

City Manager's Weekly Update

August 28, 2020

Planning and Community Development

Multi-Family and Mixed-Use Objective Standards Process Kicks Off!

On August 25, the City Council approved the scope and consultant contract for the City to begin a 15-month project to create objective standards for multi-family and mixed-use development design. Once approved by early 2022, these objective design standards will play an essential role in shaping the look and feel of multi-family and mixed-use buildings in the City for years to come. Throughout this project, staff will be engaging with the community and the Planning Commission, especially at key decision points. This project's first tasks will occur this fall, including doing further background research and creating a community engagement strategy. Anticipate seeing additional ways to engage with this process following the presentation of that information to the Planning Commission, currently scheduled for November. Please direct any questions regarding this project to Senior Planner Sarah Neuse at sneuse@cityofsantacruz.com.

126 Eucalyptus

On August 10, 2020, the Planning Department received an application to demolish the existing building previously used as Gateway School and divide off a portion of the parcel that contains two houses listed that are listed on the historic building survey and front on West Cliff Drive. The applicant would like to construct a 92 unit, three-story, senior housing facility that will include both independent and assisted-living residential units, memory care and support services, and amenities. The site is located in the R-1-5/WCD-O/CZ-O/SP-O (Single Family Residence/West Cliff Drive Overlay/Coastal Zone Overlay/Shoreline Protection Overlay) zone district. The applicant is requesting three waivers under the Density Bonus Ordinance regarding height, setbacks and floor area ratio restrictions found in the West Cliff Drive Overlay zone district. The applicant has already completed two Community Outreach Meetings, one on March 3, 2020 and one on May 17, 2020, where they received early public input on the project. We expect that the project will require Planning Commission approval of a Non-Residential Demolition Authorization Permit, Minor Land Division, Special Use Permit, Coastal Permit, Design Permit, Historic Alteration Permit, Density Bonus Request, and Heritage Tree Removal Permit to remove six Heritage trees. Hearings should occur in the late fall/early winter timeframe. Mike Ferry is the planner on the project.



To stay updated on this project application, including when it is scheduled for a public hearing, visit cityofsantacruz.com/126euca where you can subscribe via email and review plan sets and other reports.

Public Works

Engineering

Rail Trail construction continues with new curb ramps at Seaside/Rankin intersection and on Fair Ave. The smooth wire trail fencing between the trail and rail was installed between Dufour and Almar streets. Next week Graniterock will be paving Palm Street and Seaside/Rankin intersection. They will also return to the Almar Retaining wall and begin installing the concrete lagging. Due to drilling issues at the Arroyo Seco bridge and poor soil conditions, the anticipated completion date of the bridge and Swift Street to Natural Bridges Drive trail subsection has been pushed out to October.



Wastewater Treatment Facility

Given the widespread use of wipes during the pandemic, we'd like to remind you that there are no "flushable" wipes. Even if the label says "flushable" or "biodegradable," wipes cause sewer clogs and should never be flushed. They belong in the trash. Think before you flush to avoid plumbing and sewer problems.



Operations removed the Gravity Thickener from service and conducted a confined space entry to clean it for a scheduled inspection. The Gravity Thickener processes solids removed from the primary treatment process. While the Gravity Thickener was out of service, those solids were rerouted to the DAF Thickener, which usually only handles solids from the secondary treatment process. Because of extreme heat conditions, a portable shade tent was provided to the entry attendant during the tank's cleaning and inspection. The PW Department Heat Illness Prevention Program requires that additional steps be taken to provide adequate shade when outside temperatures exceed 80 °F.



Maintenance mechanics worked hard to complete the reinstallation of Cogen #1, completing the work ahead of the expected timeline. Tests went smoothly, so Cogen #1 is now back in service at full power. Having this generator back in service puts the plant in a superior position to handle power outages like those that happened earlier this week.



Traffic Engineering

Our Street Smarts video reminder to drivers this week: details in [English](#), [en español](#).

