

City Manager's Weekly Update

June 18, 2021

Water

As the temperature has increased this week, so has water use. In fact we're predicting today may be the highest use so far this year, at over 9 million gallons. That's high use for Santa Cruz now, but was pretty routine back in the days before 2014 rationing.

Related to that, one of the questions we've been hearing from customers lately is "why are the allocations for a single family residence half of what they were during rationing in 2014-2015?" It's a good question. The short answer is because the community's water use never rebounded after the last drought; customer use characteristics used to develop the 2009 Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which was the basis for 2014-2015 allocations, was based on how customers used water in 2002-2004. The updated allocations being used today are from 2016 – 2018 use. Customer demand is now so much lower than it has been historically, that average water use for single family customers is now just 6 ccf per month. Overall demand never rebounded from the restricted levels achieved between 2014 and 2015. We keep a running list of [frequently asked questions](#) about the Stage 1 Warning on our website – it's updated weekly.

The good work that our Water Resources team does monitoring special status fish species was highlighted in a [front-page article](#) in yesterday's Sentinel. It was nice to see Chris Berry and his team recognized for their efforts year after year to try to protect coho salmon and steelhead trout.

Last, we're expecting a big turnout at Loch Lomond Recreation Area for Father's Day. It's already been a busy summer, but with continued reports of good fishing, it's bound to be the spot where many dads choose to spend their day!



Parks & Recreation

Parks Volunteers Make a Difference

Grant Park Neighbors group recently had a fun volunteer day at Grant Park. Garbage cans, bike racks, and light poles received a fresh coat of paint as well as lots of weeding and raking all around the park. City Hall volunteers helped spread out over 15 yards of wood chips all around the landscape beds in the front courtyard, and our Pilkington Creek/Tyrrell Park volunteers have been working hard removing invasive plants and spreading wood chips this season.



Delaveaga Park Re-Opening

Thanks to all the Parks Staff for helping get the Park “Back into Shape” for the opening of Delaveaga Park. Delaveaga was closed for the winter and part of spring due to the pandemic and shortage of staff. Delaveaga is now open to the Public.

George Washington Park to re-open on July 1.

Looking forward to seeing games, picnics and general fun out there!



DELAVEAGA PARK

Santa Cruz Urban Forester Leslie Keedy wins WCISA Award

Congratulations to our Santa Cruz Urban Forester Leslie Keedy! She received the Award of Commendation by her fellow peers from the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture at its 87th Annual Conference. Leslie was selected as the best in 2020 promoting the purpose of the ISA organization through continuing education and communication between practitioners, educators, researchers, and the general public.

The award recognizes Leslie's 20+ year career with the City of Santa Cruz and her work overseeing the recent CalFIRE Urban Forestry grant and the planting of 500 trees. Hats off to our amazing Urban Forester Leslie Keedy!



Summer Programs Launch

Parks and Recreation summer programs started back this past week with Junior Guards at Cowell Beach and Summer Camps at Harvey West Park. Kids and parents were thrilled to be back in our programs that have become summer traditions for local families.

New this year, Parks and Recreation collaborated with City Schools to provide after summer school classes at Bay View and Gault Elementary Schools. The afternoon classes provide all day recreation options for working summer school parents. Summer programs run June 14 – August 6 at a variety of park and beach locations.



Public Works

Resource Recovery

During an audit of the Tannery Arts Building, the Waste Reduction Staff recommended that they implement a tenant run food pantry to help them reduce food waste. Last week they started up the program under the observation of the Resident Ambassador, also a program assisted by the Waste Reduction team.



Traffic Engineering

Our action-packed new Street Smarts PSA addresses a prime cause of crashes throughout Santa Cruz County in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) -- with surprise guest star!



Engineering

The **2021 Overlay Project** continued construction this week. The project has been upgrading curb ramps on Fairmount Avenue from North Branciforte to Morrissey. Pavement work will continue the week of June 21 - 25 at:

- Delaware Avenue from Fair Avenue to Woodrow Avenue
- Delaware Avenue from National Street to Santa Cruz Street
- King Street from Miramar Drive to the west end of Mission Street

The **2021 Surface Seal Project** resumes construction on Friday, June 18 and Monday, June 21, with installation of Microsurfacing on several local streets detailed [here](#). The public is advised to seek alternate routes when possible. We apologize for any inconvenience this construction work may cause and appreciate the public's cooperation.



Overlay Project forming curb ramp Fairmount & Poplar / Surface Seal – Type III Slurry Locust St

Wastewater Treatment Facility

Two of our WWTF staff have received awards from the California Water Environment Association! Amanda Bird (left) won first-place for Operator of the Year and Michelle Courtroul (right) won second-place for Laboratory Person of the Year. These competitive statewide awards recognize outstanding achievement within the wastewater field. Bravo and congratulations!



Economic Development

Business Development

Governor Newsom Signs Executive Order Aligning OSHA Regulations With CDPH Guidelines

Following the vote by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to adopt revised COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards that reflect the state's latest COVID-19 public health order, Governor Gavin Newsom today signed an executive order enabling the revisions to take effect without the normal 10-day review period by the Office of Administrative Law – providing clarity and consistency for employers and employees as California fully reopens its economy.

Among other updates, Cal/OSHA's revisions align with the [latest](#) guidance from the California Department of Public Health – based on guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – on face coverings and eliminate physical distancing requirements, except for certain employees during outbreaks. Unless they show symptoms, fully vaccinated employees do not need to be offered testing or be excluded from work after close contact with a COVID-19-positive person.

Ensuring workplaces throughout the state have consistent guidance as California officially moves [Beyond the Blueprint](#), the Governor's order waives the 10-day review process by the Office of Administrative Law. The emergency regulations will take effect upon their filing with the Secretary of State. With over 40 million vaccines administered and amongst the lowest case rates and transmission rates in the nation, the state fully reopened on June 15, eliminating pandemic-related restrictions that have been in place over the past year.

Initially implemented last November, the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards remain an important component of the state's ongoing response, providing balanced worker protections that support California's continued progress in recovering from the pandemic.

Businesses seeking assistance to provide N95 respirators for unvaccinated employees as required by the revised Emergency Temporary Standards can find distribution locations for state-provided N95 respirators [here](#).

The full text of today's executive order can be found [here](#). More information on the revised COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards can be found [here](#).

New Bridge Signage Installed to Kick Off the State's Reopening

California is officially reopened as of Tuesday, June 15. All sectors may return to usual operations with some exceptions and with masking for those unvaccinated and under certain circumstances. To celebrate the move into this stage of the recovery we installed new "Shop Santa Cruz" signage with messages to: Shop Local, Dine Local, and Support Local Jobs. The signs are in both English and Spanish and will remain in place through the end of summer when a new holiday themed sign campaign will be installed.

Midtown Fridays: Free Event!

Come celebrate all the vibrancy of Midtown at our Summer Block Party, happening every Friday! Food – Artists – Live Music – Vendors

June 18th Vendors: Pana Food Truck, Chuy Santa Cruz, Turq and Terra Designs, EVerything & NOthing, Rural Roots, Ecology Action, Stay Cool Ice Cream Truck, Santa Cruz Power Fitness, Micael Nuñez, The Great Santa Cruz Mountains, ThereThenPerfumerie, wuzzawazzee and artist Isaac Ben (Art evolution studio).

Live music Hosted by Off The Lip Radio Show: 5:00 – Elena Shirin and at 6:30 Dub Souljah.

Learn more: www.eventsantacruz.com/event/midtown-fridays/

Housing Development & Preservation

FHA's Special COVID-19 Mortgage Payment Forbearance Is Currently Available To FHA-Insured Borrowers



KEEP YOUR HOME

COVID-19 MORTGAGE PAYMENT RELIEF

Struggling to keep up with mortgage payments on your FHA-insured mortgage because of COVID-19? Take action now to keep your home. Work with your mortgage servicer to get the help you need. Or, contact a HUD-approved housing counseling agency to understand your options. Find out more at <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus/homeowners>



BUSQUE AYUDA

ALIVIO PARA EL PAGO DE LA HIPOTECA POR LA COVID-19

Tiene problemas por el peso del estrés financiero de la COVID-19? ¿Necesita ayuda para afrontar los desafíos de la hipoteca? Una agencia de asesoramiento de vivienda aprobada por el HUD puede ayudarle a entender sus opciones y a estar mejor con su hipoteca asegurada por la FHA. Obtenga más información en [HUD.gov/coronavirus/homeowners](https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus/homeowners).

The hardships from the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt across the country. Currently, there are over 300,000 borrowers who are at least 60-days delinquent on their FHA mortgage. The COVID-19 forbearance relief program has been created to assist FHA borrowers with keeping their homes. For more information on this program and the process please click [here](#).

Homelessness Response

Caltrans will be noticing the “Hell’s Trail” area behind the intersections of Highways 1 and 9 this weekend and closure will occur on Monday, June 21. The agency estimates that there are 30-45 individuals camping in this area.

Conversations are continuing with the County regarding the demobilization of emergency shelters within the City and County as FEMA funding is expected to wind down in September. Director Lee Butler will provide an update on these efforts and potential impacts to homelessness response within the City during his presentation at the Council meeting on Tuesday.

San Lorenzo Park

City attorneys and staff met and conferred with plaintiffs in the Santa Cruz Homeless Union vs. The City of Santa Cruz case this week. The City heard from the plaintiffs on some concerns about specific elements of operations at the site, such as the need for additional shade, the location of portable toilets, and more frequent refuse pickup. City staff are working to evaluate the full list of requests and respond with solutions where feasible.

Two individuals were evicted from the Benchlands camp in San Lorenzo Park following many continued warnings for violating community standards. Per the terms of the eviction, these individuals were issued a “stay away” order that will remain in place for 60 days.