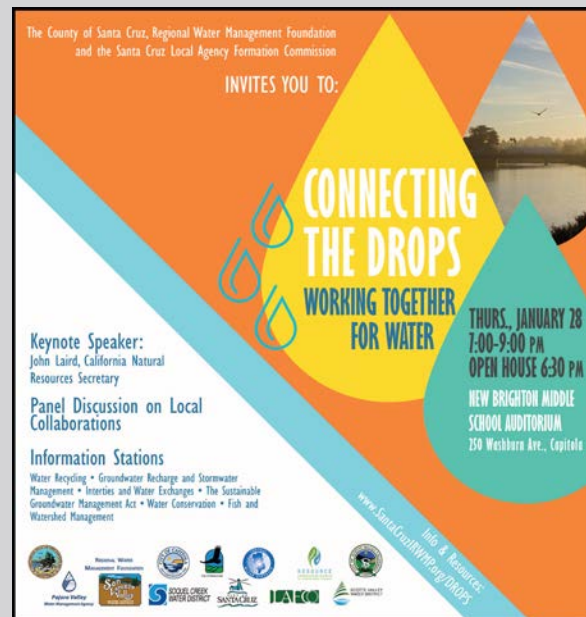
WATER

We continue to move forward, albeit with mostly baby steps right now, on the approved **Water Supply Advisory Committee** recommendations. This week Rosemary presented the WSAC recommendations to the board of directors for the Soquel Creek Water District. The meeting went well and they seem positive about the water transfer strategies. We are looking forward to being able to begin pilot a transfer later this winter!

Councilmember Posner and Rosemary attended a meeting of the **Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Committee** meeting last night and I'm pleased to report that the group approved the draft joint powers agreement that would form the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The JPA will now be submitted to the City Council and County Board of Supervisors, and to the Soquel Creek and Central Water District boards of directors for final ratification. The new organization will be officially formed when the last of the four partner agency takes action on the JPA. The revised JPA will be included in the consent agenda items for Santa Cruz City Council action at its February 9th meeting.

The SAGMC has proved to be a good forum to discuss other regional water issues and with that in mind, we would like to invite and encourage all council members to attend next week's "Connect the Drops" event Thursday night at New Brighton Middle School. John Laird will be the keynote speaker and the event is designed to inform the community about how Santa Cruz

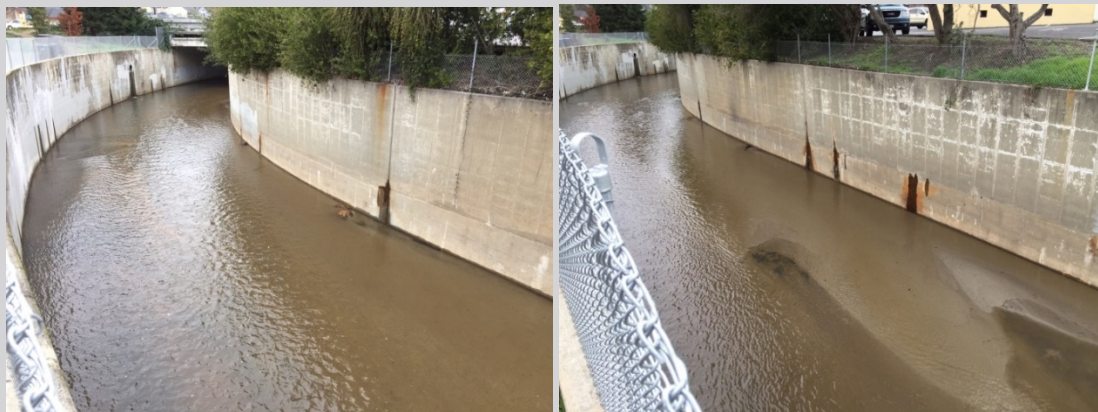
County water agencies are working together to protect and manage our water resources. I hope you'll have a chance to stop by.



PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

In October we successfully completed sediment removal from **Branciforte Creek channel**. 1,800 cubic yards of vegetation and sediment were removed without impacting the wetted area. This week, the channel experienced very high water flows. Photos and video taken at Branciforte Creek near Market and Water streets on Jan. 19 underscore the success of our fall sediment removal. If not for this work, the channel would likely have been several feet higher this week. <https://youtu.be/NKsZdq1YMRI>.



January 21, 2016: Middle sediment berm is all washed away, only very coarse sediment remains.



An area where the excavator could not reach the vegetation, the roots held on to the sediment layer and the force of the water peeled it back.



October 22, 2015: Sediment removal from Branciforte Creek Channel.

Miramar/King Intersection Improvements Project – The contractor is expected to pave the intersection today, Jan. 21, which will be the last major operation of the contract. Some traffic control should be expected.

Levee Lighting Project – With the exception of the landscape work, which is a condition of the grant from the Resources Agency, all of the contract work is complete. The landscape will be installed during the performance period of the grant, which has been extended until 2019 to allow planting when the state has emerged from the drought. There is a grand opening ceremony scheduled for Friday 22 January at the exercise area south of the Laurel Street Bridge. The lights have been functional since 14 January. Here is a sneak peek:



West Cliff Path Erosion – The bluff face approximately 370 feet west of the intersection with Woodrow Avenue has experienced an accelerated rate of erosion due to the large swells generated by a series of powerful storms over the past six weeks. The department has been developing a plan to protect the path from erosion for a while, but the situation has worsened and plans have been prepared to place large boulders (rip rap) on the rock shelf to armor the face of the bluff against wave action. We anticipate being able to construct this revetment work in the next couple of weeks.

Bay Drive Path Erosion – Erosion has been monitored which is threatening the Bay Drive Path approximately 740 feet south of the intersection with Nobel Drive. The pathway has been closed given safety concerns. A geotechnical investigation has been conducted and a report is being written which will outline some possible approaches to mitigating this condition.

Operations

Streets/Traffic -Brookwood flooded and had to be closed temporarily. Additionally, staff has been responding to storm drains citywide and during dry spells, filling potholes.

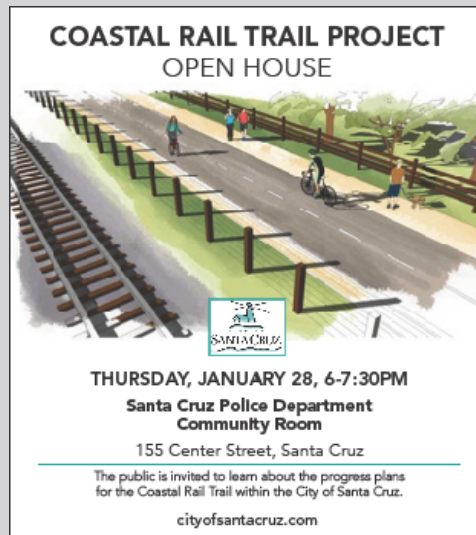


Resource Recovery

We have shipped our second load of mattresses through the California Used Mattress Recycling Program. This program covers the costs for shipping and the recycling fee and we receive a handling fee per piece. We are now accepting mattresses at no charge from residents and individuals.

Community Relations

We completed all event details and outreach for this Friday's San Lorenzo River levee lighting ceremony. An ad was placed in this week's Good Times for our January 28 Coastal Rail Trail Open House:



Operations

Branciforte Pathway - Last fall Community Relations worked with Parks and Rec and PD in response to residents' complaints regarding activity in the Branciforte Creek pathway area resulting in the installation of four pathway signs. As complaints have continued from both residents and businesses, Public Works has initiated a discussion to assess the advisability of funding gates/fencing to close that portion of the B4 access between Ocean and May streets to reduce the criminal and nuisance activity.

We have determined there may be multiple conflicting interests, i.e. cyclists, pedestrians and the Army Corps (flood control). We are willing to fund the project, but would like to see a public outreach effort first to make sure it is supported. It really boils down to making sure we don't spend limited funds on fencing that may be removed after installation. Officer Ken Deeg has already responded that he will soon bring the neighbors and businesses together to begin a community discussion.



Facilities

Staff has been responding to ant problems in city facilities and clogged roof drains and leaking roofs.

Resource Recovery

Landfill Engineering and Permitting - Staff submitted the landfill's 4th Quarter CARB Report to the Monterey Air Pollution Control District last week as it is due by January 30. This report includes the quarterly surface methane emissions monitoring results for the landfill. Staff is currently working on the Semi-Annual Report due to the Regional Water Quality Control Board by January 31.

Facility Operations and Processing - Gibson Resource Group is on-site this week processing approximately 1500 tons of wood and green waste.

Staff has received bids for concrete processing and Ferma has received the contract. They will be processing 5000 tons of clean concrete and rubble (bricks, tile, and asphalt). The clean concrete will be available for sale as base rock to the public and the rubble will be used as road base and winter pads for the landfill.

Collections - Due to heavy rain, the retention pond on the other side of the Corporation Yard was filling faster than the outlet could handle, causing flooding in our welding shop.

This week we filled our last open Solid Waste Worker position. Our new employee is Jack Beard.

PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS DIVISION

Recycled Turf Being Installed at Driving Range

The Delaveaga Golf Course Driving Range is recycling over 130,000 square feet of artificial turf. The majority was removed from the Scott Kennedy Fields during last year's reconstruction project. Rather than sending the still usable turf to the land fill, staff worked with the contractor to acquire additional, free artificial turf, and all material is being used to improve our driving range. Staff has removed the irrigation system from the driving range, thereby eliminating any future water use on the range. It is anticipated that the recycled turf will save significant wear and tear on the range



balls and range equipment, further reducing operating expenses. In summary, staff anticipates significant maintenance savings, improved drainage and reduced soil erosion at the site – all operational and environmental ‘wins.’ Well done!

RECREATION DIVISION

Winter-Spring Activities Launch

Next week (January 25 – 29), Winter-Spring activities begin! Over 70 sections will start, many of which have already met their minimum enrollments. We’re excited to bring back a few favorites, such as children’s ballet and gymnastic, and we’re proud to offer new activities. Registrations are pouring in from both WebTrac and in-person visits to Parks & Recreation Administration and the Louden Nelson Community Center.



Civic Auditorium Updates

This Saturday, Santa Cruz Symphony’s third concert of the season celebrates Mahler, and will be hosted by the Symphony’s Board President and interim Executive Director Dorothy Wise. Concert starts at 8pm, featuring Gustav Mahler’s towering *Symphony No. 1*, a beloved and inspiring landmark in the history of symphonic music.

Also featured will be Edvard Grieg’s iconic incidental music for Ibsen’s ‘Peer Gynt.’ Pre-Concert lecture starts at 7pm. Join us!



ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Have You Enrolled?

The City’s investment in the Vermont Systems Inc. ‘RecTrac’ and ‘WebTrac’ products is paying dividends. Over 850 households have switched over to date, and with the summer season never too far away, we anticipate more households making the switch. A reasonable question would be: “what have you done to inform and encourage enrollment in the new software?” We sent an email blast to over 2,000 households (past customers), sent 22,000 informative reminder postcards to every household in the city twice, published the information in our Winter-Spring Activity Guide, as well as submitting a press release announcing the need to enroll in the new software for activity registrations. We are planning additional outreach and education strategies for March.

Have YOU enrolled? Go to <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation> and click ‘Enroll Me Now’ today.

New Office Supervisor Onboard

Hiring of the new Office Supervisor is complete, and Kristyna Olivo started her employment on Saturday, January 16. MS Olivo is a University of Phoenix upper division business administration student, and previously was a supervisor in the food services division at UCSC. She has diverse, rich administrative and clerical experience. Welcome aboard!