



City Manager's Weekly Update

City of Santa Cruz

March 14, 2023

Santa Cruz Fire Department Sponsors Lifeguard to Inaugural Santa Cruz County Paramedic Training Program

The Fire Department is proud to announce that Lifeguard Isabelle Maenne has been selected by the Santa Cruz Fire Department to participate in the inaugural 2023 Santa Cruz County Paramedic Training Program. Maenne has been a Santa Cruz Lifeguard for two years as well as a member of the On-Call Marine Rescue Unit.

The paramedic training program is presented by the South Bay Regional Training Consortium and is a collaborative effort by Santa Cruz and Watsonville Fire Departments, CalFire, Scotts Valley, and Central Fire Protection Districts. The program is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association. It will commence on March 29, 2023, and run through a variety of intensive training phases, concluding in May, 2024. Its focus is to enhance our collective recruitment processes and develop our talented internal workforce. If successful, the program may become an annual opportunity for the City to support up and coming public servants.

Along with serving as a stellar lifeguard, Maenne attended UCSC and graduated in 2022 with her bachelor's in environmental studies. She hails from the City of Belmont in San Mateo County where she attended Sacred Heart High School and played water polo. While in high school, Maenne helped to create and run a non-profit called "Swim Buddies," working with disabled adults and children in providing support in the aquatic environment. Maenne serves as a volunteer for both Operation Surf and the Veterans Surf Alliance, supporting veterans as they utilize surfing to heal.

Please join the Fire Department in congratulating Isabelle Maenne. While this is a great next step in Maenne's professional career, the program is also a fantastic opportunity for the Fire Department as we grow and evolve to face new challenges.

City Homelessness Response Provides Outreach, Cold Shelter & More



The Homelessness Response outreach team, Public Works Homelessness Response field team, Parking division and the Parks, Fire, and Police departments collaborate weekly, offering assistance to people experiencing homelessness while making sure that our City and open space areas remain clean and safe.

Our priority areas include Highway 9 across from Sycamore Grove, the levee, Branciforte Dog Park, Lower Pogonip, Coral Street, Neary Lagoon, DeLaveaga Dog Park, plus parking garages and lots throughout the City. The team is at these sites regularly, connecting people to alternative shelter and services in advance of the upcoming storms. The community can submit concerns about encampments [here](#).

Emergency Cold Shelter

Santa Cruz County opened an emergency cold shelter site in downtown Santa Cruz earlier this month. The primary shelter location was the Santa Cruz Vets Hall, with the City providing an alternate location when needed. The shelter schedule is still being determined, and the public will be notified on City communications channels when the shelter is activated.

2023 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count

The County conducted its annual snapshot of the homeless population on February 23, 2023. The annual PIT Count is vital for funding and the development of policies that will help resolve homelessness in Santa Cruz County. Applied Survey Reached will be assessing the data and presenting the findings from the count later this year. Thank you to Councilmember Brunner and Councilmember Kalantari-Johnson for joining the City's Homelessness Response staff and outreach team in the field. Learn more about the PIT Count [here](#).



Water Department Gears Up for More Storm Events

Like most City departments, the Water Department is preparing for what is forecast to be another atmospheric river. Because some of our most critical infrastructure is above ground, we're doing all we can to prevent potential flooding, cracks, and breaks to water mains due to landslides.

Pump stations play a critical role, particularly during storms and the City's pump stations are susceptible to flooding because of their proximity to flowing sources. Water from our flowing sources (rivers and creeks) becomes too dirty to treat, so we must use water from Loch Lomond Reservoir. To move water from the reservoir to the treatment plant on Graham Hill, we rely on pumps and boosters. When pump stations flood, the pumps are no longer operable. If we're unable to get water from the reservoir to the treatment plant for treatment and distribution, we are vulnerable to running out of drinking water supply. Crews will make every effort to prevent flooding and other impacts from the storms to come.



School Tours Resume at Resource Recovery

City school tours are back at the Resource Recovery Facility! Waste Reduction staff's "Rot" presentation has been expanded in the education portion of the tour. Students learn about the new food scrap program, including the pail and how they can help their family with preparing collections.



Wayfinding Sign Installed on West Cliff Drive

The Street Maintenance sign crew reinstalled one of the wayfinding signs along West Cliff Drive. The sign highlights directions to the Surfing Museum lighthouse, Natural Bridges State Beach and the Seymour Center Marine Lab. It includes a mural by a local artist on the back.



Public Works' Hygiene Bay Project Nears Completion

The Hygiene Bay Remodel Project at the Housing Matters homeless shelter day services building on Coral Street is substantially complete. The final building inspection is set and the bay is expected to open for use soon. The project included the installation of new showers, toilets, fixtures, floors, moisture barriers, and partitions. A new reception desk, cabinets, and lockers were installed to create a new reception area. A new HVAC system was installed to improve ventilation in the Hygiene Bay and dorms.



Public Works' Homelessness Response Does Camp Clean-Ups

The Homelessness Response Field Team participated in an encampment clean-up at the Sycamore Grove and Pogonip areas. This work was prioritized because of the imminent atmospheric river forecast. The HRF team collaborated with Parks staff and rented Parking division equipment to haul approximately 3 tons of trash and hazardous waste from the Highway 9 (CalTrans) right-of-way.

The Homelessness Response Field team also worked with the Police Department by collecting trash and hazardous waste from the Coral Street corridor. From the 12 camps that were tagged for removal, HRF hauled off about 1 ton of trash and hazardous waste.

Amendments Proposed to Bike Parking and Assembly Bill 2097

In light of new state legislation, the Public Works and Planning and Community Development departments are proposing updates to the City's car and bike parking regulations. The new state legislation eliminates minimum car parking and establishes new requirements for most new development proposed near major transit stops. The requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 2097 took effect on January 1 and are reflected in the proposal. The amendments will ensure that bike parking is still required for new development and will allow development to include car parking at the applicant's discretion. Also included in the proposal are technical updates relating to mechanical parking lift requirements and definitions of terms.

These proposed amendments are anticipated to be presented at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on March 16th and the City Council meeting on April 11th. Staff welcomes feedback on these proposed amendments, and comments received will be considered leading up to the Planning Commission and City Council meetings. Details of the amendments are posted on the Planning Department's Ordinance and Policy Updates [webpage](#). Contact Senior Planner Sarah Neuse for more information at sneuse@santacruzca.gov or 831-420-5092.

Housing Secured for 295 Formerly Homeless Households

The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz and Housing for Health Partnership announced on March 7, 2023 that a countywide rehousing effort has secured housing for 295 formerly homeless households (representing 425 people). Santa Cruz County has achieved 100% utilization of Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) provided by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic.

The HUD allocated EHV secured the housing through the countywide Rehousing Wave program, designed to

support highly vulnerable adults/families, low-income households, and those experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) homelessness in our community during the pandemic. The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz's accomplishment of ranking #1 in EHV utilization out of all CA Housing Authorities (and #10 nationwide) is attributed to strong collaboration between the Housing Authority, County, and all community partners.

Due to the successful utilization of the EHV in Santa Cruz County, HUD allocated 11 additional EHV to the

Housing Authority, and more may be available later in the year. For more information, please visit Housing for Health Partnership online.

Of the 295 households securing housing through the EHV program:

- 44% have children under 18 years old
- 47% are over the age of 60 or report having a disability
- 48% are Hispanic/Latino

188 property owners and agents provided a mix of multi-family and single-family housing units located throughout the County.



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