

# City Manager's Weekly Update

January 22, 2021

## Library



### Career Online High School

Santa Cruz Public Libraries now has a program that helps adult residents kick-start 2021 by earning an accredited high school diploma and career training through Career Online High School.

With the new year, comes New Year's resolutions. People's most popular picks include healthy eating, exercise, and money management. It's also a great time to focus on advancing one's education and career opportunities. Santa Cruz Public Libraries offers a program called Career Online High School designed for adults who were unable to complete high school and could benefit from additional job training.

This nationally accredited program allows adult students to earn an accredited high school diploma—not a GED—while gaining career skills in one of ten employment fields across a wide spectrum, from home care professional and office management to homeland security. Santa Cruz Public Libraries is currently seeking qualified residents to enroll in the free program.

Santa Cruz Public Libraries awards scholarships to qualified adult learners on a first-come, first-served basis. Career Online High School is a great solution for those who need extra academic support and flexibility. Once in the program, students are assigned an academic coach who helps keep them on track and connects them with tutors if needed. The online curriculum is accessible 24/7, which is helpful to those balancing work and family obligations. Students are given up to 18 months to complete the program, but many finish sooner because previously earned high school or GED test credits are accepted.

## Public Works

### Wastewater Treatment Facility

Plant operators observed that the flow rate of foul air through the air scrubbers was reading lower than normal. These large air scrubbers use activated carbon media to trap and reduce “dirty sock” smelling odors on the secondary treatment side of the plant. Electricians tested the airflow meters to rule out the possibility that the too-low airflow readings were caused by faulty meters. This troubleshooting determined that one of the four air scrubbers had become significantly blocked. Operators took this air scrubber offline and stirred up the activated carbon media inside using a compressed air tool made in-house for this job. It is normal for the carbon granules to become loaded with organic material over time. In the past the expected service life of the media has been about four years, at which time a contractor replaces it with new activated carbon. When an air scrubber becomes occluded more quickly than expected, breaking up the media bed with compressed air helps to restore airflow and stretch the service life of the media until the scheduled replacement. There is a plan in place to reduce the time between media replacements, so that this problem might be eliminated.



There had been a leak coming from the discharge end of Interstage Pump #1, the smallest of three large pumps that move water from the primary treatment stage up to the trickling filters in the secondary stage. Maintenance technicians removed the 14” and 24” diameter steel plumbing from the pump with a gantry crane and replaced it with new plumbing and new seals, stopping the leak.

Much of the work to replace the UV Disinfection system so far has been cutting and removing the old concrete channel, where the disinfection lamps were in contact with the secondary treated water. This week the contractor poured new concrete in part of the area that will become the new disinfection channel.



## Water



Monday night's nasty windstorm caused a lot of problems for the Water Department, particularly at Loch Lomond. The wind brought many limbs and several trees down on the road into the Recreation Area. It took the morning crew close to an hour just to be able to get down to the HQ building, and while they were working on clearing that area for access, a large tree nearby up-rooted in a big gust.

It has taken multiple days of raking, piling, chain sawing, chipping, and blowing to try and get the road back to its former condition. The restroom in the Glen Corrie picnic area was damaged when a tree came down through one of the eaves.

We still don't have power at Loch Lomond, and much debris has collected in drainages and culverts throughout the City's water system. Combined with the moderate rain that's forecast for next week and we could have a mess on our hands with flooding and debris flows. We've been working all week to prepare for whatever Mother Nature throws us.

However in an effort to see the glass half-full (of water, of course), many redwoods lost their tops and a lot of wood got delivered to streams – both of which improve habitat for a variety of critters. In the photo below you can see a tree that got "pruned" up in Felton in the wee hours of Monday night. (We haven't found the top to this one – yet.)

