

City Manager's Weekly Update

April 5, 2019

WATER

We had a successful meeting Monday night of the Water Commission and former members of the Water Supply Advisory Committee, the goals of which were to 1) Present a comprehensive status report on the Water Department's progress implementing the Committee's recommendations from 2015, 2) Provide information on all the capital improvement and financial planning underway, 3) Connect all this work with work being done regionally to develop groundwater sustainability plans, and 4) Share the thinking on actions that are being taken in the near term that could substantially improve our supply reliability, while delaying other actions due to financial realities, lower than expected demand, and the desire to further explore climate change scenarios.



Several members of the public attended the meeting as well. You can read about details of the meeting in this Sentinel article: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2019/04/02/santa-cruz-may-pursue-alternative-water-security-concept/>

Also this week, we switched over to a new programmable logic controller (PLC.) The PLC is the brain of the treatment plant that controls the valves, chemical dosing, pumps and filters, among other actions – of the entire plant. Operators initially made the switch on Tuesday and it went fairly well but a few things needed additional tweaking. Thursday operators placed the plant in manual mode while the switchover was made, which was a very tricky task. Fortunately we are blessed with very capable operators who were able to make the switch successfully.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Thank you to all who attend “An Afternoon with Carol Scurich.” The Parks & Recreation team, in conjunction with the Santa Cruz community, celebrated Carol’s 32-year career and service to the city.



Bay Street Median

The Parks division, for our all hands staff division project this month, planted 68 redwood trees on the Bay Street median. This tree planting is part of the 130 redwood trees currently being planted in the median as part of the CalFire inventory & tree planting grant. 500 new trees total will be planted on public lands as a component of this climate action & urban forestry collaborative effort.



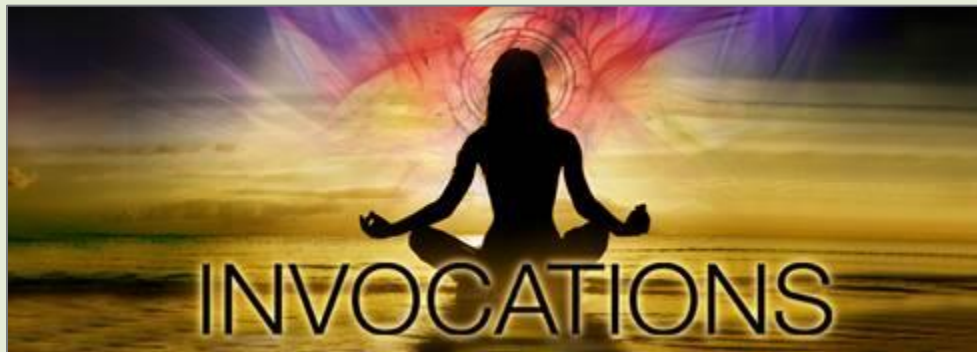
Pogonip Trail Work

Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBOSC) and Specialized Bicycles partnered to restore sections of the “U-Con” trail in Pogonip. The approximately 30-member volunteer crews worked through rainy conditions to rock armor trails and improve drainage along the heavily used trail connection.



Civic Auditorium

The Santa Cruz Symphony concludes its 61st season with **Beethoven's** breathtakingly beautiful *Mass in C*, a rarely performed gem that will feature a quartet of Metropolitan Opera Stars as well as the beloved Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus. The Symphony's final program of the season begins with **Esa-Pekka Salonen's** endlessly inventive *Karawane* (2014), a riotously playful oratorio for chorus and orchestra, based on a poem of the same title by Dada founder Hugo Ball. [Tickets available at SantaCruzTickes.com](http://SantaCruzTickes.com). A FREE Open Rehearsal was held Thursday April 4, 7:30 – 10:00 pm at the Civic in preparation for these final shows.

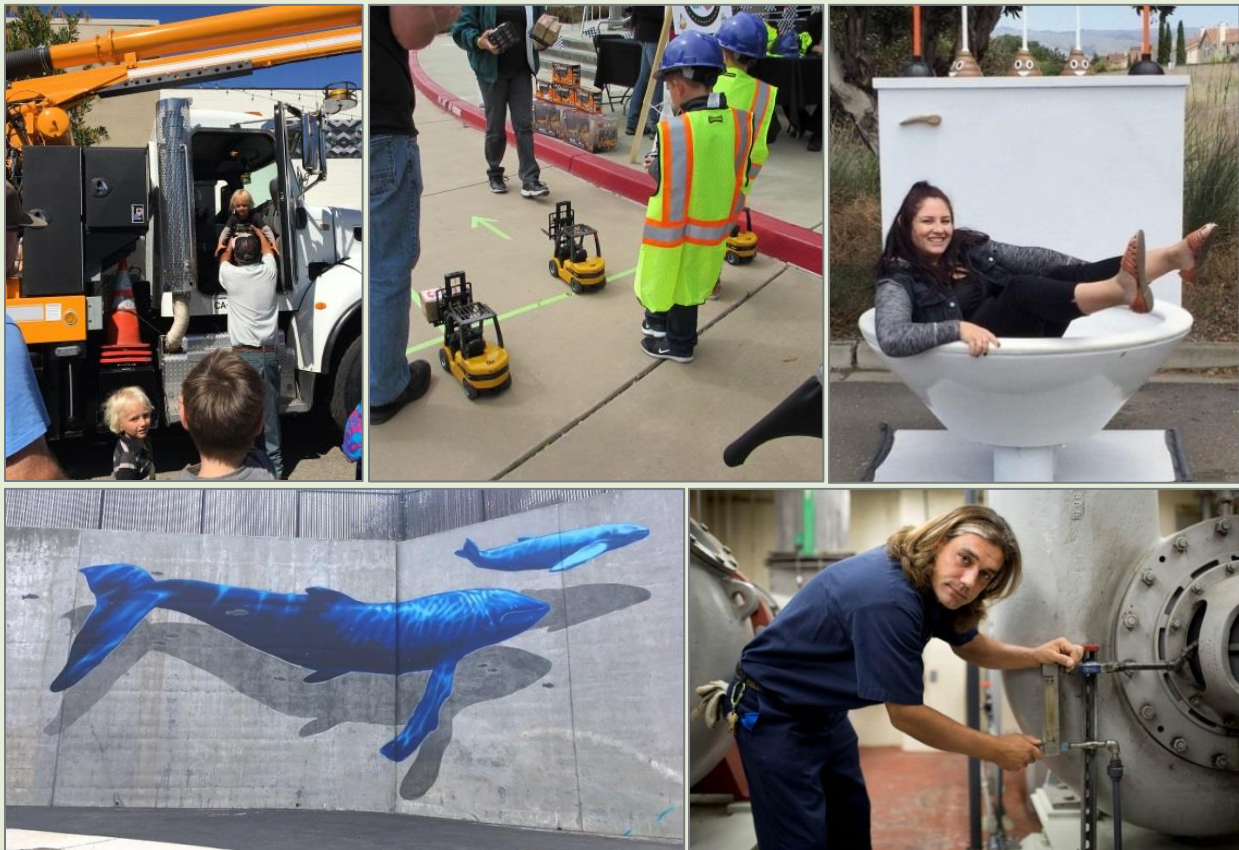


PUBLIC WORKS

Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Wastewater Treatment Facility welcomes our Santa Cruz neighbors to a **Family-Friendly Open House** on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to noon at 110 California St. Come on down and get to know our staff and services better!

- Race radio controlled mini forklifts for prizes.
- Climb aboard our Vac-Con truck and giant forklift.
- Step inside our TV van to operate our camera through the pipe. Watch as it moves on wheels!
- Tour our Lab to see moving microorganisms.
- Visit with the artist who painted our supersized ocean/estuary themed mural.
- Tour the plant to see what happens to 7 million gallons of wastewater daily—talk with operators and technicians. (Closed-toed shoes required. Children age 10/5th grade & up only.)
- Have fun with our Big Ol' Toilet Bowl photo opp!
- Enjoy bagels, juice and coffee.



This week we have been upgrading the plant's electrical communications and human-machine-interface (HMI) systems for Cogeneration Engine 2—the old digital controllers have been replaced with a touch-screen interface.

Our main Cogeneration Engine 1 is undergoing maintenance in preparation for PG&E's peak summer charging periods—a time when it must be able to run 24/7 with minimal shut-downs to reduce expensive imported electricity costs. During this maintenance time, Cogeneration Engine 2 is used.

Both cogeneration engines operate on methane gas that is produced through the facility's anaerobic digestion system. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, over 25 times more harmful than carbon dioxide and comprising 10% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from human activity. As responsible environmental stewards, the facility burns the surplus methane to prevent its release into the atmosphere.



Engineering

The Coastal Rail Trail/Trestle Trail Project continued this week with on-site welding of plates connecting the new frame to the existing bridge and installation of the cantilever support beams and bracings. We also began installation of the frame work for the trail deck on top of the cantilever support beams. The project is widening the existing San Lorenzo River Trestle Bridge walkway and is funded by the City of Santa Cruz, Measure D and a California Natural Resources Agency Grant.



Our East Cliff and 3rd Avenue Storm Disaster Damage Repair Project continued this week. It is relocating, repairing and installing sidewalk, curb, gutter and handrail at the beach stairs at the junction of 3rd Avenue and East Cliff Drive.






Transportation Engineering/Community Relations


Obeing the law can require patience at times as explained in this week's traffic safety message below.

Read the details [here](#) or click the video links in the photos below.

YIELD.
EVERY CORNER
IS A LEGAL
CROSSWALK.

Street  Smarts City of Santa Cruz

**ESPERE SU TURNO
CUMPLA LA LEY**

Street  Smarts City of Santa Cruz

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Update on Rental Housing Task Force Community Assessment Process

In February of this year, the City Council voted to enter into a contract for consultation services from the Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP) located at the Sacramento State University College of Continuing Education. CCP will be conducting an Assessment based on interviews with the community on the topic of tenant-landlord relations and rental housing needs. The Assessment process will identify the likelihood of success of a Rental Housing Task Force, and will make a recommendation about whether, how, and to what end to form a Task Force.

The team from CCP has been working thus far to complete interviews with all Councilmembers and solicit their recommendations of community stakeholders that should be interviewed as part of the assessment process. Invitations for community stakeholder interviews were sent this week and we will be scheduling interviews to take place the third and possibly 4th week of April, in person at City Hall. Following completion of these interviews, CCP will complete their summary report and staff and CCP will report back to the City Council regarding the findings of the Assessment Process, and recommend next steps.

Understanding Advance Directives

Two Programs to help you plan ahead for you and your loved ones healthcare. In collaboration with [Hospice of Santa Cruz County](http://www.hospiceofscruz.org).



Essentials of Advance Directives

Tuesday • April 9th • 10:30am - 11:30pm

Downtown Library • 224 Church St. • Upstairs Meeting Room

Planning ahead for your healthcare is a gift you can give to yourself and those you love. Learn how an Advance Directive can help make your wishes known, and how to talk about advance healthcare planning with your loved ones. This engaging presentation from Hospices of Santa Cruz County walks you through the exact steps to take to complete your Advance Directive.

Advance Directive Individual Sessions

Tuesday • April 23rd • 10:30am - 1:30pm

Downtown Library • 224 Church St. • Upstairs Meeting Room

Planning ahead for your healthcare is a gift you can give to yourself and those you love. Schedule a one-on-one appointment to complete your Advance Directive with support.

You'll meet with a trained advance healthcare planning volunteer from Hospice of Santa Cruz County to complete your form. You can even get your Advance Directive witnessed to make it a legal document.

Registration required. Call Vanessa at Hospice of Santa Cruz County to schedule your individual appointment at 831-430-3047.