

## City Manager's Weekly Update

### August 5, 2016

#### WATER

This week the Water Commission unanimously approved sending the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan to Council on August 9. The plan reflects a tremendous amount of work by Water Department staff and Commissioners provided helpful feedback and suggestions. Speaking of urban water management, I would be remiss in not mentioning that Toby Goddard has been named to sit on an urban advisory group at the state level to help implement Governor Brown's executive order making water conservation a way of life in California. Go Toby!

The Water Department's annual work plan typically calls for project design during wet winter months; project RFPs during spring; project construction during the dry summer months. Hence we have several construction projects underway this summer.

One project in particular has been a real stinker. We are installing approximately 3,200 linear feet of 6" pipe, 4 fire hydrants, five 4" fire services, 8 existing water service reconnections, and 48 water service renewals in the Cedar Street area. Unfortunately, in this particular area we keep running into challenges of unknown, unmarked and unclaimed utilities. This presents a high danger from live utilities, such as electric, low and high pressure gas, sewer, internet, phone, and so on. So we have had to work much more slowly, as well as do a lot of additional digging and testing to ensure we do not hit any live utilities.

In other construction news and in honor of our hundredth birthday, crews came across some of our old wooden pipes while working on High Street. Fortunately for us, they were working near Melanie Mayer's house. You may know Melanie as a retired UCSC professor and SC water historian extraordinaire. So Melanie took a keen interest in the work being done and documented the pipes for us. Here's your SC water history lesson for the day:



From Edgar Morgan's 1876 water system, dug out July 26, 2016 on Sylvar Street. The wooden pipe is a log of "red fir" from Western Washington. Center of 8 foot long log is cored out, with

ends cut so as to couple with adjoining pipe. When being laid they were wrapped with a continuous spiral of coated iron, then coated with hot asphalt. The spiraling iron and tarry coating are clear in this photo. After 140 years in the ground this pipe was sound on the inside and could have still carried water (though it was taken out of service maybe 100 years ago?)



Here another section of the 1876 wooden pipeline is still in the ground, about 34 inches below the pavement of Sylvar Street. Two clamps are clear in the photo. We thought these indicated we were near a coupling of two sections of pipe, but we didn't find the seam.

New copper connection of Alzina House (107 Sylar) and new water main in center of street was able to be routed over the top of the wooden pipe, which was left in place and re-buried, Jul 27, 2016.

Last, we are planning for a public meeting on our proposed changes and increases to water rates for August 10, 6:30-8:00 pm at the Police Community Room. In preparation, we have been working with the City's IT staff to create a "rate calculator" online tool that residents will be able to use to calculate the cost of their bill. We're excited to be able to provide this service to our customers; many thanks to the City's great IT team for helping us git 'er done!

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Water Rates Calculator.** IT worked with Water to develop a monthly water costs calculator to help customers approximate what their costs may be according to the new rates and rate structure. The calculator is at: <http://cityofsantacruz.com/departments/water/monthly-water-costs-calculator>

Having a copy of an existing bill is handy to use the tool and the below link shows customers where to find information on the bill to input into the costs calculator:  
<http://cityofsantacruz.com/home/showdocument?id=53644>

**IT Strategy Update and Division Roll Out.** IT launched a process to update its strategy to check alignment with the City's strategy and also to further disseminate it throughout its divisions/work groups. Our current strategy is analogous to having a horizontal line of site that needs to be vertical and multi-dimensional.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### RECREATION DIVISION

#### CIVIC

#### ***Cabrillo Festival Running Through August 13***

The 'load-in' at the Civic is complete for [Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music](#) and Technical rehearsals are now happening all week, and they sound great!



Since taking the artistic helm at Cabrillo Festival in 1992, Marin Alsop has supported the work of some of the world's most exciting composers of contemporary music; she has cultivated an orchestra who are now the foremost experts in the performance of new music; and she has built a devoted audience for progressive music.

In her tenure, Alsop has invited more than 100 composers to join her at Cabrillo, to participate in the rehearsals and performances, and to share their compositions with an audience eager to listen to new music.

[Open rehearsals](#) are going on now! The rehearsals are free – no ticket required! Don't miss your last chance to see world renowned Maestro Marin Alsop, as rehearsal tickets are going fast!



#### ***Church Street Fair***

Civic staff are also preparing for our very own [Church Street Fair](#) taking place August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, free, both days from 11am-8pm! Beer & Wine tasting, Food, Art, Live Music, free kids activities and more!



*Reminder about street closures:* Church Street between Center and Chestnut Streets (all 3 days) 6am Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> through 2am Monday August 8<sup>th</sup>; Center Street between Walnut and Locust Streets (August 6-7); Church Street between Cedar and Center Street (August 6-7); 6am Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> through 2am, Monday August 8<sup>th</sup>. Also, a small closure of Church Street – from Center Street to Civic parking lot [the area in front of the Civic] – will be in effect Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-11:30pm.

### PARKS DIVISION

#### ***Beach Flats Community Gardens Improvements***

Work at the BF Gardens is coming along including the completion of installation of a



new perimeter fence, and the construction of a storage shed which will be complete by Friday, August 5. The gardeners have stated they will begin painting the shed once construction is complete – design and color selection will be chosen in cooperation with the Parks Maintenance staff.



The final addition to the garden will be the portable restroom installation, just inside the vehicle gate on Uhden Street – this improvement should be completed within the next 30 days.



### ***Harvey West Park Pump Track Update***

We featured an announcement in a prior Update that we had met with gardeners at Beach Flat to plan improvements, and we've made substantial progress. Volunteers, City staff and designers from MBOSC continue making great progress at

Harvey West Park with the new pump track. Our tentative grand opening is scheduled for early fall, perhaps mid-September.



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Traffic Engineering

Striping improvements recently installed on Broadway, Felker Street, and Plymouth Street turned out well. On Felker, a center line and sharrow were added to help road users to stay on the right side of the road and further identify this bike route commonly used by cyclists. A small but great detail was done on the last westbound sharrow, where diagonal chevrons to help direct cyclists on our river levee path.

On Plymouth, a bicycle lane was added in front motel next to Grant Street. This short section is another step to help connect the bicycle route from Felker Street to Grant Street. Lastly, on Broadway, a bike buffer was added from San Lorenzo Blvd to Riverside Avenue along with green markings in the bike lane all the way to Clay Street. This essentially extends the green bike lanes that were installed on Laurel Street last year. Later this fall, additional green striping will be installed on Broadway with the upcoming pedestrian improvement project.



Felker

Broadway

Plymouth

### Engineering

2016 Surface Seal and Overlay Projects -- Paving on Storey Street was completed on Wednesday, Aug. 3. Striping is yet to be scheduled.



### **Green Business**

The next Green Business Mixer will take place at Rosie McCann's on September 15 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Please share with friends who are SC business owners/managers/organization directors.

Angel Face Botanicals has been certified! And the Green Business Program has completed 22 re-certifications in 2016 thus far.

### **Resource Recovery**

This week our supervisors, waste reduction specialists and solid waste workers collected 1,600 pounds of illegally dumped items from city streets.

### **Wastewater /Stormwater Collection**

Crews are performing routine maintenance of sewer lines in the lower Ocean Street and Harvey West Zones.



### **Resource Recovery Facility and Processing**

Cell 3 excavation is in full swing this week. Woods Brothers has estimated approximately six weeks to remove 80,000 cubic yards of excess dirt.



Recycling Processing shipped out one load of film plastic this week along with the weekly shipments of cardboard, paper and glass.

### **Waste Reduction**

Waste Reduction is working on outreach materials for Garfield Park Village – a multi-family senior housing complex. We will provide residents with posters and simplified recycle guides, working with the property management team for distribution. We will also provide enclosure signage and a presentation to residents as needed. Our goal is to help educate our seniors with simple recycling instruction to avoid contamination issues.

The anti-contamination “Think Before You Throw” PSA is playing at Cinema 9 and Riverfront Twin this week and next. If you plan to go to the movies arrive early and watch our PSA. Alternately, you can catch it on [YouTube](#).



### **Resource Recovery Engineering**

Staff submitted the landfill’s Quarterly Report to CalRecycle (CA Waste Board) this week as it is due by July 30, 2016. Staff also submitted the landfill’s Quarterly Methane Emissions Monitoring Report to the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District this week. Lastly, staff assisted in preparation of the Semi-Annual Detection Monitoring Report which is due to the Regional Water Quality Control Board by July 31, 2016.

### **WWTF Maintenance and Operations**

Maintenance and operations are working towards replacing key thickened sludge control valves for the anaerobic digester feed system. The valves allow operations to control which digester’s receives daily sludge flow from the thickening process. Valves were installed in 1989 with the advanced primary project. The valves have become difficult to operate and seal off sludge flows when closed.



### **Laboratory & Environmental Compliance**

As part of our requirement for validating our certification with the California Department of Health, the Laboratory completed in-house analyses of biosolids this past week. These analyses had previously been contracted out to commercial laboratories.

Laboratory completed analyses of product samples provided by SAFE (Sustainable Alternative Feed Enterprises) which showed some compatibility with standards required to pass through the Plant's (WWTF) processes for energy, but with some challenging parameters including their highly acidic pH. There will be follow up with a visit to the facility in the next few weeks. Picture below shows the process of analyses of the samples for moisture content.



**QA/QC Chemist taking a sample for % moisture analyses**

### **Wastewater /Stormwater Collection**

Crews discovered a failed connection on a sewer lateral on Avalon Street. The failed connection caused the roadway to subside. Homeowner will be sent a letter to initiate repair ASAP. Another sinkhole was discovered in the parking area of Mike Fox Park. Roadway was plated until it can be investigated further.

### **Green Business**

Audits are in-process for Santa Cruz Community Credit Union, The Buttery, The Engine Room, and Rosie McCann's. PAMF on Soquel Ave. has begun the Certification Process.

### **Collection**

Commerce lane compactor has been in service since October 2006 and is now being replaced.



### **Community Relations**

We already have over 1000 views of our recycling video starring Mav'Riks on Facebook and YouTube. This excludes any views on the SC Warriors site – we hope to receive their numbers next week. If you've not yet seen it, you can catch "Think Before You Throw" on [YouTube](#).

