

City Manager's Weekly Update

August 19, 2022

Climate Action Program

Attention all Employees!

Please be sure to take a few moments to complete the annual [employee commute survey](#) for 2021 by September 30, 2022. Let's beat last year's record — over 500 employees completed it!! In this year's survey, you will see new questions that will feed into future policy exploration around remote work, employee vehicle charging, and fleet electrification, all parts of our new Climate Action Plan 2030.

Supervisors with employees who do not have email access, PLEASE, print and distribute hard copies of the survey emailed to you as pdfs. Have your team complete and send them in intra-office mail to Tiffany Wise-West in CMO by Sept 30, 2022!

Two randomly selected survey participants will receive gift bags in appreciation, with climate action gear and Homeless Garden Project handmade products! Please be sure to enter your email and name in the first question to be included in the raffle. Do note that your name will not be associated with any of your responses to any other survey question. Thank you!



Economic Development

Infrastructure & Property Development — Wharf Reinforcement at Miramar

In June, a construction contract with Power Engineering was awarded for rehabilitating the Wharf infrastructure at the former Miramar Restaurant, which was demolished in 2019. Staff anticipates construction to begin in mid-October, accounting for lead times on pilings and materials. The project is expected to be substantially complete by March 2023 and is critical to the site's future redevelopment. ED previously secured approximately \$620,000 from the Economic Development Administration to support the project.

Infrastructure & Property Development — Wharf Master Plan EIR - Revisions

In February 2022, the Santa Cruz Superior Court found that the Santa Cruz Wharf Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) did not adequately analyze the impacts of the Master Plan. Instead, the Court found potential impacts of the Master Plan on recreation or recreation-related policies. City staff has been working with DUDEK and the City's environmental counsel to prepare a recreation chapter as an addendum to the EIR. This week, an administrative draft of the recreation chapter is expected, and staff plans to release the chapter for a 45-day public comment period before a September 16, 2022 progress hearing with the Court.

Infrastructure & Property Development — Outdoor Dining on the Wharf

Outdoor dining on the Wharf began early in the pandemic to support struggling restaurants, and safely socially distance visitors. Although pandemic conditions have changed, outdoor dining continues to serve these purposes. Restaurants remain heavily impacted by widespread cost increases and pandemic-driven staffing shortages, even as Wharf retail has seen record sales over the past year and a half.

The citywide Temporary Outdoor Dining Program (Ordinance No. 2021-21), which includes the Wharf, is currently set to sunset on December 31, 2022. City staff is working to streamline the existing permanent outdoor expansion area ordinances. However, any future outdoor dining on the Wharf must comply with the Wharf Master Plan and be approved by the Coastal Commission; no plans have been presented on the Wharf at this time.

As summer crowds return to the Wharf, staff has been working to optimize outdoor dining and increase parking availability. Recent efforts reclaimed ten parking spaces while allowing other businesses to cover partial seating lost by Firefish and Stagnaro's inability to open due to the fire. Maintaining outdoor seating and parking balance is essential to keep Wharf revenue during the current economic hardships.

Housing Development & Preservation — Annual Report Release by National Low Income Housing Coalition

The National Low Income Housing Coalition released its annual report, identifying Santa Cruz as the country's second most expensive rental market behind San Francisco. Click Here for the Full Report:

<https://nlihc.org/oor>



Highlights:

- To afford a two-bedroom unit at the fair market rent rate of \$3,138, renters in Santa Cruz County need to earn \$60.35 per hour - 4 times the state minimum wage (as per the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development).
- Asking rents in Santa Cruz County increased by 15% between Q4 2020 and Q4 2021.

The City is actively helping several affordable housing developments to get underway, including the Library Affordable Housing project. Highlights include:

- The project includes 124 rental homes proposed, including one manager's unit.
- Homes will be 100% affordable for families with direct access to the proposed new library, the opportunity for childcare located in the same building, and access to other walkable amenities offered by the City's downtown.
- 100% of the units are proposed at 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and below. The current projected average affordability for the entire community is approximately 50% AMI.
- This housing will provide more opportunities for Section 8 tenant-based voucher holders to live in affordable housing.
- The new units will be table housing—the apartments will be deed-restricted with affordability covenants.

Arts & Culture Development — Card Arts Event — Together We Rise



Visit the recently renovated Felix Kulpa Gallery to view the City Arts Recovery Design (CARD) Pilot Grant Program project; *Together We Rise: Artists and Responders of the CZU Fire*.

Curated by Mary Tartaro, the exhibit runs through September 30th, open Thursday – Sunday, 11–6 PM.

Parks

Santa Cruz Junior Guards Head to Hermosa Beach for National Competition

Last week, Santa Cruz Junior Lifeguards (SCJGs) went to Hermosa Beach, California for the National Junior Guard and Lifeguard Competition. For the first time in nearly a decade, the National Competition was in California. The largest West Coast USLA Nationals since 2006, the four-day event included more than 800 total competitors representing more than 40 beaches, with competitors from several states. 43 SCJGs attended the National Competition, nabbing 10 first place finishes, nine in second place, and four in third place. With this event, SCJGs is officially over for 2022 but we're already planning to make next summer even better!



SCJGs' National Competition Results

Brady Meyer	11	C	1st Board Race	1st beach flags		
Charlee Rose Beck	11	C	2nd Board Race	2nd Rescue Relay		
Veeda Petroff	10	C	2nd Rescue Relay			
Nico van der Meer	13	B	1st Beach Run	1st RSR	2nd distance swim	2nd iron guard
Liz Penny	12	B	1st RSR	3rd Distance Swim	3rd Surf (swim) Relay	
Finley Dobkin	13	B	1st Board Race	3rd Surf Relay		
Eli Fitchen-Young	15	A	1st Beach Run			
Indy Smith	14	A	2nd Flags			
Sae Ackerstein	17	AA	1st Board Race	3rd surfski	LG Finals in 4 events	
Zoe Ann Watson	16	AA	1st Board Rescue			
Skye Davies	17	AA	1st Board Rescue			
Kaden Smith	16	AA	2nd Beach Sprint			
Kees van der Meer	16	AA	2nd Beach Run	4th LG Beach Run		
Kelea Saxton Vaka	18	AA	2nd Beach Sprint			

Harvey West Park Field #4 Snack Shack Upgrades

Due to a rotten roof and floors damaged by water leaks, the Field 4 Snack Shack received some much-needed upgrades. Parks staff, with help from a local contractor, installed a Mule-Hide roof along with vinyl composite tile for the interior floors.



With the new roof and flooring, the Field 4 Snack Shack is ready to serve fries and burgers next season while you enjoy a baseball game!

Registration is Live for the Third Annual Halloween Horrors Film Competition

The London Nelson Community Center will be hosting the third annual Halloween Horrors Film Competition. Gather your friends and family to show us your cinematic capacity.

With two returning categories including Original Horror Short and Horror Scene Remake, we are thrilled to introduce a new third category: Halloween Music Video. Submissions can be made in the Youth Division if more than half of the team members are aged 17 and under. Registration is live now through Friday, September 9 at 11:59 PM.



Public Works



Hygiene Bay Remodel Project

Demolition work continues this week on the Hygiene Bay Remodel Project at the Housing Matters homeless shelter day services building on Coral Street.

Resource Recovery

This week, the chemical-resistant seal coating for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility Improvement Project was installed.

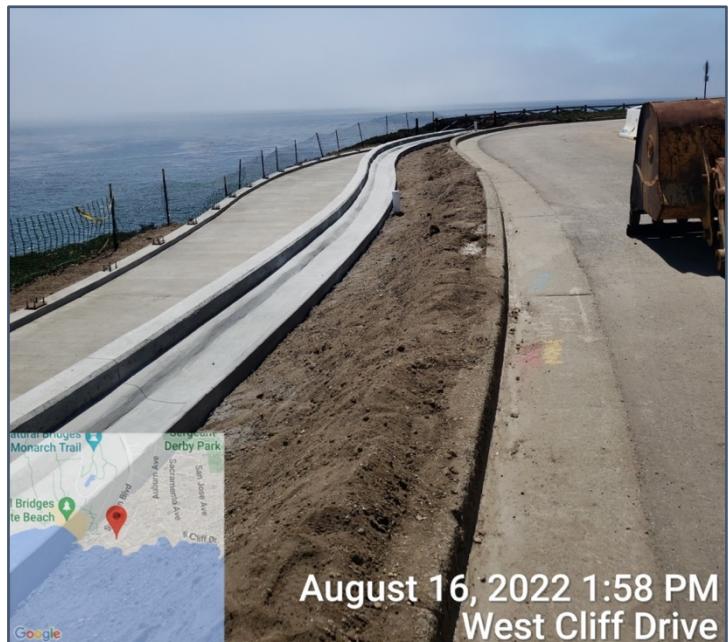




Backfilling and concrete cutter behind the new retaining wall

Engineering

On the West Cliff Path Storm Repair Project, the contractor completed the retaining wall backfill and poured the concrete gutter behind the wall. Upcoming construction activities include dry fitting the metal handrail on the ocean side of the concrete walkway, sending it out to be galvanized, and then the installation of the traffic guardrail between the wall and roadway.



August 16, 2022 1:58 PM
West Cliff Drive

Guard rail will be installed between the retaining wall and the curb to separate vehicles and pedestrians



[dynotag](#) 

Show ALL 

Update

Basic Information

Name	City of Santa Cruz
Address	809 Center ST, santa cruz, CA 95060
Email	ashatney@cityofsantacruz.com
Cell Phone	8314205160
Description	Acorn top
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Operations — Energy Efficiency

The Energy Efficiency team is busy labeling each City streetlight with QR codes. This project allows the City to have an accurate inventory of all streetlights but, more importantly, adds value to our community. If a streetlight is out, the community can use their smartphone to scan the barcode and submit a report to Public Works staff. Each barcode is unique to that streetlight, making repairs more efficient as the report shares the exact location and type of streetlight.

Operations — Facilities

Facilities sanded and refinished the benches outside of the Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse and Surfing Museum – just in time for our Santa Cruz “second summer” weather.

Before



After



The Unity Fountain is back in working condition. The fountain, in front of the Police Department, was originally installed in 1998. The unique sculpture fountain includes a bubbling water jet between two shields and symbolizes the vitality and humanity of the people of Santa Cruz. Facilities staff replaced the broken pump, water sensor probes, and circuit board. The granite was also cleaned and sealed.

Street Maintenance

The road crew in the Street Maintenance division patched and feathered the roadway at High and Bay Streets last week, in preparation for UCSC's new school year. This area is heavily impacted by all modes of transportation and this patching will extend the life of the street. The crew also reinforced the fence along West Cliff Drive. The structural integrity was comprised due to erosion.

