

City Manager's Weekly Update

August 12, 2016

PARKS AND RECREATION

RECREATION DIVISION

Sister Cities

Last Thursday Vice Mayor Cynthia Chase officially welcomed a delegation from our Sister City Shingu, Japan at the official Mayors Welcome Reception. Four students and one chaperone are visiting Santa Cruz for ten days. Our visitors will be here attending school in the mornings at Louden Nelson Community Center and visiting our wonderful sites in the afternoons and also on weekends.

Teen Center

Last Friday, August 5 the Teen Center took 10 members to Bass Lake near Yosemite for a 2 day trip. The Teens and staff enjoyed swimming, hiking and an all-around great time. Supporters of the Teen Center donated their Airbnb home for lodging.



Jr. Guards

Santa Cruz City Jr. Guards hosted the Nor Cal Jr. Guard Competition last Wednesday and Thursday on Main Beach. Over 1,000 Jr. Lifeguards from City of Santa Cruz, Half Moon Bay, Stinson Beach, Capitola and Santa Cruz State Parks competed.



The Challenge Run Relay was a favorite event. It was exhilarating to watch the competitors hurdle over paddleboards and scramble up and down a mountain of sand and pass the baton to the next in line. Healthy fun competition!



PARKS DIVISION

Artsy Bench Installed at Grant Street Park

A beautiful bench designed by artist Bruce Harman was dedicated on Thursday August 11 at Grant Street Park. Bruce's hand-painted bench art is designed to illustrate the magic of books with imaginative characters coming off open book pages at the beginning of a story. The concept of placing park benches with pro-reading themes around the City was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission earlier this year.



WATER

We've been having fun in the Water Department connecting with our community the past couple of weeks. Last week we hosted a well-attended tour of our newest facility, the Beltz 12 well and water treatment plant, and this week we had another well-attended tour of the Bay Street tanks site.



Beltz 12 tour Bay



Street tanks site tour

We love these opportunities to interact with our customers. Not only does it give us a chance to get to know them, and what their concerns and questions are, but it gives them the chance

to get to know us – and to better understand our commitment to, and passion for, providing reliable drinking water to our community.

We also held a meeting this week for the public to come and learn more about the proposed changes to water rates and the rate structures. Though unfortunately not well attended, the customers who did come were surprisingly not upset about the changes to rates; they were more interested in the presentation on the state of our infrastructure. We know there are people in the community who are unhappy about the proposed rate changes and we wish they would have joined the meeting as well.



Rates meeting

At all of our recent meetings we have been hearing from customers who are concerned about the safety of their drinking water. We're glad to have the opportunity to engage with them in discussion of all we do at Santa Cruz to maintain their drinking water's safety, as well as to plan ahead for evolving water treatment. You'll be hearing more in the near future about our efforts to look at unregulated constituents.

One final note: as I mentioned, we love connecting our community with their water source and that includes you! The engineering project manager for the north coast main project has asked me to extend an invitation to you to visit the project site with him at a time of our convenience.

PUBLIC WORKS

Laboratory & Environmental Compliance

On Aug.9, 2016 Santa Cruz became the first U.S. city to adopt an ordinance requiring that the responsibility of safe and orderly disposal of drugs and sharps waste be placed on the manufacturers and/or producers of the products, while encouraging product design that minimizes negative impacts on human health and the environment at every stage of the product's lifecycle.

The new [Extended Producers Responsibility Ordinance](#) requires manufacturers and retailers to develop programs to dispose of unneeded medications and unwanted hazardous medical products, such as needles and syringes. The ordinance goes into effect 30 days from adoption when each of the 30+ pharmacies located in Santa Cruz will have to present a plan to the city for how they intend to meet the new requirements.

Traffic Engineering

Beginning September 1, Lot 7 (Cedar/Cathcart) will become a pay by space parking lot. The installed pay stations are non-operational and will be covered until that time. PG&E is scheduled to install a new light on their power pole to improve visibility in the lot. An additional 25 parking spaces were added to this lot. Both the Street and Traffic Maintenance crews and Parking Maintenance staff did an excellent job at coordinating and prepping the lot for the pay by space conversion.



Operations

The San Lorenzo River lagoon's outlet channel was breached by a member of the public on Friday afternoon, August 8. Lifeguards did a fantastic job moving the public off of the section of the beach that soon became isolated by the increasing water flow. The river remains open now in a stable, low-flow rate. Public Works staff is daily working with the State and Federal environmental agencies to come with a solution for the Summer/Fall to prevent the public safety threats posed by illegal breaching and to keep the water level low thereby relieving flooding problems in the surrounding neighborhoods.



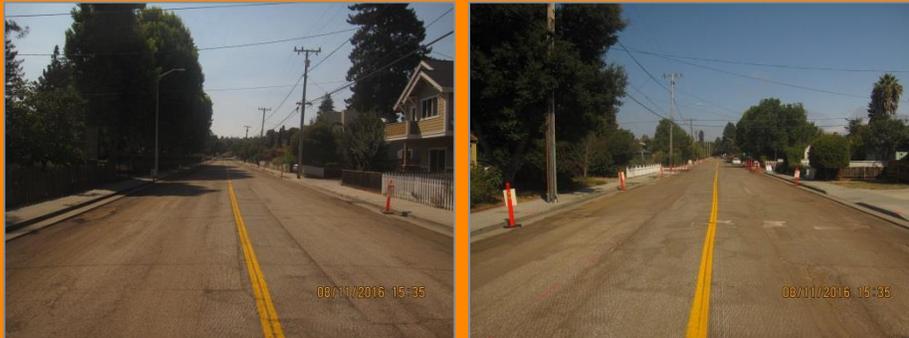
The [annual San Lorenzo River maintenance](#) began on Monday, August 8, in order to help flood conveyance. Work began on the east bank near Felker Street. It is anticipated that work at this location (Riverine Reach) will take approximately two weeks. Moving south, work is expected to continue at least another two weeks beyond this.



Engineering

Our [Measure H](#) work has continued this week with pavement grinding and dig outs at Grant Street, from Plymouth to Market streets through Friday, August 12.

We have completed pavement grinding work at North Plymouth Street, from Lee St to North City Limits. We will be scheduling the dig outs on North Plymouth later this month and pavement installation in September.



Community Relations

We added a “[Report Found Hypodermic Needles/Syringes for Pickup](#)” tab on the City’s homepage under “I Want To.” The page explains how City residents can now email Public Works regarding found needles in the community: FoundNeedles@cityofsantacruz.com.

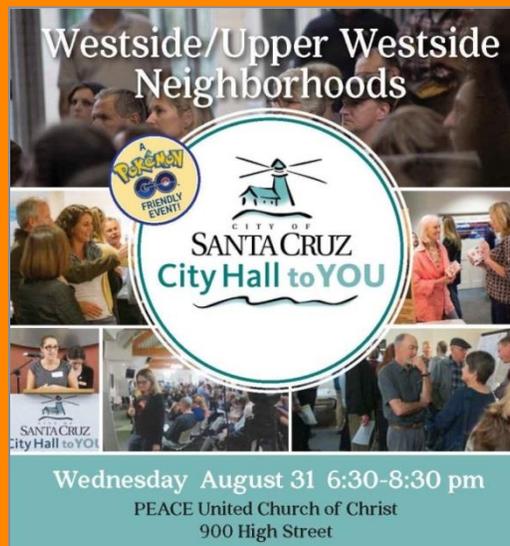
We were able to promote our recycling and waste reduction tips in the UCSC back to school [Campus Resource Guide](#).

Our new recycling public service announcement has been viewed a GRAND TOTAL of 5,721 VIEWS since July 21: 3,500 times on SC Warriors Facebook 1,021 times on SC Warriors Instagram, and our 1200 views on Public Works YouTube and Facebook. If you’ve not yet seen the video, you can catch “Think Before You Throw” [here](#).



We posted our 14th story on our Santa Cruz Waves City Beat column: [ON THE VIDEO SET WITH MAVRIKS: SETTING SANTA CRUZ RECYCLING STRAIGHT.](#)

Westside City Hall to YOU promotion is rolling out with [press release](#) distribution, posters in Westside parks, Facebook posts, e-blasts and fliers en route to Westside businesses.



Parking Services

Pay-by-Machine foundations in Front/Cathcart Lot 7 was finished earlier this week and the equipment was installed today. Enforcement to begin September 1st.



Average Paid Occupancies in Pay-by-Space Lots for the week of August 4 – August 10, 2016:

Lot 3	89%	Lot 4	65%
Lot 5	36%	Lot 8	89%
Lot 9	60%	Lot 16	43%
Lot 24	56%	Lot 25	57%

Wastewater Operations and Maintenance

Operations and maintenance divisions repaired a main process air header line that was found to be corroded and leaking air. The process air system is critical in supplying channel and process tank air to the secondary system. The repair parts were fabricated in-house and install by staff.



Community Outreach

We are working with PD on back to school traffic safety messaging to be delivered via Santa Cruz Waves live feed of our staged crossing tips at school street location with Tyler Fox, Santa Cruz surfing legend, one of our traffic crossing guards and police officer and Santa Cruz youth.