

# City Manager's Weekly Update

## August 28, 2015

### CITY MANAGER

On Monday, City staff will meet to coordinate the City's **disaster preparedness actions, particularly with the forecasted El Nino winter ahead.** Staff will compile this information to share with the City Council and importantly, engage in community outreach.

### WATER

As you probably heard in the news this week, the **state as a whole has surpassed the governor's call for a 25% reduction in water use and has cut use by 31%.** This is very good news for the state, but certainly nothing new in Santa Cruz, as was noted in the editorial in today's Sentinel <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/opinion/20150827/editorial-climate-change-and-historic-drought>.

We hosted a meeting this week with City staff and several of our regional partners in watershed protection to talk about priority projects and **new funding opportunities from Prop 1,** etc. We had an advisor from Sacramento join us for a fieldtrip in the watershed and she was impressed with the significance of the role the San Lorenzo plays in our community. She was also very encouraging about potential funding sources for projects. Stay tuned for more information on that.



Group at the lower lagoon

Fish ladder on Fall Creek

**The WSAC is at a critical juncture in their process.** The WSAC has identified two alternatives as their top recommendation for a "Plan A." Those are in-lieu and ASR (aquifer storage and recovery).

**In-lieu** is a process where the City of Santa Cruz would send excess winter water (which we have during most years) directly to Soquel Creek Water District, which they would provide directly to their customers "in lieu" of pumping water from their aquifer. In return, when their aquifer has recharged due to lower pumping, Santa Cruz would have the ability to get water from the Purisima aquifer for use during droughts.

**ASR** is a process where Santa Cruz would inject winter water into regional aquifers to create a storage reservoir that would be tapped when needed as a drought supply. Both in-lieu and ASR depend on rainfall and on the viability of aquifer recharge within a reasonable amount of time. There are unknowns, such as the actual feasibility of ASR process and the willingness of other regional providers to work with the City, which will require additional technical work following the completion of the WSAC process.

Some committee members feel strongly that there also needs to be a “Plan B,” given the unknowns related to Plan A at this time. And there are strong feelings **that Plan B needs to include non-rainfall dependent supply augmentation, such as desal or purified recycled water**. As you can imagine, this is where residual mistrust comes back into play. The Committee is working to develop several approaches to address the mistrust issues and incorporate mechanisms to ensure both transparency and accountability as any Council approved plans are implemented in the years to come. We’ll describe some of these approaches in more detail in a coming weekly update.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### **El Portal Monument**

Tom Ralston has begun the installation of the **new monument at El Portal Park**. It is going to be a lovely piece. Don’t let the current YELLOW finish scare you. Tom will be coming back with a nice earthy more neutral stain that will complement the plexiglas that will cover the photos on all four sides. As soon as we set a dedication date we will get the word out!

### **Aloha Polynesian and outrigger races**

We had a great day at the Aloha Festival on the wharf last Sunday. Lots of great music, food and fun. Our city had 3 of the top 4 teams in the outrigger races with the Wharf Crew taking home the gold!

### **Sister Cities**

Our Shingu Jr. high school age delegation had a wonderful week with their host families. They visited a number of beautiful sights in Santa Cruz and the surrounding area. The Farewell Dinner at Loudon Nelson last Friday was filled with lots of food and great entertainment provided by our visitors. As always, there were tears shed and promises of more visits to come.



## Louden Nelson Community Center



**Santa Cruz Performing Arts Teen Theater has been rehearsing for Green Day's American Idiot.** Brilliantly recomposed by Tom Kitt and Billie Joe himself; one of the timeless, punk rock concept albums of the 80's and 90's is brought to life onstage. American Idiot will be performed at the Loudon Nelson Community Center September 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Louden Nelson Art Gallery – The Many Faces of Shared Adventure's artists, a 10 Year Retrospective**

Shared Adventures art will be on display for the month of September. On September 4<sup>th</sup>, they will hold a reception as part of First Friday celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Open Art Studio, a free art program for students with special needs. In 2005, Shared Adventures received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts which launched the after-school art program.. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Ceremony starts at 7:00 pm. Entertainment will include speakers, refreshments and meeting the artists. A power point slide show and video of the artists will be shown throughout the night.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Laboratory and Environmental Compliance began a **study of the bacteria gradient from the Wharf this week** at the request of the storm water management group. The effort is to enable us to gain a better understanding of the bacteria distribution around Cowell Beach, and perhaps isolate and control a probable source of the high numbers of fecal indicator bacteria at the beach that may be coming from the birds nesting at the wharf and staying at the beach. The following pictures indicate some of these birds and their droppings at the wharf and around Cowell Beach.



Two

Environmental Compliance Inspectors traversed the length and breadth of Auburn Street storm drain, Sacramento Street and Arroyo Seco Creek in response to a call regarding a posting on the outfall of the storm drain.

Apparently **the sign had been posted because of a report of a sewage spill at the outfall, but analytical data showed that the industrial spill that reached the outfall did not warrant a danger posting, and the sign was pulled down yesterday.** We are continuing monitoring of the outfall.



Environmental Compliance last week resolved the source of an **industrial discharge that had been the source of odor complaints on Delaware for about a month.** The industrial discharger was given a Notice of Violation with a fine and alert to pending claims for cost recovery. The discharge, which had escaped their containment designs, had very high TOC (Total Organic Carbon) content far in excess of what might be associated with domestic sewage, and this provided a boost to the environmental bacteria already in the creek. The discharge also had a significant concentration of caffeine for such a duration that alerted us that this was not a sewage dump from an RV. Wastewater Collection staff coordinated the extensive clean-up of the line affected by this discharge.

**The fall Santa Cruz Garage Sale Weekend is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.** It promotes reuse, repair, resale and donation opportunities in Santa Cruz: [www.cityofsantacruz.com/garagesales](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/garagesales)

**The fall Appliance and Bulky Item Pickup is scheduled for Saturday November 21.**

## Neary Lagoon

Vegetation removal work recently began at Neary Lagoon with removal of tules in the lagoon's exit channel. Below are before and after photos of the work taken from the pedestrian bridge near the Chestnut Street entry. This week, tulle removal will begin in the lagoon's main channel.

Before:



After:



## Active Transportation Plan

Three outreach events for the Active Transportation Plan were conducted last week. Staff engaged with the community through interactive mapping exercises at the Bike Santa Cruz County member party, the Museum of Art and History's Third Friday: Growth event, and at a community Open House event partnered with the Corridor Planning and Rezoning project. More than 120 people gave their input on active transportation projects that would make biking and walking easier in Santa Cruz. Additionally, the community can virtually participate in the online mapping exercise via our online mapping tool: <http://maps.kittelson.com/SantaCruzBikePed>.

Three more outreach events are scheduled in September.

