

City Manager's Weekly Update

September 11, 2020

Economic Development

Business Development | SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MOVES TO RED TIER – SOME BUSINESSES REOPENING
Gov. Gavin Newsom announced at his press conference on Tuesday, September 8, that Santa Cruz County has moved to the Red Tier, lessening some economic restrictions. Beginning Tuesday, personal care services such as waxing, nails and massage, restaurants, places of worship, movie theaters, gyms and fitness centers, along with museums, zoos and aquariums can open indoors with modifications and limited capacity to protect the health and safety of staff and the public.

Although moving to the Red Tier is a step in the right direction, the community should be aware that another surge in COVID-19 cases is anticipated. Evacuations due to the CZU Lightning Complex Fires resulted in many people interacting with others from outside their household. If the case rate goes up, Santa Cruz County could return to the Purple Tier in 14 days. School openings for in-person instruction can only be considered once a county has been in the Red Tier for 14 days and is subject to local school boards and administrators' decisions. No County schools may open for in-person instruction at this time. For more information on the State framework, visit www.covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy

GOVERNOR SIGNS NEW BILLS TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

On September 9, the Governor signed into law a series of new bills that support small businesses that have been negatively affected by the COVID pandemic and help accelerate regional economic recovery.

Highlights:

- AB 1577 allows small businesses to exclude PPP loans from gross income for state taxes
- SB 1447 authorizes a \$100 million Main Street hiring tax credit program for small businesses
- SB 115 accelerates \$230.5 million in state bond funding to help jumpstart construction projects

The legislation builds on previous investments and support for California's small businesses.

[Learn more.](#)

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFERS CARES GRANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Santa Cruz County small businesses and their employees, the Santa Cruz County Cares Recovery Program has committed up to \$1,000,000 in one-time funds to create a Small Business Assistance Grant Program. The deadline to apply for the grant is September 15, 2020. Learn more here: www.sccvitality.org/Business/caresgrant.aspx

Housing Development & Preservation | AB 3088: CALIFORNIA EVICTIONS PROTECTIONS

CA Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 3088, enacting the Tenant, Homeowner, and Small Landlord Relief and Stabilization Act of 2020. This Act extends eviction protections for residential tenants (including mobile home tenants) experiencing a financial hardship related to COVID-19. This Act extends the existing eviction preventions in place between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020 to also prohibit tenants from being evicted if they are experiencing COVID-19 related hardships and pay

at least 25% of their rent between September 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021. Learn more about AB 3088 [here](#). For legal resources, contact California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. by phone 831-724-2253 or their website: www.crla.org

Arts & Culture Development | BLACK LIVES MATTER MURAL TO BE PAINTED THIS WEEKEND!



The Black Lives Matter mural will be painted on Center Street between City Hall and the Library on Saturday, September 12, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Santa Cruz is the very first city in the U.S. to develop an ongoing annual progress report on the efforts to eliminate structural racism. In addition to annual repainting of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) mural, the City's Arts Commission is building a sustainable plan surrounding this public art that includes community involvement. The City Arts Commission has accepted the role of choosing the annual event sponsor who will be given the lead role of event organizing. This year the Museum of Art and History is helping organize the event and planning additional activities, including a voter registration table. All activities will be organized with appropriate attention to social distancing. [Learn more about the mural and how to get involved here.](#)

Fire Department

On Friday, August 28, the Santa Cruz Fire Department partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank and California Fire Prevention Organization (CFPO) to conduct public safety outreach. The event was held at the Boardwalk's Third Street lot and sponsored by Second Harvest Food Bank. As local residents drove through the parking lot to collect much-needed food, they were contacted by CFPO personnel who provided smoke detectors and vital emergency preparedness information presented in a convenient "Ready-Set-Go" bag. These bags contained printed materials that discussed emergency preparedness for incidents that include earthquakes, floods and wildfires. In all, 650 Emergency Preparedness Go bags were distributed, along with 221 smoke detectors.

In addition to outreach, the Santa Cruz Fire Department received an award for a water safety Public Service Announcement (PSA). This award was given by [The Communicator Awards](#) in 2019 for "The Deadly Swim." This was a PSA produced by MySafeCA (Previous name of CFPO) in conjunction with the Santa Cruz Fire Department. It focused on ocean safety in and around the "Toilet Bowl" off of Lighthouse Point. The PSA reenacted many of the dangerous and fatal events occurring in this spot over the years. It advised the public on how to stay safe in the ocean environment. The PSA included safety messages delivered by Martine Watkins, Chief Jason Hajduk and other Marine Safety personnel.



Parks & Recreation

Parks

Harvey West Park staff are now using electric equipment. The electric blowers will not only reduce our carbon output but are also quieter. This means less impact on staff while helping to reduce noise pollution in our parks. Electric weed-whips, chain saws and edgers are much lighter, reducing fatigue for Parks staff.



Louden Nelson Community Center

As of September 9, Senior Programs Coordinator Kelly Mercer-Lebov has connected 31 seniors with free Amazon Fire tablets through the Senior Center Without Limits partnership with Community Bridges and Elder Day!



Practice opened this week at Harvey West Park field 5! Softball players can now rent out the machine and enjoy socially distanced batting, to help get ready for when softball can start back up again. Within the first weekend of opening, all available dates were booked, so the Sports office is looking at opening up more dates!

Pre-register online at cityofsantacruz.com/softball



The Loudon Nelson Halloween Horrors Film Competition

The Loudon Nelson Community Center is very excited to announce the launch of a creative and safe way to celebrate Halloween with the community during the COVID-19 pandemic! The Halloween Horrors Film Competition is the perfect way to get in the Halloween spirit with your family, household, or stable workgroup.

This competition features three different categories to enter:

- 1) Make Your Own Horror Short
- 2) Horror Scene Remake Challenge
- 3) Halloween/ Horror Make-Up Tutorial



Registration for the Film Competition is open now through September 18. For more information, visit www.nelsoncenter.com

Police Department

CM Update 9.11.2020 - POLICE

SCPD TACTICAL DE-ESCALATION

Officers used Tactical De-escalation detain a subject intent on deliberately threatening officers with the purpose of being shot. On Monday, 9/7/2020, patrol responded to a subject brandishing a knife and making suicidal statements in the Staff of Life parking lot. The highly intoxicated male refused to drop a knife while challenging the officers to kill him.

"I am so impressed with the discipline of our officers and the humanity with which they police. Here is an example of what they face daily." - Chief Mills



Watch the body worn camera video

here: <https://www.facebook.com/santacruzpolice/posts/3303292346426735>

WARNING: The following body camera video may be uncomfortable to watch. Viewer discretion is advised.

SCPD Helps SLV Community

As residents continue to make their way back to the impacted areas of the CZU Complex Fire, the Santa Cruz Police Department continues to pitch in with assistance.

This week, the professional staff at SCPD and the Santa Cruz Police Officers' Association raised money, bought and delivered over 700 gallons of water to the San Lorenzo Valley Water District survivors of



the CZU Complex fire. We are proud to show our support with two truckloads of water.

September is Pedestrian Safety Month

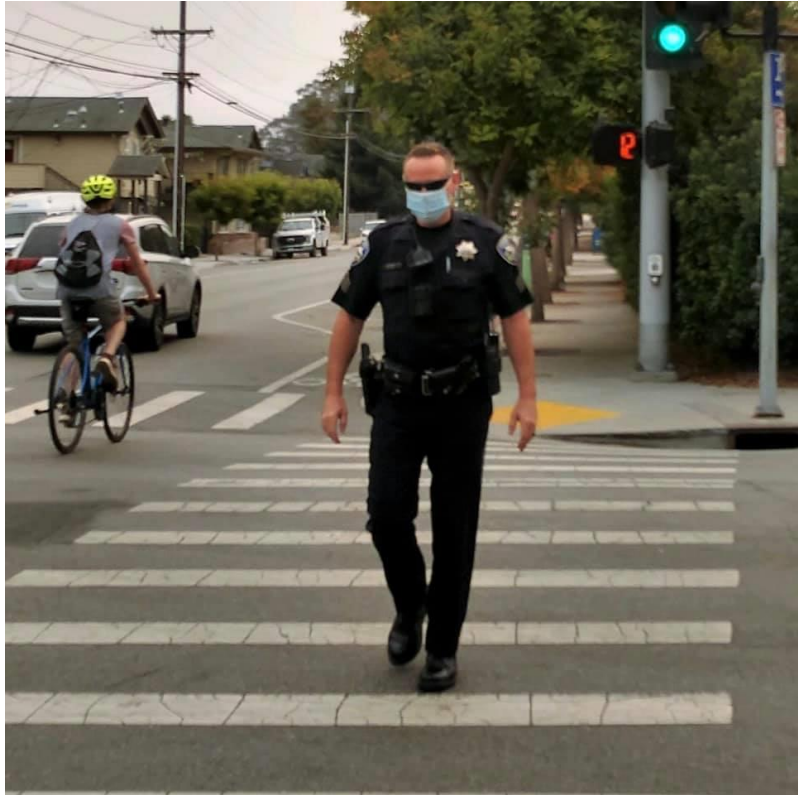
SCPD joins law enforcement agencies across the state to educate the public on being safe when walking or driving.

For the safety of everyone walking or driving, SCPD will have additional officers on patrol throughout September, specifically looking for violations made by drivers and pedestrians that make roads unsafe.

These violations include speeding, illegal turns, failure to yield, not stopping for signs or signals, and pedestrians who do not cross in marked crosswalks or designated crossing areas.

Safety tips for pedestrians

- Ditch the distractions. Keep your eyes up and phones down, especially when crossing the street.
- Always use marked crosswalks, preferably at stop signs or signals.
- Make eye contact and nod or wave at drivers. A quick nod or wave is an easy way to let a driver know you see them, and they see you.

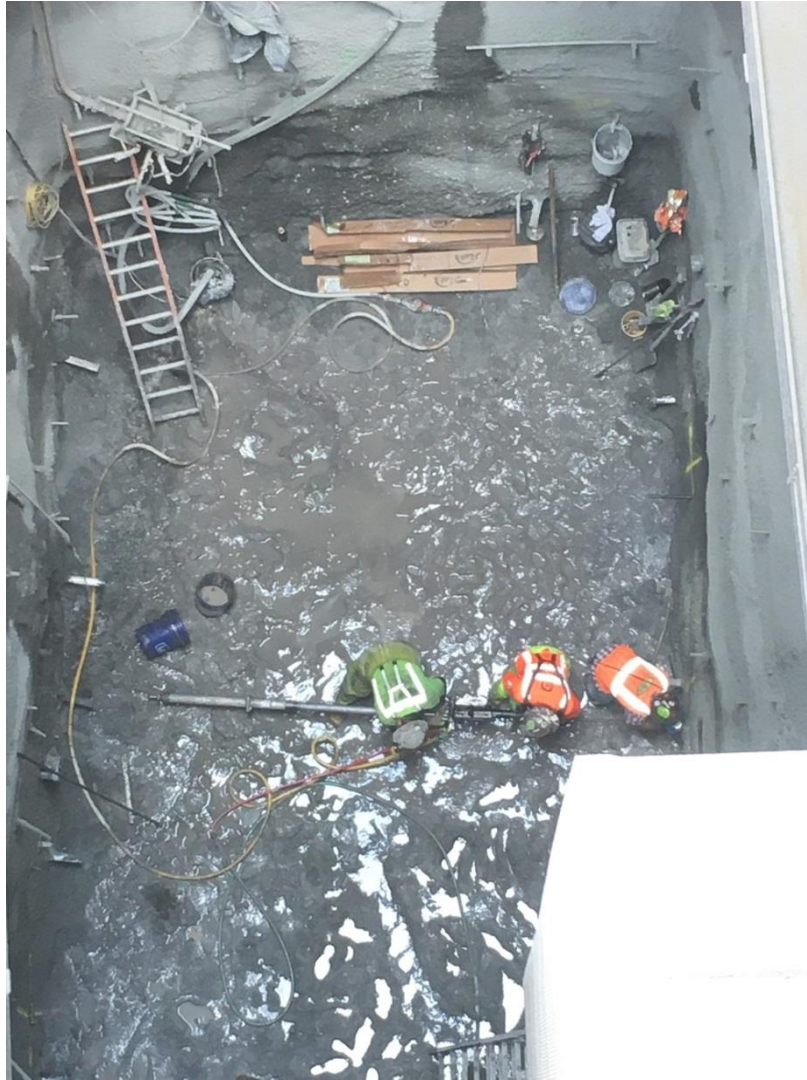


Safety tips for drivers

- Slow down on busy streets and at intersections.
- Avoid distractions such as cell phones, eating, using in-dash touch screens, or turning to talk to passengers.
- Be extra careful approaching crosswalks. Be prepared to stop for pedestrians. Stop prior to the crosswalk.
- Avoid blocking the crosswalk when making a right-hand turn.

Water

The Coast Pump Station pipeline replacement project is making progress after lost time due to several project setbacks and delays from the fires. The *jacking pit* on the River Street side of the project is fully excavated at 75'; excavation continues on the *receiving pit* on the Ocean Street Extension side of the project. The photo below is of the inside of the jacking pit. This is where the equipment will be based to micro-tunnel under the San Lorenzo River. If you're claustrophobic, best not to visit this location.



Progress also continues on the Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet replacement project for a tie-in on 9/14 to about 2,000 feet of recently installed pipeline at the toe of the dam. This tie-in will be a big deal, as it could take this critical pipeline out of service for up to 5 days. The photo below shows the pipeline and trenching:



Dredging work at Newell Creek Dam will be kicking off end of next week after silt curtain installation. The turbidity monitoring system is installed and going through baseline testing.

We have begun investigating alternatives to armor and protect the Tait Diversion in anticipation of increased sediment and debris flows-post fire. Ideas considered so far include gabion baskets placed in front of the intake, and water re-circulation/jetting.

Finally, we have been working on a grant application we are putting in to the US Bureau of Reclamation for their WaterSMART grant program in hopes of receiving some funding for our meter replacement project.