

City Manager's Weekly Update

March 13, 2020

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

150 Felker St

On February 19, 2020, the Planning Department received an application for a Pre-application review of a new three-story, twenty-two unit residential development on a parcel located within the R-M (Medium Density) zone district at 150 Felker Street. The project site is currently developed with two permitted commercial

office buildings that house a variety of professional office and medical/therapy uses, some of which are legal non-conforming.



The proposal includes demolition of the existing buildings and construction of twenty-two one-bedroom apartments ranging from 757 to 840 square feet in size. Accessory dwelling units are permitted with new construction multi-family housing projects and may be included as part of the future development. The parcel size allows for a base density of sixteen one-bedroom units and the applicant has proposed to restrict 20% of the units at the low-income level defined in the Density Bonus Ordinance (60% AMI). This level of affordability would make the project eligible for a 35% density bonus, increasing the base density by six to allow up to twenty-two units on the site.

It is estimated that the project would require approval of a Design Permit by the Zoning Administrator at a public hearing. Additional permit entitlements may be required, including a Sign Permit, Tree Removal Permits, and a Conditional Fence Permit. A Pre-application Review is intended to assist an applicant in the preparation of their formal application and allows for initial staff review of a potential project. There is no public hearing or decision with a Pre-application Review, however, a Community Meeting will be required during this phase pursuant to the City's Community Outreach Policy for Planning Projects, and the feedback provided may contribute to alterations in the project design. Additional updates will be provided if a formal application is submitted following the Pre-application review process. Bryanna Sherman is the planner on this project.

126 Eucalyptus St.

A Pre-application review for a 100-unit senior housing project at 126 Eucalyptus Street was submitted to the Planning Department on November 18, 2019. A Pre-application review is not a formal application for a development project but rather, provides an opportunity for the City to provide early review and feedback on conceptual plans and in most cases, it allows for an opportunity for the applicant to have early interaction with the community.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, as a part of the Pre-application process, the applicant for 126 Eucalyptus Street held a community meeting at the church on the Oblates of St. Joseph campus and presented their preliminary design for a 100-unit senior housing project. Approximately 55 community members attended the meeting. Feedback from attendees included concerns about the project size, traffic, a service lane and associated potential back-of-house activities across the street from residences on Eucalyptus Avenue, setbacks to residences, unit affordability, and impacts to Heritage trees and monarch butterflies. The applicant is in the process of revising their preliminary proposal based on feedback from the community meeting as well as City review comments. The applicant will submit a revised concept for City pre-application review and intends to subsequently host a second community meeting. Clara Stanger is the planner for this project.



PUBLIC WORKS

Resource Recovery

The food waste processing equipment motors and components are being tested this week. We will soon be able to process food waste collected from Santa Cruz restaurants and grocery stores (that is now processed over the hill) within our own City system. We will convert the food waste into renewable power for use at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The new equipment will allow us to remove contaminants and create a slurry that will be pumped into tanks and transported to the Wastewater Treatment Facility. There, anaerobic digestion will process the slurry creating methane gas to help power the facility.

Waste Reduction staff attended the quarterly Wharf meeting to discuss changes to the Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging Ordinance.

Our street sweepers collected and disposed of 19.39 tons of debris from City streets. We are continuing the temporary no parking pilot in high density areas and this week piloted a section of Washington and Chestnut streets. We only needed to have two vehicles move.

A reminder that clean cardboard boxes are recyclable; some of the packing material that often comes with them is not recyclable. Learn more in our [short video](#).



Engineering

Our 2020 Curb Ramps Enhancement Project continued with the installation of ADA compliant concrete curb ramps at six locations along River Street from Josephine Street to N. Pacific Avenue. [Details.](#)

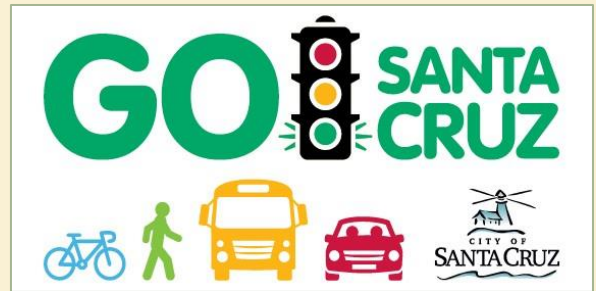


On Monday, March 16, we begin the River Street and Water Street Overlay Project. Funded by Measure H, Measure D, SB1 Gas Tax and state grants, the project is rehabilitating pavement in two locations: River Street from Madrone Street to Water Street and Water Street from River Street to N. Branciforte Avenue. The project will repair pavement including the River Street location below. [Details.](#)



Traffic Engineering

Our GO Santa Cruz program will be honored at the 2020 NEXTies Awards in June! See and hear Transportation Planner Claire Gallogly and Transportation Coordinator Joanna Edmonds talk about their GO Santa Cruz success in this [video](#).



Mav offers lifesaving Street Smarts tips for drivers this March Madness month -- check out his [video](#); en [español](#).



Wastewater Treatment Facility

In light of the recent global health events, the Wastewater Treatment Facility is suspending all tours to protect the health of all concerned. In doing so we are reducing exposure risks to the staff, and thereby ensuring continued operation of the facility.

We recently checked out a new isolation gate for the pre-aeration grit system to see if it would fit into its channel for a grit system bypass to allow for a capital improvement project.



Contractors visited the treatment facility to view the UV system in order to prepare their bids for its upgrade.

Operations performed preventative influent line cleaning. This involved placing extra equipment in-service and maintaining a lower level on the influent channel to the facility. This task also served as a pump check for influent pumps that are not often called to run. The operator shown in the right photo is placing a second bar rake in-service by opening up the isolation gate.



LIBRARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ, CA – March 13, 2020

Dear Community Members,

Sadly, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) are temporarily suspending the use of our facilities for at least the next two weeks, effective Saturday, March 14th at 5pm. With the threat that COVID-19 presents to our community we strongly believe that this is the responsible action. Many Library services will still be available through our online and phone services. We are also temporarily suspending the services provided by our Bookmobile.

The public schools throughout our County have also made the decision to temporarily close following the recommendations of the County Public Health Services Agency. Like the schools, our facilities face social distancing challenges and the Library supports patrons of all ages and levels of vulnerabilities.

SCPL hopes to decrease anxiety for all of us by creating a period of zero overdue fines for the remainder of March and all of April. This means that we will charge absolutely no overdue fines for any materials returned late during the period of March 13th through April 30th, 2020. Lost and damage fees still apply.

During this temporary closure, we will continue to provide reference and information services via phone, text, and email. To access these services, call 831-427-7713, text 831.264.0647, or email elibrary@santacruzpl.org. SCPL's [Virtual Library](#) provides access to thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, News, Movies, and Music 24/7 from home with your library card and PIN/password. Research collections and other eLearning options are also available 24/7 from home with your library card and PIN/password from our [Research](#) page. Educators and homeschool leaders without access to online teaching platforms are invited to try [Brainfuse Help Now's](#) MEET.

Over the next two weeks, we will continue to develop programs that you will be able to access from home. We invite your input during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Susan Nemitz, Library Director