



# City Manager's Weekly Update

City of Santa Cruz

January 9, 2023



## Sincere Appreciation Extended to All City Team Staff for Service to the Community Through Recent Storms

Between storm damage prevention, emergency response, flood water abatement, shelter management, and much more, City staff have been crucial to the health and safety of the Santa Cruz community through this past week. I deeply appreciate all of your efforts to secure, protect and shelter the people, homes, and resources of Santa Cruz in the confluence of high tides and storm events we've experienced.

On Tuesday, we activated our Emergency Operations Center, and staff across the city began preparations for the oncoming storms. As part of the EOC, Parks and Recreation took the lead in standing up Civic Auditorium as an emergency shelter. Our teams in Fire, Police, Public Works, Water, and Homelessness Response monitored flood prone areas, levee conditions, river levels, and provided outreach to those in high-risk areas. Public Works and other teams worked tirelessly to fill sandbags and provide other emergency resources throughout the week. Santa Cruz County provided mental health support, security, and shelter supplies. The National Guard provided personnel and vehicles to maintain public safety on roadways and coastal areas. As flood watches continued through Saturday evening, City employees continue to work long hours to ensure quick response to storm-endangered areas.

Along with Mayor Fred Keeley and the City Council, I extend gratitude and deep respect for the City's talented, tireless, and dedicated team of people who risked their own safety to respond to community needs this week. As storm damage is assessed and repairs begin, we will continue to use the City website and social media to keep you up to date.

With Gratitude,

Matt Huffaker  
City Manager



## Parks & Recreation's Winter on the Wharf Enjoyed by All



In December, Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation and the Santa Cruz Fire Department celebrated the first ever Winter on the Wharf. Attendees enjoyed holiday music and a fantastic sunset while playing bocce and cornhole.

Thank you to Patchen Tree Farm for donating the Holiday Tree. Check them out in the Santa Cruz Mountains for your 2023 trees. We greatly appreciate Big Creek Lumber for sponsoring the event. Thank you, also, to the Fire Department, Police Department, and Police volunteers for making the event a huge success. We look forward to celebrating the second annual Winter on the Wharf in December, 2023!

## Storm Clean-Up Helps to Protect Wharf

Following the New Year's Eve storm, the Wharf Construction Crew worked to remove logs that made their way down the San Lorenzo River and lodged in the pilings under the Wharf. Without their removal, these logs could have caused significantly more damage to the Wharf in the subsequent storm surges. Logs with branching fingers like the "wishbone" pictured here are more difficult to remove. The Wharf Crew works steadily to ensure the logs are pushed safely to the East side of the Wharf where they will make their way to the beach. The Wharf Crew then cuts them up to remove them from the area. A huge thank you to this crew for the hard work they've put in through the first week of 2023!



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