



# City Manager's Weekly Update

City of Santa Cruz  
March 27, 2023

## Local Sculptor Jenni Ward to install Feast of Flowers along Rail Trail

At the January 2023 meeting, the Arts Commission recommended moving forward with the City Arts Recovery Design (CARD) Pilot Grant Program project submitted by local sculptor Jenni Ward.

The installation, A Feast of Flowers, will be placed along a corridor segment of the Rail Trail between Natural Bridges and Swift Street that was identified in the Santa Cruz Rail Trail Arts Master Plan. The series of six flower umbels fabricated in ceramic and steel will silhouette dramatically against the sky, making it an impactful visual experience for visitors. The work is meant to generate a curiosity about plant structures while creating a playful space of oversized flowers. Jenni has installed umbel themed works both locally and internationally.



For the project, Jenni was awarded a grant of engineering services by Oakland based RBHu through their competitive RBHu Gives Back program. This minority- and women-owned business specializes in engineering large scale artwork and entertainment structures. Santa Cruz will now be on their map as CARD Pilot Grant program funding is leveraged by this donation.

City Arts staff will work with the Regional Transportation Commission to exercise the Cooperative Agreement for Rail Trail Right of Way access which was executed in 2021.

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

### Disaster Response Resources Available Now

The County of Santa Cruz is providing disaster response resources related to the winter storm events via its [Storm Resources website](#). The County's Shelter Information page contains resources about storm-related shelter locations, availability, and FAQs. Disaster assistance aid can be applied for at [disasterassistance.gov](#). Recovery claims can be started over the phone by calling 800-621-FEMA, and questions about recovery resources can be text messaged to 211-211.

Volunteers are needed through March 31 and will play a critical role in providing services ranging from post-event clean-up to staffing phones. Anyone interested in volunteering, or those who would like to receive updates for future projects, may click [here](#) to help support.

To make a monetary donation to help those impacted by the storms, contact the Community Foundation for Monterey County at **831.375.9712** and Community Foundation for Santa Cruz County at **831.662.2000**.



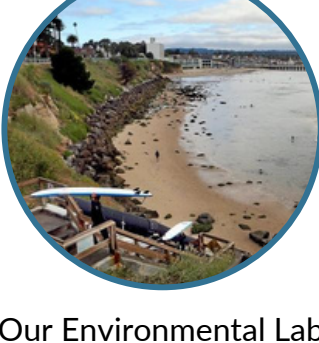
## Housing Element Community Meeting on April 4

The City of Santa Cruz is in the process of updating its 2023–2031 Housing Element to address Santa Cruz's housing needs. Within the next week, the Public Review Draft Housing Element will be available on the [project website](#). Join us for a virtual community meeting on Tuesday, April 4 for an overview of the Public Review Draft Housing Element. We need your ideas and comments on future housing policies and programs. Please join us to help plan for Santa Cruz's future! Habrá traducción al español disponible. For questions or comments, please contact: Matt VanHua, Principal Planner, at [mvanhua@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:mvanhua@cityofsantacruz.com).

**Housing Element Community Meeting**  
When: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:00PM  
Where: Zoom — <https://tinyurl.com/53s7v4yx>

## Street Maintenance Installs Spaces at Coral Street for Housing Matters

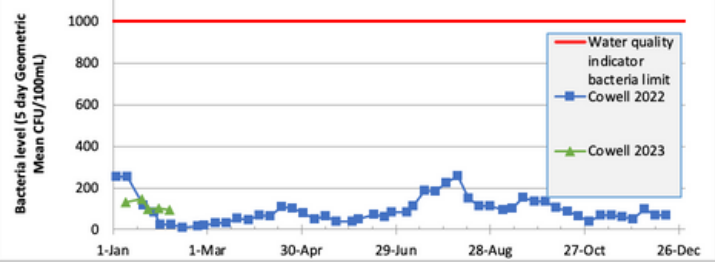
Our Street Maintenance paint and sign crew installed two parking spaces by adding parking Ts on Coral Street for Housing Matters, the homeless resource center.



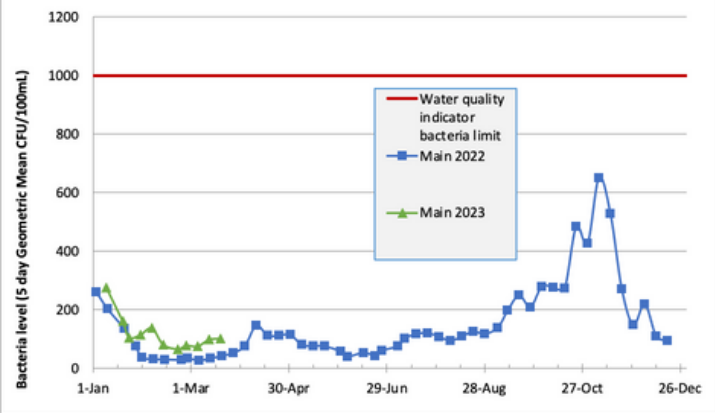
## Ocean Beaches Remain Clean Through Storms

Our Environmental Laboratory team at the Wastewater Treatment Facility is happy to report that, despite the heavy inundation of storm waters through recent months, bacteria levels at Cowell and Main beaches have remained very low, evidenced by the data collected in the graphs below. The water remains safe for Santa Cruz beachgoers to enjoy!

### Water Quality at Cowell Beach



### Water Quality at Main Beach



## West Cliff Update Slated for March 30 at 5:30 PM

Transportation Engineering welcomes you to the virtual Community Conversation: West Cliff Update on Thursday, March 30, 5:30–6:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting will include discussion of the February Council direction on the one-way pilot, traffic calming measures, and a Q&A session. Get more information [online](#).

Join Us   
**West Cliff Update**  
Community Conversations  
Virtual Webinar | ZOOM  
March 30th | 5:30pm-6:30pm

Join the City of Santa Cruz to learn about the one-way pilot, traffic calming measures, and a Q & A session.



REFOCUSING ECOLOGY | WORKSHOP SERIES

# SEEDING MIGRATION: TIERRA A TIERRA

WITH DULCE SOLEDAD IBARRA AND GENE AGUILAR MAGAÑA

The Monarch butterfly has famously become a symbol of migration. Considering the Monarchs' population decline—as well as many other native wildlife—artists gene aguilera magaña and Dulce Soledad Ibarra will lead a workshop focusing on cyclical regeneration.

Utilizing locally excavated clay, participants will create seeding vessels in the shape of endangered or threatened wildlife.



The event will be held on:  
April 1, 2023  
11am - 3pm  
Lighthouse Field

## Arts & Culture Development | Upcoming CARD events

- April 8—** Santa Cruz film premier The 418 Project, 6–8pm. <https://scsenderos.org/about/>
- April 9 and 23—** Hosted jam sessions with a professional house band open to jazz musicians of all levels. <https://jazzsantacruz.org/>
- April 15 –** Short video clips of 10 artist-facilitated conversations between housed and unhoused Santa Cruz residents will be screened and used as starting points for discussions about our city's housing challenges at The 418 Project, 7pm.
- April 16 –** An exhibit of work inspired by these conversations opens at the Radius Gallery [www.whatshome.org](http://www.whatshome.org)



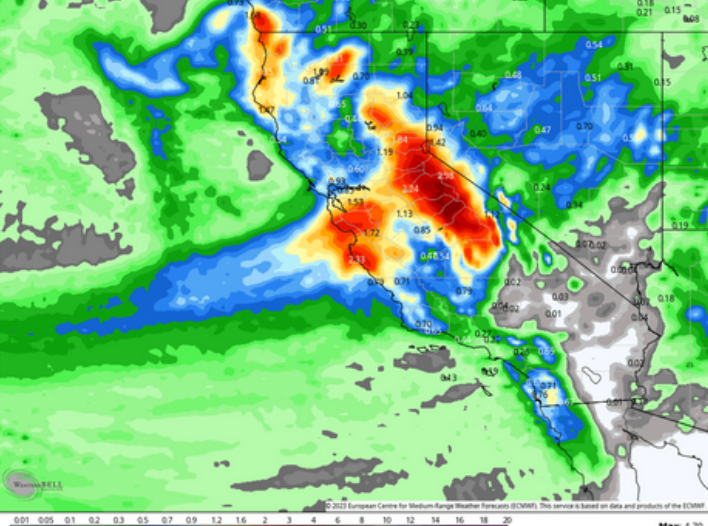
## Homelessness Response Field Team Works in Sycamore Grove and Pogonip Area

The Homelessness Response Field Team is working with Community Service Officers and Parks staff to regularly clear the Sycamore Grove and Pogonip area of trash and large abandoned items. Crews are focusing on this zone once a week to keep the road and turn-outs free of debris. The clean-ups also prevent any hazardous waste and other trash from remaining in the environment and being swept out into the watershed and Monterey Bay.



## Street Maintenance Prevents and Remediate Floods

The Street Maintenance team has been working hard as each storm passes through Santa Cruz. Flood prevention work has included clearing storm drains and culverts. Crews have also responded during active floods clearing debris so that water can flow freely during these heavy rain, high flow events.



## Water Department Manages Weather Challenges

This week is the annual Fix A Leak Week, and the Water Department had its own hands full responding to system leaks and breaks during yet another atmospheric river. Crews responded to leaks on Cayuga and Gharkey streets early in the week, and to a significant leak on Easton on Wednesday.

With the cyclone that came through on March 21, the atmosphere



spawned some of the lowest barometric pressures ever recorded for March. Water turbidity levels have been at record highs this year, presenting ongoing challenging conditions for operating the system. That, combined with power outages, fallen trees, road closures, and landslides have certainly demonstrated the resiliency of Water Department staff. Another significant storm is expected to arrive on Monday, March 27.



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