

City Manager's Weekly Update

March 18, 2021

Parks & Recreation

Santa Cruz Back in Action!



As cases of Covid-19 decline, City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation is working hard to get the community back in action! The global pandemic has underscored that close-to-home parks and recreation programs are crucial to a community's quality of life – for exercise, fresh air, connection, childcare, and a sense of peace and well-being.

As Santa Cruz moves through the State tiers we wanted to keep our community up-to-date on programs and services. The Santa Cruz Back in Action web page outlines the programs and facilities allowed to operate in each tier with links to applicable State and local guidance. Make sure you are up-to-date by bookmarking the [Santa Cruz Back in Action](#) page and following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Town Clock and Plaza is ready for spring

The Parks team worked together over the last few weeks to get the Town Clock and Plaza ready for the spring season. Lots of work went into getting the electrical systems together highlighting the Collateral Damage statue and making the Town Clock shine bright again. All new landscaping went in and three new trees were installed creating a beautiful public plaza for all to enjoy for years to come.



Public Works

Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Soquel Creek Water District Board has approved the construction phase for its Pure Water Soquel program's conveyance infrastructure project. This phase will include an eight-mile conveyance pipeline system that will serve as the backbone of the District's purified recycled water project aimed at halting further seawater intrusion of the groundwater basin and meeting the state mandate of groundwater sustainability by 2040.

The conveyance project consists of about four miles of dual pipelines that will be installed under numerous streets from our **Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility** at 110 California St. to the new Advanced Water Purification Center (to be built under a separate contract) at the corner of Chanticleer Ave. and Soquel Ave. From there, approximately four miles of additional pipeline will be installed to carry ultra-purified water to three seawater intrusion prevention wells, where it will be recharged into the aquifer to help raise groundwater levels and create a seawater intrusion barrier. Read the press release [here](#).

This conveyance phase of construction will NOT include the pipe that goes down into the WWTF – that is scheduled for the fall when the new facility is constructed at the WWTF.



On March 11, the California Department of Public Health clarified their vaccine guidelines to include essential water and wastewater utility workers under Emergency Medical Support. This means that WWTF staff are now eligible for Covid-19 vaccination at the current priority tier 1B. Over the weekend several facility staff were able to get their first doses, and others are making appointments when and where doses are available.

Traffic Engineering

As the days are getting longer and the weather warmer, we always see more and more folks getting back on their bikes. With that in mind, we are excited to announce a NEW Bike Commuting workshop launching next week, on Thursday, March 25, from Noon to 1pm. Participants must be an employee of a business in the Downtown Santa Cruz Parking District and enrolled in [GO Santa Cruz](#). There will be free helmets and light sets on request. [Register here](#).



Resource Recovery

Continued outreach and education efforts by the Waste Reduction team yield results! Since the beginning of this Fiscal Year, Waste Reduction staff have inspected **1,404** residential recycling and yard waste carts and **432** carts and /or dumpsters belonging to businesses. In some cases, collection is temporarily paused to give Waste Reduction staff an opportunity to conduct more education and outreach. Between the two Waste Reduction Assistants **1,011** letters, phone calls and/or presentations were conducted.

The Landfill is now completely compliant with the new variance from Department of Toxics to once again accept treated wood waste in our lined landfill cell. This will allow homeowners and contractors to once again bring that material for disposal at the Dimeo facility. Businesses and contractors are required to obtain a Transporter variance in order to deliver treated wood waste. Meanwhile, we are closely monitoring AB 322, which should give us a permanent solution to this unintended result of a Governor Brown vetoed bill.

Homelessness Response

Highways 1 and 9

The Homelessness Response Team continued its meetings with Caltrans and the County in preparation for the encampment located at Highways 1 and 9. The group is still working to determine a date for noticing and closing the site. Caltrans is gathering data on outreach and shelter capacity from the County and working on a plan to secure the location from when it is cleared and until construction begins. The City team has been working to secure state funding to support the transition of individuals at the site to hotels, but they received word this week that funding would not be available in the short-term.

CalTrans will be taking the lead to respond to all public and press inquiries regarding the Highway 1/9 notice and closure. Unless City or County-specific, all questions should be forwarded to Caltrans Public Information Officer Kevin Drabinski at info-d5@dot.ca.gov or (805) 549-3318.

The City continues to provide campers with daily refuse cart service and bi-weekly dumpster service.

San Lorenzo Park

A hearing on the temporary injunction for San Lorenzo Park occurred on Thursday. As part of its filing, the City requested the dissolution of the injunction, or if the judge was not yet ready to dissolve the injunction, to move the camp to the Benchlands section of the park.

Judge van Keulen indicated that she was not ready to dissolve the injunction but instead was open to modifying it along the lines of the City's request. She requested more evidence from the City, including the affirmation that there is no continued danger of flooding and information on the County's plan for vaccinating unhoused residents. The City also offered to draft an order for the court's consideration, which she accepted. The plaintiffs were resistant to moving the camp to the Benchlands based on concerns about the area being in a flood plain and that a move would cause individuals to disperse

before being vaccinated. The judge asked the City and the plaintiffs to submit their evidence and the draft order by March 26, with another hearing set for March 30.

The City continues to provide hygiene and refuse services at this location. Additionally, the City has installed two new sharps kiosks at San Lorenzo Park and the CalTrans land adjacent to the cemetery). Sharps Solutions, a County contractor, is servicing these kiosks.

ED: Business Development

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REMAINS IN PURPLE TIER

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY WEEKLY STATUS REPORT FOR 03/16/21

WHERE ARE WE IN THE TIERS?



THIS WEEK'S METRICS:

	SC County Metrics	Data Trend	Moderate Tier Targets
Adjusted Cases	3.4	↓	1 - 3.9
Daily new cases (per 100k)	-1.9		Daily new cases (per 100k)
Positive Tests	1.2%*	↓	2% - 4.9%
	-0.7%		
Weeks in Current Tier**	1	--	3
Weeks Meeting Lesser Tier Criteria	1	--	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 2 ALLOWS INDOOR OPERATIONS TO RESUME FOR SOME BUSINESSES INCLUDING:

- Personal Care Services
- All Retail with max 50% capacity
- Restaurants with max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Gyms and Fitness Centers with max 10% capacity
- Museums, Zoos, and Aquariums with indoor activities with max 25% capacity
- Movie Theaters with max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Shopping Centers (Malls, Destination Centers, Swap Meets) with:
 - Max 50% capacity
 - Closed common areas
 - Reduced capacity food courts (see restaurants)
- Hotels and Lodging with Fitness centers with 10% max capacity
- Places of Worship with max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer

Full list available on the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy website.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY 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 16/03/21

¿DÓNDE ESTAMOS EN LOS NIVELES?



LAS ESTADÍSTICAS DE ESTA SEMANA:

	Datos del Condado SC	Tendencias de Datos	Metas de Nivel Razonables
Casos Ajustados	3.4	↓	1 - 3.9
Casos nuevos diarios (por 100 mil)	-1.9		Casos nuevos diarios (por 100 mil)
Pruebas Positivas	1.2%*	↓	2% - 4.9%
	-0.7%		
Semanas En Niveles Actuales**	1	--	3
Semanas Con Criterios de Menos Importancia	1	--	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 2 AUTORIZA LA ACTIVIDAD COMERCIAL EN INTERIOR PARA ALGUNOS NEGOCIOS INCLUYENDO:

- Servicios de cuidado personal
- Ventas al detalle con capacidad max de 50%
- Restaurantes con capacidad max de 25% o 100 personas, cualquier que sea menor
- Gimnasios y centros de ejercicios con capacidad max de 10%
- Museos, zoológicos, y acuarios con actividades interiores con capacidad max de 25%
- Salas de cine con capacidad max de 25% o 100 personas, cualquier que sea menor
- Centros comerciales (malls, centros de destinación, feria) con:
 - Max capacidad de 50%
 - Áreas comunes cerradas
 - Capacidad reducida en los "food courts" (ver restaurantes)
- Hoteles y alojamientos con salas de ejercicio con capacidad max de 10%
- Lugares de culto con capacidad max de 25% o 100 personas, cualquier que sea menor

La lista completa está disponible en el sitio web del plan de acción estatal para una economía más segura.

MÁS INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL PLAN DE ACCIÓN PARA UNA ECONOMÍA MÁS SEGURA AL:
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 Red Tier this week but the metrics continue to improve and currently align with the Orange Tier requirements. The current state criteria require the County to remain in the current tier for three weeks so a move to Orange could occur in two weeks if the metrics stay at or below this threshold. While this improvement is positive we can't let our guard down now. Please continue to wear a mask out in public, maintain social distancing, and get vaccinated when you are eligible. [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.](#)

Vaccine Information:

Employers and business owners are advised to fill out the County vaccine survey to get your business scheduled for the vaccine, [COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Survey](#). There should only be ONE person from

each business who fills out the survey and only one survey response per business. Once you have filled out the survey the County Public Health office will contact you when vaccine clinics become available. For information about vaccine distribution please [visit the County's website here](#).

ED: Housing Development & Preservation

CALIFORNIA COVID-19 RENT RELIEF APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW

The CA COVID-19 Rent Relief application is now open. The CA COVID-19 Rent Relief will help income-eligible households pay rent and utilities, both for past due and future payments. Visit the link below for the application. Application assistance is also available by calling **1-833-430-2122** between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. Applications and assistance are available in multiple languages. To view the County Press Release click [here](#). To visit the Housing is Key website and application click [here](#).

The following local organizations are assisting with applications and the submission process. Further details about local assistance will be released soon:

- Community Bridges
- Community Action Board
- Families in Transition
- California Rural Legal Assistance
- United Way 211

The following local organizations will be providing public outreach and education about the program. Further details about local assistance will be released soon:

- Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA)
- Conflict Resolution Center (CRC)

ED: Arts & Culture Development

ARTS COUNCIL SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TO IMPLEMENT ARTIST IN RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Since March 2013 the main office for Arts Council Santa Cruz County (ACSCC) has had been located in the Kron House at the Tannery Arts Center, which they lease from the City. It has always been anticipated that they would operate an “Artist in Residency” program allowing a visiting artist to temporarily reside on the second floor of the building. While their occupancy permit allows for this activity, it was inadvertently not listed as a “use” in their lease with the City, which states the building will be used as “office space.” This oversight was corrected in February by implementing a minor



amendment to the lease. Once it is safe for people to once again interact closely, the Artist in Residency program will move forward. It is anticipated that visual and performance artists would participate, with a focus likely on teaching classes, lecturing, and an overall sharing of skills and knowledge.

CARD PILOT GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The City Arts Recovery Design Pilot Grant Program applications are available now. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

The City program will focus on three main themes: economic recovery, restorative justice, and public health & safety. The first phase of the program will be a call for Letters of Intent from artists. The most competitively ranked ideas will be selected for development into full project/program grant proposals. This pilot program is an effort to expand community input into City Arts programming. We are beginning recruitment for Volunteer Panel Reviewers from the arts community, business owners, and civic leaders. If you have 10-15 hours available in late April and share the Arts Commission believe that public art and policy improve our community's quality of life, please contact cityarts@cityofsantacruz.com.



Planning

120 Dubois Street, *Encompass Community Services*

Last week, the Planning Department received an application for an Administrative Use Permit from *Encompass Community Services* to establish a community service organization use at 120 Dubois Street. The *Encompass* Transition Age Youth (TAY) programs and drop-in center is proposing to provide a safe and welcoming service hub for Youth & Young Adults (YYA) in Santa Cruz County struggling with housing stability, and/or young adults transitioning to independent living from foster care.

The Center will have capacity to serve up to 35 YYAs at a time, ages 15-24. The population of focus includes all YYA emphasizing LGBTQ+, Latino youth, youth from other communities of color, immigrant youth, youth from foster care or justice systems, and pregnant and parenting YYA. The Center will provide low or no barrier access to services and use a Trauma Informed approach with progressive engagement to bring youth into individualized services guided by youth priority and readiness. YYA will choose from a menu of service options, ranging from basic needs (including showers, food, and laundry) to more intensive support for mental and physical health needs, housing and employment navigation, education and vocational training support, and linkage to resources and needed services.

YYA will be welcomed by a Peer Outreach/Service Navigator who will gather basic information, and negotiate a time for each youth, when ready, to meet with Center staff for a full assessment. *Encompass* will also engage community partners law enforcement, juvenile justice, child and family services, school districts and others and community coalitions (e.g. The Coalition to End Human Trafficking, Youth Violence Prevention Task Force; Smart Solutions and others) to refer YYA. 'Light

touch' engagement will take place through street outreach, offering snacks, emergency supplies, and brief conversations, and allowing time and space to build rapport and trust. Additional services will include: Coordinated Entry System assessment and housing navigation; linkage to emergency shelter; case management; employment, educational and vocational support; yoga, art and exercise; linkages to benefits, behavioral health and health services; parenting support and linkage to prenatal care; family reunification services; transportation; workshops (e.g. parenting support group); child care; legal support; and recreational activities. The application is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the City Zoning Administrator on April 7th. Ryan Bane will be the planner.

Santa Cruz Public Libraries



**Celebrate our beautiful newly remodeled branch!
Saturday, March 20th
10:00-11:30am**

This Zoom event will feature a virtual tour of the newly remodeled La Selva Beach Branch Library with Zach Friend as the Master of Ceremonies.

See the new space and learn about upcoming programs and services!

This will be a Virtual Grand Opening Ceremony.

Please do not show up to the branch on this day. All festivities will be held online.

Registration is required. Register [HERE!](#)

The La Selva Beach Branch is the second library in the Santa Cruz Public Library system to complete construction from Measure S funds. The Branch was completely renovated, maintaining its original footprint of 2200 square feet. Renovations include: replacements of single pane windows and doors, a new heating and ventilation system, ADA compliant restroom, all new furniture and fixtures, and a new front entrance. Thanks to a generous matching grant of \$100,000 from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, the library patio was upgraded with furniture and a pergola to expand outdoor programming. The Friends of the La Selva Beach Branch Library raised additional funds for interior

folding glass partitions to enhance the flexibility of space usage for different types of programs for adults and children, as well as sound abatement.

The library in La Selva Beach began in 1950 with the LSB Woman's Club circulating books from a closet in the Clubhouse. By 1960 the makeshift library had issued cards to 199 adults and 108 "juveniles." In 1968, an arrangement was made for a "real" library to open at its current location with the building to be owned by the LSB Recreation District and leased to the library. After Proposition 13 the library was briefly closed, but then reopened due to the dedication of volunteers who were the sole staffers for the next 8 years. In 1996, a 600 square foot addition provided for a children's area and a staff room. Thanks to wonderful staff and a full calendar of programs for both children and adults, the library has functioned as a hub for community gathering and learning in La Selva Beach. All patrons eagerly anticipate a return to their beautifully refurbished new branch when it opens on March 23 with these new hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-6pm and Saturday 12-5pm.

Water

Starting now, Distribution staff will be "flushing" the City's water system for the next few weeks. Flushing is a process where water is pushed through pipes at very high pressure to remove sediment, as well as rust or other accumulations inside pipes. While best practices recommend annual flushing of the entire water system, because we've had such a dry year we will only be flushing the "dead ends" of the system.



Flushing removes sediment in pipes and improves drinking water quality and lengthens the lifespan of the pipes. Flushing the entire system typically takes about 3-4 months. We'll only be flushing less than half of our system, so it won't take that long, but we'll be doing it sporadically so the public may see us

flushing off and on throughout the next several weeks. When it's been dry, like this year, the public can become alarmed when they see what they perceive as water being wasted. So it's important to know that flushing the entire system only takes about 16 million gallons (or about 2 ½ days' worth of water), and since we're only flushing half the system we'll only be using about one day's worth. We arm our distribution crews with informational cards that they can hand out to concerned citizens – we also try to inform City staff of what we're up to so that they can help spread the word as well.