

City Manager's Weekly Update

February 7, 2020

WATER

Though we would prefer to see rain in the forecast, we are taking advantage of the forecasted nice weather to repair yet another break on the Newell Creek pipeline. You may recall that the Newell Creek pipeline is our only pipeline from the Loch Lomond reservoir to the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant. So when it's compromised our entire system is vulnerable. (This is the same pipeline and the same segment of the pipeline located in Pipeline Road in Henry Cowell State Park that caused so much drama when it suffered several breaks during the 2017 storm events.) The current break isn't yet a catastrophic break, but the more water we draw from the reservoir the worse the break becomes. So we're limited on how much water we can take from Loch Lomond, which is a bad situation. The repair window is a bit tricky - we need to be able to get off the reservoir, we need enough water from other sources besides the reservoir, and the weather must be clear and dry. So far the stars seem to be aligned. Given how dry things have become, if we don't get more rain we'll be highly dependent upon the reservoir this summer, so we need to get the only pipeline in good operable condition before then.



(Break on Newell Creek pipeline)

Speaking of main breaks, we had a large break occur at Paul Sweet Road near Sutter Maternity and Surgery on Tuesday morning. Fortunately our all-star crew was able to repair the break and get big customers back in service by the afternoon.

We had a pre-bid meeting with the four contractors that have been pre-qualified to bid on the Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet project this week. The project continues on course and on schedule; no small feat for a project of its size, cost and complexity.

Last, we're having a lot of interaction with various regulators these days. We're working closely with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on a project at the Laguna Diversion dam, we're working with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) on a water main replacement project for Ocean Street Extension, we're working with CDFW on another permit for a riverbank filtration feasibility study, and we continue to work with regulators on our Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for endangered fish species.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

514, 516, 518, 524 & 530 Front St

On January 15th, the Planning & Community Development Department received an application for a Pre-application Review of a new mixed-use development on four parcels located within the CBD (Central Business District) zone district and within the Front Street/Riverfront Corridor of the Downtown Plan area. This project is just north of the mixed use development currently under review at 418-428 Front Street. The project proposes to combine four parcels located between Front Street, Soquel Avenue, and the San Lorenzo River levee, to demolish two existing commercial buildings on the site (one which is listed in the City's Historic Building Survey), and to construct a 169,695 square foot building with ground floor and levee-facing commercial spaces and five floors of 170 residential apartments above. Consistent with the Downtown Plan, the project includes the placement of fill between the new building and levee to expand the open space area adjacent to the levee path. A Pre-application Review allows for early staff review of a potential project and is intended to assist an applicant in the preparation of their formal application. There is no public hearing or decision in a Pre-application Review, however, a Community Meeting will be required during this early review phase pursuant to the City's Community Outreach Policy for Planning Projects. On January 1, 2020, SB330 took effect which, among other things, includes provisions that lock in the policies and ordinances that are in effect at the time that a preliminary application for a housing development is deemed complete. SB330 includes a list of specific materials that are required to be submitted in order for an application to be deemed complete. The subject application included all of the required materials and was deemed complete on February 5, 2020; therefore, the project is vested under the requirements currently in effect for a period of six months, during which time a formal application must be submitted in order to continue the vesting of current regulations.

To stay up-to-date as to the status of this project, visit the project webpage at www.cityofsantacruz.com/development to sign up for e-notifications and review project information as it becomes available.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Frederick Street Park

The Parks team recently installed a new volleyball court at Frederick St Park! After reaching out to the community with the question of how best to use the space, many folks shared that a new upgraded volleyball court would be an awesome addition to the park.

Stop by and check it out! Play some volleyball!



Arana Gulch

In 2018, more SC tarplants grew at Arana Gulch than had been observed since 2007. Though the total of 267 plants seems like a small yield, it is an important milestone in the SC tarplant recovery effort. Santa Cruz tarplant seed was collected from the site to be stored and grown for bulk seed collection. Parks staff reached out to Jim Velzy, Director, UCSC Greenhouses, University of California, Santa Cruz who was very supportive of the effort. UCSC Greenhouses grows unique and rare plants to support research and facilitate learning. Last summer, the UCSC Greenhouses program grew 40 SC tarplants from Arana Gulch on its rooftop facility. From those plants, an estimated 100,000 seeds were collected (left photo). UCSC Greenhouses then took a small number of fresh seeds to check the germination rate. After 14 days, approximately 50 percent of the seeds had germinated. The 28 seeds that germinated were then grown and out planted at Arana Gulch (right photo). A special thanks goes out to Jim, Sylvie Childress, Manager, UCSC Greenhouses, and the number of students who helped in this effort.



SCPD Promotes New Deputy Chief

This week, the Santa Cruz Police Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Bernie Escalante to the position of Deputy Chief. Escalante is a 23-year veteran of the Santa Cruz Police Department who most recently distinguished himself as the primary lieutenant in the Neighborhood Policing Unit.

Escalante brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the job of deputy chief. His leadership in the Investigations Unit led to solving some of the most serious crimes in the city and is recognized for his outstanding work ethic.

“Bernie is a consistent and positive leader dedicated to our personnel and our community receiving the absolute best in public safety,” said Police Chief Andy Mills. “I look forward to working with Deputy Chief Escalante in this new role as a key member of my management team to provide strong, results-driven leadership.”

Deputy Chief Escalante, who begins his position immediately, said, “I am constantly impressed by the dedication and professionalism of our law enforcement team here in Santa Cruz, and I am honored to lead this dynamic department as a deputy chief.”






SCPD Public Safety Meeting with Latino Community on Feb. 11

The Santa Cruz Police Department, in partnership with Nueva Vista Community Resources, hosts a community meeting to discuss the uptick in gun violence against members of the Latino community in the City of Santa Cruz. The event takes place on Tuesday, February 11th, from 6:00 – 7:30 at the Nueva Vista Community Center / Beach Flats location at 133 Leibrandt Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Chief Mills and staff will share information about deploying license plate reader (LPR) technology to combat the current gun violence crime trend in the Latino community. LPR technology brings with it the concern of privacy that the Santa Cruz Police Department takes seriously.

Meet the officers working the recent shooting investigations and answering any questions about police practices. Santa Cruz Police Department is committed to working with the community, bringing awareness and preventive measures to enhance public safety.

Bilingual presentation. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions about public safety issues of importance to the Latino community.

 LATINO COMMUNITY MEETING Discussion on the uptick in gun violence against members of the Latino community in the City of Santa Cruz. Public Safety strategies & tools & including License Plate Reader technology. Presented by Santa Cruz Police Dept Tuesday, Feb 11, 2020 6:00- 7:30 pm NUEVA VISTA COMMUNITY RESOURCES Beach Flats location 133 Leibrandt Ave Santa Cruz, CA 95060	  REUNIÓN CON LA COMUNIDAD LATINA Discusión sobre el aumento de la violencia armada contra miembros de la comunidad latina en la ciudad de Santa Cruz. Estrategias y herramientas de seguridad pública. Incluida la tecnología de lector de matrículas. Presentado por el Departamento de Policía de Santa Cruz Tuesday, Feb 11, 2020 6:00- 7:30 pm NUEVA VISTA COMMUNITY RESOURCES Beach Flats location 133 Leibrandt Ave Santa Cruz, CA 95060
---	---

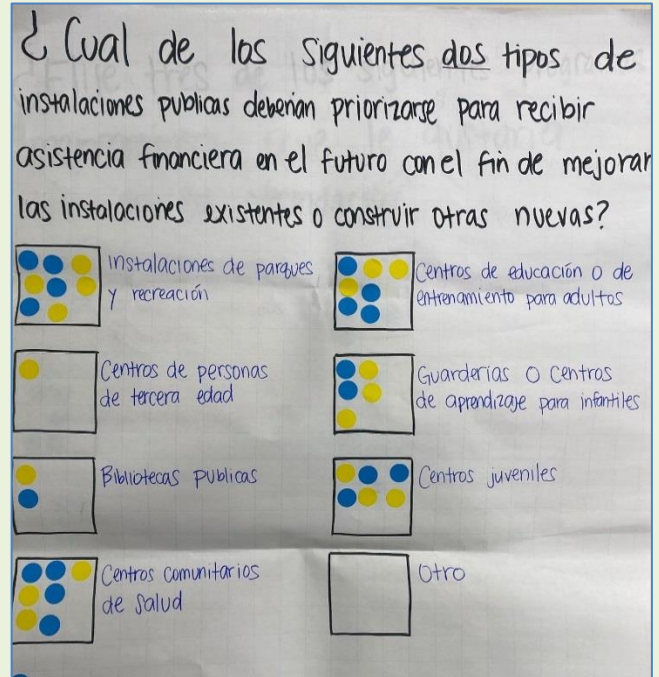
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ED: Housing & Community Development Update

HUD CONSOLIDATED PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY CLOSES AND FINAL COUNT

Last week, we closed the HUD Consolidated Plan community survey for the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs. We sought input for our upcoming 5 year plan which spans 2020-2025. We were able to partner with Nueva Vista to complete survey outreach in the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA).

We received a little over **980 responses!** The results will help determine how to best prioritize funding designated for eligible programs, projects and services in our low-income communities and neighborhoods. Learn more about our [2020-2025 Consolidated Plan and previous plans here](#).



UPCOMING HOUSING COUNCIL ITEMS

The Housing division is preparing to bring the Annual Action Plan applications to the Community Programs Committee (CPC). Staff is currently completing the technical ranking portion of the application evaluation process. At the CPC meeting, we'll be seeking input from the CPC on the community benefit portion to complete and finalize the rankings.

An upcoming CalHome grant request for first time homebuyer's funding of over \$900,000 will be going to Council on February 11, 2020. The Housing division will be seeking council approval to submit the application which is due in February. The application, if successful, would fund a 3 year program which would provide loans to 9 low-income households (at or below 80% AMI) of \$100,000 each.

ED: Asset Management Update

WHARF UPDATE - SPLASH! REBRANDING + PILOT POP-UP OPPORTUNITY

Exciting things are coming to the Wharf, including the upcoming release of the Draft Wharf Master Plan EIR and an anticipated hearing for the Wharf Master Plan this spring. At the heart of the Wharf Master Plan is the goal of increasing activation of public spaces and opening up commercial frontage to make for a much richer visitor experience. This year two projects aim to pilot new ideas and pave the way for a more active and community oriented Wharf.

Some may have noticed that Splash!, which opened in 2015, closed its doors on January 1st. The owners of Splash! have decided to restructure and rebrand around a Pacific-rim fusion themed

restaurant. Under the working name of Makai (Hawaiian for “to the sea”) the rebranding will also showcase the first phase of a long awaited 760 square foot outdoor patio, half of which will be available to the public. The new restaurant is expected to open in late March or early April.



To further activate the Wharf, increase visitation, and generate revenue for much needed repairs, Economic Development and the Parks and Recreation Department are also exploring the potential for a pop-up, at the site of the former Miramar Restaurant. Staff has recently released a Request for Proposals seeking interested businesses (light food, beverage, and retail) as well as site plan proposals. Parks and ED look forward to all the great ideas our business community comes up with and expects to move quickly targeting a soft opening in mid-May. The RFP can be found at the following link: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/business/bidding-information>.



ED: Business Support Update

COOPERATIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT EFFORTS UNDERWAY

The Business Support division has been working on implementation of the Cooperative Business resolution passed by Council in October 2019 and we have made progress on several of the items included in the resolution. We have met with advocates from Coop Santa Cruz to

learn about their efforts to engage the community around interest and education of the worker cooperative model and identify ways we can partner to support these efforts. We worked with the Finance Department to add a business type option of “worker cooperative” on the Business License application form which will allow us to collect better data on local businesses that identify as coops and demonstrate to the business community that we welcome and support these types of business structures.

Work is underway to develop a Cooperatives resource page on ChooseSantaCruz.com to provide information to connect prospective cooperative businesses to the support they need to take the next step towards conversion or starting up. We have also been in communication with the Small Business Development Center, Workforce Development Board, and Community Ventures to develop a partnership for referral services to provide technical assistance, training, and a pipeline to support cooperative businesses. We are also researching policies and support actions taken by other cities to promote cooperatives and will be looking specifically at the cooperative purchasing preference policy that Berkeley is developing. We will continue to update the Council on future developments in our work on developing resources for cooperative business support in the coming months.

COMICOPOLIS SIGN GRANT COMPLETED

We are excited to share the completed sign for Comicopolis located at 829 Front Street downtown. The owners previously only had an awning in need of replacement and window signage for their business and through our grant program we were able to assist them in getting a new wall sign with lighting to help boost their visibility day and night and the owners also replaced the awning to freshen up their storefront. Comicopolis has an incredible collection of comics, graphics novels, board games, and more. Be sure to visit them and show your support to our local independent businesses.



PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering / Transportation Engineering

The Rail Trail Segment 7 – Phase I project is in its third week of construction. Work this week included several large concrete pours. First and most visible was at the northwest corner of Bay/California Ave. Patch paving will be performed soon so that the corner can be reopened to the public. Lennox Street sidewalk and driveway approaches were also poured this week and included new sidewalk around the beautiful cypress tree. Next week the contractor will continue concrete work at the other corners of Bay/California and Lennox Street and will begin trail excavation work between Bay and Lennox.



Safe Routes to School project construction continues at different locations throughout the City including Bay/Escalona, Broadway/Sumner, California/Dufour, California/Walnut, Seabright/Windsor, Poplar/Hammond, and Water/Poplar. Construction includes installation of new ADA compliant curb ramps, striping, and signage. Electrical work also began this week with pole foundations being poured for new beacon systems.



This week's Street Smarts message encourages drivers to resist the "California stop" and brake completely at stop signs. Read the traffic safety details [here](#).



Wastewater Treatment Facility

Maintenance and Operations are working together to install a new foul air odor control treatment system, replacing an older model and improving odor control dosing efficiencies. Staff are fabricating and installing the odor control nozzle sprayer PVC conduit.



Our mechanics are training a new-hire on routine preventative maintenance work which includes tasks such as oil changes on all the pump motor equipment. They have also been working on cleaning and rebuilding equipment associated with cogenerating engine #1 while it is offsite for its annual rebuild. This includes flushing and cleaning an oil cooling system that uses pipes of water within a chamber of hot oil. A heat transfer occurs between the metal piping allowing the oil to cool and the water to warm up as it passes through the system.



Progress continues in repair of the facility's perimeter fencing. This week brush is being removed from the fence to provide access for the fence repair crew.

Electricians are busy tackling their preventative maintenance list which includes calibrating in-line electronic instruments. Shown below right is an example of the chlorine residual meter at the Effluent Filter System being calibrated.



Operations continues to properly treat an average 8-million-gallons of wastewater each day. This produces an average 50-tons of class-B biosolids daily. Operators are also tackling their preventative maintenance assignments which include hosing accumulated materials from mechanical equipment, verifying proper operation of emergency showers and eyewash stations, and calibrating confined space gas meters.



Resource Recovery

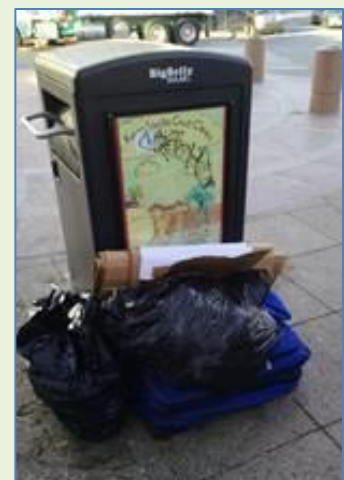
The third annual Master Recycler Volunteer training program kicked off this week. A diverse group began their 7 week journey learning about the 6R's. (REFUSE, RETHINK, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, ROT). This program helps the City reduce contamination in recycling collection and reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill.

The Resource Recovery sweepers collected from City roadways and disposed of 14.87 tons of debris this week. We also assisted in clearing out the sidewalk by the Post Office collecting about 3 yards of trash. The Post Office location is now being collected up to three times a day several days each week.

Food waste preprocessing equipment installation has begun at the Resource Recovery Facility.



Installation of Food Waste Processing Equipment



Post Office Big Belly

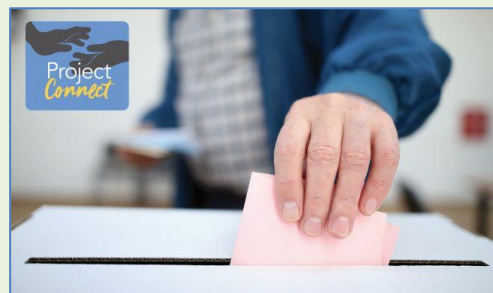
Conversations for Change: Fair Elections

Tuesday, February 11th • 5:15pm-7:30pm

Downtown Branch Library

224 Church St. • Otter Room, First Floor

Our Constitutional Democracy is based on the idea that representatives selected by the people will implement policies that reflect the values and rights of the people. We citizens and voters play a role in defining and maintaining fair elections. This Conversation asks you to consider: are our current voting practices providing the best outcome for all our citizens? What kinds of reforms, if any, would you favor?



Conversations for Change are designed to foster greater understanding among individuals who may have different viewpoints. Participants in these small group conversations, guided by a trained host, practice being open and curious about all perspectives, with a focus on learning from one another.

Registration required. Register online: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6076713>

Prior to registering, please review the [Conversation Agreements](#).

[Project Connect](#) is a group of actively engaged citizens who care about bridging divides in our community as a means of preserving our democratic republic and the flourishing of our country. It is a Finding Common Ground team associated with Santa Cruz Indivisible.

A Conversation to End Homelessness

Thursday, February 12th • 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Downtown Branch Library

224 Church St. • Upstairs Meeting Room

This conversation will be courageous, safe, focused on what we can do now, and will create a reasonable plan that we can all get behind.



People who are homeless, who have experienced homelessness, who work with people who are homeless, who care about this issue, and the general public are all invited.

This conversation will be guided by data. However, we are mindful of the fact that it can be challenging to get quality data when it comes to homelessness, and that we will not have all the data we need.

Contemporary Issues in World Historical Perspective: Migration

Thursday, February 13th • 7:00pm-8:30pm

Downtown Branch Library

224 Church St. • Upstairs Meeting Room



How does the past relate to the present? Join us as we explore the enduring questions that accompany all historical inquiry - how does perspective change when you put contemporary issues and problems in a historical context?

Every second Thursday of the month, historian Robert Strayer will present a lecture, followed by discussion, on a different global issue. This month, we discuss migration. Humankind has always been a species on the move. In what ways do recent patterns of migration differ from those of earlier times?

Boulder Creek Branch Closing for Remodel February 21st

The Boulder Creek Branch is scheduled to close for remodeling on February 22nd 2020. The branch is scheduled to reopen in Fall/Winter of 2020. We suggest relocating any outstanding requests for books and other materials to the New Felton Library if they don't arrive by the 21st.

Learn more about library building projects on our [Measure S page](#).



Felton Branch Grand Opening February 22nd

The Grand Opening of the new Felton Branch Library is scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd. We'll start the day with speeches at 9:15 am with the ribbon cutting at 10 am. Enjoy a variety of crafts, music, and food all day long or drop in when you can. The new branch is located at 6121 Gushee St.

