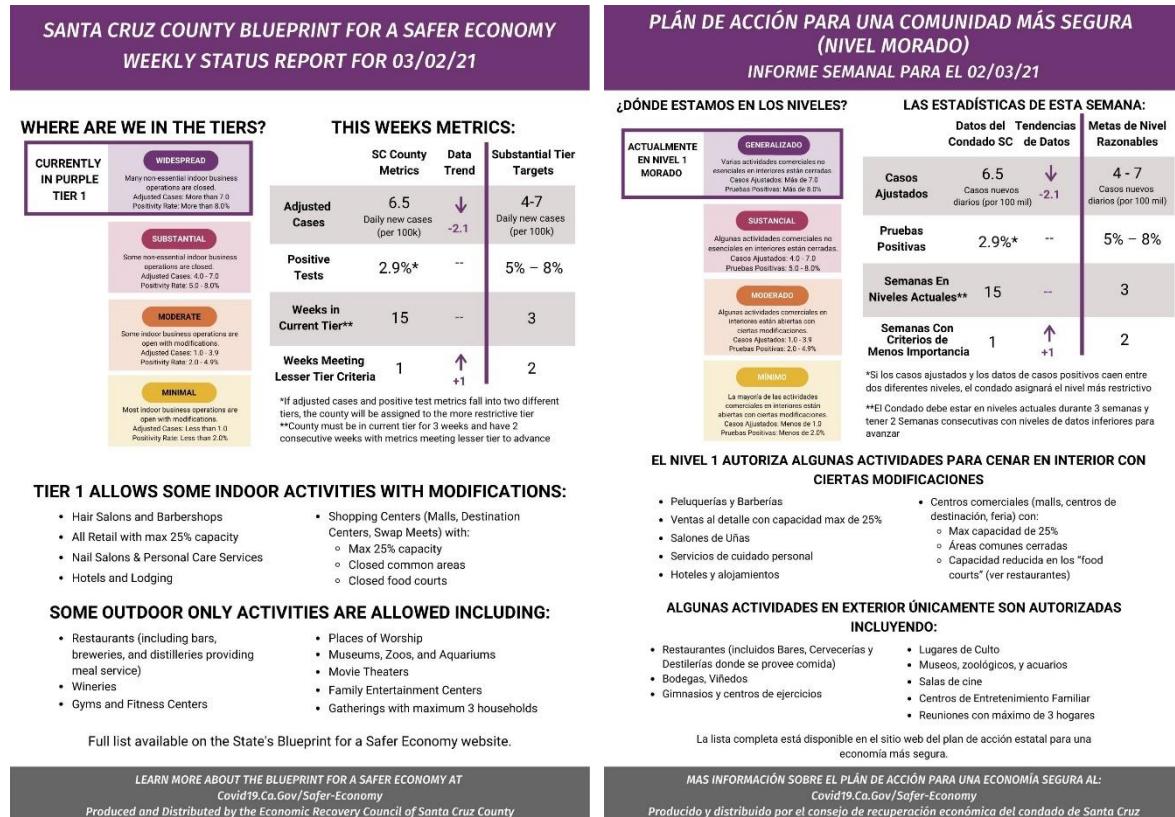


# City Manager's Weekly Update

March 5, 2021

## Economic Development

### Business Development | Santa Cruz County Remains In Purple Tier



Santa Cruz County remains in the most restrictive tier, Purple Tier 1, but we could be eligible to move into the Red Tier next week if the case rate and positive test data remain at this level or continue to decline. Under the Red Tier, more businesses will be able to reopen or modify operations. For example, restaurants, places of worship, and movie theaters can open indoors at 25% capacity (or 100 people, whichever is fewer). Gyms can open indoors at 10% capacity. Retail can open at 50% capacity. [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](#).

## Housing Development & Preservation | Recommended CDBG Allocations

### Coming To Council March 23

The CPC met on Feb. 25 and recommended the below allocations for CDBG. The next step is to bring this recommendation to the full Council at the upcoming Public Hearing on March 23. The final 2021 final 2021-2022 HUD Action Plan funding allocations will be made at the second Public Hearing on April 27. After HUD reviews and approves the Action Plan, funding is estimated to become available as early as July 1, 2021.

<b>PUBLIC SERVICES (Subject to 15% CAP)</b>		<b>Requested Funding</b>	<b>Prior Year Funding</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Activity: <b>Teen Center</b>	Applicant: City of Santa Cruz	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$40,000
Activity: <b>Food Banks</b>	Applicant: Second Harvest Food Banks	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Activity: <b>Legal Services</b>	Applicant: CRLA	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SERVICES SUBJECT TO 15% CAP (\$90,000)</b>				<b>\$90,000</b>
Activity: <b>Nueva Vista &amp; Beach Flats Community Centers (CBDO)</b>	Applicant: Nueva Vista Resources	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SERVICE FUNDING (INCLUDING CBDO)</b>				<b>\$190,000</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS</b>		<b>Requested Funding</b>	<b>Prior Year Funding</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Activity: <b>Market St. Senior Center Renovation</b>	Applicant: City of Santa Cruz	\$125,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Activity: <b>Senior Art Studio at Louden Nelson</b>	Applicant: City of Santa Cruz	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Activity: <b>Homeless Infrastructure Projects</b>	Applicant: City of Santa Cruz	\$250,000	\$456,957	\$231,500
<b>TOTAL PROJECTS FUNDING</b>				<b>\$381,500</b>

The recommendation above is based on estimated HUD funding levels. Since the CPC met on Feb. 25 the City has received the final HUD allocations for CDBG (**\$618,240**) and HOME (**\$396,141**). After funding administration, there's an additional **\$14,592** of CDBG funding available for allocation that can go to the underfunded projects above.

## Arts & Culture Development | Card Pilot Grant Program Launching March 12

The City Arts Recovery Design Pilot Grant Program will launch with an informational meeting for artists on March 12 at 11 a.m. (ZOOM Meeting ID 852 3921 8534, passcode 892632)



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 belief that public art and policy improve our community's quality of life, please contact [cityarts@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:cityarts@cityofsantacruz.com).

## Seawalls Santa Cruz Planning

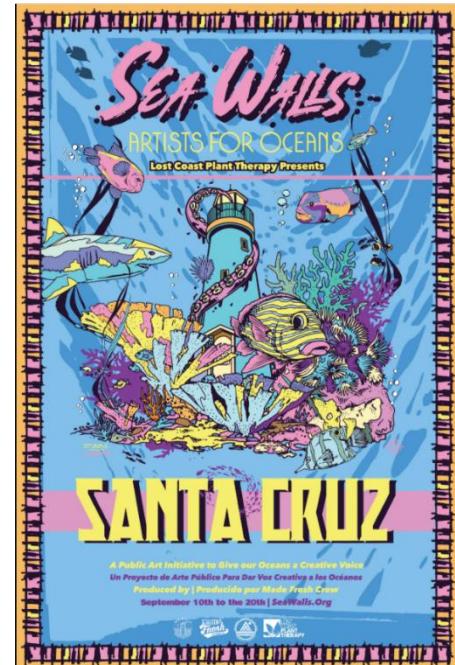
Pangea Seed Foundation, led by local muralist Taylor Reinhold, is excited to share with you that Sea Walls Santa Cruz, originally scheduled for last year, is now planned for **September 10-20, 2021**.

The goal is to create 10 purpose-driven public murals in collaboration with California-based artists and host a series of virtual and socially distancing events to engage the wider community, young and old, around better ocean stewardship.

They have developed a COVID protocol plan to ensure everyone's safety, and they successfully piloted the plan last November for Sea Walls St. Petersburg. You can view that project video [here](#).

The Pangea Seed team will continue to follow the latest developments on the pandemic and are prepared to make any additional changes, as required, to ensure the safety of the artists and team and the safety of the community. Coming out on the other side of this pandemic, they know that the issues affecting our oceans will be as pressing as ever, and communities will greatly appreciate public art with a purpose to help lift spirits and inspire individuals.

Check out the updated Sea Walls landing page and event poster [HERE](#).



## Homelessness Response

The City continues to get calls and emails regarding the specifics of the [Temporary Outdoor Living Ordinance](#), and staff has been working to synthesize Council and public feedback for the next reading on Tuesday. Constituents are also invited to provide input on the ordinance through the topic page at [cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness](http://cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness) or by sending an email to [citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com).

This week the Homelessness Response Team met with County partners for its first Encampment Assessment Coordination meeting to better coordinate responses to managing the impacts of large encampments in the City. Much of the conversation focused on cataloging the outreach efforts occurring in the City and discussing the future needs for outreach to support moving unhoused residents toward permanent housing. Discussions with Caltrans concerning clearing Highways 1 and 9 in advance of the highway construction project are continuing, but the issue is not yet resolved. County partners, along with a staff member from Senator John Laird's office, also joined this week's conversation.

City staff has continued in conversation with Food Not Bombs on a suitable location to continue its food service. Staff will also be reaching out to the Credit Union located adjacent to the group's current location in Lot 27 to ensure open communication about any impacts to their business or service to customers, as they have experienced before the group's move to Lot 23. Unfortunately, despite this continued attempt at accommodation, the group's organizer posted an erroneous flyer online and physically downtown.

## Parks and Recreation

### COVID Testing at Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium



More than 7,500 COVID tests have been completed at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium since testing started in December through a partnership with Santa Cruz County. The testing site is open Monday-Friday from 7a.m.-11 a.m., 12 p.m.-4 p.m., and 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Appointments can be made at <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>. Walk-ins are welcome too. Testing is free, and no insurance is required.

### Bethany Curve Pathway Addition



Pandemic blues got ya down? Take a stroll through Bethany Curve! Bethany Curve runs four blocks from West Cliff all the way to Delaware Ave. Parks has completed the installation of another section of decomposed granite pathway and header board between Oxford Way and Alta Ave, further improving the space. Take in the beauty of the assorted trees and bird species in this lush riparian zone.

## Water

### Mega Milestone Mania

A **milestone** is jargon for a significant achievement on a project. This is a week of significant project milestones for the Water Department, so it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the incredible work that's been accomplished – under really extraordinary circumstances. With that introduction, we are stepping back this week to acknowledge and celebrate several big project milestones.

The **Newell Creek Dam Inlet/Outlet Project** reached two milestones this week. First, the dredging work is finished. This is significant because it retires a water-quality threat to our operations and signifies the start of a new phase of work (inlet drilling). Second, this week tunneling officially started. All the work leading up to this point could be considered the opening act, and now we are onto the main event.



*Photo of sediment pond next to tunnel face*



*Photo of the tunnel excavation equipment*

The **Coast Pump Station Pipeline Replacement Project**, the dicey project to replace the raw water main under the San Lorenzo River, is officially finished! Final Tie-ins went smoothly, and the new pipeline is in service.

Construction also finished this week on the **Flocculator Replacement Project**, and we are starting final performance testing on the final basin today.

These projects represent some of the most technically challenging and expensive projects that the Water Department has undertaken. However, there will be no resting on our laurels; in addition to the continued work at Newell Creek Dam, a new round of capital projects begin later this month - including replacement of the treated water main under Ocean Street Extension and replacement of three concrete holding tanks at the Graham Hill Treatment Plant.

If you're looking for a new outdoor space to enjoy, the Loch Lomond Recreation Area reopened this week for fishing, picnicking and hiking. LLRA is truly a local gem and fortunately unaffected by last year's fires. We hear the fish have been biting this week, too.