

City Manager's Weekly Update

February 25, 2021

Homelessness Response

This week, the Homelessness Response Team will begin providing weekly updates on the efforts of the cross-functional team that includes the City Manager's Office, the City Attorney's Office, Fire, Parks and Recreation, Police, Public Works and Water.

Temporary Outdoor Living Ordinance

As you are aware, the draft [Temporary Outdoor Living Ordinance](#) was presented to the City Council this week and moved forward with a 5-2 vote. The City received hundreds of comments and calls in advance of Tuesday's meeting, and comments are still coming in. We will be posting updates on the ordinance, including the motions and redline from the meeting, at cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness. Constituents are also invited to provide feedback on the ordinance through the website or by sending an email to citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com.

Cross-Agency Coordination

Next week the Homelessness Response Team will begin monthly Encampment Assessment Coordination meetings with County to ensure that our efforts to support and manage encampments align. We transferred the final COVID-related expenses being covered by the City to the County for their ongoing management. Conversations with Caltrans concerning clearing Highways 1 and 9 in advance of the highway construction project are continuing.

Cleanup Efforts

The City continues daily trash collection at the intersection of Highways 1 and 9. This week, City staff also worked with Caltrans and CHP to coordinate a dumpster placement for four hours to clear larger items from the encampment. City staff, including two paid contractors, along with a handful of volunteers, worked to fill two 20-yard dumpsters. This is the first week the City has added additional contractors to work with staff and volunteers on cleanup, which resulted in the team hauling away eight times more refuse than the prior effort. Campers have generally not participated in these cleanup efforts. There's still tons (literally) of waste in the area, but this week's work put a dent in the amount of trash and debris on site.

The City has seen a rise in the number of volunteer groups working to collect debris from encampments around the City. Last weekend in neighborhoods on both East and Westside recovered piles of bikes, frames, wheels,



handlebars, tires and parts in disrepair, along with trash and debris. This recent uptick in community-led volunteer cleanup events has led to situations where groups collect trash and debris, leave it in a park, public space, or on the levee, and request assistance from the City afterward. While this is a *great* problem to have, if the trash isn't collected quickly, it has the potential to become a mess once again. City staff is meeting next week to develop a process for managing volunteer efforts to ensure this incredible effort doesn't go to waste (pun intended).

Food Not Bombs/Lot 23 and 27

On Feb. 17, the property owners of Lot 23 requested that Food Not Bombs (FNB) vacate the lot before reaching out to the City, which currently holds a lease to Lot 23. Construction has been anticipated but is not imminent. The City was given a 30-day notice on Feb. 22, which is why the City had not reached out in advance of the owner's request for FNB's relocation. In haste created by the property owner's request, FNB moved operations to City Lot 27.

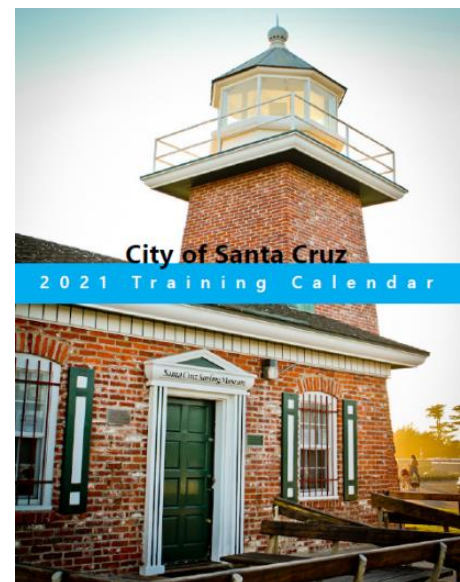
Unfortunately, City Lot 27 is not a long-term option for Food Not Bombs. The way Lot 27 is demarcated, it is impossible for any vendor or service provider to operate in that lot without substantially and negatively impacting parking and the flow of traffic within the lot. Additionally, the City needs Lot 27 accessible for downtown parking, especially since City Lot 23 will be closed for construction and City Lot 17 is closed for AFC's SafeSpaces program, resulting in limited parking spaces in that area.

Acknowledging this, the City offered Food Not Bombs a permit to relocate to San Lorenzo Park for the duration of the current Federal Court injunction since they have already been offering food service to those camping at the park. This offer was rejected, and we last heard that Food Not Bombs had relocated its food operation to the Clock Tower.

Despite the rhetoric being shared on social media, the City is committed to working with Food Not Bombs and the County of Santa Cruz to identify an appropriate, sustainable site for Food Not Bombs. Paul Horvat met with FNB Friday, Feb. 25, to discuss possible locations. The work of FNB to provide nourishment to those living without shelter in our community is valued, and the City hopes to find a suitable place with proper infrastructure to help these services continue in our community.

Human Resources

The 2021 Employee Training Calendar has landed. The Human Resources department is happy to offer employees over 25 live online classes that focus on our COSC core values of Communication-Openness-Service-Collaboration. All employees are encouraged to join each class and commit to their own growth! Intranet Link: <http://intranet/index.aspx?page=505>



Planning and Community Development

130 Center Street, “Calypso” Development

Last week, the Planning Department received an application from Swenson Builders to redevelop the property at 130 Center Street with a six-story, mixed-use development consisting of 2,618 square feet of ground-floor retail and 233 residential single-room occupancy (SRO) units (units with a maximum of 400 square feet and an average unit size being no greater than 345 square feet, some common facilities, and on-site management). The application includes a request for a Non-Residential Demolition Authorization Permit to demolish the



existing commercial buildings with evaluation by a qualified historian, as well as a Special Use Permit, Coastal Permit, and Design Permit. The applicant indicates that the project consists of 155 base units, which is the number of units that can be provided in a fully conforming project. Of the 155 units, the city zoning ordinance requires 31 units, or 20%, to be supplied as inclusionary units restricted to 80% Area Median Income (AMI). However, the project also includes a Density Bonus request under AB2345 to allow for a 50% bonus of market-rate units by restricting 15% of the 31 affordable units to Very Low Income households at 50% AMI. As part of the Density Bonus request, the applicant is seeking to utilize three incentives/concessions: 1) Exceed height limitations with a building that is approximately 70-feet in height and six stories; 2) Exceed Floor Area Ratio (FAR); and 3) Reduce required setbacks. Pursuant to the Community Outreach Policy for Planning Projects, a community meeting will be held in the next few months. The application also requires a public hearing before the City Planning Commission. The appropriate environmental review document under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will be determined during the initial City review. Ryan Bane will be the planner working on the application.

Objective Standards Community Meeting – Thursday, March 11, 7-8 p.m.

The Planning and Community Development Department will host a virtual community meeting on Thursday, March 11, from 7-8 p.m. as part of the project to create objective design standards for multi-family and mixed-use residential development. This meeting will discuss the history of residential zoning and introduce the project, City staff, and the consultant team. A similar Spanish language event is anticipated for March 24 from 7-8 p.m. Please visit the project website for more information:

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/Home/Components/Topic/Topic/11282/3916>

Parks and Recreation



It's that time of year again! The cows are back at Arana Gulch. These grazers keep the grasses low and help create conditions where germination of the Santa Cruz tarplant is possible. Upwards of 600 tarplant have been planted this year at Arana Gulch as part of an experimental out planting. Hopefully, the results will lead to a better understanding of the viability of rejuvenating the seedbank in the soil. Come say hello to the cows and express your gratitude for all their hard work! But please do not pet or feed them.

Police

SCPD Joins Nextdoor

Santa Cruz Police Department joins Nextdoor to share local public safety news, crime prevention, department updates, and address quality of life issues to promote safer neighborhoods in the city.

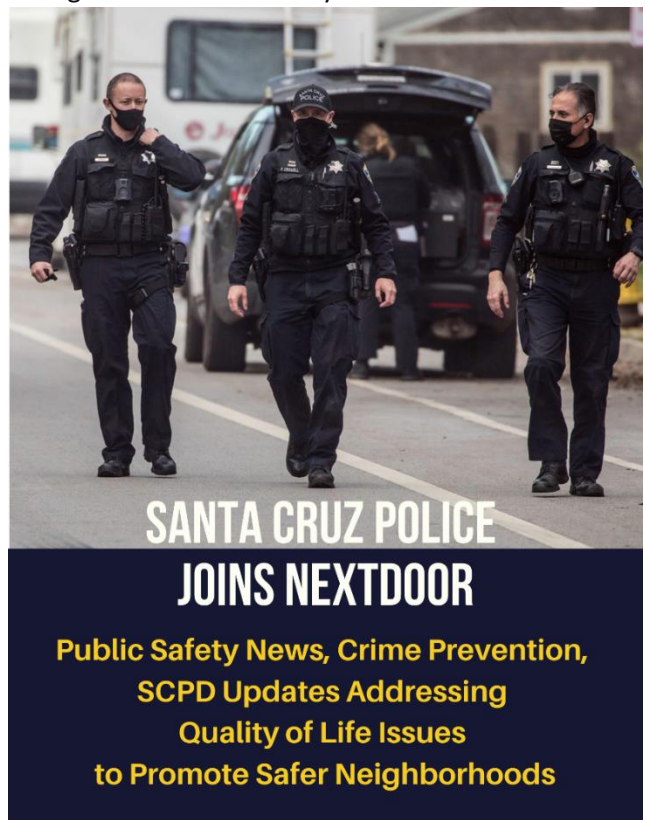
Please take a moment to connect with us on [NEXTDOOR](#) to help grow our audience, reach more neighbors, inform and engage the community! Tapping into the [Nextdoor](#) hub with SCPD gives community members another public safety channel. SCPD can target messages to Nextdoor members in specific neighborhoods, zones, or districts.

Together, Neighbors and SCPD can use Nextdoor to collaboratively problem-solve local problems from preventing burglaries to organizing neighborhood cleanups.

We remind the public that SCPD cannot monitor your neighborhood communications on Nextdoor. Your conversation remains private to you and your neighbors.

Additionally, the Nextdoor platform is not a reporting tool for citizens. So, if you hear something, say something. It is essential to contact SCPD by phone if you need to report something in progress or suspicious.

Dial 911 to report emergencies or (831) 471-1131 for non-emergencies.



[To file a report online](#) | Confidential Crime Tip Line 420-5995 or [online](#)

SCPD Respond to Increase in Vehicle Abatement Calls



The Santa Cruz Police Department monitors and addresses this community complaint-driven issue citywide. SCPD receives and responds to increasing residents' complaints regarding illegal parking, abandoned vehicles, and recreational vehicles (RVs) on streets throughout the City of Santa Cruz. Many of these vehicles are illegally parked, inoperative, and unregistered.

Officers, CSOs, and Volunteer Staff continuously follow up on complaints, proactively cite, and tow vehicles parked illegally, abandoned, in disrepair (missing

headlights, tires, and even engines), surrounded by debris, or leaking hazardous fluids.

2020 Vehicle Abatement Activity Totals

2,425 Citations Written by SCPD Staff & Volunteers

(Over 1000 written in the area of Delaware & Natural Bridges)

2,220 Vehicles issued Abatement Notices Vehicles

Towed = 198

Our Vehicle Abatement Officer, Neighborhood Policing Teams, and Volunteers follow up on each complaint and make every effort to locate the owner to educate and warn of the 72-hour parking rule. Should the owner not be found, SCPD staff will cite the vehicle for the violation and tow if required. SCPD enforces all applicable vehicle abatement laws.

Recreation Vehicles

SCPD also receives numerous reports of individuals living in recreational vehicles dumping their wastewater onto city streets and storm drains. This practice is illegal and extremely harmful to public health and the environment. These vehicles cause blight and create a public safety nuisance to the surrounding areas.

SCPD sends personnel out every day to respond to each of these reports to improve the quality of life for the occupants of these RVs and the community members living in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Safe Parking Programs

While being sensitive to the housing situation impacted by local fires and COVID, the goal is to increase

voluntary compliance with the current city regulations and vehicle code. SCPD vehicle abatement teams, along with patrol officers, contact subjects occupying vehicles, advise them of any observed violations, provide them with directions on how to comply with the law, and offer information regarding shelter resources provided in the County.

Safe Spaces is a parking program for families and individuals living in their vehicles.

<https://www.afcsantacruz.org/safespaces-program.html>

<https://www.211santacruzcounty.org/housing/shelters/homeless-safe-parking-programs/>

REPORT Nuisance Vehicles & Parking Violators

HOTLINE: 831-420-5863 to Report Abandoned Vehicles To SCPD Vehicle Abatement Officer

Be prepared to leave the following information on the abandoned vehicle hotline:

- Location of the vehicle
- Color of the vehicle
- Make and model of the vehicle
- License plate number

Did you know - Public Works Parking Department also enforces and issues parking citations citywide? Call them to get your neighborhood parking concerns on their radar, as well, 831-420-5185.

Have you heard of CRSP - Community Request for Service Portal? The City made it easier for residents to report issues in their neighborhood. Report online at <https://cosc-crsp.mendixcloud.com/p/Home> or the CRSP mobile apps through Google or Apple.

SCPD will always take your call and respond to illegal parking, address vehicle abatement, and nuisance over-sized vehicles in residential and commercial areas throughout the City. The presence, accumulation, and storage of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles, creates and promotes blight, attracts crime, creates fire hazards, and is detrimental to the public's health, and safety. SCPD aims to keep Santa Cruz a safe place to live, work and raise a family.

Public Works

Resource Recovery

On Feb. 23, the City Council voted to extend the implementation date for the Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging and Products ordinance by one year to March 8, 2022. Waste Reduction staff will continue to provide education and outreach on the specifics of amendments adopted in January 2020 while also enforcing the existing provisions restricting non-compostable and non-recyclable food ware.

While waiting for cleanup legislation to allow treated wood waste (TWW) (e.g., pressure-treated lumber) to be disposed of in California municipal landfills, the Dimeo Lane Resource Recovery Facility has applied for a temporary variance from the Department of Toxics to allow us to dispose of TWW. This will allow homeowners and contractors to bring that material for disposal at the Dimeo facility.

Water

As the weather has warmed up, so has public and media attention around water supply. This week two articles appeared in the Sentinel, as well as a story on KION and Lookout. With several weeks left in our “normal” wet season, we continue to hope that this week’s weather is just a fluke. (But we’re not placing any bets on it.) Up at the Loch Lomond Recreation Area, staff put all of the finishing touches on the park before we open on Monday, March 1. They had their last round of boat decontaminations this week for folks who want to “board” non-trailer boats at the lake, and most spots are taken. Also happening at the lake this week was the fourth annual “Fungus Foray.” Always popular, even held virtually this year there was a good turnout.



Ranger Watson sampling some peppery Lactarius. Don't try this at home unless you absolutely know what you are eating!

By Friday, we hope to have the coast pump station raw water main back in service following the project to replace the critical section of the pipeline under the river. Lots of people were involved in that project, and it had some twists and turns. We're all breathing a sigh of relief to have completed it successfully. As we close the door on that project, we look to the project to replace the concrete tanks at the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant. This is a significant project that will have a tremendous impact on the Treatment Plant. Of course, that project isn't happening in isolation, with a number of capital and maintenance projects going simultaneously. These are all very important efforts that are addressing critical needs and concerns.

Dredging is wrapping up at the dam and will be completed this Friday or Saturday. This should solve the ongoing in-reservoir turbidity issues. With the completion of dredging, tunneling is on track to start the week of March 1.