

## City Manager's Weekly Update

November 8, 2019

### Water

Last night we had the privilege of hosting the last night of Government Academy. The class had been rescheduled as the original date was during a PSPS event, so a few folks were unable to make the new date. What a great experience! We love any opportunity to share what we do with the public, and we learn a lot from the questions they ask and the feedback they provide. Last night there was particular interest in local groundwater management, and surprise (as usual) that the community's water use has actually dropped to that of the 1960's – "when President Johnson was in office!" pointed out one astute attendee.



A chilly tour of the treatment plant for Government Academy participants

You will often hear us tooting the horns of our system operators; commending them as the best in the business. That's not hyperbole, as the nature of our water supply is constantly changing from source to source and as a result, a high degree of skill and knowledge is needed. The reason that changing sources presents challenges is because even though our sources are in close proximity to each other, each has a different water chemistry based on their underlying geology and watershed characteristics. For example, north coast water has lower total organic carbon (TOC), lower turbidity and higher alkalinity, whereas Loch Lomond water has higher TOC and lower alkalinity. All of those characteristics require different dosing of chemicals and process changes to ensure the best possible finished water quality. So it's not surprising, but very gratifying, that the state has asked one of our operators, Katie Moore, to be an evaluator for an upcoming round of T5 Operator Exams. A T5 license is equivalent to a PhD in water

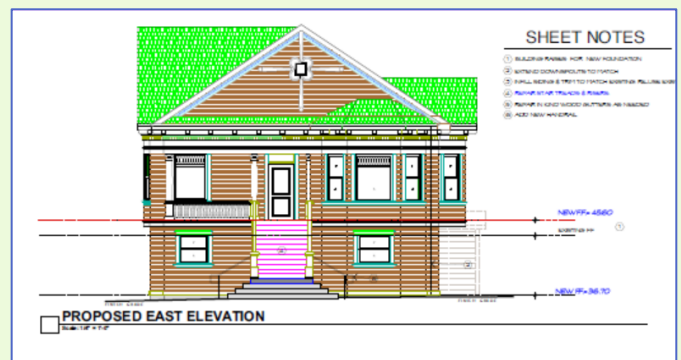
treatment operations, so it's a big deal that one of Santa Cruz's T5 license holders has been asked to evaluate exam takers from around the state. Go Katie!



Last but not least, as we use water from Loch Lomond, we're happy to report that the lake is looking very healthy with water clarity down to 30'. To put that into perspective, last year it was 4' 5". It's rare to see such clarity this time of year.

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**801 River Street.** Over the past couple of weeks Homeless Services, Inc. has secured entitlements necessary to allow the conversion of a former dental office into seven apartment units to provide supportive housing for formerly chronically homeless residents of Santa Cruz. The property, located on the corner of Coral and River Streets, includes a structure listed in Volume I of the City's Historic Building Survey. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) unanimously approved an Historic Alteration Permit, involving exterior modifications to the building, including a new foundation system that will significantly extend the life of this historic structure. In exchange for this improvement, as part of some historic preservation variation provisions contained in the Zoning Ordinance, the HPC approval allowed a reduction in parking standards, as well as a blended open space calculation. This past Wednesday, the Zoning Administrator approved Design and Administrative Use Permits to complete the requisite entitlement package. There was no opposition present at either of the hearings so an appeal is unlikely. It is expected that the applicants will obtain building permits early next year. Ryan Bane is the planner working on the application.



**Pioneer Street (APN 001-172-14).** The owners of the former Goodwill Industries property in the Harvey West area also own an adjacent parcel that is approximately 1-acre and is currently vacant. The property is zoned General Industrial (IG) and the owners have prepared preliminary plans to develop the property with two warehouse/manufacturing buildings totaling approximately 18,760 square feet. Pursuant to the Community Outreach Policy for Planning Projects, the owners held a community meeting on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, to present the project and obtain input from the community. Nine neighbors from the area attended, with discussion items including what type of industrial uses would occur at the site, requirements for cannabis related uses, potential noise and fume impacts to neighbors across Pogonip Creek, creek impacts, concerns with the homeless in the area, the General Plan requirement for a Golf Club Drive Area Plan and a potential bike/pedestrian connection between Pioneer and Golf Club Drive, height of the building, fencing, and whether housing was considered. It is anticipated that the owners will submit a formal application for the project by the end of the year. Staff will determine the development process once the project is submitted, but based on preliminary review, it is anticipated that a Design Permit reviewed at staff level will be required at a minimum.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks staff recently partnered with Public Works staff to perform the daunting task of cleaning out the duck pond at San Lorenzo Park. After many hours of pumping, desludging, pruning, scraping and shoveling the pond is better than ever. Parks also partnered with a local biologist to ensure that all the proper steps were taken to protect the animal life of the pond during this process. In the next few months new aquatic life and plant materials will be introduced to the pond to create a beautiful living water feature for all to enjoy.







Work is underway at Ken Wormhoudt Skatepark to install new coping. The iconic skatepark will receive these much needed improvements to ensure the facility continues to serve new generations of local (and visiting) skaters.



## LIBRARY

### Homework Help

**Tuesdays • 3:00-5:00pm**

**Branciforte Library • 230 Gault Street**

**Live Oak Library • 2380 Portola Drive**

Students to grade 12 can bring their assignments to one of our FREE drop-in Homework Help sessions. Program runs through May 2020.



Program breaks: Nov. 16, Dec. 15, 2019 - Jan. 20, 2020, March 31, 2019

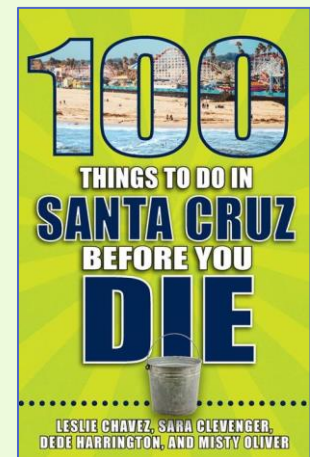
### *Local Authors Present:*

**100 Things to Do In Santa Cruz Before You Die**

**Thursday • November 14th, 4:00-6:00 pm**

**Downtown Library • 224 Church St.**

Four local authors: Leslie Chavez, Sara Clevenger, Dede Harrington, and Misty Oliver will talk about their new guide book "100 things to do in Santa Cruz before you Die." The list of places and activities they cover is comprehensive, fun, and quirky, and celebrates the top ways to connect with Santa Cruz and nearby surroundings.



With 100 Things to Do in Santa Cruz Before You Die, you'll find all the recommendations you need to explore this splendid oasis. Whether you're coming for the surf, the family-friendly Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk - one of the oldest seaside amusement park in California, the magnificent redwood forests, or the up-and-coming beer and wine scene, you're in for an unforgettable experience.

### **Kids Create! Marbled Milk Paper Art**

**Thursday • November 14th, 3:30-4:30 pm**

**Garfield Park Library • 705 Woodrow Avenue**

Come and create fun paper that works as standalone art, mattes for photos or homemade cards.



Explore where science meets art with a new STEAM-based project every week, and leave the mess at the library! For kids 5 - 12 years old.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Our Wastewater Treatment Facility's Vac-Con truck and Resource Recovery's street sweeper cleaned up the debris from the Highway 1 intersection two trailer [semi-truck fire](#) on Monday. The truck was traveling southbound on Highway 1 on a routine run from the Resource Recovery Facility. It was transporting two boxes full of scrap metal. These boxes had been filled over the weekend without incident. After being picked up and hauled out in the truck, something in one of the boxes started a fire. The fire was put out by our City Fire Department and the box was hauled back to the Resource Recovery Facility on Dimeo Lane as a precaution to ensure its contents were fully extinguished. The source of the fire has not been identified.



### **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

For the month of October the facility treated 212.71-million gallons of sewage—117.46-million gallons from the City and 96.57-million gallons from the County. Through tertiary recycling, the facility generated a total of 5,919,230-gallons of water for on-site use, thus conserving potable water through recycling.

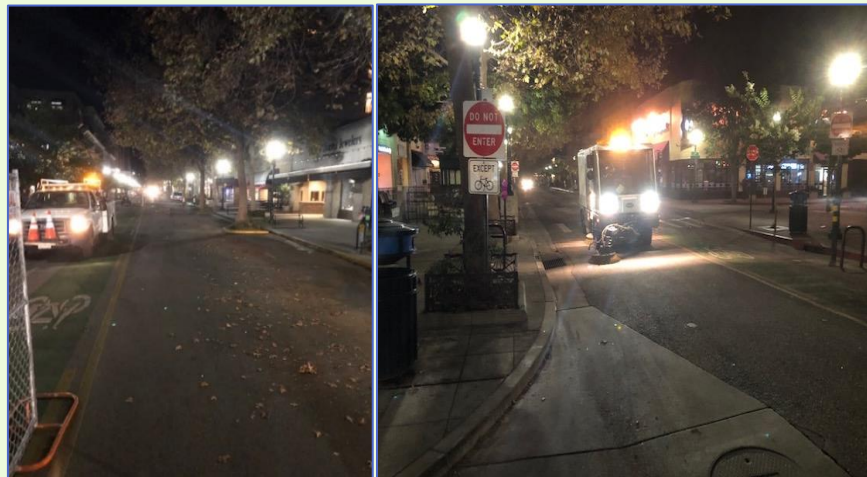
890-tons of class B biosolids were created through the solids treatment processes and beneficially reused as non-food crop fertilizer. 11,697,449-cubic-feet of methane gas was generated through anaerobic digestion and converted to electricity used to power the facility, keeping costs down for imported power.





### **Resource Recovery**

Our Collections crew assisted Parks and Streets crews in the Halloween clean up downtown. We worked from 5 am to 9 am to pick up all the litter. We also helped vendors take down the fencing and lighting.



### **Parking Services**

Did you know that a Santa Cruz ParkCard can save you time as well as money? Our short [video](#) explains it all.





### **Traffic Engineering/Community Outreach**

We are pleased that Community Bridges has committed to sharing the Spanish language versions of our weekly Street Smarts messages across their many social media channels with reach throughout our City and County to begin sometime this month.

This week: there are many ways to be distracted while driving. Stay focused on the road. It's the [Street Smarts](#) thing to do.

