

# City Manager's Weekly Update

October 1, 2021

## Public Works

### Resource Recovery

Unsuitable material was removed from the Cell 3B Project and replaced with engineered fill as part of the subgrade preparation for the liner installation slated for next month.

Our collection team responded to a Fire Department request for assistance cleaning up a hydraulic fluid spill that fell off a vehicle. Due to the prompt response from both departments, we were able quickly to prevent the spill from reaching any storm drains, and roadways were reopened for both traffic lanes.



*Cell 3B Project*



*Cross-departmental Clean-up Cooperation*

### Traffic Engineering

We submitted three grants this week for priority infrastructure projects totaling \$2.9 million. These projects include Ocean Street Pavement Rehabilitation and Bike/Pedestrian Upgrades, Chestnut Street Storm Drain and Paving Rehab and Safety Improvements, and Swanton Boulevard Multi-use Path. Grant awards are anticipated in early December.

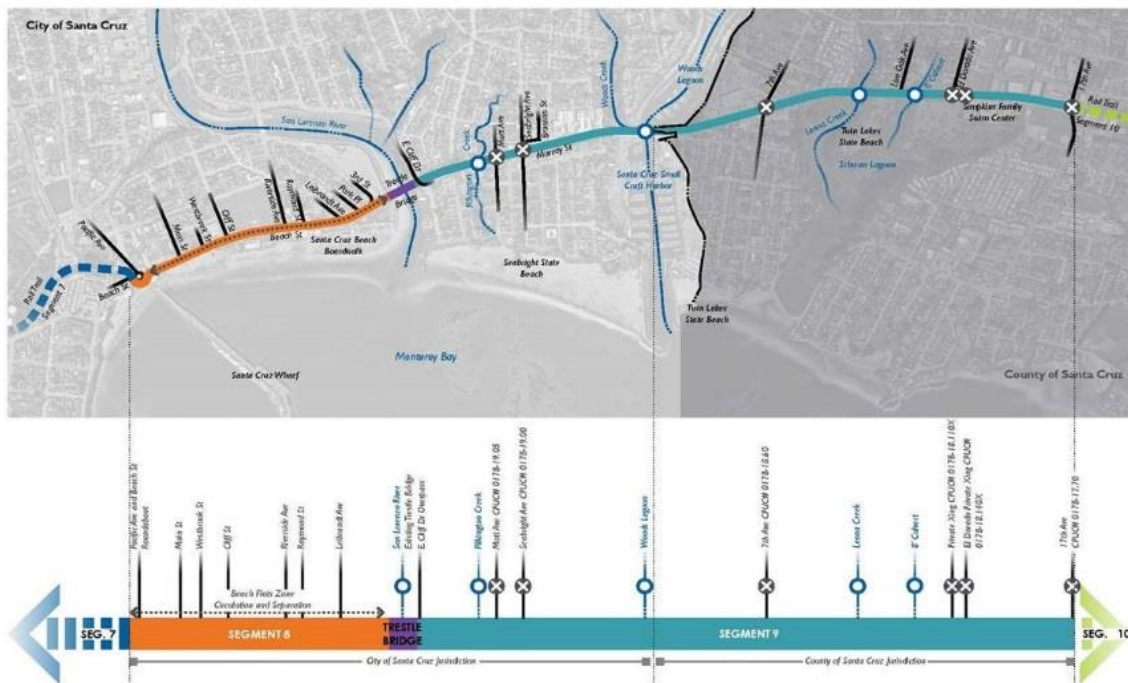
Our community partner Ecology Action offers a Biketober Challenge the entire month of Oct. with great prizes to local bike shops, a \$1,000 individual prize, and a special \$1,500 grand prize for a local employer plus workshops and group rides. Check it all out and register at [ecoact.org/biketober](https://ecoact.org/biketober). As a bonus, any trips made during Biketober logged on the Love to Ride platform automatically get added to participants' [GO Santa Cruz portal](https://go.santacruz.gov), earning downtown dollars!



## Engineering

We continue constructing the Bay Drive Storm Repair Project this week which will redirect Bay Creek away from the eroded bank, rebuild and stabilize the bank and repair the pedestrian/bike path. A ped/bike detour is in effect from Nobel to Escalona until mid-Oct when the project concludes. Details [here](#).

We are also preparing a Rail Trail Segments 8 and 9 Environmental Impact Report with a public scoping meeting scheduled for Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. via Zoom. We welcome written public comment submissions by Oct. 15. Details are [here](#), including Zoom link.



## Wastewater Treatment Facility

Two Wastewater Collection System maintenance crews with two combination sewer cleaning trucks and one Sanitation division street sweeper spent 3 hours cleaning up after an RV that drove down Ingalls Street with broken sanitation piping. The spill went from 135 Ingalls all the way to Mission St. extension, as shown on the map below.

This work diverted attention and resources from sewer maintenance, treatment plant projects and a media project at Harvey West pool. There is no cost recovery from rate payers or businesses for this type of work. At most, the driver might receive a citation.





## Police

### SCPD Invited To 11th Annual Citywide Block Party Celebrations

This week, Santa Cruz Police made time to visit several neighborhood block parties organized by Santa Cruz Neighbors. Their goal with the Block Parties is to “unite neighbors one block at a time and to reduce the potential for conflicts by promoting familiarity and open communication among neighbors.”

The citywide block parties lead into National Good Neighbor Day on September 28. Created by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 to raise public awareness that “good neighbors help achieve human understanding and build strong, thriving communities.”



Santa Cruz PD values building public trust with our community wherever possible. Through our ongoing Police Department community engagements, we encourage our city and county residents to continue to forge new friendships in their neighborhoods and look out for one another. We are stronger together.

Knowing your neighbors and supporting your neighborhood is a great way to make our community even better. Happy National Good Neighbor Day, everyone!

Thank you, Santa Cruz Neighbors, for hosting the citywide block parties this past Sunday! It was a beautiful day to connect with neighbors and make new friends. Neighbors coming together make for a safer community.

Together, we send the message to criminals, letting them know our neighborhoods are organized and watching out for each other.

## Movember Starts NOW & It's It's About To Get Hairy at SCPD

Santa Cruz Police Department proudly participates in the annual "Movember" campaign, supporting men's health and raising awareness for prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention. The goal of Movember is to increase early cancer detection, diagnosis, and effective treatments and ultimately reduce the number of preventable deaths.

Chief Andy Mills shares why #Movember is personally and professionally meaningful in this week's blog that unashamedly supports the men and women of SCPD.

<https://chiefmills.com/2021/09/28/tough-as-they-get/>

Movember is generally an annual event involving the growing of mustaches during November with the goal to "change the face of men's health."

To spark conversation and show support for men to take an active part in their health, the Chief has approved SCPD Officers can wear beards from Oct. 1 to April 1, 2022.



## Water

We reached a huge milestone by making the [Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan](#) available for public review. Weighing in at 5lbs with over 3,000 pages, this state-required plan includes our Water Shortage Contingency Plan and has been over a year in the making. The public now has an opportunity to view the document on our website and to provide comments. The public hearing is set for Nov. 9.

Several folks from our Engineering and Water Resources sections held two great meetings this week with staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife. These meetings are part of our meet and greet series with our regulatory agencies. The goal for these meetings is to meet each other and put faces to names, talk through Water Department projects and the timing of these projects, and hear from them. Building these relationships has been instrumental in maintaining collaboration during project development and implementation, making all of our work more efficient (and more fun).

Our project to modernize the Laguna Diversion continues to make good progress and should be wrapped up by mid-Oct. Over the next couple of weeks, the main focus is





completing forms and concrete pours for the access stairs and completing the rock slope protection on the east bank. The photo below is looking upstream at the face of the dam:

Our Water Commission meets Monday night, Oct. 4. Commissioners will have a presentation on the Urban Water Management and Water Shortage Contingency Plans and an update on watershed lands forest management. It should be a great meeting!

## Parks and Recreation

### Fall Season Leaf Work on Pacific Avenue

In support of the economic recovery and beautification of Downtown, Parks crews, with sweeper support from the Sanitation Department, began our seasonal leaf debris removal project. Lots of coordination and a few tricks of the trade made the first of many leaf sweeps this season quick and easy.



### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grant



The City of Santa Cruz has received a \$22,050 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct research to further the recovery of the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant at Arana Gulch. The grant funds field and greenhouse experiments that will help understand the biology of the species and the best methods for restoration plantings. The work will be conducted in collaboration with the UC Santa Cruz Greenhouses and the Arana Gulch Adaptive Management Working Group, which brings together City staff, consulting biologists, and state and federal agency partners to guide habitat management at Arana Gulch.

## Civic Auditorium Update

The Santa Cruz Symphony will hold its first concert, [Remembrance & Rejuvenation](#), on Oct. 23. The Symphony celebrates the return of live performance with an all strings concert featuring the music of Barber Corelli, Jessi Montgomery and Tchaikovsky! [Tickets are on sale now](#). In accordance with California State (CDPH), all persons accessing the venue will be required to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or negative PCR test taken within 72 hours. Masks required.

Santa Cruz County has extended its use of the Civic Auditorium as a Covid Testing Site through Oct. 15. The site is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (closed 11 a.m.-12 p.m. & 4 p.m.-5 p.m.). Patients do not have to show symptoms to get tested. Appointments can be scheduled at <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>. Due to the increased volume, appointments are highly encouraged. Walk-Ins can't be guaranteed. More info: [santacruzhealth.org/testing](http://santacruzhealth.org/testing). Alternative City facilities are being evaluated as potential testing site locations as events return to the Civic Auditorium on Oct. 23.



## Economic Development

### Santa Cruz County Removes Indoor Face Coverings Mandate Lifted



On Wednesday, September 29, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated their COVID-19 Data Tracker to show that Santa Cruz County moved to Moderate (yellow) community transmission. Under the County's Face Covering Order, County face covering requirements are rescinded, effective immediately.

This does not impact face covering requirements issued by the State of California, including for unvaccinated individuals, school districts, businesses, venues or organizations requiring face coverings by policy.

Residents are asked to continue respecting these requirements by carrying a face covering with them at all times while in public.

Press Release:

[https://www.santacruzhealth.org/Portals/7/pdfs/Coronavirus/Santa%20Cruz%20County%20Moves%20to%20Moderate%20Community%20Transmission\\_092921.pdf](https://www.santacruzhealth.org/Portals/7/pdfs/Coronavirus/Santa%20Cruz%20County%20Moves%20to%20Moderate%20Community%20Transmission_092921.pdf)

### New Milestone and State Eviction Protections

News from Sacramento this week – California has reached a major milestone in spending federal rent relief dollars!

As of September 27, 2021, the California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program has paid out \$650 million to 55,000 households statewide as we near the transition to new eviction protections to take effect on Oct. 1.

The County of Santa Cruz has seen 536 households served with approximately \$6,162,333 paid out, with the City of Santa Cruz accounting for 151 households receiving \$1,656,486. To see the latest data from the





State, please visit [housing.ca.gov/covid\\_rr/dashboard.html](https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/dashboard.html) to search for the County and City of Santa Cruz.

Beginning Oct. 1, new state eviction protections will be in place but, as with the existing protections, tenants must take steps to remain protected. California's existing eviction protections under State Law (AB 832) which protected many tenants statewide from eviction for nonpayment of rent, end September 30. On Oct. 1, the state will transition to an extended eviction protection period that will primarily serve tenants at or below 80% area median income (also known as "Low Income") and who have completed an application for rent relief on time. It is important to note that waiting for an eviction notice to apply and be protected is not necessary.

As per the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), California still has ample funds to provide relief, and the California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program continues to increase the amount paid on behalf of tenants. As of today, more than \$650 million has been paid to assist more than 55,000 tenants. In addition, all \$1.5 billion of Round 1 federal funding for the state program has been paid or approved for payment, and the state is now beginning to spend Round 2 dollars.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until funds are exhausted. Applicant information is private and will not be shared between landlord and tenant, and applicants will not be asked about immigration status or provide proof of citizenship.

For more information and to apply for the program, visit [HousingIsKey.com](https://HousingIsKey.com) or call the California COVID-19 Rent Relief Call Center at 833-430-2122 (toll free) daily between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

## Black Lives Matter Mural Restoration



From the July morning after the vandalism of the Black Lives Matter Mural, people have contacted City Hall with offers to help repaint and repair the damage. However, the artist-activists, the Santa Cruz Equity Collaborative (SCEC,) has taken the position that it is essential to leave the mural in its current state to:

1. Bear witness to the evidence that racism exists within our community and
2. Wait for the criminal proceedings with the idea that the criminals will be sentenced to help in the repair process.

The Santa Cruz Equity Collaborative mission is to organize efforts around sustaining the mural and continue to spotlight areas of inequity within our community and address the need for change. Recently SCEC member and local artist Abi Mustapha was interviewed by Laurel Bushman of Lookout and explained the SCEC perspective pursuing a restorative justice model that focuses on repairing the mural and repairing the harm done to our community.

For the initial mural installation, the group obtained a City Encroachment Permit and followed all the guidelines required. She asks why the vandals should believe they can deface the mural and walk away with only getting their hands slapped? [Full article](#). The next step in the judicial process is a preliminary hearing of the charges **on Oct. 7.**

Recently the SCEC released a statement that explains their wish to pursue a restorative justice model that focuses on repairing the mural and repairing the harm done to our community.

*“Because the defacement of the mural was a federal crime, we are currently learning and exploring what restorative justice could look like in the federal system. As a result, we are already pushing the current standards of how we respond to conflict in our community. We invite everyone to recognize the possibilities for real, radical change by enacting restorative practices to repair heal and ensure that this never happens again. This is a poignant time in the making of Santa Cruz history. How we respond is THE most accurate indicator of how much we as a community believe in what we paint.”*

The full text of the SCEC statement is being developed into signage with the intent of posting it near the mural at City Hall. The SCEC plans to post regular updates as they come on Instagram page, and their current web page: <https://www.yogaforallmovement.org/sc-equity-collab>