



City Manager's Weekly Update

City of Santa Cruz

October 21, 2022

California Gray Whale Statue Renovations Complete at Tyrrell Park

Parks & Recreation Department



The Parks team recently collaborated with the Museum of Natural History to renovate the iconic California Gray Whale Statue located at Tyrrell Park. A local masonry contractor gave the now forty-year-old statue some much-needed attention, repairing surface cracks, providing weather proofing, and freshening up the colors.

Work Continues On San Lorenzo River Culvert Project

Public Works — Engineering

On the San Lorenzo River Culvert project, approximately 500 feet of 24" pipe was installed on the pipe supports last week. The work at the Point has been challenging due to the tide and wave influences in the area. The concrete foundation for the intake junction box was poured. This concrete is colored to match the surrounding purisima rock. Only a few more anchors remain to be drilled and grouted at the Point.



City Receives Budget Presentation Award

Finance Department

The City of Santa Cruz received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the ninth consecutive year. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. It represents a significant staff and leadership commitment to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting. Congratulations to the City and the entire budget team!



Booking Protect Now Available for Tickets at the Civic!

Parks & Recreation

Booking Refund Protection is an optional ticket insurance that allows ticket buyers to get a refund under some circumstances. Since ticket refunds were not offered in the past, the Civic is excited to launch this new feature as it gives our patrons and producers more flexibility. Booking Protect allows Civic staff to expand customer service and is a new revenue source for the Civic! [Learn more.](#)



Development Proposed for 915, 917, 919 & 923 Water Street

Planning & Community Development

On October 13, 2022, the Planning Department received an application for development of a four-story mixed-use project encompassing 74,289 square feet, 105 Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) residential units and 1,079 square feet of commercial tenant space on a site located on Water Street. The site was the subject of an active code enforcement case for a decade due to accumulation of trash and debris. It was placed in a receivership to facilitate its cleanup and the cleanup was completed last spring.

A preapplication was completed this past summer with the project being locked into the requirements that were in effect on June 24, 2022, under Housing Accountability Act provisions. During pre-application review, a community meeting was held in alignment with the City's Community Outreach Policy. Attendees' questions centered vehicular parking, traffic generation, affordable housing, required street and sidewalk improvements, anticipated income levels and ages of residential tenants, and more.

The formal application currently before the City is a proposal to provide 20% of the base density units at the very-low-income levels to allow for a 50% Density Bonus, as well as a request to use incentives, concessions, and waivers for increased Floor Area Ratio and height, as well as variations from setback requirements.

Required entitlements and permits will be considered by the Planning Commission at a public hearing and the Planning Commission's decision will be appealable to the City Council.



Objective Standards Community Meeting October 27, 6:00 p.m.

Planning Department

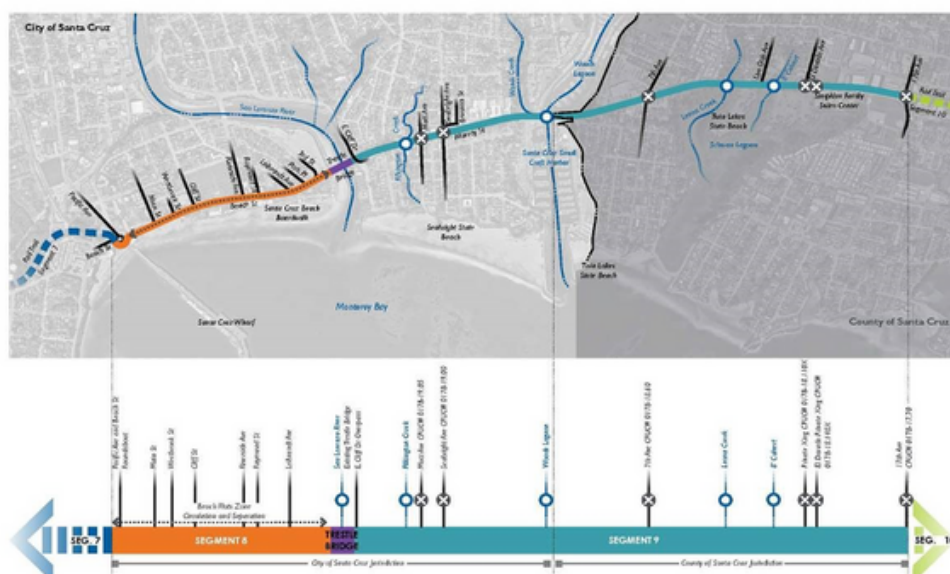
Join City Planning staff for an informative presentation about the Objective Standards Project. The goal of the meeting is to provide information in advance of the project review at the City Council meeting on November 15. The meeting will be held on Zoom, and community members are encouraged to submit questions in advance via email to Sarah Neuse at <sneuse@cityofsantacruz.com>. Use the subject line "Objective Standards FAQ." The meeting will be recorded and made available following the meeting through the [project website](#). Click here for the [Zoom Meeting Link](#). Zoom Webinar ID: 847 3997 4393



Housing Element Survey Open Until November 10

Planning Department

The City of Santa Cruz is updating the 2015-2023 Housing Element for the 2023-2031 Planning Period (6th Cycle). The Housing Element provides policies, programs, and actions that support and encourage housing growth at all income levels. An important part of the Housing Element update process is community involvement to create policies and programs that appropriately address the community's needs and experience. We encourage you to add your voice to the process — the survey is open through November 10, 2022. [Take the survey.](#)



Public Review for Coastal Rail Trail Open Until November 11

Public Works — Engineering

The public review period is now underway for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 Draft Environmental Impact Report has been extended to Friday, November 11 at 5:00 PM. The City must receive all written comments regarding the draft report by then. [Learn more.](#)

Construction of the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7 Phase II project continues this week with excavation work required to install retaining walls.

Bike Lights Installed at Open Streets Event

Public Works — Traffic Engineering

Our Street Smarts booth was abuzz at Sunday's Open Streets event. The Traffic Engineering Team installed about 230 front and rear bike lights for those in need, distributed hundreds of reflective bike and pedestrian gear, and many folks took home traffic safety yard signs. Our thanks to Bike Church for helping hands and Blackburn Design for their generous light donation. [Learn more.](#)



Celebrating 50 Years of the Clean Water Act!

Environmental Compliance

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act! The CWA was created in response to increased public concern for the environment and for the condition of the nation's waters. It guides our monitoring and regulating the discharge of pollutants to the San Lorenzo River and Monterey Bay, thus protecting our water resources. Other tools in Public Works include the Pretreatment program at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, more responsive methods at the City's laboratory, and the Total Maximum Daily Loads on the San Lorenzo River. Read about [CWA progress](#) over the last 50 years.



Stability Vouchers through Housing Authority

Economic Development

The Housing Authority is submitting a registration of interest for newly introduced 'Stability Vouchers' later this month and will determine how many HUD will allow the Housing Authority to apply for in this round. The Housing Authority will be partnering with the Continuum of Care and domestic violence providers on implementation of the new Stability Voucher program. Santa Cruz County has received twenty-three new additional Housing Choice Vouchers for their HUD allocation of flexible rental assistance. [Learn more.](#)



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