

City Manager's Weekly Update

August 27, 2021

Water

I'm happy to pass along some good news this week. First, the Water Quality Lab completed a very successful State audit of its operations. Evidently, the auditor was glowing in his evaluation, which, of course, didn't surprise any of us who work with the lab staff.

Another bit of good news is that we've been able to stop drawing water from the lake since last Saturday, thus preserving our backup source. This is due largely to the efforts of our Production Maintenance staff, who have been working extra hard to maximize water from the Tait intake.

Other good news this week was, well, good *news* – we hosted a media tour of the Newell Creek Dam inlet/outlet project on Tuesday, which resulted in a front-page story in the Sentinel, as well as a nice report on KSBW's 6:00 news. Shmuel Thaler joined the tour and promises that there will be more photos of the project coming! The Good Times will be running a story next week.



Work underway for the improved entry at the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant

More good news included a thank-you card from a neighbor of the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant, thanking us that our projects have been “organized so well” and that “communication about what to expect has been so frequent.” These neighbors are experiencing two big projects going on at once in their backyard. We are deeply committed to being good and trustworthy neighbors, so it means a lot to the project teams to know that they've been successful.

Last but not least of our good news, Bald eagles have started showing their faces again at Loch Lomond, presumably due to fewer people in the park now that school is back in session and summer is coming to an end.

Public Works

Resource Recovery

Resource Recovery began a residential curbside food Scrap Collection Pilot Program this week in the Seabright neighborhood. Fifty-two of the 266 Residents in the target area have currently signed up to participate. We have provided the residents with a 6-gallon locking pail which is collected at the curbside. Tuesday was our first day of collection, and we recovered approximately 300 lb. of food scraps from 38 residents, working out to almost eight pounds per household. Waste Reduction staff will send out a second round of invitations in an effort to increase participation.



Engineering

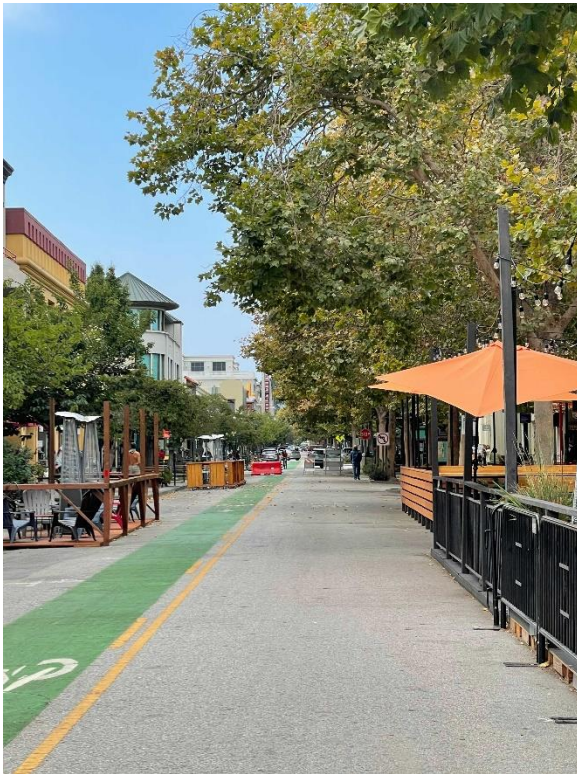
We have been rehabilitating an antiquated sewer pump station in the Carbonera neighborhood. As it required confined space entry to service, the new configuration will greatly help with future maintenance. The new technology links to the citywide SCADA system for ease of dispatch and diagnosis in the event of emergency.

We are working to ensure safe and efficient sanitary sewer conveyance for many years to come and the continued protection of our water resources. The project is expected to conclude by early September. Thank you to all neighborhood residents for your patience.



Economic Development

Business Development | Outdoor Expansion Program Extended to December 2022



This week the ED Business Development division presented an update to the City Council on recommendations for the transition of the temporary outdoor expansion program to permanence. The report considers the success and challenges learned during the temporary program and feedback received from the business community and internally from City Departments.

City Council approved the recommendation to bring an extension to the temporary outdoor expansion emergency ordinance to the City Council by the second meeting in October. The year extension gives the time needed to develop the permanent parklet guidelines and necessary code revisions and to conduct a review of the temporary outdoor dining areas to identify ways to move these businesses into the permanent program as smoothly as possible. The year extension also provides businesses with more certainty in the timeline available

to them as they continue to operate these temporary spaces, which have been a needed and valuable lifeline during the pandemic. Staff will also provide options for the future of the 1100 Block of Pacific Avenue street closure with the revisions to the emergency ordinance and extension.

Housing Development & Preservation | The State Extends Renter Protections and Rights with AB 832

Earlier this year, Governor Gavin Newsom and the State Legislature worked together to pass SB 91, the extension and expansion of the eviction moratorium to protect Californians affected by COVID-19.

They recently announced an agreement to extend the eviction moratorium in California under AB 832 through September 30, 2021 and clear rent debt for low-income Californians experiencing hardship due to COVID-19. Under AB 832, California will significantly increase cash assistance to low-income tenants and small property owners under the state's \$5.2 billion rent relief program.

AB 832 increases the value of the reimbursement the state's emergency rental assistance program provides to now cover 100 percent of past due and prospective rent payments, as well as utility bills for income-qualified tenants. AB 832 also allows tenants to access rental funds directly if their landlord chooses not to participate and ensures landlords can receive compensation even if their otherwise income-qualified tenants have already vacated a unit.

For more information from the State, please see the press release here:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/06/28/governor-newsom-signs-nation-leading-rent-relief-program-for-low-income-tenants-eviction-moratorium-extension-additional-legislation/>

For more information on the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Program visit: <https://housing.ca.gov/>

Arts & Culture Development | Bell Removal Ceremony on Saturday

“EL CAMINO REAL ” BELL REMOVAL CEREMONY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021
1:00^{PM} @ Mission Plaza Park
Santa Cruz, CA—Awaswas Territories

*A public speaking event at 1:00^{PM}
followed by a 1-mile procession at
3:00^{PM} to the bell removal ceremony
location. Shuttles available for those
who need a lift. The Soquel Ave
removal ceremony will conclude at 5^{PM}.*

**Outdoor event, open to all—
masks required**

The Amah Mutsun are calling for the statewide removal of El Camino Real bell markers and all other monuments that attempt to glorify and celebrate the domination, dehumanization and erasure of the Indigenous people of California. Mission bells symbolize the enslavement of Indigenous people in the California Mission system. The El Camino Real bell markers were created in the early 1900s to promote automobile tourism and visitation of the missions and to celebrate a white-washed, romanticized and distorted history. Learn more about this event and the call to remove the bells at:

removethebells.org

Join us to witness the historic removal of the last standing “El Camino Real” mission bell marker in downtown Santa Cruz and learn directly from California Indian leaders and scholars about the true history of the California Mission system.

The City of Santa Cruz has unanimously resolved to remove all El Camino Real bell markers from its jurisdiction, following requests by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band—and will now become the first city in California to do so.

Event hosted by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is comprised of descendants of the Indigenous peoples taken to Mission San Juan Bautista and Mission Santa Cruz.



The Amah Mutsan Tribal Band is hosting a ceremony starting at 1:00 pm at Mission Plaza Park to witness the removal of the last mission bell in Santa Cruz. The illustration below is by local artist Irene Juarez O’Connell. There will be a sign-up table for people interested in participating in future community support activities. To learn more about the historical importance of this action event go to removethebells.org or the [Facebook event page link](#).