

City Manager's Weekly Update

April 9, 2021

Water


As media attention is now expanding to include the D word (drought), so is attention to local water supplies and systems. We were glad to see the story on our recently completed Coast Pump Station pipeline replacement project this week in the Sentinel. Particularly as we continue our suite of projects to modernize our system to contend with impacts from climate change.

One of those projects is replacing the treated water main that runs under Ocean Street Extension. That neighborhood was ground zero for the Coast Pump Station pipeline project, so we're really trying to mind our manners with another project in their neighborhood. Ocean Street Extension is a tricky area to work in. For one thing, it's a thoroughfare for just about all utilities, which means we have lots of restrictions and precautions on how we can conduct our work so we don't disturb sewer and gas lines, as well as conduit for various technologies. For another, OSE is a very narrow road in many places, making it impossible in some stretches to keep a lane open for through traffic. This means every time someone needs to pass, we have to stop work and lay down steel plates to cover our work – which is cumbersome and time consuming. And did I mention that we just completed another intensive project in the neighborhood? We're doing our best to minimize our disruptions, and to that end we provide a weekly look-ahead to neighbors about what they can expect from our work during the following week.

Work on the Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet project continues, with continued slow progress on the tunnel that will wrap around the side of the dam:



Last but not least, Watershed staff continue preparations for next weekend's State of the San Lorenzo River Symposium. This will be the seventh annual event, offered via Zoom, next Saturday from 9:00am until noon, with Mayor Meyers as a featured speaker. Please help us get the word out!



SEVENTH ANNUAL
State of the San Lorenzo River Symposium
 April 17, 2021
 9am-12pm, Zoom platform

Recovery and Resiliency in the San Lorenzo River

Join City of Santa Cruz Mayor **Donna Meyers** and local natural resource managers as they share their knowledge and recent research supporting recovery and resiliency of the watershed!

Topics include:

- Post-fire geologic hazards and morphological processes
- Post-fire water quality impacts
- County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Services Fire Response
- Lagoon water quality
- Riparian conditions
- Climate change adaptation

Learn more at tinyurl.com/soslrs.

Shirouei Thaler / Santa Cruz Sentinel

Our Water, Our Future

COASTAL WATERSHED COUNCIL
 COASTAL-WATERSHED.ORG
 Preserving and protecting our coastal watersheds

SAN JOSE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

San Lorenzo Valley WATER DISTRICT

Conserve to Preserve – Our Water, Our Future [@ cityofsantacruz.com/water](https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/water)

Parks & Recreation

Adult Recreational Sports Update

Adult Sports are back this summer! Adult Summer Softball registration will begin on April 16 and we are offering 12 leagues which will start up on June 13! In addition to Softball, Adult Bocce will also be offered. We are working within the COVID-19 Sports guidelines to bring back Adult sports as they become playable. Visit CityOfSantaCruz.com/Sports for more information.



Economic Development

Governor Newsom Announces Changes to Blueprint Framework

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY WEEKLY STATUS REPORT FOR 04/06/21

WHERE ARE WE IN THE TIERS?



THIS WEEK'S METRICS:

SC County Metrics	Data Trend	Minimal Tier Targets
Adjusted Cases 3.4 Daily new cases (per 100k)	↑ +1.4	<2 Daily new cases (per 100k)
Positive Tests 1.1%*	↑ +0.3%	< 2%
Weeks in Current Tier*	1	3
Weeks Meeting Lesser Tier Criteria	0	2

*If adjusted cases and positive test metrics fall into two different tiers, the county will be assigned to the more restrictive tier

**County must be in current tier for 3 weeks and have 2 consecutive weeks with metrics meeting lesser tier to advance

TIER 3 ALLOWS INDOOR OPERATIONS TO RESUME FOR SOME BUSINESSES INCLUDING:

- Restaurants with a max 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer
- Non-Mall Retail - Indoor operations allowed with modifications
- Gyms and Fitness Centers with max 25% capacity + indoor pools
- Museums, Zoos, and Aquariums with indoor activities with a max 50% capacity
- Movie Theaters with max 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer
- Amusement Parks with 25% capacity or 500 people whichever is fewer
- Outdoor live events with restrictions
- Shopping Centers (Malls, Destination Centers, Swap Meets) open indoors with closed common areas and reduced capacity food courts
- Hotels and Lodging with Fitness center with 25% max capacity + indoor pools
- Places of Worship with max 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer
- Bars (where no meal provided) open outdoors with modifications
- Wineries, Breweries, and Distilleries open indoors with modifications and 25% max capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer

FIND THE FULL LIST OF INDUSTRY GUIDANCE AND OPERATIONS AT
Covid19.Ca.Gov/Safer-Economy
Produced and Distributed by the Economic Recovery Council of Santa Cruz County

PLAN DE ACCIÓN PARA UNA ECONOMÍA MÁS SEGURA DEL CONDADO DE SANTA CRUZ INFORME SEMANAL PARA EL 06/04/21

¿DÓNDE ESTAMOS EN LOS NIVELES?



LAS ESTADÍSTICAS DE ESTA SEMANA:

Datos del Condado SC	Tendencias de Datos	Metas de Nivel Moderado
Casos Ajustados 3.4 Casos nuevos diarios (por 100 mil)	↑ +1.4	<2 Casos nuevos diarios (por 100 mil)
Pruebas Positivas 1.1%*	↑ +0.3%	< 2%
Semanas En Niveles Actuales*	1	3
Semanas Cumpliendo Criterios de Niveles Bajos	0	2

*Si los casos ajustados y los datos de casos positivos caen entre dos diferentes niveles, el condado asignará el nivel más restrictivo

**El Condado debe estar en niveles actuales durante 3 semanas y tener 2 Semanas consecutivas con niveles de datos inferiores para avanzar

EL NIVEL 3 AUTORIZA LA ACTIVIDAD COMERCIAL EN INTERIOR PARA ALGUNOS NEGOCIOS INCLUYENDO:

- Restaurantes a máxima capacidad de 50% o 200 personas, el que sea menor
- Minorista: operaciones en interiores permitidas con modificaciones
- Gimnasios y centros de fitness con un máximo del 25% de capacidad + piscinas cubiertas
- Museos, zoológicos, y acuarios con actividades interiores a máxima capacidad de 50%
- Cines a máxima capacidad de 50% o 200 personas, el que sea menor
- Parques de atracciones con un 25% de capacidad o 500 personas, lo que sea menor
- Eventos en vivo al aire libre con restricciones
- Los centros comerciales (Malls, Destination Centers, Swap Meets) abren en el interior en áreas comunes cerradas y patios de comidas con capacidad reducida
- Hoteles y Hospedaje con Gimnasio con 25% de capacidad máxima + piscinas cubiertas
- Lugares de culto con una capacidad máxima del 50% o 200 personas, lo que sea menor
- Los bares (en los que no se ofrece comida) se abren al aire libre con modificaciones
- Las bodegas, cervecerías y destilerías abren en el interior con modificaciones y un 25% de capacidad máxima o 100 personas, lo que sea menos

ENCUENTRE LA LISTA COMPLETA DE ORIENTACIÓN Y OPERACIONES DE LA INDUSTRIA EN:
Covid19.Ca.Gov/Safer-Economy
Producido y distribuido por el consejo de recuperación económica del condado de Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz County remains in the Orange Tier this week and the county experienced a slight uptick in both adjusted cases and positive tests. Just this week, the Governor announced two changes to the Blueprint for a Safer Economy Framework that are the result of increased vaccinations and reduced cases and test positivity statewide. The first change is to the target metrics for adjusted cases for the tiers as a result of reaching the 4 million vaccine threshold for hardest-hit communities. The new metrics for each tier are shown here:

WIDESPREAD	SUBSTANTIAL	MODERATE	MINIMAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 10.0 daily new cases (per 100k)* More than 8.0% positive test for entire county** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.0 – 10.0 daily new cases (per 100k)* 5.0 – 8.0% positive tests for entire county** Less than 8.1% positive tests for health equity quartile** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.0 – 5.9 daily new cases (per 100k)* 2.0 – 4.9% positive tests for entire county** Less than 5.3% positive tests for health equity quartile** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 2.0 daily new cases (per 100k)* Less than 2.0% positive tests for entire county** Less than 2.2% positive tests for health equity quartile**

The move forward comes as the state has reached 20 million vaccinations, including 4 million in its hardest-hit communities. Masking and vaccinations will continue. Hospitalization rates must stay low and vaccination availability high for the state to fully reopen.

The second change is the announcement that On June 15, California will fully reopen its economy across the state if:

- There is enough vaccine supply for Californians 16 years and older to be vaccinated
- Hospitalizations rates remain stable and low, especially among fully vaccinated Californians

Common sense health measures, including wearing masks will continue. Testing and vaccination requirements will remain for some businesses and industries.

Learn more about moving [beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#).

[View the full list of what is allowed under each tier here](#). For more information about the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy [click here](#).

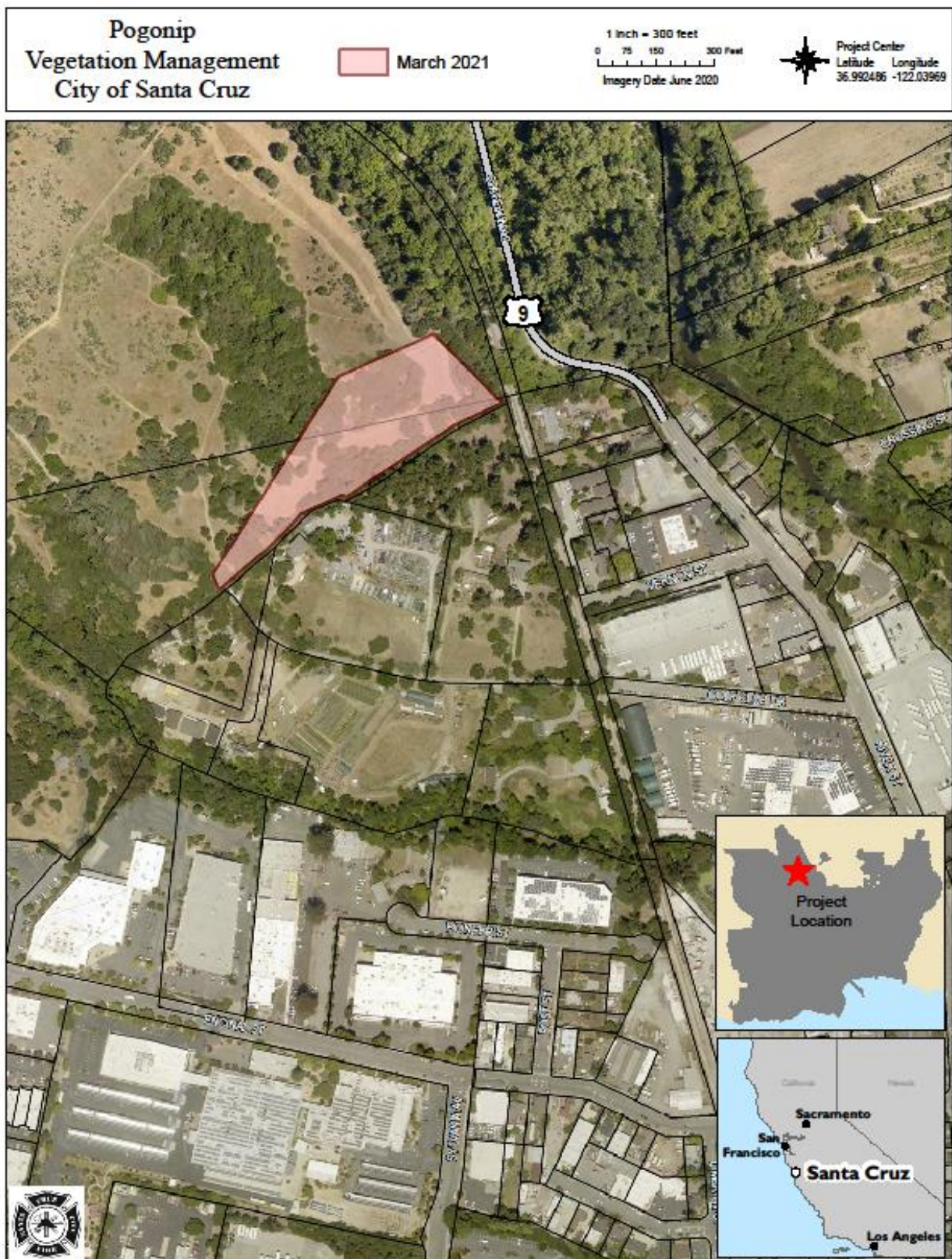
Fire

The Fire department in partnership with Parks & Rec has been pursuing ongoing vegetation management throughout the City. This has been a multi-year effort and has been done to proactively mitigate the impacts of a wildland fire within our open spaces. As we saw last year the impacts of a CZU type wildland fire are catastrophic. Below are examples of this vegetation management with before and after pictures of vegetation management conducted in Pogonip.



The before picture at left shows dense ladder fuels that allow fire to spread from the ground into the canopy of a tree. This allows a fire to burn more intensely and for a fire to spread from tree to tree. The right photo shows a “shaded fuel break” after vegetation management. The ladder fuels (dead branches from the trunk that reach the ground) have been removed allowing for separation between fuels. The term “shaded fuel break” is because the canopy of the tree is still intact which shades the ground. This disrupts the transmission of fire and creates a fire that will burn less intensely.

The following maps are vegetation management projects that have either been completed or are planned in the near future.



DeLaveaga
Vegetation Management
City of Santa Cruz

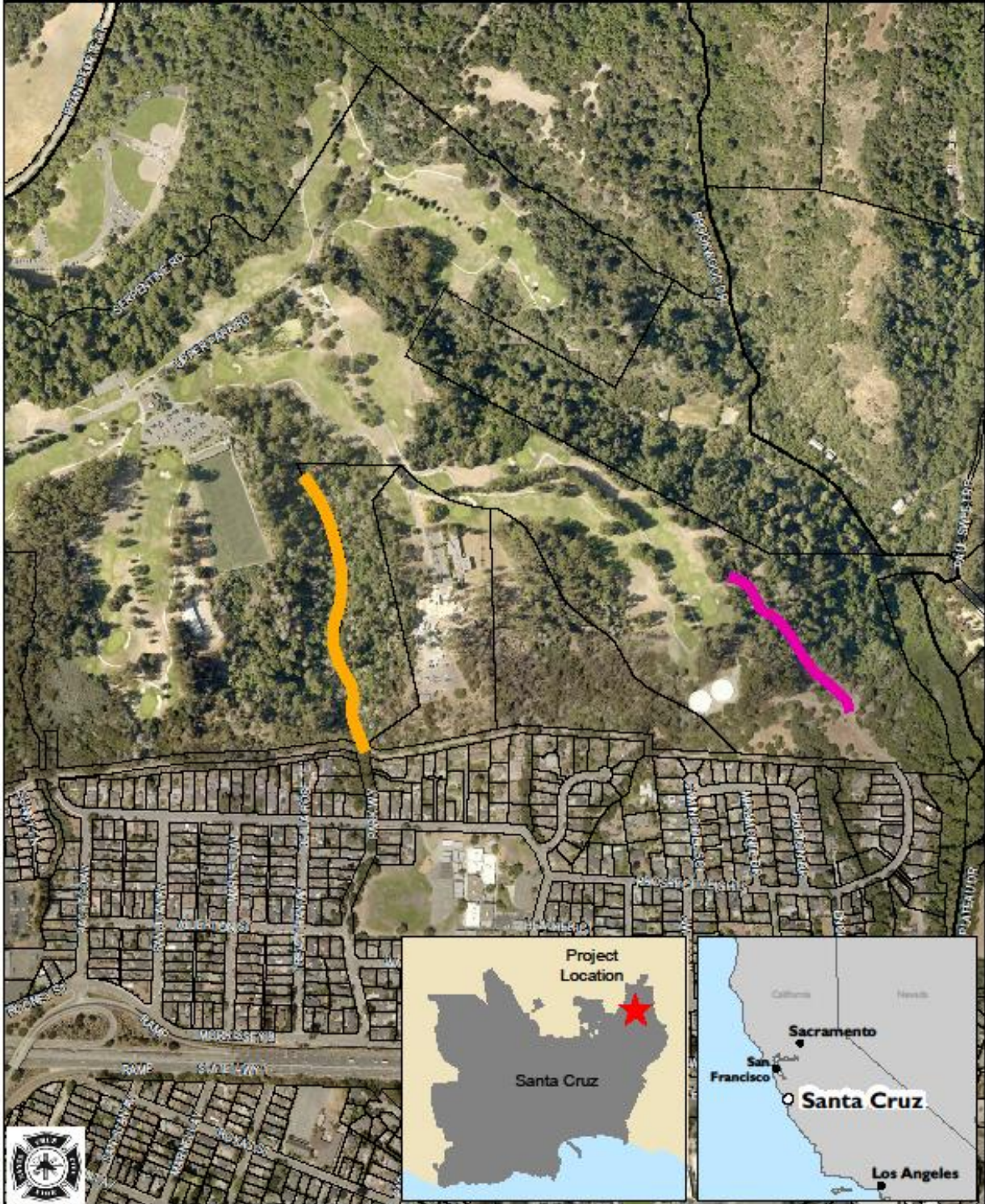
April
2021

Section 2
Section 3

1 Inch = 600 feet
0 150 300 600 Feet
Imagery Date June 2020



Project Center
Latitude Longitude
36.99264 -121.997618





Public Works

Environmental Compliance

On Monday, April 5, our Laboratory & Environmental Compliance Manager taught as Guest Lecturer for a Cabrillo College class: Introduction to Environmental Science. Topics included analytical methods and instruments used for monitoring microbiology and biochemistry of wastewater; trace compounds of public health consequences in water and wastewater and recreational water; and wastewater and recreational (rivers and ocean water) sampling and analyses.

Students were also given a primer on wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 (and other pathogens) explaining how this helps the City and regional public health management. The Zoom class concluded with a virtual tour of the City's Environmental Lab, Q&A session and many thanks for the "stellar" presentation!

Wastewater Treatment Facility

The UV Disinfection System installation is proceeding rapidly. This week, our electricians worked with the contractor on the instrumentation that will control the new system. Safety guardrails and diamond-plate steel decking have been installed on the UV channel. This new system will reduce our energy costs and the use of chlorine as disinfection.



Resource Recovery

Waste Reduction staff hosted the first of three monthly webinars in the “Food, Too Good to Waste” workshop series. Thirty-five attendees stayed on for the entire hour to travel the journey of food from Farm, to Grocery Store to donation and finally to Rot/Recycle with our three guest speakers. Half the attendees completed a brief survey following the event and 92 percent said they learned something new and found the content worthwhile.



Engineering

The Pacific Avenue Sidewalk Project is proceeding quickly. The contractor, Precision Grade Inc., is ahead of schedule and has installed new concrete curb, gutter and roadway section. Roadway and sidewalk concrete pours are anticipated to be completed by end of week. The sub-contractor, Darrel Varni has completed trenching for streetlight conduit as well as pouring concrete for streetlight foundations.



Pouring roadway PCC (cement concrete) Completed PCC, awaiting AC (asphalt concrete) top section

Police

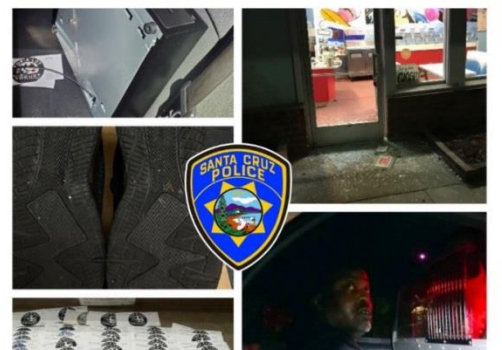
This Week's Arrest Highlights

ANOTHER FELON WITH FIREARM OFF SANTA CRUZ STREETS |

On April 4, 2021, when Officers took Alfonso Santana into custody for public intoxication, Officers located a loaded firearm in Mr. Santana's jacket pocket. Alfonso Santana is a felon in possession of a gun not registered to him. He was booked for felon in possession, carrying a concealed loaded weapon, public intoxication, and possession of heroin.

SUSPECT BURGLAR GOT OUT OF GOING TO JAIL |

On April 4, 2021, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office called SCPD and asked to check on Top-a-Lot Yogurt on Water Street; they stopped someone in possession of the Top-a-Lot cash register. We did and discovered the front glass door shattered and the cash register gone. SCPD Officers confirmed with the store owner that the register with cash and gift certificates was stolen. The suspect had glass shards from the store entryway in his shoes and pants, linking him to the burglary in addition to the stolen cash register and store merchandise in his possession. Due to Covid19 mandates limiting jail inmates to



primarily violent and sexual offenders, the jail declined to accept him. As a result, Mr. Murphy was cited and released at the scene.

ARREST in SUPER SILVER BURGLARY | On April 7, 2021, at approximately 3:00 a.m., SCPD responded to the Super Silver Jewelry store for a commercial burglary. Officers discovered the business's front window had been smashed, and jewelry items stolen. SCPD posted an image of the suspect from video surveillance and asked for the community's help to identify him. A community member quickly responded, notifying SCPD they recognized the suspect. Patrol Officers completed a further investigation into the suspect's identity and confirmed the suspect as 34-year-old Gregory Richard Burros, a Santa Cruz County resident. On Thursday, April 8, 2021, at approximately 10:00 a.m., SCPD's Neighborhood Policing Team spotted a vehicle in the 100 block of Doyle Street believed to be associated with Mr. Burros. NPT Officers surveilled and recreational vehicle for a period of time, ultimately contacting and arresting Burros. And the associated RV towed from the eastside.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month



A driver's #1 focus should be on the road. Anything that distracts you from the task of driving, especially a phone, puts yourself and others at risk. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and SCPD encourages drivers to give the phone a break and focus on the road.

Santa Cruz Police will have additional patrol officers looking for drivers who violate the state's hands-free cell phone law.

According to the [2020 California Statewide Public Opinion Survey](#), more than 75% of surveyed drivers listed "Distracted Driving because of TEXTING" as their biggest safety concern.

"Not driving distracted is a simple but significant behavior change," Lieutenant Morey said.
"The goal is to increase compliance with the hands-free cell phone law and keep people safe."

Under current law, drivers cannot hold a phone or other electronic device while behind the wheel. Drivers under 18 are not allowed to use a phone for any reason, including hands-free.

Funding for distracted driving enforcement operations is provided by a California Office of Traffic Safety grant through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Communications

On April 9 we launched our "City Cruz at Work" campaign on [Facebook](#). Each Friday a new post will feature a City staff member photo with first person narrative explaining a bit about their work.



Homelessness

San Lorenzo Park

Following Judge Susan van Keulen's modification of the temporary injunction at San Lorenzo Park, City staff began the process to move the encampment from the upper park to the Benchlands area beginning Friday, April 9. The process will be phased, with the first activity focused on noticing and relocating individuals currently camped at the Benchlands to allow for the site to be set up for the new camp.

Staff expect the move and cleanup effort to take place over the next 3-4 weeks. City staff and the City Attorney's Office are working diligently to ensure transparent communication with the Plaintiffs, County partners and other interested stakeholders. This work is a huge lift and staff from various City

departments are coordinating to make the process as smooth as possible. Staff are optimistic that conditions will improve greatly once the transition is complete.

River Street Shelter

City staff received notice last week that Encompass plans to cease operations of the River Street Shelter, effective May 1. The River Street shelter is a program of Encompass in partnership with the County. The City owns the property on the Coral Street campus that has been leased for years to Encompass (or their fiscal agent) as a 34-bed shelter program for mental health patients of the County. The City is in conversation with the County and Housing Matters about the future use of the space.