

# City Manager's Weekly Update

## February 9, 2018

### PUBLIC WORKS

#### Engineering

Our Brookwood Drive Fire Access Road Repair Project was finalized this week.



Before



After

The final phase of planting for the San Lorenzo River Parkway Phase II Project has concluded with the installation of top dress mulch. This work installed an approximate 503 native plants, 6,000 hydroseeds and 70 cubic yards of top dress mulch.



Before



After



#### Resource Recovery Collections

In order to alleviate complaints from several North Coast residents about garbage along Highway 1, our construction specialist fabricated a screen to cover the collection truck hopper. This is the area on the truck where we could possibly lose trash while driving to the landfill. If these prove effective, we will fabricate additional units for the rest of our vehicles.



Without screen



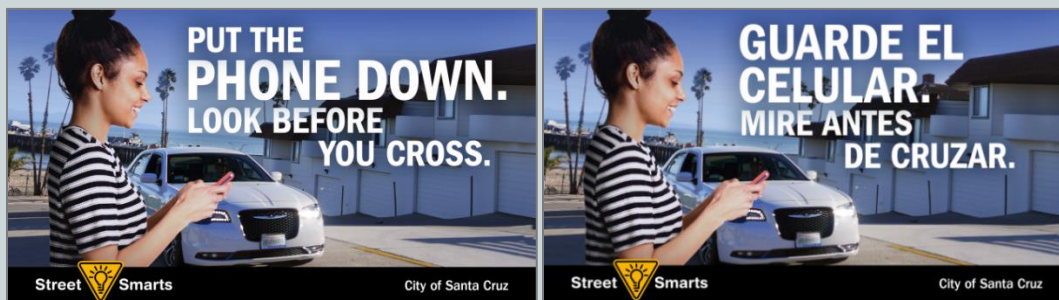
With new screen

### **Transportation Engineering/Community Relations**

After a holiday shopping break, our restoration project to extend the life of the River/Front Parking Garage has resumed. Given this work, there will be an alternate entrance to the garage beginning Feb. 12 and an alternate exit route beginning Feb 19. These details are listed [here](#). The entire project is expected to conclude by the end of March.



This week's Street Smarts message was created with input from Santa Cruz City Schools officials. The long [version](#) is especially important to share with youth.



A new story was written and posted to our Santa Cruz Waves City Beat column: [ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS?](#)



## **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

The facility is currently undergoing an infrastructure study. To aid in the inspection, Operations removed some standing water inside an out-of-service digester to allow the engineering consultant group an inside view of this portion of the treatment plant.

As a regional facility, we were glad to assist the Scotts Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility when their sludge thickening mechanism used by their solids treatment process broke an internal auger. Our highly skilled mechanics were able to re-weld the stainless steel and get their system back into service within a couple of days.

Scotts Valley brings their solids to us for further processing, and with this breakdown in equipment, they were transporting mostly water. Prior to our assistance, they were scrambling to find qualified people for the repair after the machine's own fabrication company would not provide service on the older system.

Operations rotated and cleaned one of the secondary clarifiers in response to an unusual amount of algae growth, resulting from the unusual warm winter weather. This task involved four operators all performing independent and sequenced tasks, working together to complete to job before influent flows picked up.



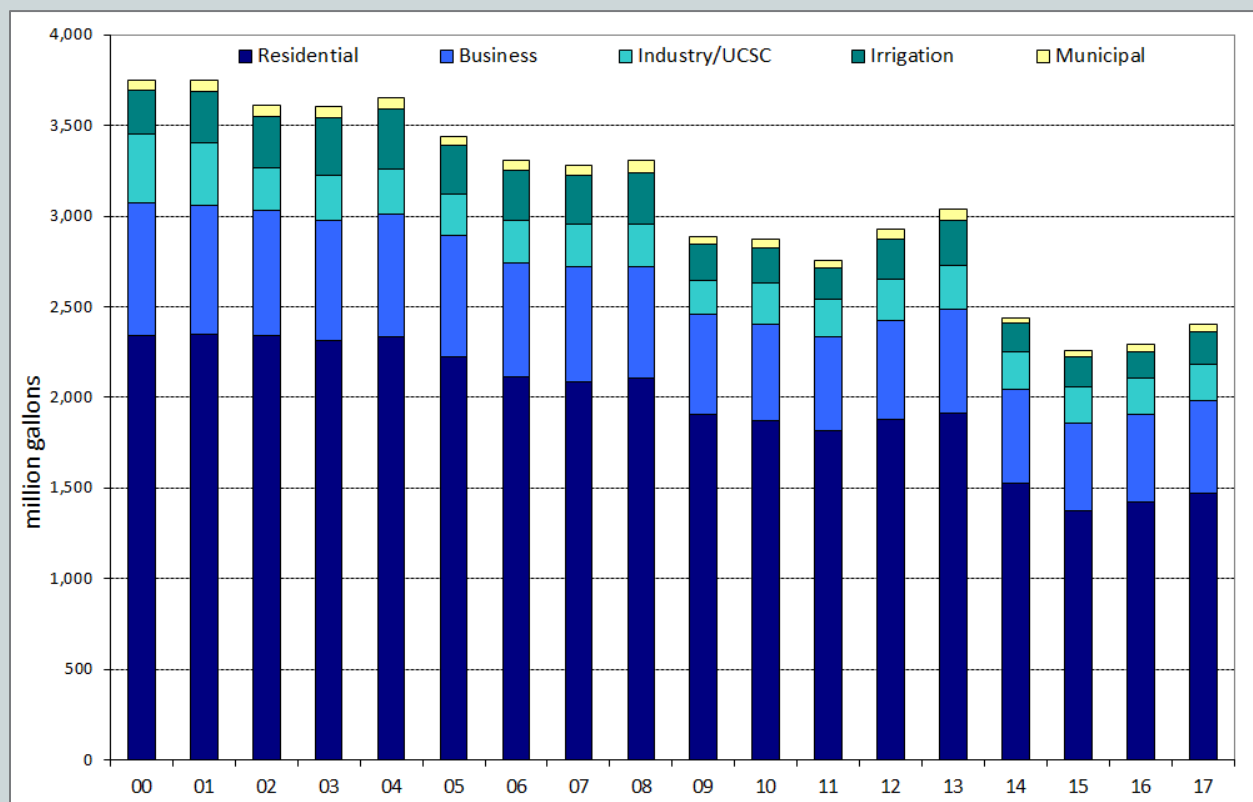
Digester draining    Stainless steel welding    Operations re-valving clarifier flow    Clarifier filling up

## WATER

At this week's Water Commission meeting the commission received the first water supply outlook for 2018. The end of January represents the mid-point of our winter wet season and we evaluate four factors: rainfall, stream flow, reservoir storage, cumulative discharge, and water year classifications. We evaluate the same four factors again in late March.

While 2017 was the second wettest year on record, producing strong flows and a full reservoir; 2018 has thus far been at the other end of the wet spectrum. We had the third driest December on record and recent daytime temperatures have been 10-20 degrees above average. In "normal" years February has the highest average daily rainfall amounts, and this year we have yet to have any rain at all. Our cumulative rainfall this year is 8.28 inches, which is only 45% of average rainfall. (Sigh.)

The good news is that water use remains low. Even with the bounty of water we received last year, use has not come close to returning to pre-2014 consumption levels:



(Of course the bad news is that if we need to implement restrictions, with most folks are already cutting their use pretty close to the bone, so there's not much more use to cut.)

What are our next steps with regard to supply outlook? We will continue to monitor water conditions for the remainder of February and march; we'll model supply availability and forecast reservoir drawdown for 2018, and evaluate the adequacy of supply for 2018 and



beyond; we'll determine the need for any water restrictions and if there is a need, determine the appropriate stage of restrictions. Last but not least, we'll consult our hydro-illogical model (below) for spiritual guidance.

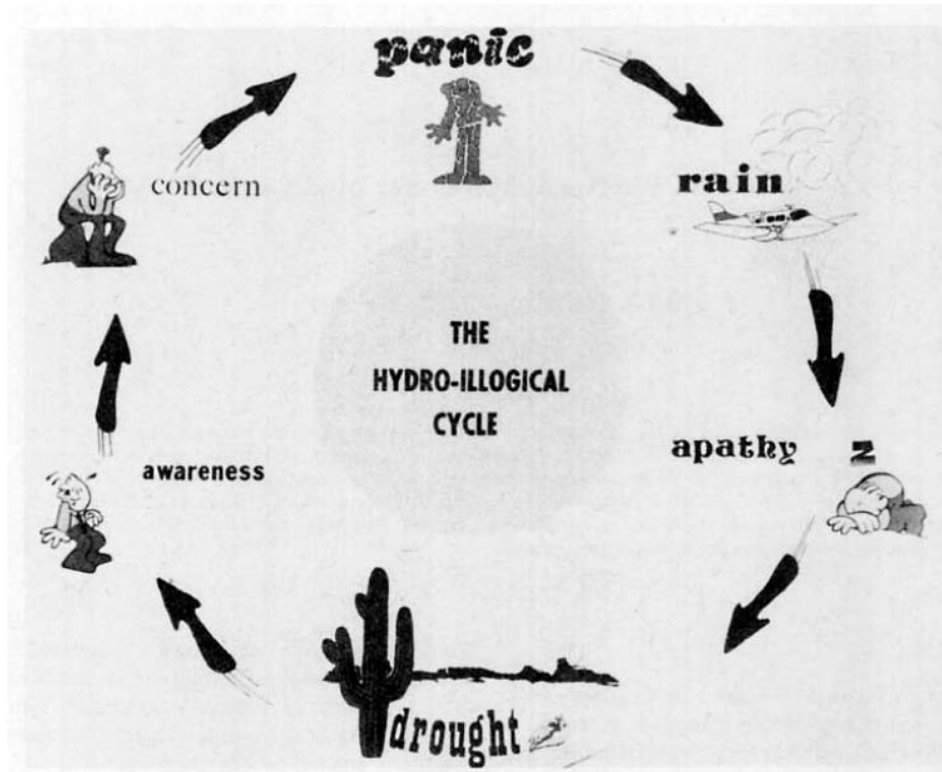


FIG. 1. The hydro-illogical cycle.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### Civic

Thursday, February 8 at 7pm- MLK Jr. Convocation: *Guest Speaker Kimberle Crenshaw*. The annual convocation celebrates the life and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by presenting speakers who discuss the civil rights issues of equality, freedom, justice, and opportunity. The convocation also seeks to build partnerships and develop dialogue within the campus community and with the local communities served by the university with the expected attendance of 1,500 people. The event is free and open to the public, Doors at 6:30pm.

Friday, February 9 at 8pm - An Evening with Lyle Lovett & Robert Earl Keen. The tradition continues, as two of Texas favorite sons return together, Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen are back at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium on February 9th, 2018 for an all new special unplugged and acoustic performance. Lovett and 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. The duo previously performed together to sold out crowds in 2013 and 2016 and we expect this concert to sell out as well with 2,000 people. Tickets are still available at [SantaCruzTickets.com](http://SantaCruzTickets.com).



### **DeLaveaga Park**

Parks staff and Cal-Fire crews construct a new retaining wall at Lower DeLaveaga Park.



### **Pogonip**

The Ranger Unit and LaborMax crew removed 4,500 pounds of garbage from Pogonip Open Space. The Police Department helped control traffic and remove individuals from the clean-up area.



### **San Lorenzo Park**

Despite efforts to have campers clean-up their own sites, many staff resources are directed to maintaining a clean and orderly temporary homeless encampment at San Lorenzo Park. It is necessary to periodically close the area for 24 hours to do a comprehensive cleaning. Due to postponement due to weather conditions, the full scale cleaning on January 31, 2018 was

overdue (see below). More than twenty Parks and Ranger staff and two Resource Recovery staff performed the clean-up, removing a total of 2.6 tons of garbage. Parks and Rangers staff will continue to perform daily servicing until the next full scale clean-up.

