

City Manager's Weekly Update

September 18, 2020

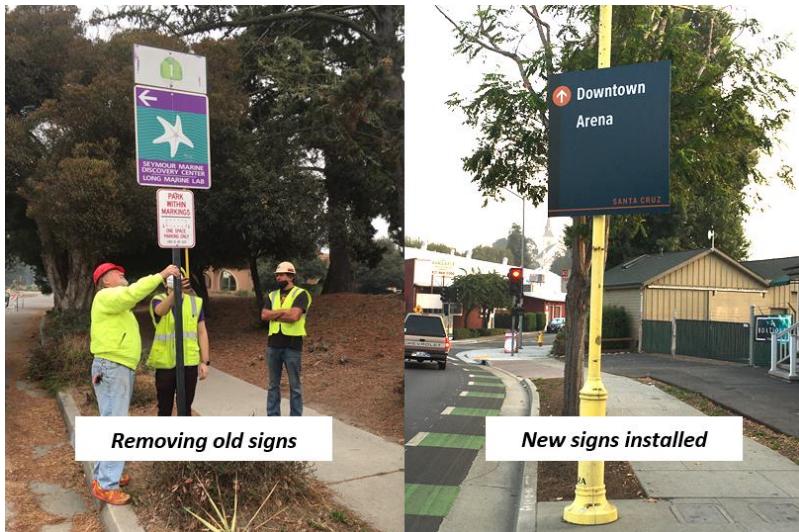
Economic Development

Business Development | NEW BUSINESSES OPENING DOWNTOWN

With the challenging health and economic impacts this year and the heartbreaking business closures we have seen throughout our County, we are excited to welcome two new businesses to our Downtown. At the end of August, we welcomed Free People, a national women's clothing retailer at 1531 Pacific Avenue. They have filled a long-standing vacancy since the departure of American Apparel and a very successful temporary popup store for Lululemon in that same location in 2018. In their opening weekend, Free People very generously donated \$10,000 to the Community Foundation's Fire Response Fund. We are also excited to welcome Lululemon back to Santa Cruz as they set up shop at 1339 Pacific Avenue with plans to open at the beginning of October. Lululemon's temporary store was a great addition to the community back in 2018, and we are excited to see them come back in a new location.

Infrastructure & Property Development | WAYFINDING PROJECT – SIGN INSTALLATION AS BEGUN

Over the weekend, the first of the new citywide wayfinding signs were installed. This project began in 2011 with an assessment of existing wayfinding conditions. In 2016, the City hired a design team that developed a design based on community and stakeholder engagement and input. This project has been many years in the making, and so it is exciting to see all of the hard work on the part of the project team and community finally come to fruition. Signs will continue to be installed over the next couple of weeks, so keep an eye out as they pop up all over the City.



Housing Development & Preservation | 35 AFFORDABLE RENTAL UNITS PRESERVED AT ARBOR COVE APARTMENTS

On August 25, City Council approved the Arbor Cove Apartments ground lease extension that will preserve 35 affordable rental apartments for low-income seniors. With the ground lease extension, the non-profit property manager, Mercy Housing, can refinance their loan with federal Housing and Urban Development to pay for rehab improvements that will extend the life of the property and help residents age in place.



Arts & Culture Development | EBB & FLOW RIVER ARTS PROJECT FORMAT SHIFTS



[Ebb and Flow River Arts Project](#) was conceived to draw attention, energy, and creativity to the San Lorenzo River and Riverwalk, and to bring together arts, environmental, and social service organizations in collaboration to

engage the Santa Cruz community with their river. The art of Ebb & Flow is designed to elevate water literacy, connect us to the land and its history, cultivate our sense of belonging, and inspire curiosity about the impact we have on the river system. The Water Percent for Public Art fund provides annual support for the Ebb & Flow program.

Planning for this year's program had already been shifting from the original one or two-day festival format to a broader range of educational and outreach activities. The onset of COVID-19 hastened this transition. Ebb & Flow 2020 projects are still underway and will continue to deepen and inform the Santa Cruz community's relationship with the San Lorenzo River and the Tannery Arts Center through performances, educational activities, public art, and storytelling.

Just one of the many fantastic new Ebb & Flow activities this year was the production of The Coloring Book/El Libro Para Colorear. Ebb & Flow partner, curator, and artist Ann Hazels conceived this wonderful bilingual coloring book concept, an equitable and educational addition to the Ebb and Flow portfolio. Nine local artists were hired as illustrators, including [Irene Juarez O'Connell](#), Victor Cervantes, and [Anna Oneglia](#), working with Tannery artist & resident Chitose Baba on graphic design. [CWC](#) staff wrote a compelling narrative that engages

the audience in science, folklore, and public art in both English and Spanish.

Currently only available in print form, the book is intended to create an activity for families and youth that pulls them away from the digital realm. This book will spark young imaginations and share exciting knowledge about the ecosystem of the San Lorenzo River. The book also has the potential to operate as a tour guide. The back-cover map was designed to encourage people to actively visit the river, discovering the book's illustrations along the way from the Beach Flats mural all the way to the Tannery Arts Center. Distribution and outreach activities are planned to Beach Flats community center, Boys and Girls Club, and Housing Matters, and the Santa Cruz Libraries.



Parks & Recreation

Parks

The Wharf completed the reroofing Noland's, a popular Wharf retail business, this week. The building now has upgraded insulation with fire protection, and an 80 Mil, welded seam IB pool liner roof with a 25-year warranty. This type of roof membrane is necessary for the flat roofs on the Santa Cruz Wharf due to their resilience, ease of repair, and ability to be washed.



Public Works

Engineering

Our Transportation and Public Works Commission requests public feedback and questions regarding the San Lorenzo River (SLR) Lagoon Culvert Project on Monday, September 21, at 6 p.m. Details for participation at the September 21 virtual meeting are listed at cityofsantacruz.com/TPWC. Details are posted in English and Spanish at cityofsantacruz.com/Culvert. The project will:

- Prevent unnatural flooding of the lower Ocean and Beach Flat neighborhoods caused by a closed lagoon (a condition that has been exacerbated unnaturally by the construction of the harbor jetties in the 1960s).
- Reduce or eliminate “catastrophic” breaches of the lagoon, which seriously damages the lagoon habitat for and can purge protected species, including steelhead trout and tidewater goby.
- Mitigate or eliminate the life safety danger posed by lagoon breaches, which can sweep beachgoers into life-threatening swift waters.



The HSIP8: Citywide Pedestrian Crossing Improvement Project continues. We have installed seven ADA curb ramps along N. Branciforte Ave (between Sunnyside and Keystone) and Soquel Ave. (at Seabright). Construction of new ADA ramps will continue along Soquel (between Caledonia and Seabright) and Ocean Street (at Dakota). Construction should be completed by December with funding by the Highway Safety Improvement Program Cycle 8 grant.



Intersection Soquel/ Seabright



Intersection N. Branciforte/Keystone Ave.

Rail Trail Segment 7 Phase 1 has made progress with Palm Street, Younglove to Rankin, and Rankin/Seaside Intersection now paved. More smooth wire trail fence was also installed between Dufour Street and Almar Avenue. On Fair Ave, curb ramps and lighting foundations were constructed. Concrete lagging for the Almar retaining wall arrived. The wall is expected to take 3-4 weeks to complete.

Grinding of existing striping will soon occur, and cross-bike markings will be installed from Palm to Younglove. The rest of the trail and intersection striping will be installed at the end of the project in October.



We are scheduled to begin the Walnut Avenue Sewer Replacement Project on Monday, September 21. This project will install new sanitary sewer pipelines and replace sewer utility holes on Walnut Avenue. Project completion is expected in four weeks. Construction will occur on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. During these hours, through-traffic will be detoured on portions of Walnut Avenue, between Cedar and Rincon streets, and parking on Walnut Avenue in the project area will be unavailable.

Operations

On Tuesday, the contractor started the first phase of the annual San Lorenzo River vegetation management for flood control work on the levee's west side from Water St Bridge to Hwy 1. The project is expected to take approximately four weeks to complete. The majority of the work will be spent on the first phase because it is the highest risk for flooding if the levee capacity is reduced due to heavy vegetation. This project is a coordinated effort with a phased approach from the City Manager, City Attorney, and Police to notice and vacate areas ahead of the contractor. PW Streets crew will continue the clean-up of debris from encampments as the contractor works downstream towards the Riverside Bridge. [Read more.](#)



Streets

Crews have been working on street grinding, sinkhole repair, sign repair, and trash route clean-up from abandoned encampments; also installing expanded outdoor dining areas for downtown businesses and conducting San Lorenzo River levee debris clean-up for the vegetation management project.

New lights have been ordered for the decorative posts outside of the NIAC building and scheduled to be installed by the streetlights contractor.

Energy Projects

A new CivicSparks Fellow has joined Public Works and the City Manager's office to assist on energy-related projects, such as helping the Energy Projects Coordinator in the installation, testing, and troubleshooting of energy-related systems; producing an Electric Vehicle Fleet Transition Plan, and contacting PG&E regarding the Fleet Ready Program for EV Refuse truck charging capability. The purpose of the CivicSparks Fellow is to bring capacity to the Energy Projects Division by supporting resiliency projects using targeted milestones/goals.

PG&E approved the Permission to Operate for the Dimeo Landfill solar cell; the system is now online.

Resource Recovery/Community Relations

We posted an article to our Santa Cruz Waves column: [Tour the Recycling Center with Mav'Riks and Friends Online](#)



Traffic Engineering

Following this week's [Street Smarts tip](#) will help keep our kids safe. [En español.](#)



Wastewater Treatment Facility

Mechanics performed oil changes and hose repairs on the facility's standby generators, ensuring they will be operational during upcoming power shut off events.

Operations is preparing the facility for a full shutdown overnight to allow for contractors to repair the effluent isolation gate on the UV system. This repair will allow the whole UV system to be isolated to begin on its upgrade.

Operators set up the cogenerating engine generator to stand-alone mode, which sends the produced power directly to the treatment facility and turning it into a generator. This contrasts with its usual operation mode of feeding power back to the electrical grid to offset our power

supplied by PG&E. This was done so the electricians and contractors could turn off a couple of power substations on-site that feed the UV system, ensuring contractors will have no electrical risks during their upgrade work.



To prepare for a plant shutdown, we isolated two Primary Sedimentation Basins, which will be filled up overnight with flows from the County sewer collection system while the City's sewer collection system will be backed up in the trunk lines feeding the treatment plant.



Extra staff will be on site from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. to open up Primary Sedimentation Basins as needed and operate generator-powered pumps used to suck water out of the area the contractors need to access for their repair.

Water

After several days' stoppage due to the CZU fire, work is back underway on the Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet pipeline. About 2,000 feet of new pipeline at the toe of Newell Creek Dam was tied-into the system this week.



Construction barge on Loch Lomond



Tie in at toe of the dam

Work to replace the flocculators continues, with the first basin nearing completion. Flocculation is an important initial treatment step as it removes small and microscopic particles.

Excavation has resumed on the receiving pit near Crossing Street for the Coast Pump Station pipeline replacement project. The project was slowed by the shoring system not performing as designed; significant groundwater was leaking in and preventing progress. The contractor has spent the last 3-4 weeks welding and grouting the shoring to reduce leakage, and they have finally cut it down to a manageable rate, permitting excavation work to resume.



In a bit of good news, we are able to open Loch Lomond Recreation Area for the last few weekends of the season. The park will reopen next weekend on September 26 and will be open weekends until October 11 for shore fishing and hiking. All Covid-19 protocols will remain in place. The park really is a gem – if you haven't visited yet this summer, now is your chance before it closes for the season.

Leakage into the Coast Pump Station receiving pit.

