

City Manager's Weekly Update

November 22, 2019

WATER

Mid-County GSP Approved

The big news this week happened last night, when the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Mid-County groundwater basin was adopted with unanimous support by board members. The Plan has been eighteen months in the making, with good community participation. The Mid-County GSP is one of the first completed plans in the state, and was developed in accordance with a state mandate as part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. The plan is a giant step forward in enabling us locally to manage our aquifers sustainably, and to prevent further intrusion of seawater into our groundwater basins. Many thanks to Councilmember Mathews and Water Commissioner (and former WSAC member) David Baskin for all of their time and participation as member of the Board.



Climate-Proofing our Treatment Plant

An internal team of staff from operations, production and engineering has been working together for some time on how best to “climate-proof” our treatment infrastructure and processes. While there are differing opinions between staff on the best approaches, the years that they have worked together to pilot and analyze different treatment protocols has produced a wealth of information. I’m confident as we zero in on final solutions to ensure system reliability that we are creating a system that will be prepared to meet the many challenges of an uncertain future.

Weather Words

We subscribe to the California Weather Blog. It is written by Daniel Swain, an atmospheric scientist from UCLA, whose main skill lies in coining new, alliterative weather phrases, like “ridiculously resilient ridge” or “whiplash weather.” This month, he uses some interesting words to describe what we’re all experiencing:

- Extraordinarily late onset to the rainy season.
- “November shut-out.”
- Driest autumn (Sep-Nov) period of record.

Rain is due next week, and it can’t come soon enough for us.

On behalf of the Water Department, we wish everyone a beautiful day of Thanksgiving next week.

POLICE

SCPD Invites Public to View the Community Panel Interviews for Lieutenant Selection

The Santa Cruz Police Department will hold a Community Panel Interview for the top lieutenant candidates on Wednesday, December 4, from 9 am - 4 pm at police headquarters, 155 Center Street. Residents who would like to watch the interview process for the Santa Cruz Police Department's next lieutenant promotion are invited to sit in and listen to the panel interview.

"The position of lieutenant requires a dedicated public servant, effective leader, possesses the qualities that our communities want to see in the next leader of our law enforcement efforts, and one who shares my commitment to transparency and accountability said, Chief Mills."



In the next step of the lieutenant's executive panel interview process, Chief Mills is accepting questions from the public relating to the police department and the community to provide transparency and engage residents.

Email your questions for consideration in the executive interviews to jmulloy@cityofsantacruz.com. All questions will be reviewed to avoid duplication and ensure that they are appropriate and acceptable under human resources regulations.

PARKS AND RECREATION

By the Numbers

203 = # of tickets sold to Civic events for 11 upcoming events

Highlights

A plaque was dedicated to the Santa Cruz Surfing Club on November 23, 2019 at the top of the Cowell Beach ramp. The Santa Cruz Surfing Club Preservation Society along with Mayor Watkins and community members honored the original members of the Santa Cruz Surfing Club. The monument was created and designed by Tom Ralston Concrete. The bronze plaque was done by Sean Monaghan.



Fall Recreation Basketball concluded this week! Congratulations to both the Ranch Milk Ballers and Dr. Grio Dental for winning their championships!



The Kirby School presented Xanadu, November 21-24. Xanadu follows the journey of a magical and beautiful Greek muse, Kira, who descends from the heavens of Mount Olympus to Venice Beach, California in 1980 on a quest to inspire a struggling artist, Sonny, to achieve the greatest artistic creation of all time – the first ROLLER DISCO! (Hey, it's 1980!) But, when Kira falls into forbidden love with the mortal Sonny, her jealous sisters take advantage of the situation, and chaos abounds.



The Tony Hill (ABC) Room is getting a remodel with hard wood floors! Stay tuned for the final reveal!



PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

314 Jessie Street

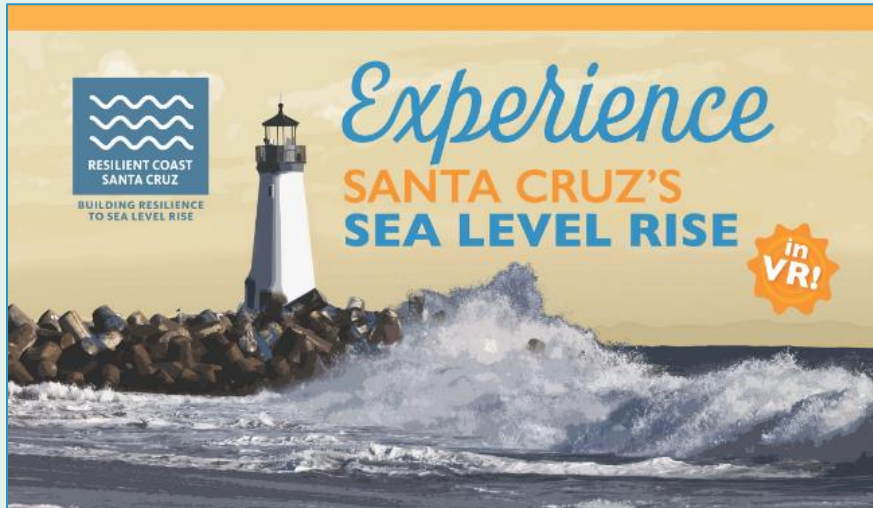
On November 12, 2019, MidPen Housing withdrew an application for the demolition of an existing 14-unit multi-family residential development and the construction of a three-story, 27-unit residential facility located at 314 Jessie Street. According to the applicant, the new Jessie Street facility would have served existing and new residents at 50% of area median income levels and below.

To date, the applicant completed a Pre-Application review at the beginning of the year and submitted a formal application on July 3, 2019. A community meeting was held on March 28, 2019 to gather feedback on the project and was attended by community members and existing residents.

MidPen cited high construction costs in conjunction with the low unit count of the new development, difficult site conditions, and high costs of relocation assistance for current residents as the reasons for project infeasibility. MidPen has discussed these issues with the Planning Director and states that they "...will continue to monitor the external factors that affect the feasibility of the project and hope to one day complete the reconstruction of Jessie Street to benefit both our current residents and future residents of this community."

LIBRARY

Virtual Reality Sea Level Rise Explorer



The Sea Level Rise Explorer is a virtual reality experience designed to immerse users in modeled representations of how sea-level rise impacts, such as coastal flooding and coastal erosion, might affect the beaches and bluffs in Santa Cruz. The experience will be available in both English and Spanish. This project was funded by a grant from the American Geophysicist's Union and supplements a Coastal Commission grant supporting community engagement for the Resilient Coast Santa Cruz Initiative. The project is a collaboration between Santa Cruz Public Libraries, City of Santa Cruz, Virtual Planet Technologies, with support from Swan Dive Media.

Visit the downtown library's information desk and inquire about participation. Library staff will assist you with the simple process, which takes approximately 10 minutes.

The Sea Level Rise Explorer Virtual Reality Experience will be available starting November 18, 2019, and running through February 2020.

Please Note: The Oculus Quest equipment used for this project requires users to be at least 13 years of age. A valid photo ID or library card is also required to participate. Minors' ages 13-17 years of age will need a parent's signature for the liability waiver.

Thanksgiving Closures - November 28th & 29th

All branches will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.



PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

We concluded our Ladera Sewer and Storm Drain Project to alleviate flooding and maintenance issues near the intersection of King Street and Mission Street at the low point of Ladera Drive. The storm drain there was upsized to alleviate the flooding and the sewer was relocated to be in the public right-of-way.



Our Broadway, California Street and Soquel Avenue Project continued this week with grinding existing asphalt pavement on Broadway, Soquel, Murray Street, and Plymouth. Also, the project installed hot mix asphalt on Soquel and Murray Street.



Soquel at La Fonda



Broadway



Murray St

At California, the project continued fixing existing sinking pavement close to the intersection with Laurel. The project is funded by Measure D and Measure H tax dollars.



California at Laurel St



Plymouth St

Resource Recovery

Our Collections division completed two special “No Parking” projects on Magnolia and Catalpa and the 200 block of Walnut—our street sweepers collected 30 yds. of leaves altogether.



Student Chiara Rojas was recognized as a winner of our Santa Cruz Recycles poster contest in a ceremony at Holy Cross School on Monday. Four Mission Hill students were recognized as winners last week, [Read more.](#)



Wastewater Treatment Facility

Operations performed two monthly preventative maintenance tasks to clean out the effluent pumping equipment and influent lines. These tasks also increase flow throughout the treatment process allowing operations to clear out grease holding spots.

Mechanics and electricians made some tension adjustments and replaced a motor on the solids dewatering biosolids trolley conveyor. This piece of equipment fills the end-dump trailers used to transport class B biosolids to a landfill for reuse as topsoil.

Operations and electricians worked together to repair an ozone generating unit which treats hydrogen sulfide in foul air, part of the facility's odor control system.



Accumulated grease in the pre-aeration grit system bypass channel during the Effluent Pump Test.



Mechanic making an adjustment to the solids grit system bypass channel.



Mechanic making an adjustment to the solids dewatering biosolids trolley conveyor.

Unsafe speed is the #1 traffic violation in our region. Learn more from Mav'Riks in our short [video](#). En [español](#).

