

# City Manager's Weekly Update

August 21, 2015

## CITY MANAGER

### IRONMAN Coming to Town

Kathy Agnone, our public special events coordinator, wanted to notify City Council that IRONMAN will be hosting an event in the City on Sunday, September 13, 2015. This event is an IRONMAN 70.3 (half IRONMAN length course) that includes swimming, biking, and running segments on Sunday. An expo is scheduled from Friday – Sunday (Sept. 11 – 13) at Main Beach. This event replaces the Big Kahuna, an annual Santa Cruz event, but IRONMAN will maintain former Big Kahuna staff to ensure local knowledge of the course and community. We are expecting up to 2,100 competitors for the race. City personnel have coordinated extensively with IRONMAN staff over the past few months to ensure the event is conducted safely and with minimal impact to the community. Neighboring community members will be notified of the event and its road closures in advance of the event date.

Additionally, City staff is preparing an FYI to Council regarding public special events and efforts taken to improve our public notification for events.

## PARKS AND RECREATION



All About Theatre presents Alice in Wonderland Jr. for one weekend only! Opening night is Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm followed by shows on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 and 7:00 pm and ending Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 pm. Tickets available at [www.allabouttheatre.org](http://www.allabouttheatre.org).

The City of Santa Cruz invites the public to participate in the first of four workshops to help develop mixed-use corridor plans for Mission, Ocean and Water streets and Soquel Avenue and an active transportation plan for the entire City. The kick off workshop will be held on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 – 4:00 pm at Loudon Nelson Community Center.

### Events

Come join us for a full day of paddling and Polynesian culture. We have bands, dancers and vendors all celebrating the Polynesian community this Sunday. Come root on your favorite team!!



### Camps

We completed Summer Camps for 2015 this Friday. This summer we had 810 participants, an increase of almost 30% from the previous summer. In addition we employed 35 staff, many of them teenagers working in their first job. Finally there were 25 Junior Leaders working in the very successful job training program. All in all it was a successful summer in our Summer Day Camp Program.



### Teens

This summer marked the Santa Cruz Teen Center's first Teen Summer Intern Program. 11 teens were hired in Parks, Senior Programs at Louden Nelson, Fire, Water, City Manager's Office, Public Works, the Library & the Civic Auditorium. One of the Fire Department Interns is now considering a career in the field. The staff who supervised these interns was very happy with their performance and the interns were 'stoked' with the great experience gained.

### Junior Guards

The City of Santa Cruz hosted the NorCal Jr. Guard competition at Main Beach on August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Over 2000 Little Guards and Jr. Guards participated!

Over 100 Little Guards and their parents swam from the wharf into shore during the “Big Swim” on Thursday, August 13th. Jr. Guards celebrated their last day with a beach potluck after finishing their swims, paddles and beach runs! The final event was the Jr. Guard Awards Banquet Friday night at HWP Clubhouse with over 300 participants and their families in attendance. It was a great summer on the beach with close to 1000 children participating in Junior and Little Guards this year!!

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The **Colligan Theater at the Tannery Arts Center** is in the final stages of construction, with completion anticipated this fall. In August 2014 the City leased the theater property to Tannery Arts Center, Inc. (TAC), the non-profit organized to get the Tannery project off the ground, and

# Jewel Theatre is Getting a New Home

## THE COLLIGAN THEATER AT THE TANNERY ARTS CENTER



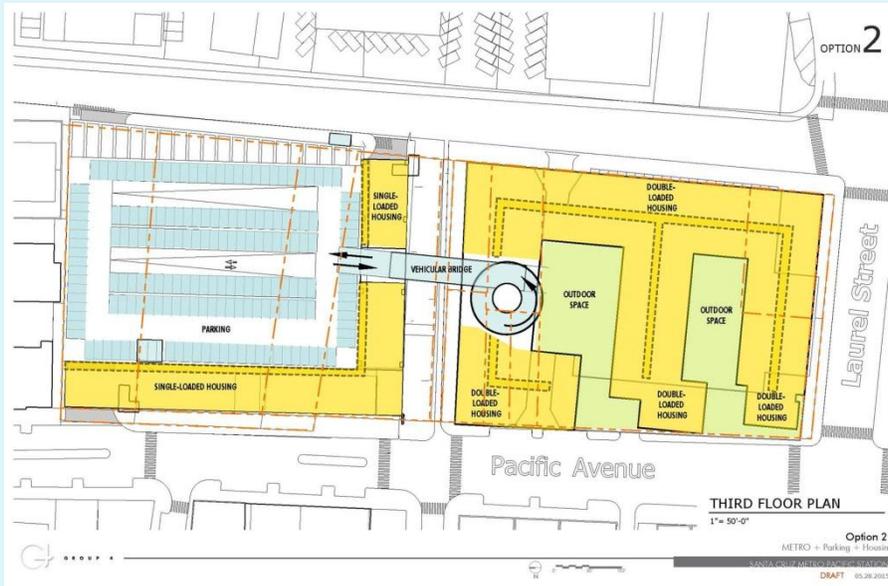
to fundraise for the development of the theater. When the City and TAC entered into the lease, it was understood that TAC would not operate the theater, but would sublease it to Jewel Theatre Company, the local company that last season

celebrated its ten-year anniversary. The sublease should be executed within the next two months, and in November, Jewel will present “Guys and Dolls” as their inaugural show in their beautiful new home. According to Jewel’s website, “...the 182-seat Colligan has the shininess of a new penny with the latest theatrical amenities, yet still reflects the intimacy of a classic open warehouse setting that harkens back to the good old days of "puttin' on a show.”

### **Beach Flats StoryCorps Project**

City Arts Manager, Beth Ragel, is exploring a partnership with Santa Cruz Community Health Centers over the fall and winter to bring the StoryCorps project to the Beach Flats neighborhood in an effort to honor and document the stories that residents have about living in Beach Flats. Along with other historical information about the neighborhood, these stories will be provided as additional background to the artist(s) commissioned to make a new mural that will be featured in Beach Flats next summer. In the spring, the City will issue a Request to Qualifications for a new mural artist(s) that will work with neighborhood residents from conception to installation for a new mural.

## **METRO Pacific Station Update**



ED, PW and Planning staffs are working with Watry, Group4 Architects and Devcon to further refine and develop the costs and feasibility of incorporating a public parking structure as part of the larger transit oriented development project. Specifically, staff is working with Watry to refine the costs of parking development on existing City-owned lots as a comparison to the

development as part of the project. Watry is additionally working with Devcon to refine and analyze feasibility of the helix ramp and vehicular bridge proposed over the paseo (as conceptually drawn to the left). Watry will be working with Group 4 to relocate the existing ramp and bridge closer to Front Street in order to provide the option of fewer site acquisitions. We are currently estimating bringing additional information on costs and feasibility to the Council for a full discussion in October. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie at 420-5159.

## **Successor Agency**

We are wrapping up what may be the final Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) for the Successor Agency if the Governor does not approve AB 113, the Budget Trailer Bill in the current session which would delay the merger of the countywide successor agencies among other provisions including the release of our 2011 bonds. The ROPS 15-16B will come before City Council on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Graffiti**

Over 405 work orders were completed for the month of July (compared to 324 in July 2014), totaling over 4,000 sq. ft. of graffiti removed! Stay tuned to the journal section of our new website to see the upcoming graffiti article posted in the coming weeks, complements our Graffiti Abatement Program Manager and Economic Development Coordinator <http://choosesantacruz.com/>

## **OpenCounter**

Since launching our “new” version in February earlier this year, over 550 applications have been started through the online process. ED staff member Jessica Mellor has been monitoring all in-

progress applications, and has been facilitating outreach between potential new businesses and the Economic Development coordinators. We have provided outreach to over 120 different applicants by monitoring in-progress applications over the last few months. Go Team!

## WATER

As you may have seen on the news, the San Lorenzo River took center stage this week. <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/environment-and-nature/20150817/beach-lagoon-breached-to-alleviate-flooding> , <http://www.ksbw.com/news/santa-cruz-plans-emergency-breach-of-san-lorenzo-river/34750432> Along with Scott Collins, water resources staff played key roles in ensuring a safe breach of the San Lorenzo lagoon. Our water quality team monitored before, during and after the breach (that's almost 12 hrs. sitting in a canoe) and didn't observe any negative effects of the breach.



In other SLR lagoon news, our fisheries team seined after the breach and found striped bass and striped mullet, but no steelhead. That's not good news, as bass and mullet aren't native and put pressure on the native fish species we're trying to recover.

Our water quality folks have also been busy staying on top of Bluegreen Algae counts and chlorophyll "a" in Loch Lomond. This year has been a more challenging year than usual for Bluegreen Algae and we're grateful to have such competent water quality staff continually monitoring the situation.

While the community is still doing an impressive job of conserving water, we're starting to see the savings decline slightly. Last year, the first year of rationing, June, July and August saw 7%, 6% and 5% decline (respectively) of customers exceeding their allotments. This year, it's just the opposite, with June at 3% over, July 4% over, and August 6% over.

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/water/drought/weekly-water-conditions>

Our Soquel Avenue main replacement, one of our major main replacement projects this summer, is progressing nicely. Next week the line will be disinfected and flushed, per California Department of Health standards. The department will capture as much of the flushed water as possible, however it has limited use because of the high level of chlorine used to disinfect the pipes. Flushing, as you know, is something we avoid during drought – even though the amount of water used to flush is insignificant – because the public doesn't appreciate any perceived "waste" of water, which is quite understandable.



Last, you're probably well aware that much of the Western United States is being affected by severe forest fires. When we think about how dependent we are on Loch Lomond, we know that a fire in the watershed is likely our worst nightmare. Last week we received a link to a video about wildfire that was very sobering (and frightening – I encourage you to take 10 minutes to watch it; you'll have an increased appreciation for our firefighters!) <http://e360.yale.edu/feature/with-climate-change-a-terrifying-new-normal-for-western-firefighters/2902/>, particularly with regard to the range of climate change forecasts for the Central Coast. When we think about how vulnerable we are to such a catastrophic event, we are so thankful for the care and energy that our watershed staff has been putting into watershed stewardship over the years. Particularly in creating and maintaining firebreaks.

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Seabright Breakers Housing Project.** As you'll recall, last May the City Council approved an 11 unit townhouse development at 716 Seabright Avenue. This week, the building permit application was submitted. If all goes well, construction may start later this fall.

**Upper Crust Pizza/Housing Project.** Our department just received an application for a three-story, 16 unit apartment complex (12 one bedrooms and 4 two bedrooms) proposed in the parking lot behind *Upper Crust Pizza* located at 2415 Mission Street. The project requires a boundary line adjustment to merge four lots, Design Permit and Special Use Permit, which involves a public hearing before the Planning Commission that is expected to occur in late fall. Clara Cartwright and Mike Ferry are the planners working on the application.

### Status of some Construction Underway.

- Lighthouse Bank (2020 N Pacific): Construction has started and is underway for this tenant improvement including a significant remodel and building addition.
- Fairfield Inn (2956 Mission): Building structure in place with Structural Framing approximately 75% complete/approve. Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing work progressing. Fire protective construction in process.
- Hyatt Place (407 Broadway): This project is a very complex construction type requiring substantial staff resources. Significant underpinning and lower level parking complete. Podium supporting superstructure will be poured next week with approximately

1600 yards of concrete. The project is moving fast and inspections continue on a daily basis.

- Pacific Collegiate School (3004 Mission): Interior rough framing, mechanical, plumbing and electrical work is inspected and complete. Exterior is close to completion. Sheetrock is near completion. They are scheduling their final work and inspections for late September.
- Memory Care (160 Jewell): Grading and foundation in process.

#### **Status of some Plan Review.**

- Courtyard Marriot (313/315 Riverside): Building & Safety division plan review complete for this 4 story hotel with underground parking. The applicant needs to provide additional information and meet conditions for demolishing existing buildings and combining the lots.
- 555 Pacific Mixed Use Housing and Commercial: Building & Safety division plan review completed for this 4 mixed use with underground parking. The applicant/owner is requesting changes to the project conditions, and is working with Economic Development, Planning & Public Works to process those.
- Park Pacific (1547 Pacific): 5 story mixed use building over underground parking in plan review.

**Climate Action Presentation.** Staff presented at the California Climate Action Planning Conference in San Luis Obispo on city efforts to plan and prepare for potential impacts of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. Ross Clark presented on the process undertaken to draft one of the State's first Climate Adaptation Plans and discussed some of the future risks from sea level rise and the hurdles that local municipalities face as they attempt to implement these plans. He learned that Santa Cruz' Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan are used as teaching tools at Cal Poly. The presentation can be found at M:\ClimateAction\Climate Adaptation\presentations

**Corridor Planning and Rezoning.** The first of four public workshops for the Corridor Planning and Rezoning process and Active Transportation Plan will be held Saturday August 22 from 1pm to 4pm at the Loudon Nelson Community Center. All of the Corridor workshops will be noticed to allow both Planning Commissioners and City Council members to attend. The 8/22 workshop will be an Open House format with some interactive components. The Corridors process includes a dedicated website and a Facebook page with links to related information and document library. See attached meeting schedule flyer.

**Housing Element.** The City Housing Element will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and by the City Council later in September. There has been good input from a many residents and the Housing Element includes policies and programs, which can directly lead to supporting more housing at more affordable levels in the City.



corridor flyer2.pdf



housing flyer  
9-3-2015.pdf

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Engineering, Traffic Engineering & Parking

The bids were opened for the San Lorenzo Levee Parkway Phase II Project (Levee Lighting); we are awaiting approval from the Resources Agency to award—hopefully this week.

We also received approval from the City Council on 8/11 to advertise and award the Cape Seal and Overlay projects, but we are still finalizing plans.

At the Resource Recovery Center:

- Recycling yard is being re-graded and paved this week.
- Directional drilling and pipe installation for the sanitary sewer tie-in project is complete.
- Valley gutter installation for mitigating fugitive runoff in the SE corner of the Recycling Yard will start tomorrow.
- The bioswale adjacent to the South Canyon access road will be hydroseeded tomorrow.

At Neary Lagoon:

The vegetation removal work began this week. The contractor is currently removing tules in the lower channel between the weir and the RR tracks. Work in the main lagoon will likely begin next week.



The **Lot 9 LID Project** is nearly complete. Parking equipment, stall numbers and signage is anticipated to be installed in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime the lot will be opened to the public with free 3-hour parking.

Two **Speed Radar Feedback Signs** have been installed, one on Seabright Ave. just north of Gault Elementary School and the other on High St., east of Westlake Elementary School. These signs alert drivers of their speeds and will blink “Slow Down” if driving at excessive speeds.

## **Parking**

### **Restroom Pilot Program**

The 24/7 restroom pilot program, at Soquel Garage, continues to run without any closures or problems this past week.

### **Garage Permit Wait Lists**

Aug 13, 2015 - Aug 19, 2015	Max # of Permits allowed	Length of Wait List	# added to wait list in last week	# sold in last week
River Front Garage	550	3 months	25	8
Soquel Front Garage	500	13 months	12	0
Locust Garage	475	6 months	12	6

### **Garage Occupancy Aug 6 -12 and Aug 13-19**

Locust Garage was over 85% occupancy for both weeks on all five weekdays between noon and 2 p.m., with weekends at 45 -65%. We had to close the garage on two days each week because of full capacity.

River Front Garage was over 85% occupancy on four weekdays for both weeks between noon and 2 p.m., with weekends at 85-95% between noon and 6 p.m. due to Seaside Co. employee parking.

Soquel/Front Garage was over 85% occupancy on four weekdays for both weeks between noon and 2 p.m., with weekends at 85-90%. This has been a consistent trend at all of the downtown garages for the last few weeks.

## **Operations**

Staff has been working with the contractor for the annual flood control work in the San Lorenzo River and Branciforte Creek. Since the breach of the river, the lower water levels in Branciforte have allowed the contractor to cut trees there; this should be completed this week. The contractor will then return to vegetation management in the river which should take about 2 more weeks.

Staff has also been working with the USGS to reinstall a bridge box on the pedestrian bridge by San Lorenzo Park. The Council authorized an encroachment permit in 2007 but the lack of high flows for several years have limited the ability to do the research to measure suspended sediment content and nutrients during high flows. Based on the repeated reports of an El Nino this winter and possible associated high flows, USGS staff is hoping to be able to use the bridge box this year to continue its research.

## **Fleet**

- Fleetmind technicians are working on the routing software.
- Vehicles are in the shop for services/smog inspections. Thanks to the departments for bringing their vehicles in.

- Vehicle requisitions were authorized and several are out for quotes. Firm orders should be in next week.
- VacCon unit is undergoing warranty repairs.
- No lost time injuries or incidents.

### **Facilities**

- Staff removed a wall in the Annex to expand the working space for Planning staff since Finance moved out.
- The Fire Admin building will be tented for termites September 17 concluding on September 19.



**Streets/Traffic:** The new fencing on West Cliff Drive has been completely rebuilt after a car went through the old fence.



### **Resource Recovery**

#### **Facility and Processing**

Hydro-seeding was completed today with a stream bed seed mix on top of turf reinforcement matting. This will be completed with a set of check dams to remove as much sediment as possible from outgoing rain water.



Recycling yard is being re-graded and paved this week.



Directional drilling and pipe installation for the sanitary sewer tie-in project is complete.

Valley gutter installation for mitigating fugitive runoff in the SE corner of the Recycling Yard starts today.

Single stream operations are closed down for the week while paving and drainage improvements are being completed. Our mixed recycling is being transferred to A&S recycling for processing. We are using the time to catch up on deferred maintenance and cleaning. Commercial baling operations are continuing with mixed plastics and cardboard.



### **Collection**

A Fleetmind technician is pictured working on the installation of the division's new routing software system.



Here are some of the new mixed recycle dumpsters being assembled for the new large container collection service. At present half of the containers have been delivered.



#### **Wastewater Collections and Flood Control**

Vac-Con crews cleaned 13,000 ft. of sanitary sewer in the Western Drive and Westlake Zones. Crews also responded to two private lateral spills on Cayuga Street, N Branciforte and a discharge of process liquid from a business on Delaware Ave. Approximately 8,000 gallons of spilled liquid was removed from a nearby creek and returned to the sanitary sewer.



Badly deteriorated 54" manifold was removed and taken out for replacement at the Neary Lagoon Flood Control Pump Station. New pipe will be epoxy lined and coated to protect from brackish water conditions.



### WWTF Operations & Maintenance

Maintenance staff worked on replacing process drain pumps and piping in a 30 ft. deep confined space wet well. The pumping system is used to dewater the secondary clarifiers when placing them out of service.



Maintenance staff discovered possible failing concrete issues with the flooring of secondary clarifier #3. Public Works Engineering is meeting the contractor today to discuss issues.



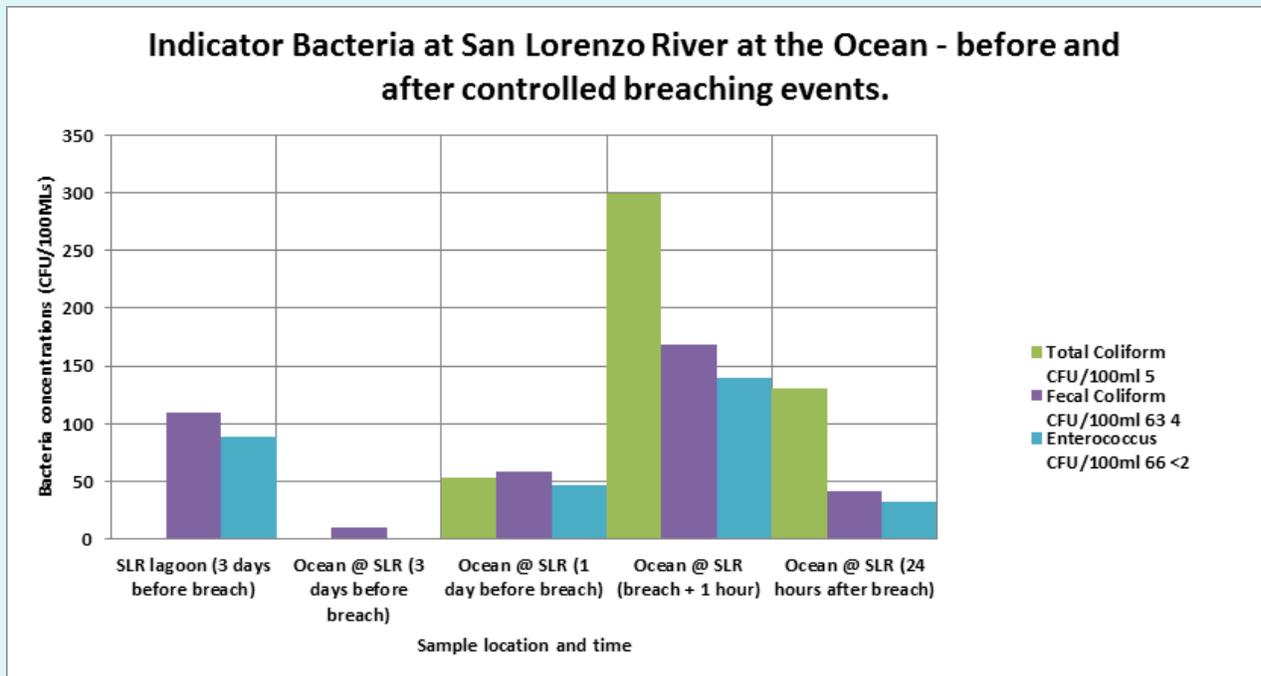
### WWTF Laboratory & Environmental Compliance

Participated on the City's team working on the controlled breaching of San Lorenzo River into the near shore on Monday. The effort was coordinated from the City Manager's office. Laboratory data indicates that all the **bacteria** indicators at the near shore downstream of the

breach point came back to levels within acceptable recreational levels (REC-1) range the day after the breach. (The regulatory limit levels are 400 CFU/100mls for Fecal Coliforms; and 104 CFU/100mls for Enterococcus.)

An official report with graphs will be sent to the Water Board with courtesy copies to the County and identified stakeholders today, Thursday 08/20/15.

Embedded below is a graph showing the concentrations of bacteria at the breach point in the near shore waters before and after the controlled breaching event.



Inspectors successfully identified the source of the pollution in Arroyo Secco Creek and the Auburn Street storm drain this week. Monica Tomlinson, the inspector for the area sampled the creek and the storm drain beginning in late July after a citizen complained of a suspected RV dump because of the offensive odor emanating from the creek and the storm drain.

Subsequent testing at the WWTF Environmental Lab revealed **high levels** of **caffeine**, **TOC** and **bacteria** in the creek, the storm drain and occasionally in the ocean outfall of the storm drain. A comprehensive review of the data and discussion by two of the inspectors finally led to the identification of the source of the pollutants as a food products company located on Delaware Avenue this week. A detailed Notice of Violation, including fines as well as cost recovery fees and required engineering changes for their discharge infrastructure, is under development.

In addition, the discharge permit for the company is being revised to include routine monitoring for signature chemicals in their waste discharge line. Wastewater Collection crews have continued to clean Arroyo Secco Creek, in coordination with the Inspector, **Monica Tomlinson**, who had spent the last several weeks monitoring the creek and Auburn Street Storm drain.

Pictures below show **Monica Tomlinson** during a sampling event at a culvert on Arroyo Secco Creek and **Jennie Munster** preparing samples for analyses of their nutrient and caffeine content.

