

# City Manager's Weekly Update

March 12, 2021

## Homelessness Response

### Highways 1 and 9

Caltrans, the City and the County continued planning for the closure of the encampment at the intersection of Highways 1 and 9 to make way for the long-planned construction project. Caltrans has requested that local jurisdictions provide outreach data and a process report, which will be included in a closure application to the state. Once closed and cleaned by Caltrans, the City will provide contractor fencing around the area. In preparation for the application to be accepted, the City and County are continuing in conversation around what, when and how alternative shelter might be provided to the occupants of the encampment, although no plan has been finalized. The City has begun conducting a weekly census count at the site, with 130 individuals being counted at the site this week.

On Thursday, CHP managed the shoulder closure for the placement of dumpsters so that staff, two contractors and volunteers could manage the biweekly clean-up of the area. The team filled one and a half dumpsters.

### San Lorenzo Park

The City Attorney's Office will be submitting a report to the Magistrate today in preparations for the hearing on March 17 at 9:30 a.m. Information on how to view the public hearing can be found on Magistrate Judge Susan van Keulen's website at: [www.cand.uscourts.gov/judges/van-keulen-susan-svk/](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/judges/van-keulen-susan-svk/)

Since the injunction went into effect, the City has been conducting a census at of the number of tents and occupants in San Lorenzo Park, including the Benchlands to share with Judge van Keulen in our report. On Jan. 21, 2021, 88 tents and 104 occupants were counted. On Feb. 10, 2021 109 tents and 113 occupants were counted. On Feb. 26, 2021, 115 tents and 129 occupants were counted. On March 12, 2021, 118 tents and 137 occupants were counted.

### Housing Matters

The City and County are matching funds to make improvements to the Housing Matters' waiting area. These improvements will create more space for clients to gather outside during the day. The effort will also result in the removal of some of the fencing currently lining Coral Street.

## Police

### SCPD Back to School Reminders In-Person School is back in session!

Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS) start back in session next week.

Hybrid Learning Start Dates are: Pre K & Kindergarten on March 15

Grades 1-5 on March 22 | Grades 6-12 on April 5



The Santa Cruz Police Department reminds our community to keep safety in mind, especially during the first few weeks of returning to school. This means increased car traffic, more bicyclists and pedestrians on streets and sidewalks.

Be prepared for the busy school commute. It is everyone's responsibility to know the rules of the road whether walking, bicycling, skating or driving.

**Follow these safety tips to be mindful of traffic and people on city streets.**

- **No Texting/Talking and Driving!** It is always illegal and never a good idea to use a handheld electronic device while driving.
- **Plan and Be Patient!** Plan to leave earlier than usual to accommodate the extra traffic and be patient with other parents and new drivers.
- **Slow Down!** School zones speed limits drop to 25 miles per hour.
- **No Double Parking!** This blocks visibility for children and vehicles.
- **Drop Off/Pick Up on the Same Side of the Street as the School!** Don't load or unload children across the street from the school.
- **STOP for the School Bus!** It is against the law to pass a school bus when the lights are on.
- **Yield to Pedestrians!** Always stop for children or adults crossing the street and for school patrol officers or crossing guards holding a stop sign.

SCPD will have additional enforcement patrols around schools. Officers look for drivers who are using cell phones, speeding in school zones, illegally passing school buses, failing to yield at crosswalks, or any other violations that may endanger children on their way to and from school. Our focus is on increasing awareness of 'distracted driving' and pedestrian safety.

Santa Cruz Police Department is committed to Traffic Safety through education and enforcement. There will be uniformed officers by our schools enforcing the rules of the road. For those families returning to in-person instruction, we wish everyone a safe return to school.

For more information regarding the implementation of in-person learning, please visit SCCS's website at <https://sccs.net/>

## SCPD Fitness Challenge

Fitness is critically essential to officer safety. Throughout February, SCPD staff participated in our 1st ever sprint triathlon. CSO Brothers recorded the winning time. Impressive! She won a \$25 gift card to El Palomar and bragging rights. Everyone else had to eat a donut.

**This month, SCPD is opening the contest up to our community.**

*Here's how our Sprint Triathlon works.*

**Row/ Swim:** 1 mile or 1700 meters on the rowing machine. Record the time

**Run:** 1.5 miles on the treadmill. Record the time.

**Ride:** 6.2 miles on the bike. Record your time.

Add up all events for Total Time. (You can compete as often as you wish until March 21, 2021)

**Can you best CSO Brothers' stats?** Total time: 35:06 minutes  
Run - 10:39 | Bike - 17:30 | Row - 6:57

The top 3 Community winners (lowest total time) get a prize! Use your favorite app and screenshot your best time and pic of you tackling the challenge. Submit via SCPD social media messenger or email [jblaschke@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:jblaschke@cityofsantacruz.com) by midnight on March 21, 2021.



## Public Works

### Engineering

We are scheduled to begin construction of sidewalk and storm drain improvements on Pacific Avenue between Front Street and Second Street next week. Traffic will be impacted on Pacific Avenue and Front Street, north of Beach Street and south of Second Street.

Continuing through May, construction will occur weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. as the project infills a missing link of sidewalk and corrects current flooding issues.

We apologize for any inconvenience this work may cause and appreciate the public's cooperation and patience. [Read more.](#)



We are also scheduled to repair a damaged storm drain pipe at West Cliff Drive and Santa Cruz Street from Monday, March 22, through Friday, March 26. During the construction hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., all vehicular traffic will be detoured from West Cliff Drive to Lighthouse Avenue via Gharkey Street or Monterey Street. We apologize for any inconvenience this work may cause and appreciate the community's cooperation.