

City Manager's Weekly Update

October 4, 2019

WATER

2019 Water Year

This week (September 30) the 2019 “water year” ended and the new 2020 year began (October 1). Some highlights from the year that just ended:

- Rainfall in the City of Santa Cruz was 39.7”, or 127% of average
- Cumulative discharge from the San Lorenzo River was 153,000 acre-feet
- The water year classification for 2019 was “wet”
- Storage in the reservoir on September 30 was 2.64 billion gallons, 130% of average
- Statewide, reservoir storage is at 128% of average

As a sign of the change of seasons, we’re now taking a large percentage of our water from Loch Lomond (vs. from flowing sources.) We’re keeping an eye out for the first significant rainfall of the season to recharge flows in the San Lorenzo River and north coast creeks.

Low-Income Energy Savings Assistance Program

We have been working with contractors to expand upon an existing low-income energy savings assistance program offered by PG & E. The program provides qualifying customers access to additional water conservation services, such as fixture replacement. There will now be two contractors trained to perform fixture assessment and toilet replacement services for up to 260 dwelling units this fiscal year. About 80 homes are scheduled to be served this October.

Interpretive Events

October is a month full of interpretive events for 5th grade classrooms of Santa Cruz city schools, conducted by our Water Resource staff. We have two assemblies left to go which will include over 100 students, and which will wrap up the introduction portion of the program. During the assemblies students are introduced to the concepts of water cycle, watershed, water quality, how much water we need, how much water we use, and other species that depend on our watershed to survive. Next week, the “hands-on” portion of the school programs begins. This includes the opportunity for students to engage in different learning activities about turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and ph. Students will also participate in water-testing activities on the Newell Jewell.

Coast Pump Station Noise Mitigation

Neighbors of the Coast Pump Station have complained about noise from the pumps. The pumps are critical to water production; we are committed to being good neighbors. So we are trying to find a balance that eases neighbor concerns, but also allows us to perform our critical work. Unfortunately the pumps are in a very inaccessible location next to the river. We've undertaken a number of steps to decrease noise impacts and this week we replaced one pump motor and installed a sound canopy around the pumps. Initial feedback is that the noise has decreased.

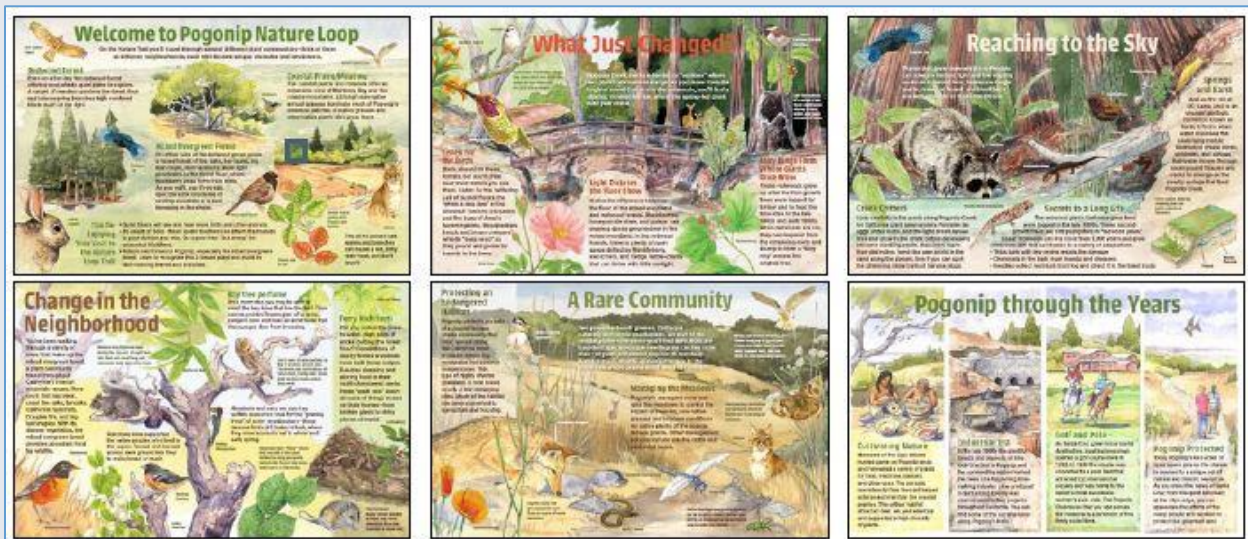
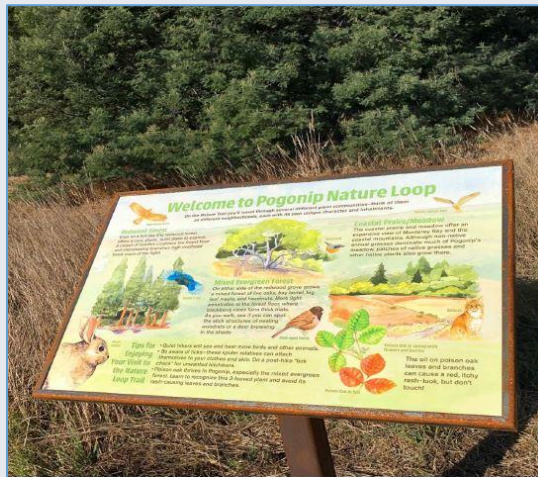


(Pumps with new noise canopy installed)

PARKS AND RECREATION

Pogonip Nature Loop

Work on the Pogonip Creek loop is moving along. All the interpretive signs are now all installed by the crews. This is a great time of year to take a hike and check them out (enter off of Golf Club Drive). The final project will be an area for groups to meet at the trail head.

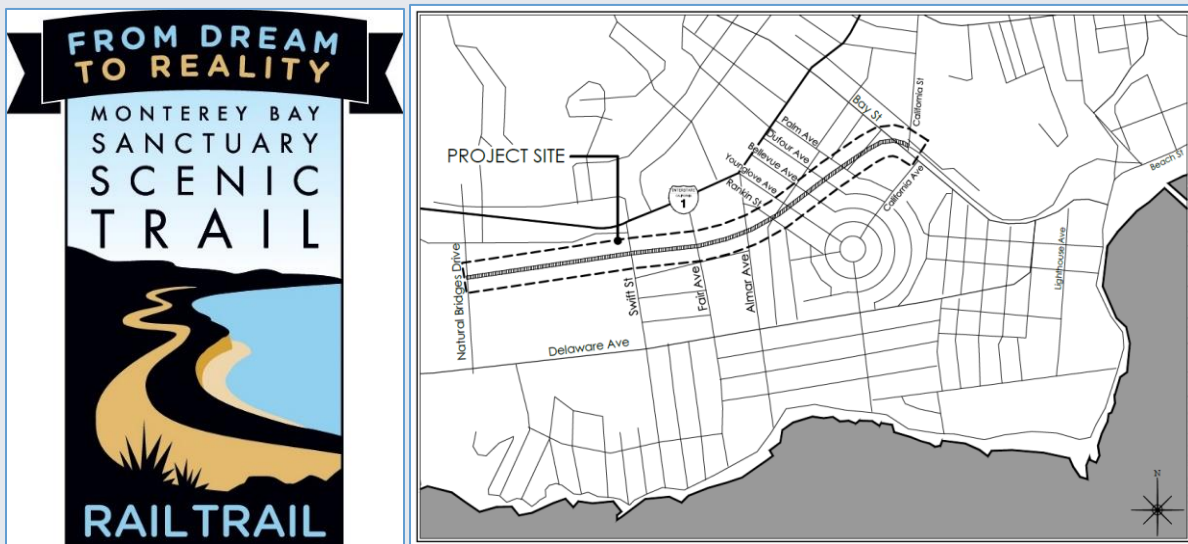


PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

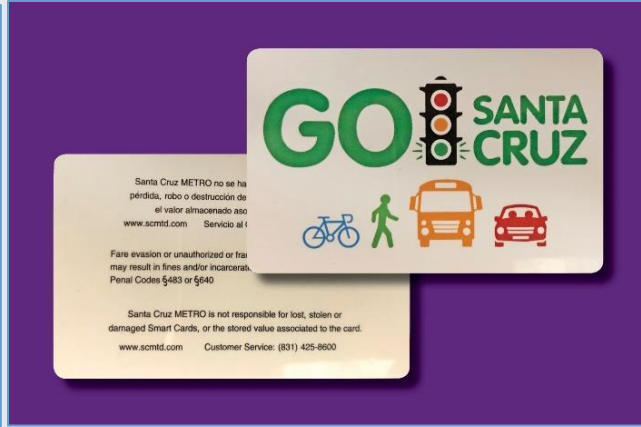
We are excited to announce that we have awarded construction of the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7/Phase I to Graniterock Company. The project will create a paved, multi-use path from Natural Bridges Drive to Bay and California streets with construction expected to begin in December and conclude by the end of summer 2020.

Segment 7/Phase I will construct a 1.3 mile paved, 12-16 foot wide bicycle/pedestrian trail entirely along the coastal/south side of the existing rail line. It includes a 60-foot long prefabricated steel truss bridge over Arroyo Seco Channel, a 70-foot long soldier pile retaining wall at Almar Avenue, and additional vehicle and bike parking at and around New Leaf Market. [Read more here.](#)



Traffic Engineering/Community Outreach

Downtown Santa Cruz employees can benefit from our newly expanded GO Santa Cruz program! Downtown employees who bike, walk, carpool, or bus to work are eligible for incentives and rewards that encourage alternatives to driving, including free transit passes, free \$20 bike locker cards, JUMP membership discounts, bike safety trainings, carpool incentives, carpool ride matching and commute information.



Our Street Smarts traffic safety program also participated in the Bike to School event at Gault School. About 50 students and parents were excited to receive colorful Street Smarts Family traffic safety policies to take home and reflective slap-bands to help with visibility while bike riding and walking.



Inspired by Bike to Work Day, our weekly Street Smarts message offered tips to help drivers avoid collisions with cyclists. Details in both English and Spanish [here](#).



We attended many enjoyable block parties on Sunday, Sept. 29. Many neighbors were happy to receive Street Smarts traffic safety yard signs. These are available to all Santa Cruz residents free of charge. [Details](#).



Mountain View Neighbors



Alhambra Neighbors



Resource Recovery

From Ice Cream Socials to Zero Waste Parties, Master Recyclers attended neighborhood block parties as well in various parts of town on Sunday.

A week ago we led a tour of our Recycling Facility on Dimeo Lane for UCSC students.



Block party



UCSC tour

Resource Recovery collections operators and street sweepers collected 6.4 tons of debris from our City roadways.

Wastewater Treatment Facility

Next Thursday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to noon, we begin our quarterly tours of the award-winning Wastewater Treatment Facility. See what happens to 7 million gallons of wastewater daily. Talk with operators and technicians. See and hear how we earned “Best in State.” Sign up by email abird@cityofsantacruz.com or call (831) 420-6293. We hope to see you soon! And here’s a [sneak peek](#) of what you’ll see on the tour.



Operations

Vegetation management for the San Lorenzo River Flood Control Program has been completed in the area between Highway 1 Bridge and the Soquel Street Bridge. The contracted crew is now working its way toward the Riverside Bridge.



Last month tree work was completed at Laurel Creek to remove fallen branches and dead trees hanging over or fallen into the water behind Cypress Point Apartments. The contractor returned this week to complete the second phase of the project as initially the ground had been too wet for heavy equipment. Thursday grubbing and removal of invasive plants in the creek was done for flood control purposes in preparation for the rainy season.

Streets

The Streets crew workers have been instrumental in providing clean up assistance ahead of the contractors working on the vegetation management for the San Lorenzo River Flood Control Program.



Laurel Creek tree work

Clean up by Streets Crew

LIBRARY

SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES HOSTS PRESENTATION FOR TEENS INTERESTED IN TRAVEL TO SISTER CITY IN JAPAN

Sister Cities Next Teen Delegation Departs Spring 2020

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) announced it will host an informational presentation at 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Downtown Branch Library, 224 Church St. for teens interested in traveling to Santa Cruz's Sister City of Shingu, Japan, in spring 2020.



The presentation, open to all Santa Cruz County teenagers and their families, will share information about participation in the Sister Cities Teen Delegation. In 2019, the program sent 12 Santa Cruz County students in grades 8-10 to visit Shingu, where they learned about a different culture and experienced the natural beauty of the area.

"The Santa Cruz Public Libraries strives to connect teens with cultural and educational opportunities that will broaden their horizons," said Library Director Susan Nemitz. "The Sister Cities Teen Delegation is a great example of a program that challenges teens to expand their world view."

Shingu is one of Santa Cruz's five sister cities. Others include Jinotepe, Nicaragua; Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela; Sestri Levante, Italy; and Alushta, Ukraine. Shingu and Santa Cruz have been sister cities for more than four decades.

STARTING YOUR NOVEL WITH CHARACTER AND CONFLICT: A NaNoWriMo Writing Workshop

October 12, 2019 from 10 AM – 1 PM @ Downtown Library, 224 Church St.

A novel starts with you. Your life views shape the characters in your books. Which life view will be the theme of your next novel? Get ready for National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) in this 3-hour writing workshop. Bring a notebook or a laptop and your library card. Discover how a novel's theme sets up the internal and external plots and establishes the main character's fatal flaw. Explore the relationships of the primary characters in your novel by delving in their conflicts at multiple levels to develop their back story. Use this knowledge to help you write your novel day by day in November. Developmental editor Anastasia Suen has written and edited books for children, teens, and adults and mentored writers around the globe in her online workshops.