

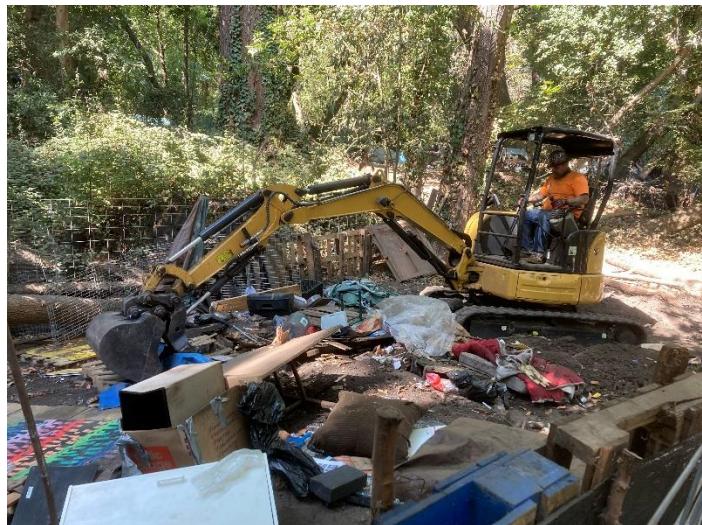
City Manager's Weekly Update

October 2, 2020

Parks & Recreation

Parks

The Parks & Recreation Department's Open Space & Greenways Team (in coordination with the Police Department, Fire Department, Sanitation, Roaring Camp Railroad, and outside contractors) has begun the cleanup of the abandoned encampments in the Pogonip along Highway 9. During the first week, more than three 30-yard dumpsters of refuse were removed each day, a portion of which consisted of hazardous materials. The process involves all flammable, explosive, and hazardous materials being removed from structures before they are broken down by an excavator and transported by skid steers to dumpsters set along the highway. Metals are being separated and recycled. Efforts will continue over the next two-to-three weeks.



Planning and Community Development

247 High Street: On Sept. 15, the Planning Department received an application for the construction of a seven-unit apartment development on a parcel located in the R-M (Multiple Residence-Medium Density) zone district at 247 High Street (CP20-0106).

The project site is currently developed with a single-family residence and a detached garage. The proposal includes demolition of the existing home and accessory building and the construction of seven one-bedroom apartments ranging in size from 393- 492 square feet. One apartment is proposed for the ground floor and six on the second floor. The project includes approximately 1,976 square feet of open space, including private decks for each of the seven units, and parking located under the second-floor units. The project proposes to utilize the Density Bonus ordinance to allow for the seven units and is requesting an incentive/concession to reduce the front yard setback. The project includes a Variance to the required lot width. The project is subject to a 20 percent inclusionary housing requirement. We estimate that the project will require the approval of a Residential Demolition Authorization Permit, Design Permit, and Variance to be heard by the Zoning Administrator at a public hearing. A community meeting will be held and noticed pursuant to the City's Community Outreach Policy for Planning Projects. The feedback provided may contribute to alterations in the project design and additional project entitlements. Lane Zorich is the planner processing this project.



727 Hanover Street: On Sept. 22, the Planning Department received an application to construct a 12-unit multi-family rental development on a parcel located in the R-M (Multiple Residence-Medium Density) zone district at 727 Hanover Street. The project site is currently developed with one single-family residence, one garage, and two sheds. The proposal includes demolition of the existing residence and accessory buildings, removing one Heritage tree, and constructing 12 two-story apartments ranging from 1,028- 1,732 square feet in size. The project includes three one-bedroom units, six two-bedroom units, three three-bedroom units, and approximately 4,698 square feet of open space. A pre-application review for the project was submitted on Nov. 7, 2019, and was deemed complete on March 30, 2020; therefore, pursuant to SB330, which was approved by the Governor on Oct. 9, 2019, the development is locked into the fees and inclusionary housing requirements that were in effect at the time that the pre-application was deemed complete. The project is subject to a 20 percent inclusionary housing requirement. We estimate that the project will require administrative-level approval (no public hearing) of a Residential Demolition Authorization Permit, a Design Permit, and a Heritage Tree Removal Permit, which is issued separately by the Parks and Recreation Department. If appealed, the project would be heard by the Planning Commission at a noticed public hearing. A Community Meeting will be required pursuant to the City's Community Outreach Policy for Planning Projects, and the feedback provided may contribute to alterations in the project design and additional project entitlements. Bryanna Sherman is the planner on this project.



Police Department

Neighborhood Policing Team Strategy

SCPD Neighborhood Policing Team utilizes two crime prevention strategies to restore order and reduce crime for people working in NIAC building on 333 Front Street through

1. Environmental Design, and
2. Community Policing

NIAC BUILDING: A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF NEGLECT



333 Front Street/NIAC Building CRIME REDUCTION & SAFETY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE



To increase public safety and reduce the fear of crime, SCPD devised and implemented a plan to effect positive change to the building design, the building's management, and the business site's physical environment.

SCPD Deploys Substation in the NIAC

Building on 333 Front Street; this is one of many solutions to address challenges along the Front Street corridor. SCPD Substation benefits include increased police presence, improved response time, secured computer room, emergency vehicle parking, and easy access to Downtown.

SCPD's community policing strategy works by making police more visible on their beats, familiarizing themselves with the people on the beat, and establishing a routine presence on the site and the building's physical environment.

OBJECTIVE

- Increase police presence through directed patrols and implement passive deterrents to reduce criminal activity around 333 Front Street
- Request for Patrol Officers and Downtown Rangers : Officers and Rangers from all shifts conduct extra checks around 333 Front Street, including the Metro Station, City Lot #12, Maple Alley and Pacific Avenue, specifically trained towards subjects loitering for the purposes of drug, alcohol, auto burglary, and/or other criminal activity
- Develop a substation within the NIAC building to help increase police presence Downtown

The complete PowerPoint slide presentation on the NIAC Building's Safety Enhancement created by project lead Ranger Brothers is available on [SCPD Transparency Portal - Neighborhood Policing Projects](#).

Chief Mills commends our hardworking Downtown Neighborhood Policing Team for staying focused on comprehensive problem solving, enhancing working relationships with City departments and the

community. The team brought crime prevention awareness to city staff and tenants in the NIAC building. SCPD maximized utilizing environmental design to increase public safety reduce the fear of crime.

For information about [Santa Cruz Police Neighborhood Policing Teams](#), visit [santacruzpolice.com](#).

SCPD Arrest Leads to Man Charged with Federal Hate Crime

The U.S. Department of Justice announced this week that Ole Hougen was charged with a federal hate crime for attacking a black man with a knife on the street in Santa Cruz, California. Santa Cruz Police will always take the proper and most vigorous action possible concerning hate crimes. [U.S. Department of Justice Press Release](#)

About SCPD Arrest of Ole Hougen



On July 5, 2020, at about 6:24 p.m., SCPD responded to an altercation between a black man attacked by a white suspect who drew a knife and started slashing at the victim on San Lorenzo Blvd. and Broadway St. The suspect, Ole Hougen, 43 years old, screamed racial slurs at the victim during the incident. Fortunately, the victim was able to fend off the attacker until officers arrived.

Mr. Hougen was arrested and charged for a hate crime, the criminal act committed against another person motivated by prejudice and assault with a deadly weapon.

The suspect Ole Hougen, only wanted a “white person to help” take him into custody, which is not an SCPD accommodation. Our staffing includes people of color. Mr. Hougen continued to make racial comments and slur towards SCPD officers and jail staff during the booking process. Officers remained professional at all times, even though his behavior was out of control and unacceptable.

Santa Cruz Police will not tolerate any form of hate crime.

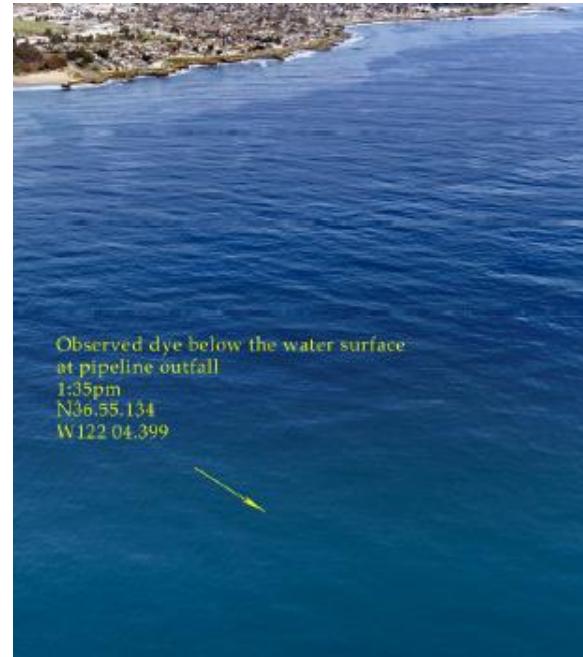
Public Works

Wastewater Treatment Facility

Operations conducted the annual dye test, dumping an environmentally safe food-grade fluorescent dye into the effluent flow that gets discharged in the ocean one-mile offshore.



A plane then flies over the outfall pipe and takes a photo as the fluorescent dye is exiting. It takes about 15 minutes from dumping the dye until the pilot sees it discharging in the ocean. This test is done to ensure the ocean outfall pipe discharges the treated effluent from the facility properly and that there aren't any breaks in the piping sitting on the ocean floor.





During September, the Wastewater Treatment Facility:

- treated 187,610,000 gallons of wastewater
- recycled and beneficially reused 5,430,000 gallons of wastewater onsite
- generated 609 tons of dry biosolids to be beneficially reused on non-agricultural crops or topsoil at landfills
- produced 9,194,000 cubic feet of methane gas, which was then converted to electricity for onsite use and reduce the facility's energy consumption.

Engineering

The Almar retaining wall on Segment 7/Phase I of the Rail Trail is nearly complete. The concrete cap on top of the wall has been poured and needs to cure over the next week before the base rock's final placement. Afterward, wall fencing and trail fencing will be installed to keep future users on the trail and off the drain basin and railroad tracks.

The east abutment of the Arroyo Seco Bridge was also poured this week. The abutment will need to cure and reach design strength before the bridge can be installed – the prefabricated steel bridge is tentatively scheduled to be delivered and placed in mid-October. Once the bridge is in place, finish trail grading will be performed between Swift and Natural Bridges in preparation for final trail paving. Curb ramps continue to be constructed on Almar, Fair, Swift, and Natural Bridges Drive. Micro-surface seal was done this week on Bay Street and several trail crossing locations in preparation for final striping. Initial trail striping has been installed between Bay and Almar with final striping in place at the end of the project in mid-November.



Construction for the HSIP8: [Citywide Pedestrian Crossing Improvement Project](#) is currently on hold. The remaining locations include new rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB), which are in shipment. The contractor will continue construction once the RRFB materials arrive, which is anticipated to be next week. This project is funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program Cycle 8 grant.



Intersection of Soquel Avenue and Seabright Avenue

Operations

The San Lorenzo River Maintenance Project for flood control continues. The contractor has completed the reach between the Hwy 1 and Water Street bridges. The work will continue downstream of Water Street Bridge with further collaboration between Public Works and PD to notice and vacate areas ahead of the contractor.



Streets

Streets crews restriped the gated parking lot at the Police Department, completed the filling of potholes and street grinding, replaced street signs, and conducted the weekly garbage and abandoned encampment cleanup. The entire team has been critical in encampment cleanup along the SLR levee to prepare the vegetation management for flood control. In two days, 4860 pounds of garbage was abated between Hwy 1 and Soquel bridges. This number does not include the several hundred needles, numerous used condoms, and other hazardous waste picked up along the river.



The decorative lights outside of NIAC building were replaced to increased lighting and security around the building. Signage for parking has also been installed in the adjacent employee lot on Pacific Ave.

Facilities

Facilities have been working on various repairs at the NIAC building: door security, HVAC repair, plexi-glass guards, and roof patching. The failing lateral sewer line will be replaced at the Corporation Yard.

Transportation Engineering

Our friends at Ecology Action are hosting a virtual “Biketober,” starting Oct. 1 and continuing through the entire month! With everything going on in the world, getting out on your bike can help bring some positivity and joy into your life.

Whether you are new to biking or ride every day, there is some fun in here for everyone. Get some fresh air (fires notwithstanding), connect with your family, get your heart pumping, or simply get from point A to B with no emissions. Some of us are commuting to work, others are working from home, so get out for whatever ride feels good to you and help Santa Cruz County mobilize thousands of community members to get out on two wheels this month.

Biketober offers weekly prizes for logging just one ride a week, as well as a cool workshop covering the need-to-knows for cycling in the City. Check it all out and register: www.lovetoride.net/santacruz.



This week, a Street Smarts reminder for all roadway users. [En español](#).



Water

Welcome Water Year 2021, Oct. 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021! Water year 2020 is history, and a dry one it was.

Some of you have heard me talk about water year classifications in the 7 winters since I joined the Water Department in 2014 – 1 critically dry year, 3 dry years, 1 normal year, and 2 wet years, with the critically dry year, 2014, being the second driest on record, and one of the two wet years, 2017, being the wettest year on record. While this is obviously a limited data set, I have to say that it is hard not to conclude that “normal” isn’t normal any more. One of the many reasons that is significant is because

our water system was designed and built for “normal” conditions, with dry and wet years being the exception. Now it’s the reverse; hence, our sense of urgency to upgrade our water system.

This week a silt curtain was installed in front of the Newell Creek Dam in the Loch Lomond Reservoir. The function of a silt curtain is to keep dirty water caused by dredging the reservoir inside a contained, construction area, separate from clean, undisturbed water that can continue to be used and treated for drinking water. The photo below shows the top of the curtain floating on the surface of the reservoir, surrounding the construction barge:



Non-stop fire action for us these days. We’re working on water and sediment sampling, and with the EPA on cleanup priorities. Last Thursday several of us toured the burn zone and had a chance to see both some beneficial fire effects as well as a lot of devastation.



The concerns about debris-flows should not be taken lightly. There are some side canyons in the upper San Lorenzo River watershed that are definitely going to be very active in that regard this winter and in following winters as well.