

# City Manager's Weekly Update

February 5, 2021

## Public Works

### Streets

Crews were clearing drains and ditches in City right-of-way prior to last week's rain. Crews, with PD assistance, cleared the majority of the levee from people who were camping there. The amount of trash and debris picked up from encampments totaled 8480 lb. Found needles were disposed of safely.



Empty sandbags have been distributed to Fire Admin and the Fire Houses, and the sand pit at Harvey West Park has been refilled.

### Wastewater Treatment Facility

Operators prepared for increased wet weather influent flow by putting the third secondary clarifier and two primary sedimentation basins in service before this week's storm systems arrived, and by bringing additional trickling filters on line as the flow increased. Even with all three clarifiers in service, the flow rate briefly exceeded the capacity of the secondary treatment system. When this happens, the excess is automatically diverted after primary treatment and disinfected with industrial grade bleach. Flows to the facility on Jan. 28 peaked at 52.3-million-gallons with the daily flow total being 27.3-million-gallons and on Jan. 29 the flows peaked at 25.3-million-gallons with the daily total flow being 14.37-million-gallons.



The “first flush” effect from this storm washed a large amount of heavy sediment out of the sewer collection system into the plant. One of the sludge thickeners was out of service for several hours at the end of the week due to heavy sand impeding the mechanical drive. By draining the thickener tank back to the headworks, operators brought the system back online as soon as possible and mitigated the negative impact all that sand would have on the anaerobic digesters.

The California Water Environment Association-Monterey Bay Section announced annual accolades this week, with three City of Santa Cruz staff members recognized for exceptional work. Al Locatelli has been named Mechanic of the Year, Amanda Bird received Operator of the Year, and Michelle Courtoul was named Laboratory Person of the Year. Congrats to our three regional honorees! They now advance for possible statewide recognition in their categories.