

City Manager's Weekly Update

May 21, 2021

Police

SCPD Welcomes Two Officers to Our Ranks: Strides in Recruiting Make a Dent in Staffing Reality

This week, Chief Mills swore in Officer Tien Nguyen and Officer David Deady. These men took an oath to serve and protect our city in a small group badge pinning ceremony for their families.

Coming from Oakland, CA, Officer Nguyen, who just graduated from Police Academy yesterday, embarks on a career in public safety with SCPD.

Swearing in for the second time at SCPD, Officer Deady returns after service in Southern California.

"It is always an honor to welcome new officers to our agency and thank them for choosing our community in which to serve," said Chief Andy Mills.



Please join us in welcoming Officer Tien Nguyen and Officer David Deady to the Santa Cruz PD!

STAFFING | Currently, 80 sworn positions are filled at SCPD. Optimal staffing for the department should be 101 full-time law enforcement officers. Increased police staffing helps prevent crime: each additional officer reduces crime by 1.3 violent crimes and 4.2 property crimes per year.

DUTIES ABOVE & BEYOND | There are many demands made on SCPD to be the community's problem solvers beyond law enforcement. Officers spend their time responding to pressing crises of overdoses, homelessness, and mental health, to name a few. Police staffing is a vital public safety component in addressing the catch-all societal issues when social services fail.

RECRUITING | SCPD looks for law enforcement applicants with the right blend of skill sets, such as level-headedness, superior communication abilities, and internal drive to public service.

HIRING | SCPD is an equal opportunity employer committed to building an inclusive and diverse team.
APPLY TODAY WWW.JOINSANTACRUZPD.COM **PROTECT TOMORROW**

Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Summer Reading Program

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries' (SCPL) Summer Reading Program begins June 1st and runs through July 31st. Studies show that reading over the summer can significantly reduce Summer Slide - a term for the learning loss experienced over the summer. That's why summer reading is such an important program for kids. Kids, teens, and adults track their reading, complete activities, and earn raffle entries and prizes. All ages are invited to register at santacruzpl.org/srp or by calling 831-427-7713.

To sign up, visit santacruzpl.org/srp or pick up a paper Reading Log at any open SCPL Branch. Those without internet access may call 831-427-7713 or text 831-264-0647 to be entered into the program. Signups begin June 1st and participants have until July 31st to sign out of the program and receive their rewards. Participants of all ages are encouraged to read books of their own choosing, listen to audio books, or be read to.

We will continue to use the Beanstack online platform for families and individuals to track their reading over the summer. The platform allows readers to add reviews and claim rewards and includes a mobile app. Paper reading logs are available to those who prefer to track their reading that way.

We have planned a wide range of interactive live and recorded programs, starting with our kickoff event at 11 a.m. on May 26th via Zoom. Participants will meet Delrita the elephant and learn about these amazing creatures. A video program about Delrita will be available on our Youtube page for one week after the virtual program. Other events include STEAM projects, magic shows, circus acts, NorCal Bats, musical performances, and more. In addition to our many interesting virtual programs, SCPL will hold three in-person outdoor events. Check our calendar at santacruzpl.org/calendar or visit our Summer Reading Webpage at santacruzpl.org/srp after June 1st for information and registration links.

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries' Summer Reading Program is made possible through our partnership with Atlantis Fantasyworld, the Penny Ice Creamery, and the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES

SUMMER READING PROGRAM
PROGRAMA DE LECTURA DE VERANO

FOR LEARNING, FOR FUN, FOR ALL | PARA APRENDER, PARA DIVERTIRSE, PARA TODO

June 1 - July 31 • 1 de junio - 31 de julio
www.santacruzpl.org/srp

BOOK & ACTION
FOR ADULTS AND TEENS
PUTTING WORDS INTO ACTION

THE PENNY ICE CREAMERY

Public Works

National Public Works Week

Mayor Donna Meyers proclaimed May 16-22 as National Public Works Week encouraging recognition of the contributions that public works professionals make in protecting health, safety and quality of life! The community was invited to celebrate this year's national ["Stronger Together"](#) theme by entering our [Public Works Selfie Contest](#) with \$1500 in prizes that benefit downtown retailers and help local spending. Below is a submission from a familiar face with thumb's up for our new bike lockers!



Traffic Engineering

According to our latest Traffic Safety Report, well over 75% of crashes in Santa Cruz occur at intersections. Our newest Street Smart video features Off the Lip Radio host Neil Pearlberg with tips to help keep you alert and safe at intersections in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



Engineering

The Pure Water Soquel Project construction is scheduled to begin Monday, May 24, in Santa Cruz. This Soquel Creek Water District installation of two pipelines will occur weekdays 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. as follows:

- California Street from the Wastewater Treatment Facility to Laurel Street: May 24 – June 15
- Laurel Street from California to Chestnut: June 16 – July 5
- Laurel Street from Chestnut to the west end of the Laurel Street Bridge: July 6 – August 12.

More info: <https://loom.ly/fJcUeFQ>



San Lorenzo River Working Group

Below are the latest updates on our work to preserve and protect the San Lorenzo River:

- During the first quarter of 2021, the City worked with community groups and volunteers to remove 6,340 pounds of trash along the River.
- The City plans to implement a grant funded project at the rivermouth in 2022 that will reduce nuisance flooding in adjacent neighborhoods as well as protect and enhance the lagoon habitat.
- After over 20 years in development, the City's Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan was permitted by US Fish and Wildlife.
- Mayor Donna Meyers and Sustainability + Climate Action Manager Tiffany Wise-West gave talks as a part of the San Lorenzo River State of the River symposium on April 17, 2021. The presentations can be accessed at this [link](#).



Parks & Recreation

Community Gardens Springing Back into Action

After a wildly abnormal year, the Parks & Recreation Department has been making a concerted push this spring to get our community gardens in good shape for existing and new gardeners. The City's five community gardens, which together offer 115 plots, are filling quickly with just a few spots remaining at our Poet's Park and Riverside Garden locations. Community gardens offer a wide range of benefits beyond providing families the ability to produce nutritious food. They are also a catalyst for neighborhood and community development, stimulate social interaction, and create opportunities for recreation, exercise and education.

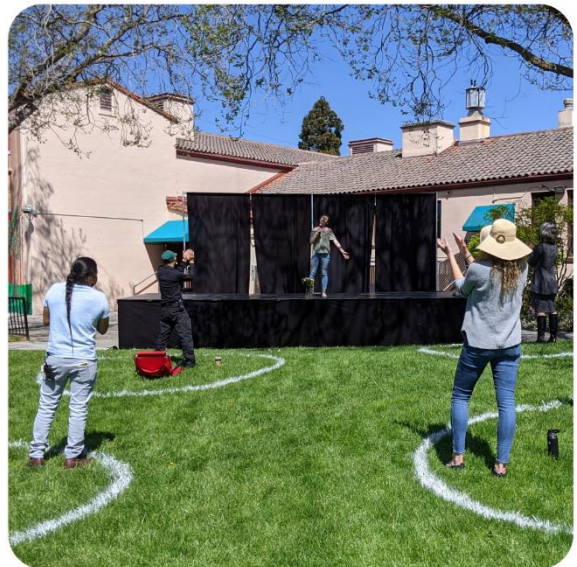
This is what healthy, active living looks like in action!



Laurel Park comes alive with Outdoor Theater this summer

Be sure to join us at the Outdoor Theater in Laurel Park this summer for a variety of theater performances and special events! We are all booked up from June through mid-August with the following events:

- June 19 - Juneteenth Celebration, food vendors, live streamed performances, activities
- June 26 – All About Theater – *Descendants the Musical*
- July 10 & 11 - the Parks & Recreation improv class - *En Plein Aire*
- July 24 – Parks & Rec – *July Is... Day in the Park*
- July 31 – All About Theater – *Moana Jr.*
- Aug 7 & 8 – All About Theater – *Legally Blonde Jr.*
- Aug 14, 21 & 28 – DNA Comedy Showcase



Redwood Picnic Area

The new Redwood Picnic Area, located in Harvey West Park, will be ready and available for reservations beginning on May 28, 2021.

This new picnic area will accommodate 70 people comfortably and has Power and a sink. This is the replacement for the old "Oak" Picnic area that had the old Oak Tree fail last year.

Many thanks to the Staff of the Community Parks who worked so hard to get this project to perfection!



Planning & Community Development

The City of Santa Cruz is seeking your input on how Santa Cruz should look and feel. Please spend 12 minutes on the survey below and you will be entered into a raffle for the chance to win one of two \$50 gift cards to New Leaf Community Markets! Responses are due by **June 1, 2021**.

Survey in English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DefineSC>

Survey in Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EstandaresObjetivos>

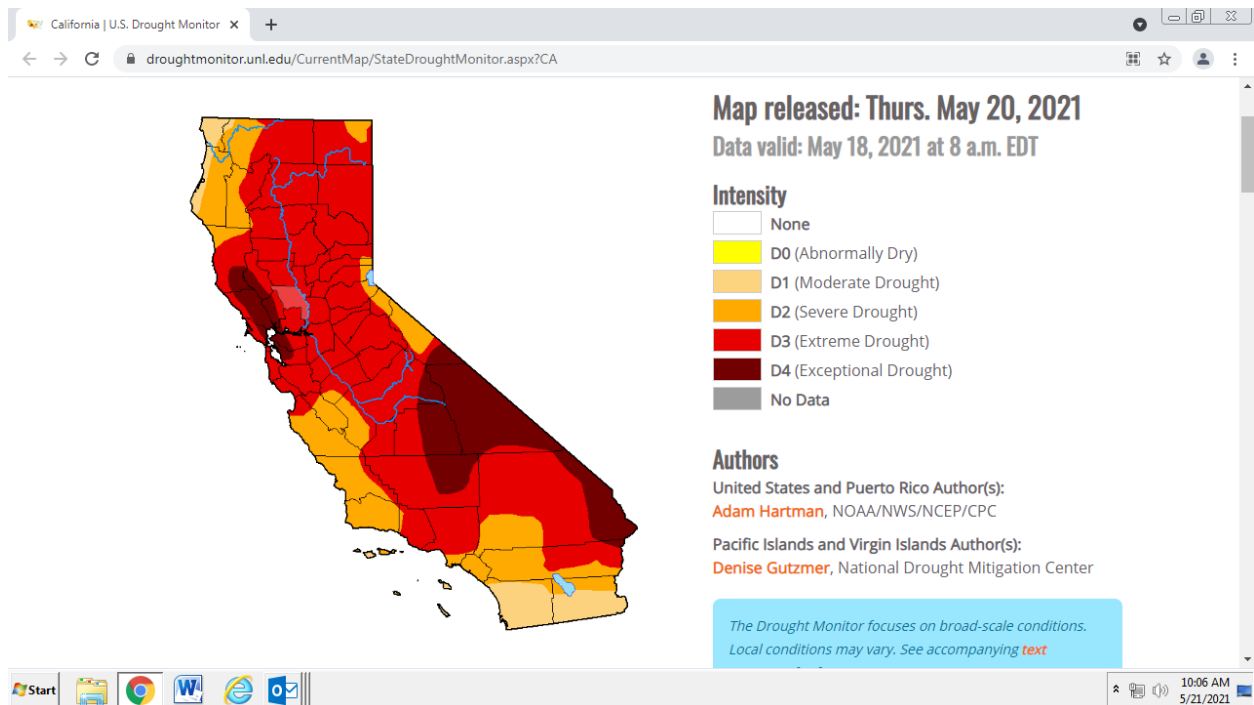
Responses to this survey will help City staff create objective standards for multi-family development. New standards for housing development will be incorporated into the City's Zoning Ordinance and will seek to provide more certainty in the development process for neighbors, developers, City staff, and decision makers.

For more background on the Multi-family Objective Standards Project, please visit: www.cityofsantacruz.com/obj



Water

The new drought map for California came out Thursday, which shows that much of the Bay Area has now moved into “exceptional drought.” Santa Cruz County is in “extreme drought”, along with much of the state. In an [article this week](#) in Lookout Local, Sierra Ryan (the county’s interim water resources manager, and co-chair of the city’s water commission) is quoted as saying “This isn’t just the drought, it’s climate change...this is the new way things are going to be”, which is a message that we’ve also been conveying the past few years.



Fortunately, Santa Cruz remains one of the lowest water-using cities in the state, with an average monthly use of just 6 units of water per single-family household (a unit of water = 748 gallons), making the transition to the allotment of 5 units under stage 1 restrictions much less painful that it could be. We’re still receiving questions and concerns from customers about how they can cut their use back further, however this time around (vs the last time we had to implement water restrictions/rationing,) we can point customers to our new [Water Smart](#) program, where they can monitor their use and learn when and how to stay within their allotments.

Related to drought, this week we led a couple of good fire safety tours of our properties. We identified some small/immediate needs, as well as some bigger long-term goals to work toward to make the properties more fire safe, and also to continue to build relationships with our local fire agencies. We’re also working to get organized around fire safety improvements needed at key production facilities.



Fire and Water Department staff on a tour of WD properties this week

Homelessness Response

San Lorenzo Park

Staff continued to collaborate across departments to manage the camp situated in the Benchlands area of San Lorenzo Park. Staff are struggling with a few bad actors in the camp who have chosen not to abide by camp rules, including engaging in illegal activity. On Wednesday, the Neighborhood Policing Team immediately responded to a tip from the community regarding a wanted felon camping in the Benchlands area of San Lorenzo Park. Officers identified Richeed Whitehead, who has many law enforcement contacts dating back to the 90s. In Mr. Whitehead's possession were a 16.5-gram chunk of heroin and a small amount of methamphetamine. Richeed Whitehead was out on his "own recognizance" under probation supervision when Officers took him into custody yesterday. However, Mr. Whitehead's arrest for narcotics sent him directly to jail under a mandatory warrant. City staff also coordinated flatbed trucks to help individuals from the Friendship Gardens area of Harvey West move to a section south of the pedestrian bridge in the Benchlands. Portable toilets and hygiene stations were also delivered for these campers.

Camping Services and Standards Ordinance

The City released the [Request for Qualifications](#) this week and held a webinar for the public and potential bidders on the City's current homelessness response investments and aspirations for the results of the RFQ. Proposals are due by June 7, 2021 at 5 p.m.

The City's homelessness website, cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness, has been updated with information about the ordinance, the RFQ and two ways for the public can provide comment — via the website or by emailing citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com.

Economic Development

Business Development

Santa Cruz County Official in Yellow Tier & State Provides Update on June 15th Reopening Guidelines

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY WEEKLY STATUS REPORT FOR 05/18/21

WHERE ARE WE IN THE TIERS?



THIS WEEK'S METRICS:

	SC County Metrics	Data Trend	Minimal Tier Targets
Adjusted Cases	1.0 Daily new cases (per 100k)	↓ -0.5	<2 Daily new cases (per 100k)
Positive Tests	0.5%*	---	< 2%
Weeks in Current Tier**	0	---	---
Weeks Meeting Lesser Tier Criteria	---	---	---

*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 4 ALLOWS INDOOR OPERATIONS TO RESUME FOR SOME BUSINESSES INCLUDING:

- Restaurants with modifications at a max of 50% capacity
- Non-Mall Retail - with modifications
- Gyms and Fitness Centers + indoor pools
- Saunas + Steam rooms with modifications and max 50% capacity
- Museums, Zoos, and Aquariums with indoor modifications
- Movie Theaters with modifications max 50% capacity
- Amusement Parks Max with modifications max 35% outdoors capacity and max 25% indoor capacity
- Outdoor live events with restrictions max 67% capacity including suites at 25% max capacity per suite
- Shopping Centers (Malls, Destination Centers, Swap Meets) open indoors with modifications and closed common areas and reduced capacity food courts
- Hotels and Lodging with modifications and Fitness centers 50% max capacity + indoor pools + Spa Facilities
- Places of Worship with modifications and max 50% capacity
- Bars (where no meal provided) with modifications and max 25% capacity, or 100 people, whichever is fewer
- Wineries, Breweries, and Distilleries open indoors with modifications 50% max capacity or 200 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 18/05/21

¿DÓNDE ESTAMOS EN LOS NIVELES?



LAS ESTADÍSTICAS DE ESTA SEMANA:

	Datos del Condado SC	Tendencias de Datos	Metas de Nivel Moderado
Casos Ajustados	1.0 Casos nuevos diarios (por 100 mil)	↓ -0.5	<2 Casos nuevos diarios (por 100 mil)
Pruebas Positivas*	0.5%*	---	< 2%
Semanas En Niveles Actuales**	0	---	---
Semanas Cumpliendo Criterios de Niveles Bajos	---	---	---

*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 4 AUTORIZA LA ACTIVIDAD COMERCIAL EN INTERIOR PARA ALGUNOS NEGOCIOS INCLUYENDO:

- Restaurantes con modificaciones a un máximo del 50% de su capacidad
- Venta minorista no comercial: operaciones en interiores permitidas con modificaciones
- Gimnasios y centros de fitness + piscinas cubiertas + saunas + baños de vapor con modificaciones y capacidad máxima del 50%
- Museos, zoológicos, y acuarios con actividades interiores a máxima capacidad de 50%
- Cines con modificaciones como máximo 50% de capacidad
- Parques de atracciones Max con modificaciones como máximo 35% de capacidad al aire libre y máximo 25% de capacidad en interiores
- Eventos en vivo al aire libre con restricciones de capacidad máxima del 67%, incluidas las suites al 25% de la capacidad máxima por suite
- Los centros comerciales (Malls, Destination Centers, Swap Meets) abren en interiores con modificaciones y áreas comunes cerradas y patios de comidas con capacidad reducida
- Hoteles y Hospedaje con modificaciones y gimnasios 50% capacidad máxima + piscinas cubiertas + Instalaciones de Spa
- Bares (donde no se proporciona comida) con modificaciones y una capacidad máxima del 25%, o 100 personas, lo que sea menor
- Las bodegas, cervecerías y destilerías abren en el interior con modificaciones 50% de capacidad máxima o 200 personas, lo que sea menor

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

Based on low case counts and test positivity rates, Santa Cruz County has moved into the Yellow Tier under the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy effective Wednesday, May 19.

Under the Yellow Tier, bars may open indoors at 25 percent capacity, or 50 percent if customers show proof of a vaccination or negative test. Indoor music venues may increase to 50 percent capacity with proof of vaccination or negative test. Outdoor performance venues, including music, sporting events and theater, may increase to two-thirds capacity. Saunas and steam rooms may open at 50 percent capacity. Family entertainment centers (bowling alleys, arcades, etc) may increase to 50 percent, or 75 percent with proof of vaccination or a negative test. Gyms may increase to 50 percent capacity, while amusement parks may increase to 35 percent. [View the full list of operations allowed under the tiers here.](#)

California today, Friday, May 21 announced the details of the state's full reopening plan. Beginning June 15, 2021, businesses will be able to return to usual operations with limited exceptions for mega events. The updated framework clarifies that physical distancing and capacity limitations will no longer be required for most businesses. [Read more here.](#)

While vaccinated persons no longer are required to wear masks in most outdoor settings, all residents are required to continue wearing face coverings in indoor settings until June 15. The latest California Department of Public Health guidance on face coverings is [available here](#).

DOWNTOWN POPS! Program Tenant Applications Available Now



The City of Santa Cruz is pleased to release the request for proposals (RFP) for prospective tenants for the Downtown Pops! program. [The RFP document can be found here](#). Please read the document fully before beginning your application. If you need assistance preparing a business plan or financial projections please contact the Small Business Development Center: www.santacruzsbdc.org.

The deadline to apply is **June 1, 2021 at 4:00 PM**. We will be hosting an information session soon to answer questions about the RFP. Please send any questions you may have in the meantime using the form at the bottom of the program website page and we will respond as soon as possible. [View the RFP and Apply Here](#)

Housing Development & Preservation

Celebrate Affordable Housing Month with the 350 Ocean Street Grand Opening



The City of Santa Cruz and partner organizations are celebrating Affordable Housing Month this May with a slate of events to provide information to the community about current and future affordable housing efforts.

Join the City of Santa Cruz and Pacific West Communities, Inc. for Ocean Street 100% Affordable Apartments Grand Opening and ribbon cutting.

Thursday, May 27th from 11am-12:00pm.

350 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Ocean Street Apartments

Join Pacific West Communities, Inc. at the grand opening of Ocean Street Apartments (350 Ocean St.)! Learn more about the 100% affordable project. Light food and refreshments will be provided. ** This is an in person event and masks are required to keep all participants safe. All refreshments will be served following COVID protocol**

Please RSVP to [Eventbrite](#) to confirm your attendance.

Rental Applications are available now. For more information or to apply for a unit click [here](#).

For more information about the project click [here](#).