

City Manager's Weekly Update

October 23, 2020

Economic Development

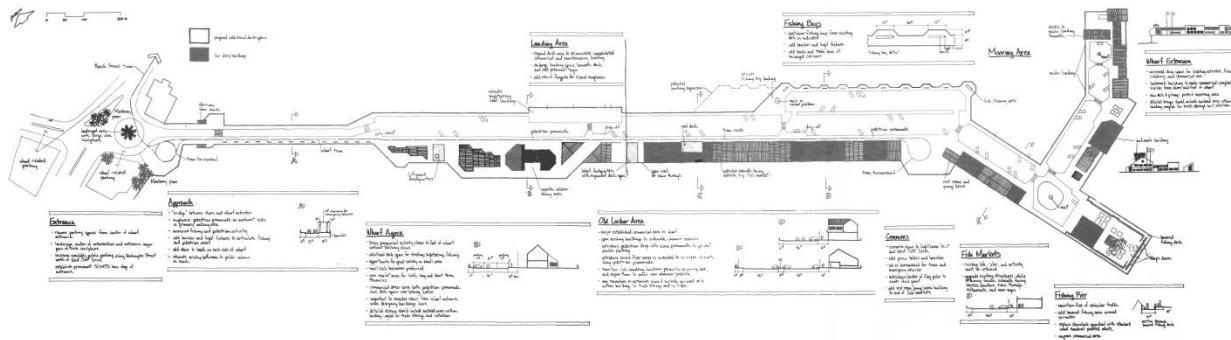
Infrastructure and Property Development & Management |

Wharf Master Plan Recommended for Approval to City Council By Commissions

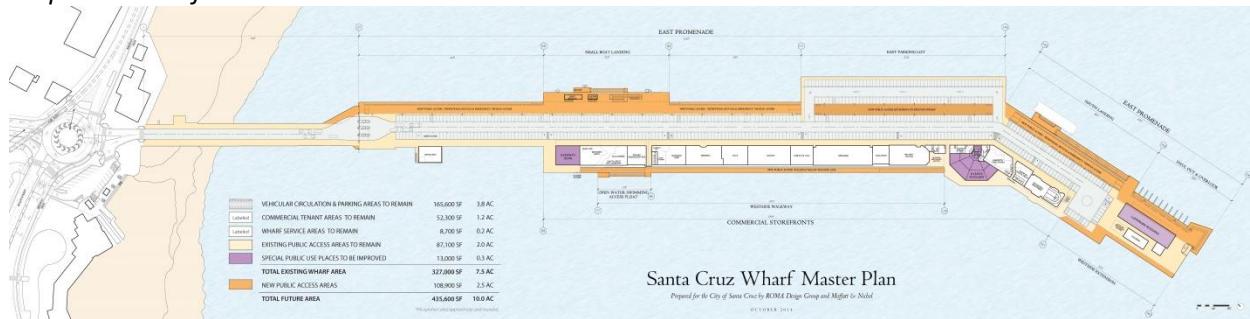
The long-awaited Wharf Master Plan (WMP) made progress this past week with hearings at the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on Oct. 14 and Planning Commission on Oct. 15, 2020. The Wharf Master Plan lays out policy, guidelines, and design standards for future development and sustainability of the Wharf. The WMP would also update the Wharf Design Framework in the 1980 Beach Area Plan. Improvements proposed in the WMP, include a new eastern bike/ped promenade, western walkway, boat landing, relocated entrance gates, modest commercial infill, and three new community-oriented cultural buildings. The Master Plan would not prescribe any of these improvements or how they should look, but sets outside standards, one vision to help guide future community discussions as improvements are needed and projects develop. The HPC, voted 6-0-1 to recommend approval of the Wharf Master Plan with a requirement for Historical Alteration Permits and review by a historic architect for certain projects. They also called for a Wharf history museum or interpretive elements and capping building heights at 35 feet. The Planning Commission recommended Council approval of the WMP (6-1), subject to a few modifications related to clarifying ocean-liner cruise ship prohibitions, adding interpretive historic displays, and updating entry sign information. The WMP is currently scheduled for a City Council hearing on Nov. 10, 2020. David McCormic, Project Manager with Economic Development can be reached with any questions at dmccormic@cityofsantacruz.com.

1980 Wharf Design Framework

FIGURE 21: SANTA CRUZ MUNICIPAL WHARF SITE PLAN



Proposed Wharf Master Plan



Fire Department



On Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, the California Fire Prevention Organization (CFPO) partnered with the Santa Cruz Fire Department and Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara County to provide Second Harvest client families with fire and life safety information and free smoke alarms for those in need. COVID-19 protocols were adhered to throughout the event. The canvassing operation took place at the 100 Beach St. parking lot, adjacent to the Santa Cruz Boardwalk. CFPO's team positioned itself in teams of two, interacting with two lines of vehicular traffic and at one walk-up station. The CFPO locations were situated after the

Second Harvest client check-in areas and the food distribution stations. We were, in effect, the visitors' last stop before leaving the event. All vehicles were offered Go Bags filled with educational material, as well as a whistle and a pillbox for storage of survival medicine, and a business card explaining Code Red, the emergency notification system in Santa Cruz County. The business card explained the easy steps to register with Code Red and included a QR code to make the registration even easier from a smartphone. The bags were distributed in accordance with the number of families per vehicle, as indicated by a note affixed by Second Harvest personnel. CFPO was proud to impact 1400 area residents through this mission.

Parks & Recreation

13 Days of Halloween on the Wharf kicks off with the Great Pumpkin Bingo Hunt

Parks and Recreation Special Events staff were on the Wharf this week distributing Great Pumpkin Bingo Hunt To-go Kits. Over 120 kits were reserved online and distributed to the community. The 13 Days of Halloween on the Wharf offers safe and frightfully fun holiday activities for families. Along with the Great Pumpkin Bingo Hunt there are festive Wharf Halloween decorations and Wharf business Halloween Specials. Visitors can also snap a family photo at the Halloween photo booth on the Wharf Stage with the scenic Monterey Bay and Lighthouse as a backdrop. Check out all the Parks & Rec Halloween fun at CityofSantaCruz.com/ParksAndRecEvents.



Wharf Pile Driving Continues

The Wharf Construction Crew is finishing up pile work allowed under the Army Core of Engineers Nation Wide 3 and CA Coastal Commission emergency maintenance permits out this week. Driving piles is a fairly complex operation requiring the trust and cooperation of all involved. From the transporting of the pile to positioning the driver and the driving of the pile to finally cutting the pile off and bolting it in place, all demands the collaborative attention of the team and strict adherence to protocol and procedure.



Public Works

Engineering

Rail Trail Segment 7/Phase I continues to progress with the Arroyo Seco prefabricated steel bridge placed without any significant issues on Oct. 15. This week the top deck was formed and poured. As that cures over the next four weeks the bridge approaches will be constructed with fencing and slope protection.



Trail paving from Almar to Fair was done leaving only Swift to Natural Bridges Drive to pave. The east curb ramp and islands on Fair Ave. are currently being constructed leaving only 3 curb ramps left to construct.

Streetlights on Fair Ave. were energized. New streetlights on Lennox, Palm, Bellevue, and Rankin will be energized in the next 4-6 weeks as PG&E is working on response to recent fires throughout the region.

Tree planting, striping, and signs have been moved out to the end of November.

Streets

The Streets department has restriped Lot 27, which is at the corner of Front and Laurel.



Operations

Our DeLaveaga solar PV expansion project is still ongoing at the Golf Lodge parking lot. The work is expected to be completed by the end of October, with inspection to follow and Permission to Operate (PTO) effective mid-November.

Energy Projects

PG&E has corrected the rate for approximately 350 City of Santa Cruz owned streetlights that were upgraded to LED through a CEC loan, which credited around \$14,000 to the streetlight PG&E account. The solar inverters at the NIAC building will be repaired, and the system will go back online once the repairs are complete.

Traffic Engineering

Construction for the HSIP8: Citywide Pedestrian Crossing Improvement Project continues along Soquel Avenue. Our contractors are constructing new curb ramps and installing rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the following intersections:

- Soquel Avenue / Pine Street
- Soquel Avenue / Cayuga Street
- Soquel Avenue / Seabright Avenue
- Soquel Avenue / Mentel Avenue

Some of the curb ramps at the above-mentioned locations will be closed through this weekend, but completion of the curb ramps is expected by Monday, Oct. 26. This project is funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program Cycle 8 grant.



Intersection of Soquel Avenue and Cayuga Street

It is a great time to get out and log some trips to participate in Biketober! We have had great participation so far. Visit the Love to Ride platform (www.lovetoride.net/santacruz) and log your trips for a chance to win some awesome prizes from local bike shops. In order to up the excitement and community of Biketober, we will be hosting a “Bike to Work” day for City staff. We have some awesome JUMP sunglasses to hand



out, as well as GO Santa Cruz stickers and information on transportation alternatives to help make your commute more fun. Details:

- **When:** Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 7:30-9 a.m.
- **Where:** City Hall Parking Lot, adjacent to the bike lockers
- **What:** City of Santa Cruz Bike to Work Day!
- **Why:** To get there happier and be part of the fun!

On Sunday we shot two new traffic safety videos for our regional Street Smarts program at several County locations. They mirror our print ads Watch for Me and Share the Rules/Share the Road. Stay tuned for the finished products!



Wastewater Treatment Facility

The WWTF is waiting for quotes to remove brush and dead trees from part of the perimeter near La Barranca Park. This landscaping work was recommended by a larger fire safety audit of the whole facility. Removing dead trees from this area will improve fire safety by increasing defensible space for the WWTF.

Water

We continue to work through our post-fire recovery action-item list in the watershed. This week we had a tour with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and others to show them around and discuss ways to better protect “beneficial uses” of water. While the group wasn’t full of ideas on that matter, they are going to investigate to see if any funds can be made available to help with burned debris removal (things like abandoned cars that were destroyed in the fire, etc), as well as other support for the considerable effort that local NGOs and government agencies are expending on post-fire response. On that note, the local Resource Conservation District has been very helpful in their response to the fire and we’re grateful to be able to work with them. (If you’re interested in learning more about their important work you can visit this site: <http://www.rcdsantacruz.org/post-fire>)

(Picture below: RWQCB tour stop on Empire Grade. Two of the participants are saluting the power of Mother Nature, it appears. It will be a small miracle if this hillside hasn't slid down into Boulder Creek by next spring.)



We reached a couple of milestones with the Coast Pump Station pipeline replacement project this week. 1) We were finally able to complete the 50' excavation of the micro-tunneling receiving pit at Crossing Street, and 2) we began the micro-tunneling work. Compared to the time it took to mobilize the construction site, excavate jacking and receiving pits, and prep equipment, the actual micro-tunneling goes surprisingly quickly. The project will wrap up by January.

(Picture below: a birds-eye view of the micro-tunneling equipment being lowered into the jacking pit on River Street.)