

Julia Wood

From: Elizabeth Smith
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 8:22 PM
Subject: Jan. 3, 2022 Update

Dear Councilmembers,

Storm conditions have fully subsided for now, so this will be the last regular update. We will continue to provide updates as significant milestones are met or activities are underway related to homelessness response.

Emergency Response

The precipitation that was forecasted has been downgraded significantly due to the system moving north of the city of Santa Cruz. We are expected to have light misting/precipitation overnight. The Santa Cruz Mountains are forecasted to receive approximately 0.5"-1" over the next 24-48 hours but there is no flooding expected downstream at this time. The cold weather has also seemed to dissipate as well with temperatures expected to remain in the low to mid 50s. There are no weather-related advisories/warnings issued for the county. FD staff has been in the areas along the SLR (patrols and calls for service) and do not report any major life safety concerns related to weather/flooding.

Cleanup

Parks & Rec operations continue with respect to routine maintenance and waste collection in parks, open spaces, river levee, and beaches. During the month of December 2021, Parks & Rec collected nearly 500 needles at Main Beach. Most of these were located at the river mouth as a result of having been washed downstream from recent rains. This does not include syringes collected by Downtown Streets Team as their aggregated data is not yet available. Nevertheless, this is an enormous number - by comparison in Dec. 2020 there were 50 syringes collected by Parks & Rec staff at Main and Cowell.

Enforcement

PD completed checks throughout the past 24 hours, however, no citations or arrests were made. Multiple abandon tents were tagged for vacate/removal in Benchlands.

Encampment Sites

1220 River St.

The efforts at opening 1220 River later this week are on track (thanks to Megan, Chris, Jer and Public Works). The site has been marked out and reviewed by Fire. Today shower combo trailer was delivered. Wastewater will hook up the unit to sewer, Facilities/Streets will set up large tent tomorrow and Streets will repair cut fence. Move-in of people and belongings will be happening on Thursday-Friday. The team expects about 30 participants, most from the Benchlands, but approximately six from the Depot Park site.

Depot Park

Staff continue to be onsite every day, and the contracted security company (Allied Universal) doing patrols 3 times a day. City staff and security patrols continue to work with campers on rule compliance at the emergency evacuation site. The City and security patrol are meeting again this week to discuss further improving campers' rule compliance and issuance of additional formal violation notices. The Homelessness Response Team is working on a demobilization plan for the location with details to come.

The OptumServe COVID testing site at Depot Park expanded its hours to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. effective today (1/3) due to increasing demand. This is putting more pressure on Depot Park parking lot as the public is increasingly seeking testing. The last report on volume of tests/samples at Depot Park was from Dec. 27-29 totaling 434 tests.

Meanwhile, we are seeing issues with vehicles parking overnight in the Depot Park parking lot causing traffic jams and limiting access for OptumServe. Public Works plans to address issues with parking in this lot to clear the area and maintain an open, accessible route to the OptumServe site.

Harvey West

Harvey West Pool is open – effective today (1/3) - under the operation of County Parks and Recreation’s Simpkins Swim Center staff while the County pool is under renovation. Harvey West will continue to see increased use through the season especially now with the pool open. SCPD is ticketing RVs in the area. It is important that this area remain clear of encampments for safety and accessibility of the park and pool.

Please reach out with any questions.

Thanks,
Elizabeth

--

J. Elizabeth Smith

City of Santa Cruz | City Manager’s Office | Communications Manager

esmith@cityofsantacruz.com | Office: (831) 420-5018 | Mobile: (773) 220-7488

Julia Wood

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Matt Huffaker; Laura Schmidt
Cc: Larry Imwalle; Elizabeth Smith; Megan Bunch; Bernie Escalante; Jon Bush; Mark Dettle; Tony Elliot; Robert Oatey; 'Cassie Bronson'
Subject: Tentative Camp Closure Timelines in Jan.

Hi Matt,

We're still refining the timelines below as we coordinate with other departments, but I wanted to share with you and others the tentative schedule for camp closures this month. See the matrix below for that. We've got a lot of moving parts.

We can discuss at our meeting on Thursday.

Comments welcome from anyone on this.

Thanks,

Lee Butler, AICP, LEED AP
Deputy City Manager /
Director of Planning, Community Development, & Homelessness Response
809 Center Street, Room 107 | Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Main: 831-420-5110 | Direct: 831-420-5103



From: Megan Bunch
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Larry Imwalle <lImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: timeline for Matt

Hi Lee,

Below is the proposed timeline from our meeting earlier today.

Re: the Agreement Camp/Benchlands South: Brandon will notice the 3ish remaining tents in the southern most end of the Benchlands. The plan is to offer freed up spots in the Benchlands for these 3ish campers. PD will have to take on the enforcement and relocation of these remaining campers as Jer and Chris will be tied up all day on Thus and Fri with 1220 move in/relocation.

Tentative Dates – to be coordinated with the Encampment Assessment Team

Location	Closure Notice	Enforcement date	Clean-up Date	Notes
Agreement Camp	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 6 and 7	-These are the lowest-lying areas in Benchlands south – the areas most prone to flooding. -Move fencing into south point
Lot 27	Jan. 6	Jan. 10	Jan. 12	-FNB permit to new location and enforce -Construction equipment needs to be placed on the 13 th -Can outside vendor do the clean-up?
Depot Park	Jan. 13	Jan. 17	Jan. 19	-Relocation assistance? -Can outside vendor do the clean-up?
Cemetery	Jan. 20	Jan. 24	Jan. 26	-Filipina has quotes
CalTrans	?	?	?	-Outreach assistance is not available
Benchlands				

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Lee Butler
Subject: RE: Tentative Camp Closure Timelines in Jan.

Thanks, Lee. Certainly lots to discuss. Between development pipeline and homelessness, we may need to find some additional time! Let's see how much we get through on Thursday.

I look forward to catching up.

Matt

From: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>; Laura Schmidt <LSchmidt@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Bernie Escalante <bescalante@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jon Bush <jbush@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>; Robert Oatey <roatey@cityofsantacruz.com>; 'Cassie Bronson' <cbronson@abc-law.com>
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Benchlands				

Julia Wood

From: Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: Walk Benchlands?

Let me know if you are able to walk the Benchlands tomorrow or Friday to check out mud/conditions.

It's probably not a bad idea to ask for a CSO/police escort - or at least "camp steward" escort.

Your schedule is more impacted than mine (I just have a phone meeting tomorrow at 10), so let me know what time works for you.

Cassie Bronson
Attorney | Shareholder

Atchison, Barisone & Condotti, APC
P.O. Box 481, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
333 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
T: 831-423-8383 | F: 831-576-2269
cbronson@abc-law.com



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Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 11:05 AM
To: 'Cassie Bronson'
Cc: Suzanne Haberman
Subject: RE: Walk Benchlands?

How about Friday at 1:30?

From: Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
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Attorney | Shareholder

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Julia Wood

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 11:49 AM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: FW: Depot Park and setting up a meeting (re homelessness in general and SCYIMBY)

FYI, I'm meeting w/ Shebreh on 1/18 re: homelessness in general & also a housing policy platform that YIMBY presented to her. Per below, she's also hearing from community members about shutting down Depot Park camping.

Lee Butler, AICP, LEED AP
Deputy City Manager /
Director of Planning, Community Development, & Homelessness Response
809 Center Street, Room 107 | Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Main: 831-420-5110 | Direct: 831-420-5103



From: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 9:54 PM
To: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Re: Depot Park and setting up a meeting (re homelessness in general and SCYIMBY)

Ok great. Thank you lee

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 4, 2022, at 7:04 PM, Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Hi Shebreh,

Just sent you a meeting request for 1/18 at noon with a Zoom link.

We have a draft/tentative timeline for various January efforts, but we need to confirm resources and how they all fit together. We should have more definitive info on timing very soon, and we will keep you posted as soon as we've nailed that down.

Thanks,

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From: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 3:20 PM
To: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Re: Depot Park and setting up a meeting (re homelessness in general and SCYIMBY)

Hi Lee
So glad to hear that you had down time with the fam!

Thanks for the update. It's difficult to not have a date when community members reach out. But I know you know that. I'll keep my eyes out for future updates on closure date.

Thanks for offering some times-Tuesday 1/18 at noon would be great!
Talk to you soon!
Shebreh

Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson (she/her)
Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz
skalantari-johnson@cityofsantacruz.com
(831) 420-5022

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 7:00:28 PM
To: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Subject: RE: Depot Park and setting up a meeting (re homelessness in general and SCYIMBY)

Hi Shebreh,

I was able to get a bit of down time in, which was very nice. Hope you were able to get some down time in with your family as well, and happy new year to you too!

We don't have the specific timing for the Depot Park closure yet, but we are working towards making that happen. We have about six Depot Park residents who will be moving to 1220 River later this week – the opening of which has been and will be an immediate focus of our team. We're also meeting with First Alarm tomorrow and expect that, if changes aren't made by some of the campers who aren't in compliance with the rules, we will have some evictions soon. We'll be having more conversations later this week and next, including with Matt H., on the specific timing of the full closure. We will keep you and the other Councilmembers posted as we have additional specifics.

I'd be happy to meet with you regarding homelessness and regarding your discussion with YIMBY. I am interested in hearing what they had to say. Here are a few times that currently work for me:

Friday, 1/14 flexible
Tue., 1/18 noon to 2

Wed., 1/19 after 3
Thurs., 1/20 11-noon or after 3

Let me know if any of those line up for you.

Thanks,

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From: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Sent: Sunday, January 2, 2022 6:42 PM
To: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park and setting up a meeting (re homelessness in general and SCYIMBY)

Hi Lee

Happy New Year. I hope you were able to get some down time.

I wanted to check in about Depot Park. I continue to receive communication from neighbors about this. Can you please share when the estimated date of all campers being moved out will be?

I also wanted to see if we could schedule a meeting for sometime in mid January to discuss homelessness in general and my follow-up meeting with SCYIMBY.

Thank you in advance Lee.

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Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 12:35 PM
To: Lee Butler
Subject: RE: Depot Park and setting up a meeting (re homelessness in general and SCYIMBY)

Thanks for the heads-up, Lee. Shebreh mentioned she was meeting with you when we met for lunch yesterday as well.

From: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>
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To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
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Shebreh

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(831) 420-5022

Julia Wood

From: Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 2:13 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Cc: Suzanne Haberman
Subject: RE: Walk Benchlands?

I can do that. I may also go this afternoon (with our camp steward, Jeremy, as my guide) – as I feel like a determination needs to be made ASAP as to whether the Benchlands is a suitable location during the winter to route people to.

From: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>
Cc: Suzanne Haberman <shaberman@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: RE: Walk Benchlands?

[How about Friday at 1:30?](#)

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Attorney | Shareholder

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Julia Wood

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 7:21 PM
To: Laura Schmidt
Cc: Matt Huffaker
Subject: FW: Koala Tree estimate for behind the cemetery cleanup

Hi Laura,

As expected, we do not have adequate CDBG-CV funds available to cover these costs – approx. ~\$150k for the upcoming clean-up behind the cemetery. They're costs that we'll need to cover, as we can't just leave the trash next to the river, so I will let Filipina know that we'll come up with the funds in the CMO. With it >\$100k, we'll have to go to Council.

If Brad can incrementally clean the Benchlands as we scale that down, our costs could be lower for that, but we'll likely have substantial costs associated with that clean-up as well, even with Brad's efforts.

Let me know if you questions/concerns or if you'd like to discuss.

Thanks,

Lee Butler, AICP, LEED AP
Deputy City Manager /
Director of Planning, Community Development, & Homelessness Response
809 Center Street, Room 107 | Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Main: 831-420-5110 | Direct: 831-420-5103



From: Tiffany Lake
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Larry Imwalle <lImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: RE: Koala Tree estimate for behind the cemetery cleanup

Yes, there's probably not enough CDBG-CV and CDBG funds shifted for Homeless Pandemic Response funds to cover all of the incurred costs through January or February for already in place services. The other source of regular FY21-22 CDBG funding could not cover this, as it would be considered operational and the flexibility for spending on COVID related items is only for FY 20 and FY21 CDBG funds.

Tiffany Lake

Principal Management Analyst



T: 831-420-5109
E: tlake@cityofsantacruz.com

City of Santa Cruz, Economic Development Department
Housing and Community Development Division

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 9:51 PM
To: Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tiffany Lake <tlake@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Re: Koala Tree estimate for behind the cemetery cleanup

Hi Megan and Tiffany,

I think we've exhausted the CDBG-CV (and any other special CDBG fund) expenditures that could be used for cleanup of encampments. Is that correct?

Thanks,
Lee

On Jan 4, 2022, at 8:46 AM, Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

I'm waiting on a final proposal, but Koala Tree sent an email with an estimate of \$147,600 based on 16-24 days to complete. Since this is over \$100k it will need to go to Council, and funds appropriated for the \$160k cleanup, which includes an estimated \$10k for dumpsters and disposal. How does the CMO want to address the cost of this cleanup for the cemetery?

2 Skid steers at \$3550/day

Fuel at \$200/day

3 material handlers at \$800 each/day = \$2400/day

TOTAL: \$6150/day, estimate 16-24 days to complete. This cost does not include the dumpsters, which is estimated at \$10k

In comparison, RMC's quote was \$210,624 with an estimated 15 days and included full biowaste cleanup.

Thanks,
Filipina Warren
Public Works Operations Manager
831-420-5559

Hours: Monday – Thursday 7am-4:30, Friday 7am-3:30pm and off every other Friday

Julia Wood

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 10:42 PM
To: Matt Huffaker; Larry Imwalle
Cc: Elizabeth Smith
Subject: RE: Depot Park Encampment
Attachments: FW: Depot Park Homeless Encampment; FW: City Manager Email from the City website

Hi Matt,

Below is a draft, generic response that you can send for now, or I'm happy to send it if you prefer. Copying Elizabeth in case she wants to work any magic on the text, and including the other two emails you forwarded so she has the additional context.

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary camp at Depot Park. Please know that the City takes your concerns and your safety very seriously.

We have City staff from multiple departments at the site each day, and we also have First Alarm patrolling the site three times per day. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff are actively working on multiple fronts related to homeless camps and services, including but not limited to planning for closure of the temporary Depot Park camp, setting up a transitional camp at 1220 River Street, and setting up a managed camp at the National Guard Armory site. A number of individuals from the temporary Depot Park camp will be moved to the newly opened 1220 River Street location this week, which is a first step in our plans for closing the camp shortly thereafter. We will aim to keep our website (<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/community/homelessness>) regularly updated with the latest information on the status of the Depot Park camp closure and other homelessness efforts.

Thank you again for reaching out to me,

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Lee Butler; Larry Imwalle
Subject: FW: Depot Park Encampment

Good morning,

I know we have plans to demobilize the site in mid-January. Lee and I can discuss the details in our check-in this week, but let me know if there's anything I can share with this resident in the meantime.

Thanks!

Matt

From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 7:11 PM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park Encampment

Please remove the Depot Park camp.

I am now scared to go on my walks in my neighborhood including to Depot Park & over to the wharf. I purchased my home to be secure and to walk in my neighborhood. You have taken that away from me. Crime has already increased in the neighborhood, drugs are being used, and drug paraphernalia and garbage is accumulating.

We already had numerous discussions at City Council meetings and the City agreed to keep Depot Park free of encampments.

The park is used everyday, throughout the day and now this encampment threatens our Santa Cruz children.

On weekends and holidays the parking lot is full of families parking for soccer games and tourists parking to access the Boardwalk, the Wharf, and West Cliff. This was not the case this holiday break. You took their access away.

Please move the camp immediately and reach out to the state to help find real shelter for these people in need. Certainly the state can help find beds when we do not have enough. Please protect my safety and my community's safety and remove the camp as you already agreed to do in previous City Council meetings.

I very much want to help unhoused people, but encampments in parks are not the solution. I pay my property taxes and now I cannot safely go to my neighborhood park or walk through it to access restaurants, the wharf, or the beach. Please restore safety to me and my neighborhood by removing the camp.

The drug use is rampant in Depot Park this week.

Dawna Linsdell

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 7:47 AM
To: Lee Butler
Cc: Larry Imwalle; Elizabeth Smith
Subject: Re: Depot Park Encampment
Attachments: FW: Depot Park Homeless Encampment; FW: City Manager Email from the City website

Thanks, Lee.

On Jan 5, 2022, at 10:41 PM, Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Hi Matt,

Below is a draft, generic response that you can send for now, or I'm happy to send it if you prefer. Copying Elizabeth in case she wants to work any magic on the text, and including the other two emails you forwarded so she has the additional context.

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary camp at Depot Park. Please know that the City takes your concerns and your safety very seriously.

We have City staff from multiple departments at the site each day, and we also have First Alarm patrolling the site three times per day. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff are actively working on multiple fronts related to homeless camps and services, including but not limited to planning for closure of the temporary Depot Park camp, setting up a transitional camp at 1220 River Street, and setting up a managed camp at the National Guard Armory site. A number of individuals from the temporary Depot Park camp will be moved to the newly opened 1220 River Street location this week, which is a first step in our plans for closing the camp shortly thereafter. We will aim to keep our website (<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/community/homelessness>) regularly updated with the latest information on the status of the Depot Park camp closure and other homelessness efforts.

Thank you again for reaching out to me,

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Lee Butler; Larry Imwalle
Subject: FW: Depot Park Encampment

Good morning,

I know we have plans to demobilize the site in mid-January. Lee and I can discuss the details in our check-in this week, but let me know if there's anything I can share with this resident in the meantime.

Thanks!

Matt

From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 7:11 PM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park Encampment

Please remove the Depot Park camp.

I am now scared to go on my walks in my neighborhood including to Depot Park & over to the wharf. I purchased my home to be secure and to walk in my neighborhood. You have taken that away from me. Crime has already increased in the neighborhood, drugs are being used, and drug paraphernalia and garbage is accumulating.

We already had numerous discussions at City Council meetings and the City agreed to keep Depot Park free of encampments.

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On weekends and holidays the parking lot is full of families parking for soccer games and tourists parking to access the Boardwalk, the Wharf, and West Cliff. This was not the case this holiday break. You took their access away.

Please move the camp immediately and reach out to the state to help find real shelter for these people in need. Certainly the state can help find beds when we do not have enough. Please protect my safety and my community's safety and remove the camp as you already agreed to do in previous City Council meetings.

I very much want to help unhoused people, but encampments in parks are not the solution. I pay my property taxes and now I cannot safely go to my neighborhood park or walk through it to access restaurants, the wharf, or the beach. Please restore safety to me and my neighborhood by removing the camp.

The drug use is rampant in Depot Park this week.

Dawna Linsdell

Julia Wood

From: Laura Schmidt
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 8:06 AM
To: Lee Butler
Cc: Matt Huffaker
Subject: RE: Koala Tree estimate for behind the cemetery cleanup

Hi Lee,

Not much we can do about the work – we have to clean up the area(s).

You may wish to reach out to Bobby and Lupita ASAP as they are working on the mid-year budget updates right now.

Thank you,

Laura

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 7:21 PM
To: Laura Schmidt <LSchmidt@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: FW: Koala Tree estimate for behind the cemetery cleanup

Hi Laura,

As expected, we do not have adequate CDBG-CV funds available to cover these costs – approx. ~\$150k for the upcoming clean-up behind the cemetery. They're costs that we'll need to cover, as we can't just leave the trash next to the river, so I will let Filipina know that we'll come up with the funds in the CMO. With it >\$100k, we'll have to go to Council.

If Brad can incrementally clean the Benchlands as we scale that down, our costs could be lower for that, but we'll likely have substantial costs associated with that clean-up as well, even with Brad's efforts.

Let me know if you questions/concerns or if you'd like to discuss.

Thanks,

Lee Butler, AICP, LEED AP
Deputy City Manager /
Director of Planning, Community Development, & Homelessness Response
809 Center Street, Room 107 | Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Main: 831-420-5110 | Direct: 831-420-5103



From: Tiffany Lake
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: RE: Koala Tree estimate for behind the cemetery cleanup

Yes, there's probably not enough CDBG-CV and CDBG funds shifted for Homeless Pandemic Response funds to cover all of the incurred costs through January or February for already in place services. The other source of regular FY21-22 CDBG funding could not cover this, as it would be considered operational and the flexibility for spending on COVID related items is only for FY 20 and FY21 CDBG funds.

Tiffany Lake

Principal Management Analyst



T: 831-420-5109
E: tlake@cityofsantacruz.com

City of Santa Cruz, Economic Development Department
Housing and Community Development Division

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 9:51 PM
To: Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tiffany Lake <tlake@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Re: Koala Tree estimate for behind the cemetery cleanup

Hi Megan and Tiffany,

I think we've exhausted the CDBG-CV (and any other special CDBG fund) expenditures that could be used for cleanup of encampments. Is that correct?

Thanks,
Lee

On Jan 4, 2022, at 8:46 AM, Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

I'm waiting on a final proposal, but Koala Tree sent an email with an estimate of \$147,600 based on 16-24 days to complete. Since this is over \$100k it will need to go to Council, and funds appropriated for the \$160k cleanup, which includes an estimated \$10k for dumpsters and disposal. How does the CMO want to address the cost of this cleanup for the cemetery?

2 Skid steers at \$3550/day

Fuel at \$200/day

3 material handlers at \$800 each/day = \$2400/day

TOTAL: \$6150/day, estimate 16-24 days to complete. This cost does not include the dumpsters, which is estimated at \$10k

In comparison, RMC's quote was \$210,624 with an estimated 15days and included full biowaste cleanup.

Thanks,
Filipina Warren
Public Works Operations Manager
831-420-5559

Hours: Monday – Thursday 7am-4:30, Friday 7am-3:30pm and off every other Friday

Julia Wood

From: Elizabeth Smith
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 8:58 AM
To: Matt Huffaker; Lee Butler
Cc: Larry Imwalle
Subject: RE: Depot Park Encampment

Not sure if it's magic, but here's an edited version for consideration. Messaging-wise, let's continue to call Depot Park a temporary evacuation site. I also tried to weave in some of our other messaging.

Matt, Council has appreciated receiving these types of form emails in the past. Happy to share it with them, or have you reach out with this content. Just let me know your preference!

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park. Please know that the City takes your concerns and your safety very seriously.

To manage the site, City staff from multiple departments are at the location each day. A contracted security firm, Allied Universal, also patrols the site three times per day and works with individuals in compliance with the code of conduct. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff is actively working on multiple fronts to manage the impacts of homeless encampments on neighbors and provide assistance for unhoused individuals to access County support services and pathways to housing.

I want to assure you that we are in the process of closing the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park camp, and we are on track to do so by mid-month. In addition, staff is setting up spaces for around 100 individuals through a transitional camp at 1220 River Street and a managed camp at the National Guard Armory site, which is expected to come online later this year. A number of individuals from the Depot Park evacuation site will be moved to 1220 River Street this week, which is the first step in closing the site.

For updates on Depot Park and other efforts, please check our website cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness, where we post regular updates.

Thank you again for reaching out,

From: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 7:47 AM
To: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Larry Imwalle <lImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Re: Depot Park Encampment

Thanks, Lee.

On Jan 5, 2022, at 10:41 PM, Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Hi Matt,

Below is a draft, generic response that you can send for now, or I'm happy to send it if you prefer. Copying Elizabeth in case she wants to work any magic on the text, and including the other two emails you forwarded so she has the additional context.

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Thank you again for reaching out to me,

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Lee Butler; Larry Imwalle
Subject: FW: Depot Park Encampment

Good morning,

I know we have plans to demobilize the site in mid-January. Lee and I can discuss the details in our check-in this week, but let me know if there's anything I can share with this resident in the meantime.

Thanks!

Matt

From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 7:11 PM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park Encampment

Please remove the Depot Park camp.

I am now scared to go on my walks in my neighborhood including to Depot Park & over to the wharf. I purchased my home to be secure and to walk in my neighborhood. You have taken that away from me. Crime has already increased in the neighborhood, drugs are being used, and drug paraphernalia and garbage is accumulating.

We already had numerous discussions at City Council meetings and the City agreed to keep Depot Park free of encampments.

The park is used everyday, throughout the day and now this encampment threatens our Santa Cruz children.

On weekends and holidays the parking lot is full of families parking for soccer games and tourists parking to access the Boardwalk, the Wharf, and West Cliff. This was not the case this holiday break. You took their access away.

Please move the camp immediately and reach out to the state to help find real shelter for these people in need. Certainly the state can help find beds when we do not have enough. Please protect my safety and my community's safety and remove the camp as you already agreed to do in previous City Council meetings.

I very much want to help unhoused people, but encampments in parks are not the solution. I pay my property taxes and now I cannot safely go to my neighborhood park or walk through it to access restaurants, the wharf, or the beach. Please restore safety to me and my neighborhood by removing the camp.

The drug use is rampant in Depot Park this week.

Dawna Linsdell

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Cc: Elizabeth Smith; Lee Butler; Laura Schmidt
Subject: Depot Park Temporary Encampment Messaging

Mayor and Council (Bcc'd),

I've been receiving inquiries from the neighborhood around Depot Park regarding the temporary homeless encampment. I'm sure some of you have as well. Lee, Elizabeth and I developed a template response below. Please feel free to use for your own purposes. Of course, as our demobilization plans for the site move forward, we'll be sure to keep you all updated.

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park. Please know that the City takes your concerns and your safety very seriously.

To manage the site, City staff from multiple departments are at the location each day. A contracted security firm, Allied Universal, also patrols the site three times per day and works with individuals in compliance with the code of conduct. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff is actively working on multiple fronts to manage the impacts of homeless encampments on neighbors and provide assistance for unhoused individuals to access County support services and pathways to housing.

I want to assure you that we are in the process of closing the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park camp, and we are on track to do so by mid-month. In addition, staff is setting up spaces for around 100 individuals through a transitional camp at 1220 River Street and a managed camp at the National Guard Armory site, which is expected to come online later this year. A number of individuals from the Depot Park evacuation site will be moved to 1220 River Street this week, which is the first step in closing the site.

For updates on Depot Park and other efforts, please check our website cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness, where we post regular updates.

Thank you again for reaching out,

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 4:22 PM
To: 'Rebecca Clark'
Subject: RE: Depot Park Homeless Encampment

Dear Ms. Clark,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park. Please know that the City takes your concerns and your safety very seriously.

To manage the site, City staff from multiple departments are at the location each day. A contracted security firm, Allied Universal, also patrols the site three times per day and works with individuals in compliance with the code of conduct. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff is actively working on multiple fronts to manage the impacts of homeless encampments on neighbors and provide assistance for unhoused individuals to access County support services and pathways to housing.

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Thank you again for reaching out,

Matt

Matt Huffaker
City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
www.cityofsantacruz.com
831-420-5010



-----Original Message-----

From: Rebecca Clark <rockyroo801@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 11:04 AM
To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com>; Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park Homeless Encampment

Dear Santa Cruz City Council Members and City Manager:

I am writing you as a concerned member of our community and a close neighbor of Depot Park. I am extremely concerned about the activities in and around the homeless encampment that has been moved to Depot Park parking lot. As a senior citizen who walks my senior dog daily around the soccer field I am shocked and threaten by the behaviors I witness. Drug use in autos parked in front of the homeless camp with passed out people falling out of their cars, piles of trash around the autos and camp, needles and needle kits laying in the pathways where children are riding and walking to the play area and soccer field. Trashed "portapotties" instead of our park restrooms (now locked), human feces in the landscaping, the list goes on and on. My neighbors and I do not feel safe using our beloved park any longer. This is not a compassionate way to treat humans, they need to be in a place where they can get help and be monitored for this unacceptable community behavior. I find it very sad that the City and Rec and Parks would choose this park to move this camp to, we are not a wealthy community and this soccer field and park is used by many families of color and economic struggles, it is directly across from an affordable housing complex. We are not a powerful, political neighborhood and it seems that is why they were moved here without any community output.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Rebecca

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 4:24 PM
To: 'Dawna Linsdell'
Subject: RE: Depot Park Encampment

Hi Ms. Linsdell,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park. Please know that the City takes your concerns and your safety very seriously.

To manage the site, City staff from multiple departments are at the location each day. A contracted security firm, Allied Universal, also patrols the site three times per day and works with individuals in compliance with the code of conduct. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff is actively working on multiple fronts to manage the impacts of homeless encampments on neighbors and provide assistance for unhoused individuals to access County support services and pathways to housing.

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Thank you again for reaching out,

Matt

Matt Huffaker
City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
www.cityofsantacruz.com
831-420-5010



From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 7:11 PM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park Encampment

Please remove the Depot Park camp.

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The drug use is rampant in Depot Park this week.

Dawna Linsdell

Julia Wood

From: Tony Elliot
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 10:17 AM
To: Matt Huffaker; Lee Butler; Elizabeth Smith
Cc: Bernie Escalante
Subject: FW: Depot Park update

FYI – The National Guard will be deployed at Depot Park for the OptumHealth testing site (details below). Sharing this with you as the optics may be complicated with the encampment at the park.

Tony Elliot

Director
Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Department
323 Church Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Office 831.420.5366
Cell: 831.421.1872
Fax: 831.420.5271



From: Rachel Kaufman
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 8:51 AM
To: Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>; Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jon Bush <jbush@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: RE: Depot Park update

Team,

I just received the email below from my County liaison to the testing site and wanted you to know ASAP.

We were just informed that OptumServe has deployed National Guard (in uniform) to all of our testing sites (all sites across the State operating at over-capacity like we are. They are expected to arrive today and stay for two weeks. The team onsite has been notified but I wanted to be sure the City was notified as well. I'm sorry we did not have more notice. Please let me know if you have any concerns.

I will follow up with Danielle Solick at the County regarding any communication we can expect from the County regarding this additional support. I will keep you posted.

Elizabeth – Let me know if you want to reach out to the County directly on this one.

Rachel

Rachel Kaufman
Recreation Superintendent
(831) 420-5272

From: Heather Sawyer

Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2022 4:43 PM

To: Rachel Kaufman; Larry Imwalle; Megan Bunch; Jose Garcia PD; Jon Bush

Cc: Lee Butler; Filipina Warren; Steve Gomez; Cassie Bronson; Elizabeth Smith; Jenna Wilson; Reina Romero; Brandon Lima; Brian Borguno; Chris Berry; Travis Beck; Daniel Gutgesell; Tim Shields; Mark Dettle; Carter Jones; Tony Elliot

Subject: RE: Depot Park update

Rachel

I thought so, even mentioned it to them this morning.

Just FYI, when we rechecked the area, two unauthorized vehicles were still parked and were cited.

Regards,
Heather

From: Rachel Kaufman <rkaufman@cityofsantacruz.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 4:40 PM

To: Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jon Bush <jbush@cityofsantacruz.com>

Cc: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>

Subject: RE: Depot Park update

Yes, thank you Heather. I will remind the County again to ensure testing folks display their parking pass on the front dashboard. They were issued the 5th pass so I will let them know that according to their staff, they have not received it.

Rachel

Rachel Kaufman
Recreation Superintendent
City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation
(831) 420-5272



Parks & Recreation Mission:

To provide quality public spaces and experiences that build a healthy community, foster equity, and better the environment.

From: Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 4:31 PM

To: Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>; Rachel Kaufman <rkaufman@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jon Bush <jbush@cityofsantacruz.com>

Cc: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>

Subject: RE: Depot Park update

Heather,

Thank you very much for the update – and all the efforts of your team (and all departments) on this effort at Depot Park.

Best,

Larry

From: Heather Sawyer

Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 2:15 PM

To: Rachel Kaufman; Megan Bunch; Larry Imwalle; Jose Garcia PD; Jon Bush

Cc: Lee Butler; Filipina Warren; Steve Gomez; Cassie Bronson; Elizabeth Smith; Jenna Wilson; Reina Romero; Brandon Lima; Brian Borguno; Chris Berry; Travis Beck; Daniel Gutgesell; Tim Shields; Mark Dettle; Carter Jones; Tony Elliot

Subject: RE: Depot Park update

We have started enforcing the reserved/no parking areas in Lot 25. I made contact with the testing site employees this morning and reminded them to put their permits on the dash. They stated someone told them they didn't need to since the spaces were posted for them, but I let them know that wasn't the case and they still needed to put them up each day so enforcement can clearly see they belong in those spaces. They did mention they only have 4 permits, but have 5 staff members, Rachel can we get another permit to them?

We noticed numerous unauthorized vehicles parked in the spaces designated for covid testing site, so we are marking them and trying to make contact with those folks near their vehicles and asking they move onto the street. Some belong to the depot site encampment and some are just hanging around the area. All spaces along the soccer field are reserved for the covid site and no parking during hours outside the covid site times. Also noted on signage is no overnight parking which is also noted on the actual parking lot signage at the entrances.

I'm reaching out to Allied Security to ask our overnight security folks to check the area for vehicles parked after the covid testing folks leave and note those vehicles with photos so we can follow up the next morning with cites. They could also possibly contact PD to cite overnight since it has been properly signed since last Thursday.

Kind Regards,

Heather Sawyer

Heather Sawyer, Superintendent of Parking Services
City of Santa Cruz
831-420-5114
hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com
www.cityofsantacruz.com

From: Rachel Kaufman <rkaufman@cityofsantacruz.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 1:43 PM

To: Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Larry Imwalle <Limwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>

Cc: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>

Subject: RE: Depot Park update

Hello all,

The County just informed me they will expand the hours at the Covid testing site starting Monday, January 3rd. It will now operate Monday – Friday, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. The site conducted 474 tests from Dec 27 – 29. There has been a steady increase in walk in tests this week.

Rachel

Rachel Kaufman
Recreation Superintendent
City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation
(831) 420-5272



Parks & Recreation Mission:

To provide quality public spaces and experiences that build a healthy community, foster equity, and better the environment.

From: Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 12:20 PM

To: Rachel Kaufman <rkaufman@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Larry Imwalle <Limwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>

Cc: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno

<bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>

Subject: RE: Depot Park update

I just left the site. I started a 72 hr on the vehicles not designated to be parked adjacent to the soccer field. Made some contacts and a couple of folks moved. Ted is making clear signage for all spaces along the soccer field. Testing site staff need to have their parking permits clearly visible on the dash. We will start regular enforcement next week after the closure. In the meantime, we are monitoring and trying to get movement with proper signage.

Covid testing site visitors moved the barricades and caution tape in the row of spaces just off the roundabout entrance which were no parked. We will repost tomorrow and reset the barricades.

Heather

From: Rachel Kaufman <rkaufman@cityofsantacruz.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 10:31 AM

To: Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>

Cc: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>

Subject: RE: Depot Park update

You all are amazing! Thank you so much for addressing so quickly. I will communicate with the testing staff that the issues are being addressed and to let me know if they encounter any other problems.

As an FYI – the week of Dec 20-23, the site conducted 335 tests. The County anticipates increased demand for testing and is considering extending testing hours to 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. The testing site currently operates 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday. I will keep this group informed if they do extend their hours of operation.

Thank you,

Rachel

Rachel Kaufman
Recreation Superintendent
City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation
(831) 420-5272



Parks & Recreation Mission:

To provide quality public spaces and experiences that build a healthy community, foster equity, and better the environment.

From: Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 10:19 AM

To: Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>

Cc: Rachel Kaufman <rkaufman@cityofsantacruz.com>; Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>

Subject: RE: Depot Park update

Hi all,

Just a quick recap. We've got Heather heading out to put up COVID testing only signs in the available parking spaces. Chris and Jer are currently onsite at Depot and will speak to the campers whose cars have been parked in those spots.

Larry is reaching out to Allied Universal (formerly First Alarm) to request a 7am patrol to help clear the Freight building and parking spots for testing.

I and Chris or Jer will be meeting with the Allied Universal patrol at 4pm today to review the camp rules and discuss our specific requests of their patrol.

Thank you Rachel for highlighting the issues and thanks to all on the team for jumping into action!

Megan

From: Larry Imwalle

Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 10:02 AM

To: Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>

Cc: Rachel Kaufman <rkaufman@cityofsantacruz.com>; Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>

Subject: Re: Depot Park update

Hi all,

Thanks for the updates. I believe the noticing of parked vehicles associated with campers can be conducted by the private security as appropriate. Their role is to support compliance with the camp rules & participant agreement. I'd defer to Heather & team from Parking (and PD) on appropriate enforcement actions.

I can inquire with First Alarm to see if they can switch their morning visit to 7am to help enforce camp rules in advance of the testing site opening for the day.

Best,

Larry

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 28, 2021, at 9:44 AM, Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Good morning,

Would these issues fall under the current footprint for the private security contract occurring at this location?

Jose

From: Rachel Kaufman <rkaufman@cityofsantacruz.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 9:37 AM

To: Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>; Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>; Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>; Larry Imwalle <Limwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Steve Gomez <sgomez@cityofsantacruz.com>; Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>; Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jenna Wilson <jwilson@cityofsantacruz.com>; Reina Romero <rromero@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>; Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>; Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>; Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com>; Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>; Daniel Gutgesell <dgutgesell@cityofsantacruz.com>; Tim Shields <tshields@cityofsantacruz.com>; Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>

Cc: Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>

Subject: Depot Park update

Good morning all,

I wanted to provide an update to this group regarding a few issues reported at Depot this morning from the testing site folks. There were a few campers blocking the front and back entrances to the Freight building where the bus is supposed to park. The testing staff made contact asking them to move so they could access the area. They did contact PD as well who came out to the site. The folks were moving along when PD arrived and the testing site was able to operate although a little later than their first scheduled appointments. It would be ideal to have a walk-through of the site in the mornings around 7:00 am to ensure the area is accessible for the testing staff. The individual camped by the back entrance, they also observed trying to lower the windows of some vehicles and gain access. He was not part of the camp and left the site.

Also, the parking lot has had several vehicles parked overnight in the far lane. The testing staff are able to utilize the 5 parking spots they are paying for in their license agreement. After that, the spots are all full. My understanding is we were not designating any parking spots for vehicles from the camping site. Please let me know if that has changed. I've included a photo of one vehicle in particular that is currently taking up two spots. Is there any way to make contact with the owners of the vehicles to open up the parking spaces for people coming for testing or to use the soccer field?



Thank you all. I appreciate you help addressing these issues.

Best,

Rachel

Rachel Kaufman
Recreation Superintendent
City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation
(831) 420-5272



Parks & Recreation Mission:

To provide quality public spaces and experiences that build a healthy community, foster equity, and better the environment.

Julia Wood

From: Cassie Bronson <cbronson@abc-law.com>
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 12:34 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: Benchlands

Just wanting to make sure we're still on for the Benchlands today.

I'm planning to meet you at City Hall at 1:30, and we can walk down there and meet with the City's camp steward, Jeremy, at 1:40.

It should be on your calendar (per Suzanne), but I just wanted to email and make sure you are still available and up for it.

Cassie Bronson
Attorney | Shareholder

Atchison, Barisone & Condotti, APC
P.O. Box 481, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
333 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
T: 831-423-8383 | F: 831-576-2269
cbronson@abc-law.com



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Julia Wood

From: Tony Elliot
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Patti U; Matt Huffaker; City Council
Cc: Elizabeth Smith; Lee Butler
Subject: RE: Depot Park Concerns

Good afternoon, Patti,

Thank you for your email regarding Depot Park. I agree with your concerns and with your points regarding the park's purpose for healthy living and recreation. We are disheartened by the vandalism and issues at the park. Please know that the City's homeless response team is diligently working on alternative sites for the individuals living in Depot Park. The park site is intended to be a short term solution which stemmed from needing to relocate camps out of flood-prone areas during the heavy rains. We will have details soon regarding a timeline for Depot Park.

Please reach me any time with questions. I am also copying Deputy Mayor Lee Butler who oversees homelessness response and Communications Manager Elizabeth Smith.

Thank you,

Tony Elliot

Director
Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Department
323 Church Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Office 831.420.5366
Cell: 831.421.1872
Fax: 831.420.5271



From: Patti U [mailto:pattipu@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 10:23 AM
To: Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>; Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>; City Council <citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park Concerns

I am writing because I am very concerned about the Homeless encampment that was placed at Depot Park during December. This unsupervised encampment is right next to a children's playground, a soccer field and a COVID testing facility. Because of drug use and trash, this creates a dangerous situation for the children and families who usually use the park. Also this sets a dangerous precedent for other vagrants to start using Depot Park as a camping spot as evidenced by a new tent this morning outside of the parking lot area. I am attaching some photos of recent graffiti and trash in the area.

Our neighborhood would like to know who is overseeing this encampment and what is the date for the move out of the encampment. We are requesting that the encampment be moved immediately from Depot Park.

The purpose of parks is to promote healthy living through playing and exercising not for providing shelter to drug addicts. Stop using our parks for vagrant encampments.

Patricia Unruhe
Laurel Street, Santa Cruz





Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 3:38 PM
To: 'Patti U'; Tony Elliot; City Council
Subject: RE: Depot Park Concerns

Ms. Unruhe,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park. Please know that the City takes your concerns and your safety very seriously.

To manage the site, City staff from multiple departments are at the location each day. A contracted security firm, Allied Universal, also patrols the site three times per day and works with individuals in compliance with the code of conduct. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff is actively working on multiple fronts to manage the impacts of homeless encampments on neighbors and provide assistance for unhoused individuals to access County support services and pathways to housing.

I want to assure you that we are in the process of closing the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park camp, and we are on track to do so by mid-month. In addition, staff is setting up spaces for around 100 individuals through a transitional camp at 1220 River Street and a managed camp at the National Guard Armory site, which is expected to come online later this year. A number of individuals from the Depot Park evacuation site will be moved to 1220 River Street this week, which is the first step in closing the site.

For updates on Depot Park and other efforts, please check our website cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness, where we post regular updates.

Thank you again for reaching out,

Matt

Matt Huffaker
City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
www.cityofsantacruz.com
831-420-5010



From: Patti U <pattipu@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 10:23 AM
To: Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com>; Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>; City Council <citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park Concerns

I am writing because I am very concerned about the Homeless encampment that was placed at Depot Park during December. This unsupervised encampment is right next to a children's playground, a soccer field and a COVID testing facility. Because of drug use and trash, this creates a dangerous situation for the children and families who usually use the park. Also this sets a dangerous precedent for other vagrants to start using Depot Park as a camping spot as evidenced by a new tent this morning outside of the parking lot area. I am attaching some photos of recent graffiti and trash in the area.

Our neighborhood would like to know who is overseeing this encampment and what is the date for the move out of the encampment. We are requesting that the encampment be moved immediately from Depot Park.

The purpose of parks is to promote healthy living through playing and exercising not for providing shelter to drug addicts. Stop using our parks for vagrant encampments.

Patricia Unruhe
Laurel Street, Santa Cruz





Julia Wood

From: Tony Elliot
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Robert Oatey
Cc: Matt Huffaker; Laura Schmidt
Subject: Thank You

Chief Oatey,

I am writing to give you shout out and sincere thank you for your leadership and outstanding communication over the holiday break regarding rains, flooding, and encampments. Your efforts went above and beyond, and were truly helpful in keeping us all united and vigilant during the closure. On behalf of Parks & Rec, and as a member of the department head team, thank you for your leadership!

Respectfully,

Tony Elliot

Director

Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Department

323 Church Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Office 831.420.5366

Cell: 831.421.1872

Fax: 831.420.5271



Julia Wood

From: Robert Oatey
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Tony Elliot
Cc: Matt Huffaker; Laura Schmidt
Subject: Re: Thank You

Tony,

Thank you for the support and appreciation. It was a team effort and I am just glad we could all work together to keep the entire community safe.

Rob Oatey
Fire Chief - Interim
Santa Cruz Fire Department
230 Walnut Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831.420.5280 (Office)
831.227.5403 (Cell)
roatey@cityofsantacruz.com

On Jan 7, 2022, at 15:55, Tony Elliot <telliott@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Chief Oatey,

I am writing to give you shout out and sincere thank you for your leadership and outstanding communication over the holiday break regarding rains, flooding, and encampments. Your efforts went above and beyond, and were truly helpful in keeping us all united and vigilant during the closure. On behalf of Parks & Rec, and as a member of the department head team, thank you for your leadership!

Respectfully,

Tony Elliot

Director
Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Department
323 Church Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Office 831.420.5366
Cell: 831.421.1872
Fax: 831.420.5271



Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 4:51 PM
To: dl_All SCruz City Users
Subject: Weekly Update January 7, 2022
Attachments: 22-01-07 City Manager Weekly Update.pdf

City team,

As I wrap my first week, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the warm welcome. I'm incredibly impressed by the passion, dedication and spark you all have for going above and beyond to serve the community. I'm very much looking forward to working with all of you to move the many exciting initiatives and projects forward.

I'm attaching this week's update for your reading pleasure. A big thanks to Elizabeth Smith for producing this week's report.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

With gratitude,

Matt

Matt Huffaker
City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
www.cityofsantacruz.com
831-420-5010



City Manager's Weekly Update

January 7, 2022

Planning and Community Development

119 Coral Street. Construction documents have been submitted for plan check for a supportive housing project, located at the Housing Matters Homeless Services Center Campus (corner of Coral and River Streets). The project approved by the City Planning Commission in November of 2019 involves construction of a five -story, mixed-use project to provide services and supportive housing for the chronically homeless. The first floor will consist of a new recuperative care center, a behavioral health clinic, and uses related to the upper floor residences. The upper four stories will consist of 120 supportive single room occupancy (SRO) units and one manager's unit. The units will be used as very-low-income supportive housing for those needing a particularly high level of ongoing supportive services that is uniquely available at this location. These will be individual adults who have experienced chronic homelessness, and are typically high-utilizers of the health care system. The applicant is also in the process of securing financing and expects this to be in place such that construction can begin in the summer/early fall timeframe.



150 Felker St. In April of last year, our department received a pre-application submittal for a project to demolish an existing commercial building and construct an apartment building consisting of 32 one-bedroom apartments located at 150 Felker Street. In accordance with the Planning Department's Community Outreach Policy, the applicant held a community meeting in August. On Dec. 14, the applicant submitted a formal development application for the project. The entitlements requested in the application include a Design Permit and a Density Bonus request for a 50 percent density bonus (for 32 units total based on a base project of 22 units), a waiver for building height, and concessions for

side yard setbacks. The submitted project has slightly larger units, smaller side yard setbacks, and an improved front yard design with additional landscaping as compared to the pre-application submittal. Some of the design changes were made in response to comments received at the community meeting. The project will likely qualify for an infill exemption under CEQA, and this will be confirmed upon completion of project review. Once the application is deemed complete, it will be heard by the Zoning Administrator. Clara Stanger is the planner working on the project.



818 Pacific Ave. Affordable Housing Project, second review complete 40+ comments still need to be addressed, mostly structural.

119 Coral St. Housing Matters Homeless Service Center, under first review and should be completed by Jan. 24, 2022.

418-508 Front St. 7-story Mixed Use, 175 Residential Units, completed first review Nov. 29, 2021, waiting for resubmittal/responses.

Homelessness Response

Safe-Sleeping, Shelters, and Encampment Management

We began opening the first Transitional Community Camp at 1220 River on Thursday. Tents, hygiene facilities, refuse collection have been put in place and participants began moving in on Thursday and Friday. City staff has been doing outreach and conducting interviews with prospective participants from existing camps at Benchlands, Cemetery, and Depot Park, and determining who will be a good fit for this program model.

The team continues to press on the Salvation Army about completing the contracting process on their end as soon as possible so that we can open the 75-bed shelter at the Armory property. We are pushing them to start in early February.

They have also been working with the County on the 100-Day Encampment Challenge. The official kick-off is this week. City staff (Chris & Jeremy) will be facilitating efforts by County Outreach staff to work with people in the Benchlands to connect them to services and move them towards better and more permanent housing.

The County submitted the Encampment Resolution grant on December 31, 2021. City staff had the opportunity to weigh-in on the draft. City Council passed a resolution in support of this grant that, if funded, will provide additional County outreach workers to do targeted case management in encampments along the San Lorenzo River, and will also provide flexible “housing scholarships” that can be used to meet a variety of needs and/or remove barriers to people finding housing.

We have initiated cross-department planning efforts and set tentative timelines for closing encampments at Lot 27, Depot Park, Cemetery, and the Benchlands South Agreement Camp. We expect to close all these areas within the next 30 days. The team conducted outreach with several community organizations to explore possibilities for adding emergency shelter capacity and/or setting up warming centers during the winter season.

Notices to vacate were issued at Lot 27 this afternoon to make way for construction related to the Pure Water Soquel project. Campers and Food Not Bombs will be required to vacate the area by Tuesday, January 11. The Benchlands is being offered as an alternate location for campers until it is closed later this year as new planned programs come online. Staff will be onsite Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to assist with placement.



Safe Parking

Staff is meeting next week to move forward the next steps to establish Tier 2 safe-parking programs. The Zoning Administrator continued the public hearing for the Coastal Permit and Design Permit related to the Oversize Vehicle Ordinance and Safe-Parking program operations to January 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Materials and staff recommendations are available online with the January 5, 2022 Zoning Administrator agenda. Public testimony was taken at the January 5, 2022 hearing, and additional public testimony will be taken on January 12, 2022.

Program Planning

Collaborative meetings between the City & County continue on the plan for utilizing the \$14m from the State.

Police

Now's the Time to Get a Trespass Letter of Authority on File with SCPD

If you have property within the city and are experiencing issues with trespassing, get an SCPD Trespass Letter of Authority on file with our Records Unit.

WHY? Suppose an officer observes someone on posted private property or a problem is reported by someone who does not have the authority to sign a trespass complaint. In that case, the police department must typically contact the legally responsible person for the property before taking enforcement action.

During nighttime hours, it is often a problem getting property owners/managers to answer their phones or drive to their property at 2 a.m. to sign a trespass complaint, and this form alleviates that need.

A Trespass Letter of Authority on file with SCPD allows a police officer to immediately act on your behalf and take enforcement action against a person trespassing on your private property without first contacting you.

Property owners and agents are responsible for renewing their trespass letters annually.

NEW THIS YEAR, the Trespass

Authorization form is available online for submission. Go to www.SantaCruzPolice.com / Permits & Forms / [Trespass Letter of Authority](#)

SCPD is dedicated to our community with ongoing efforts to keep Santa Cruz safe. Submitted forms are valid for one year and allow police officers to arrest, remove, or advise any person present on the property without lawful business.

SCPD Rings in the lowest New Year's Eve Crime Stats

Santa Cruz Police Department is pleased to announce that New Year's Eve and Day 2022 transpired without any significant violence incidents in the City of Santa Cruz.



As part of the enacted Safety Enhancement Zone where certain Santa Cruz Municipal Code violations incur "triple fines," SCPD deployed additional officers on foot patrol throughout the downtown corridor, ensuring a safe New Year's Eve celebration for all.

The crowds in the downtown were the smallest the SCPD has seen on a New Year's Eve in quite a few years. Likely the cold and COVID resurgence played a large role. With that said, here are the arrest stats for the evening.

- Three (3) open container triple fines
- Three (3) public intoxication 647(f) PC arrests
- One (1) DUI

Overall, arrests and citations were down from previous years.

Santa Cruz Police wish you and your family a safe, healthy, and happy new year!



Water

The Water Department's new year is indeed off to a happy start, with much better water supply conditions than we had at this time last year. The supply situation improved quite a bit as a result of the rain we received in both October and December. Specifically:

- As of Jan. 5, the reservoir is at 566.15' elevation or **79.8% of capacity**. This is pretty impressive since we were at a low of 549' (53.9% of capacity) on October 23rd.
- As of Jan. 5 Cumulative Precipitation for WY2022 is 18.30 inches (at the Cimis station at Delaveaga). This is 153.4% of the long term average at this point in the water year (which runs October 1 – September 30).
- In terms of cumulative runoff on the San Lorenzo River, we ended the month of December at 33,325 Acre-feet, which puts us into the dry category (up from critically dry) and we still have a few months of the wet season left to go.

Of course the outstanding question is, “are we out of the woods yet?” to which we must unfortunately answer “no.” We typically see the lion’s share of rainfall in Jan – Mar, and this period can make or break the community’s water supply both by how much Loch Lomond Reservoir fills, and by how much groundwater is recharged. Regardless of the outcome of this year’s storms, we continue our work to develop the supply augmentation strategies recommended by the WSAC and approved by Council.

We’ve made good progress on the concrete tanks replacement project at the treatment plant since the last Weekly Update, including starting demolition of the first tank:



We also started the year with another successful “Fungus Foray”, which is one of our most popular programs at Loch Lomond

Recreation Area. Former Councilmember Mathews joined us and was kind enough to share some of her photos from the event:



Last, but certainly not least (!), we met our goal to install the first meter of the service area-wide Meter Replacement Project this week! This project has been a huge lift for the Department, particularly with the challenges that the pandemic brings. The team has worked many, many extra hours to keep this project on schedule.

Public Works

Caltrans Excellence in Transportation Award

City of Santa Cruz Public Works and the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7/Phase 1 project have been recognized with the 2021 Caltrans Excellence in Transportation Award in the Intermodal Transportation category. The project was also awarded an Engineering Excellent Merit Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies earlier this year.

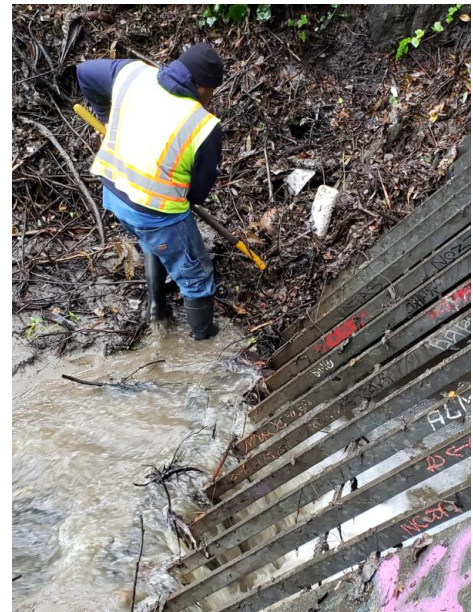
Facilities & Street Maintenance

The Facilities and Street Maintenance staff teamed up to install a large community tent in preparation for the new 1220 transitional camp. A contractor was available to help adjust the flood lights on the property.



Street Maintenance

During recent rain events, our Street Maintenance team performed routine and much-needed flood control measures by clearing debris from trash racks in culverts, storm drains and roadways. Clearing such debris allows water to flow freely and minimizes opportunities for refuse to end up in Branciforte Channel, the San Lorenzo River and Monterey Bay.



Julia Wood

From: Tony Elliot
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 6:46 AM
To: Tony Elliot
Subject: Weekly Update - 1/7/2022
Attachments: 22-01-07 City Manager Weekly Update.pdf

****This message is being sent to all Parks & Recreation Department staff.****

Good morning, Parks & Recreation team -

The City Manager's weekly update for 1/7/2022 is attached. Below you will find weekly Parks & Rec departmental updates for this week. Have a great week and stay safe and healthy!

Helpful communications/updates:

- **City Manager.** New City Manager Matt Huffaker started with the City on Monday, January 3. This Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 11:00am, a Citywide employee Zoom meeting is scheduled as an opportunity to meet Matt (virtually).
 - Last week, Matt and I had an opportunity to tour of a few parks and facilities. Thank you to the team at LNCC and Teen Center for the warm welcome! Over the coming weeks, we will continue the tour to visit the Parks Yard, golf course, Civic Auditorium, Administration office, and more. Please join me in welcoming Matt as he gets started here in Santa Cruz.
- **Homelessness.** Plans and actions are underway to vacate the encampment located at Lot 27/levee area and plans will roll out this weeks to begin the process of vacating the camp at Depot Park. River Street shelter and the Armory will be providing spaces. The City Council, at its 12/14 meeting, directed closure of the Benchlands encampment. There is not yet a timetable for this closure. More detail to come.
- **COVID.** The COVID mobile testing site has been moved from the Civic Auditorium to the Depot Park and is expected to go through February 25. OptumServe has deployed National Guard (in uniform) to all of its testing sites across the State operating at over-capacity including at Depot Park. They are expected to stay for two weeks.

Event/Program Updates

- **Registration.** Winter-Spring registration opens TODAY! The Winter-Spring Activity Guide is posted on the website [here](#)!
- **Civic.** Last week's performance with Al Franken was postponed to 4/8, but several events are forthcoming at the Civic Auditorium including the Symphony on 1/15 and Wynton Marsalis on 2/1. Events details and information are [here](#).

Park/Facility Updates

- **London Nelson Community Center:** Due to the rising cases of Covid-19 in the County and limited staffing at the community center, the center will temporarily be closed to the public beginning Friday afternoon January 7th through Tuesday January 11th.
- **Harvey West Pool:** Simpkins Swim Center is open and operating effective January 3, 2022.
- **COVID-19.** The Parks & Recreation Department COVID-19 web page has been updated with Beyond the Blueprint status of our parks, programs and facilities: <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/parks-recreation/covid-19>

Articles

Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2022

<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2022/january/top-trends-in-parks-and-recreation-for-2022/>

Show, Don't Tell – Metroparks-commissioned, economic benefits study proves impactful on southeast Michigan region
<https://www.parksandrecbusiness.com/articles/show-dont-tell>

Thank you,

Tony Elliot

Director

Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Department

[323 Church Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060](#)

Office [831.420.5366](tel:831.420.5366)

Fax: [831.420.5271](tel:831.420.5271)



[Please visit our website for COVID-19 response information](#)

Julia Wood

From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 3:13 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: RESTORE OUR TRUST

Thank you for your reply to my original email. I am unable to make public comment at 3:00 tomorrow. I am a teacher in the K-12 public school system and will not be able to log in at that time. I have sent this email to City Council as well you since I cannot make the public comment time. I am hopeful this week is an opportunity to restore trust in our city leaders.

I am asking our city leaders to restore our trust in their leadership and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by “mid-January” on Friday, January 15.

We have had numerous community discussions and lengthy city council meetings where Santa Cruz leaders agreed a homeless encampment was utterly inappropriate in Depot Park. We already agreed and decided; yet, you put an encampment there anyway on Dec 17, 2021. Furthermore, the encampment was placed there sneakily on the day your offices were closing for the holidays. You have broken our trust. Restore our trust and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by “mid-January” on Friday, January 15, as promised.

You have taken safe soccer fields and play areas away from our Santa Cruz children and neighbors of all ages. You have taken away safe exercise and waking areas away in our neighborhood. You have taken away central access for locals and tourists to access the beach, the wharf, and surrounding restaurants. Tents, crime, and garbage have all increased in the area with your encampment. Here is a photo of dirty clothes and a fanny pack with a needle left on my bicycle right by my front door last Saturday. You have broken our trust. Restore our trust and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by “mid-January” on Friday, January 15, as promised.

Unhoused people are desperate for your help, our help, with housing, mental health services, and drug addiction. Placing people in tents in Depot Park, a neighborhood park with central access to key Santa Cruz landmarks, helps no one. Restore our trust in your leadership. Permanently remove the encampment this week as promised and insist that our county, state, and federal representatives provide coordinated, systematic help for our people in need in Santa Cruz. An encampment in Depot Park, a neighborhood park, is not the solution, not even a temporary solution. Please, restore our trust in your leadership.

-Dawna Linsdell, homeowner

On Jan 6, 2022, at 4:24 PM, Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Hi Ms. Linsdell,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park. Please know that the City takes your concerns and your safety very seriously.

To manage the site, City staff from multiple departments are at the location each day. A contracted security firm, Allied Universal, also patrols the site three times per day and works with individuals in compliance with the code of conduct. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff is actively working on multiple fronts to manage the impacts of homeless encampments on neighbors and provide assistance for unhoused individuals to access County support services and pathways to housing.

I want to assure you that we are in the process of closing the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park camp, and we are on track to do so by mid-month. In addition, staff is setting up spaces for around 100 individuals through a transitional camp at 1220 River Street and a managed camp at the National Guard Armory site, which is expected to come online later this year. A number of individuals from the Depot Park evacuation site will be moved to 1220 River Street this week, which is the first step in closing the site.

For updates on Depot Park and other efforts, please check our website cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness, where we post regular updates.

Thank you again for reaching out,

Matt

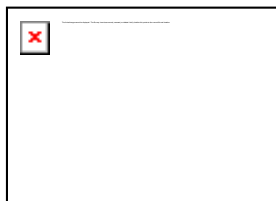
Matt Huffaker

City Manager

City of Santa Cruz

www.cityofsantacruz.com

831-420-5010



From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 7:11 PM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: Depot Park Encampment

Please remove the Depot Park camp.

I am now scared to go on my walks in my neighborhood including to Depot Park & over to the wharf. I purchased my home to be secure and to walk in my neighborhood. You have taken that

away from me. Crime has already increased in the neighborhood, drugs are being used, and drug paraphernalia and garbage is accumulating.

We already had numerous discussions at City Council meetings and the City agreed to keep Depot Park free of encampments.

The park is used everyday, throughout the day and now this encampment threatens our Santa Cruz children.

On weekends and holidays the parking lot is full of families parking for soccer games and tourists parking to access the Boardwalk, the Wharf, and West Cliff. This was not the case this holiday break. You took their access away.

Please move the camp immediately and reach out to the state to help find real shelter for these people in need. Certainly the state can help find beds when we do not have enough. Please protect my safety and my community's safety and remove the camp as you already agreed to do in previous City Council meetings.

I very much want to help unhoused people, but encampments in parks are not the solution. I pay my property taxes and now I cannot safely go to my neighborhood park or walk through it to access restaurants, the wharf, or the beach. Please restore safety to me and my neighborhood by removing the camp.

The drug use is rampant in Depot Park this week.

Dawna Linsdell

Julia Wood

From: Sonja Brunner
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 3:34 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: Fwd: RESTORE OUR TRUST

FYI



Sonja Brunner
Mayor, City of Santa Cruz
she/her/hers
831-420-5027 office
831-291-5281 mobile
sbrunner@cityofsantacruz.com

809 Center St. Room 10
Santa Cruz, California 95060
www.cityofsantacruz.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Date: January 10, 2022 at 3:06:51 PM PST
To: Sonja Brunner <sbrunner@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: **RESTORE OUR TRUST**

I am unable to make public comment at 3:00 tomorrow. I am a teacher in the K-12 public school system and will not be able to log in at that time.

I am asking our city leaders to restore our trust in their leadership and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by “mid-January” on Friday, January 15.

We have had numerous community discussions and lengthy city council meetings where Santa Cruz leaders agreed a homeless encampment was utterly inappropriate in Depot Park. We already agreed and decided; yet, you put an encampment there anyway on Dec 17, 2021. Furthermore, the encampment was placed there sneakily on the day your offices were closing for the holidays. You have broken our trust. Restore our trust and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by “mid-January” on Friday, January 15, as promised.

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-Dawna Linsdell, homeowner

Julia Wood

From: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 3:39 PM
To: Lee Butler; Matt Huffaker
Subject: Fw: RESTORE OUR TRUST

FYI....

Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson (she/her)
Councilmember, City of Santa Cruz
skalantari-johnson@cityofsantacruz.com
(831) 420-5022

From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 2:58 PM
To: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Subject: RESTORE OUR TRUST

I am unable to make public comment at 3:00 tomorrow. I am a teacher in the K-12 public school system and will not be able to log in at that time.

I am asking our city leaders to restore our trust in their leadership and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by "mid-January" on Friday, January 15.

We have had numerous community discussions and lengthy city council meetings where Santa Cruz leaders agreed a homeless encampment was utterly inappropriate in Depot Park. We already agreed and decided; yet, you put an encampment there anyway on Dec 17, 2021. Furthermore, the encampment was placed there sneakily on the day your offices were closing for the holidays. You have broken our trust. Restore our trust and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by "mid-January" on Friday, January 15, as promised.

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-Dawna Linsdell, homeowner

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 9:19 PM
To: Larry Imwalle; Mark Dettle; Lee Butler; Nathan Nguyen; Curtis Busenhart
Cc: Bernie Escalante; Elizabeth Smith; Laura Schmidt
Subject: RE: Santa Cruz food program seeks cooperation with Soquel Creek Water project on Laurel Street

Larry,

I agree with your position. Let's proceed as planned. FNB was given ample notice to relocate, and I think it's important to honor the construction timeline, as well as the demobilization of Depot Park that we've committed to. Thanks for everyone's collective efforts to move this forward. I know it's been a big lift.

Matt

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Imwalle <LImwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 6:15 PM
To: Mark Dettle <mdettle@cityofsantacruz.com>; Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>; Nathan Nguyen <nnguyen@cityofsantacruz.com>; Curtis Busenhart <cbusenhart@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: RE: Santa Cruz food program seeks cooperation with Soquel Creek Water project on Laurel Street

Hi all,

I'm replying only to City staff on this thread, and including Matt so that he can weigh in for decision-making on this matter. My inclination is to proceed with the approved plan and timeline we've developed to secure Lot 27 for the construction project. We've worked to get City staff and resources staged for this week based on the construction timeline that was provided to us. In addition, we have similar effort to close Depot Park planned the following week. So delays here will likely result in pushing our timelines on other fronts.

If we are inclined to provide some accommodation, perhaps we can allow for the container boxes to remain on site for a few days after the lot is closed while Food Not Bombs makes arrangements to move it on their own. But I don't think we should delay our efforts to close the lot to activity and camping.

Best,

Larry

-----Original Message-----

From: Melanie Mow Schumacher [mailto:MelanieS@soquelcreekwater.org]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 5:35 PM
To: Larry Imwalle; Mark Dettle; Lee Butler; Nathan Nguyen; Curtis Busenhart
Cc: Kent J. Edwards; Taj Dufour; Ron Duncan
Subject: FW: Santa Cruz food program seeks cooperation with Soquel Creek Water project on Laurel Street

Hi City folks,

Keith McHenry with Food Not Bombs reached out to the District regarding Parking Lot #27 and asked if they could stay another week to give them time to find a new location and move their operations.

As I recognize that this is a City Parking Lot and the use agreement is between Garney and the City - the District is interested in helping to facilitate a path forward such that construction activities can be performed in that area that is safe and secure for all parties and if the Food Not Bombs groups is asking for a few more days - that we see if there is a win-win-win for all.

It is my understanding from discussions with our construction manager late afternoon (Kent Edwards) - that the contractor (Garney Construction) could push back the use of that area for a few days with the use the alternate staging area on Spruce and the ability to use Lot 17 during the day hours. Fencing for Lot #27 is scheduled to be installed on the 14th... so if that is pushed back a few days - they would need to set that up with their sub.

Work on the northern 16" pipeline to the ductile transition point is roughly to be on or around the 21st.

Kent- can you see if fencing were to be pushed out to a few days (to like the 18th or the 19th) - would that work for Garney? That would give FNB a few extra days they are requesting.

Thanks,
-Melanie

PS I chatted with Mark briefly today on the call and he asked that I include those on this email so everyone has the same level of knowledge as this is being discussed. Thanks all.

-----Original Message-----

From: keith@foodnotbombs.net <keith@foodnotbombs.net>

Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 3:19 PM

To: Melanie Mow Schumacher <MelanieS@soquelcreekwater.org>

Subject: Re: Santa Cruz food program seeks cooperation with Soquel Creek Water project on Laurel Street

Thanks, the city came to us late Friday and told us we have to leave tomorrow by 2:00. This is not possible as we have to get a crew to unload thousands of pound of food and equipment and find a new location to move our shipping containers. We also need a week to announce our new meal location and update all our social media and websites plus air PSA s on local radio. It would be helpful if you told the city we could stay another week to give us time to resolve these issues.

Thank
Keith

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:19 AM
To: 'vwsurfer42@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: City Manager Email from the City website

Greg,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park.

To manage the site, City staff from multiple departments are at the location each day. A contracted security firm, Allied Universal, also patrols the site three times per day and works with individuals in compliance with the code of conduct. Even with this, we understand your concerns about the current situation. Our staff is actively working on multiple fronts to manage the impacts of homeless encampments on neighbors and provide assistance for unhoused individuals to access County support services and pathways to housing.

I want to assure you that we are in the process of closing the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park camp, and we are on track to do so by mid-month. In addition, staff is setting up spaces for around 100 individuals through a transitional camp at 1220 River Street and a managed camp at the National Guard Armory site, which is expected to come online later this year. A number of individuals from the Depot Park evacuation site will be moved to 1220 River Street this week, which is the first step in closing the site.

For updates on Depot Park and other efforts, please check our website cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness, where we post regular updates.

Thank you again for reaching out,

Matt

Matt Huffaker
City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
www.cityofsantacruz.com
831-420-5010



From: Greg La Rue-Paden <vwsurfer44@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 10:24 AM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: City Manager Email from the City website

Homeless at Dept Park.

Dear Mr. Huffaker.

Ok, enough is enough, I live on Beach Hill for over 40 years and never had to live within a Homeless encampment ever, it is disgusting, drug dealers, addicts, just no good individuals taking over a popular spot for us locals that spend many dollars to live here. You need to move these people out and back to Lower San Lorenzo Park or somewhere else. This is not a place to put these individuals, especially in a high traffic tourist destination on the way to the beach. Please look into this immediately.

Sincerely,
Current Resident for over 40 years.

Julia Wood

From: Larry Imwalle
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Matt Huffaker; Lee Butler; Megan Bunch
Subject: Fwd: Closure Plan for Depot Evacuation Site

Hi Matt,

Lee asked me to keep you informed on the plans for closing the temporary evacuation camp at Depot Park next week so you can keep Council updated appropriately. We had our weekly Encampment Assessment Team (EAT) meeting yesterday afternoon in which we outlined the plan/timeline you will find below. We've confirmed the details to implement on this timeline with everyone. The noticing/posting of the closure is happening this afternoon.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Larry

Larry Imwalle
Homelessness Response Manager | City Manager's Office
City of Santa Cruz
(831) 420-5405

Begin forwarded message:

From: Megan Bunch <mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com>
Date: January 12, 2022 at 3:32:19 PM PST
To: Brandon Lima <BLima@cityofsantacruz.com>, Jon Bush <JBush@cityofsantacruz.com>, Jose Garcia PD <jgarcia@cityofsantacruz.com>, Carter Jones <cjones@cityofsantacruz.com>, Bernie Escalante <bescalante@cityofsantacruz.com>, Lee Butler <lbutler@cityofsantacruz.com>, Larry Imwalle <Limwalle@cityofsantacruz.com>, Travis Beck <tbeck@cityofsantacruz.com>, Filipina Warren <fwarren@cityofsantacruz.com>, Heather Sawyer <hsawyer@cityofsantacruz.com>, Brian Borguno <bborguno@cityofsantacruz.com>, Chris Monteith <cmonteith@cityofsantacruz.com>, Jeremy Leonard <jleonard@cityofsantacruz.com>, Elizabeth Smith <esmith@cityofsantacruz.com>, Cassie Bronson <cbronsonabclaw@gmail.com>
Subject: Closure Plan for Depot Evacuation Site

Hi Team,

Below is a summary of the Depot camp closure plan. You'll find assigned tasks in blue. Please review and reply all with any changes/corrections.

Overall plan:

Notice camp/campers tomorrow (Jan. 13th), outreach to campers over the next few days, move campers returning to Benchlands on Monday (17th) and Tuesday (18th) and, if needed, enforce on Wednesday (19th).

Wed., Jan. 12th

Confirm feasibility of enforcement date (PD)
Finalize notice once PD has confirmed enforcement date/capacity (Cassie)
Coordinate mulch to Benchlands (Megan)

Thurs. Jan. 13th

Post notices and distribute to campers (PD)
Outreach to campers (Chris/Jer)
Translation of notice for campers (Elizabeth)

Fri., Jan. 14-Sun. Jan 16

Outreach to campers and schedule move times (Chris/Jer)

Mon., Jan. 17

Relocation of campers (Heather and other Parking staff, Chris/Jer/David)

Tues., Jan. 18

Relocation of campers (Heather and other Parking staff, Chris/Jer/David)

Wed., Jan 19

Enforcement of any remaining campers (PD)
Removal of portos and refuse (Megan)
Removal/relocation of barriers (Filipina)
Clean-up of parking lot (Parking)

*Megan Bunch
City Manager's Office
City of Santa Cruz
831-420-5093
mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com*

Julia Wood

From: Larry Imwalle
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Martine Watkins
Cc: Matt Huffaker; Lee Butler
Subject: Re: RESTORE OUR TRUST

Hi Councilmember Watkins,

Thank you for your message. I'm happy to respond to Ms. Linsdell if you like, or I can offer suggested language for you to provide. I've attached the reply that Councilmember Kalantari-Johnson provided on Tuesday evening below, which I believe provides a good concise response of our plans for closing Depot Park and some of our specific efforts underway to expand shelter capacity.

As an update, we are providing formal notice to the people camped at Depot Park today that they must leave by Tuesday, January 18 at 300pm. Our outreach staff have been regularly communicating ahead of this notice that this camp will be closing soon. We will be providing assistance in moving people back to the Benchlands on Monday (1/17) and Tuesday (1/18). On Wednesday, the parking lot will be cleaned and returned to its normal use.

Best,

Larry

Hello Dawna

Thank you for reaching out. I'm so sorry to hear how this has impacted you, your family and neighborhood have experienced.

Community safety and well-being is very important to me and the city team.

We are in the process of closing the temporary evacuation site at Depot Park camp, and we are on track to do so by mid-month. In addition, staff is setting up spaces for around 100 individuals through a transitional camp at 1220 River Street and a managed camp at the National Guard Armory site, which is expected to come online later this year. A number of individuals from the Depot Park evacuation site will be moved to 1220 River Street this week, which is the first step in closing the site.

For updates on Depot Park and other efforts, please check our website cityofsantacruz.com/homelessness, where we post regular updates.

I'm also cc'ing Lee Butler and Larry Imwalle who are overseeing our homeless response.

Thank you again for your email and sharing your concerns.

Best,
Shebreh

Larry Imwalle
Homelessness Response Manager | City Manager's Office
City of Santa Cruz
(831) 420-5405

On Jan 13, 2022, at 1:55 PM, Martine Watkins <mwatkins@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Hi Larry,
Do you like to respond to these or have suggestions for a response? Thanks! Martine

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawna Linsdell <dawnalinsdell@yahoo.com>
Date: January 10, 2022 at 3:05:30 PM PST
To: Martine Watkins <mwatkins@cityofsantacruz.com>
Subject: RESTORE OUR TRUST

I am unable to make public comment at 3:00 tomorrow. I am a teacher in the K-12 public school system and will not be able to log in at that time.

I am asking our city leaders to restore our trust in their leadership and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by “mid-January” on Friday, January 15.

We have had numerous community discussions and lengthy city council meetings where Santa Cruz leaders agreed a homeless encampment was utterly inappropriate in Depot Park. We already agreed and decided; yet, you put an encampment there anyway on Dec 17, 2021. Furthermore, the encampment was placed there sneakily on the day your offices were closing for the holidays. You have broken our trust. Restore our trust and permanently remove the Depot Park encampment by “mid-January” on Friday, January 15, as promised.

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-Dawna Linsdell, homeowner

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 5:53 PM
To: dl_All SCruz City Users
Subject: CM Weekly Update
Attachments: 22-01-14 City Manager Weekly Update.pdf

Good afternoon (and happy Friday!)

It's hard to believe another week has flown by. I'm attaching the City Manager's update for your reading pleasure.

I really enjoyed this week's All Employee Meeting and all the thoughtful questions. I also wanted to take a moment to thank all the departments and City staff involved in the closure of Lot 27 in advance of the Pure Water Soquel construction project. It was a big lift, with several moving parts. Great work.

Take care and have a restful weekend.

Matt

Matt Huffaker
City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
www.cityofsantacruz.com
831-420-5010

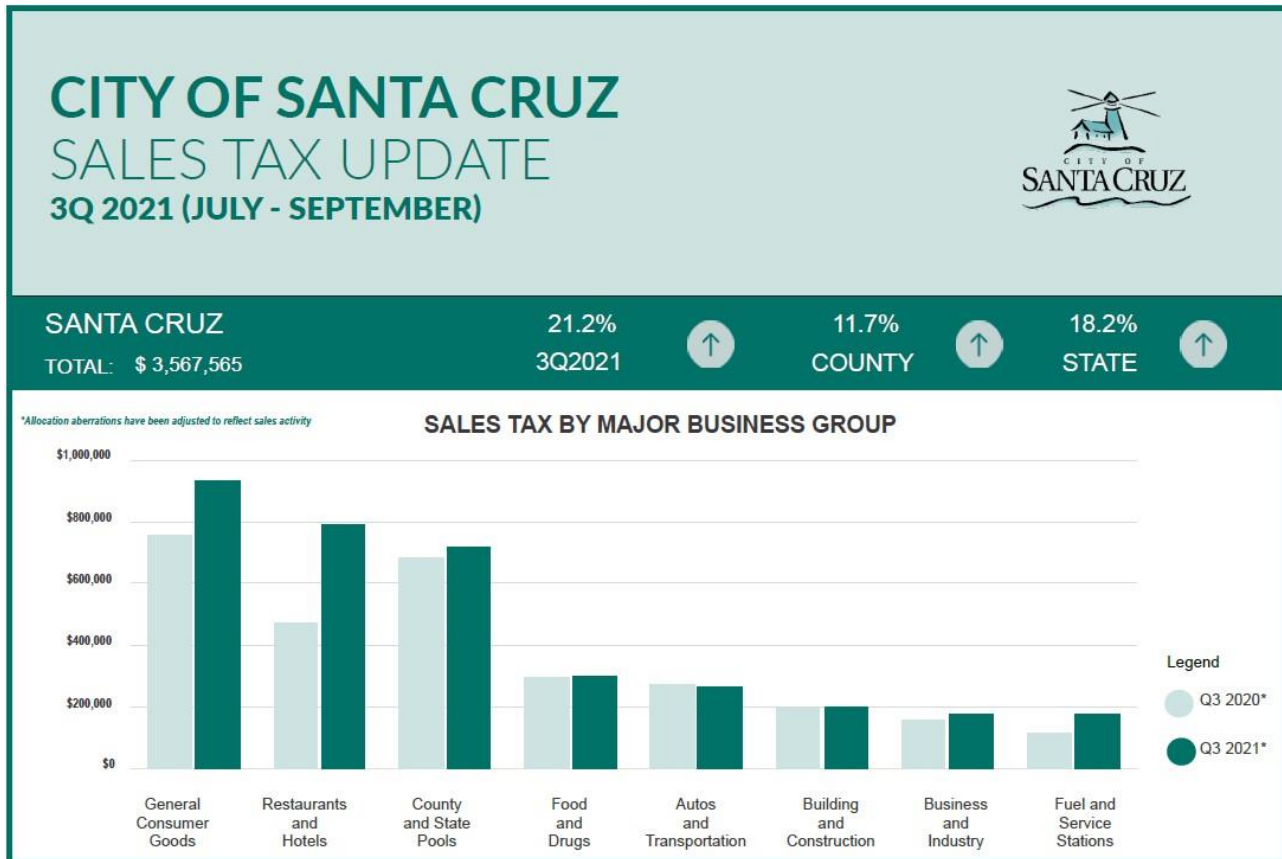


City Manager's Weekly Update

January 14, 2022

Economic Development

Business Development | Q3 2021 Sales Tax Update



Santa Cruz sales receipts for the third quarter of 2021 were 20.2% higher than the third quarter of 2020. After adjusting for modifications, actual sales were up 21.2%, with an overall place of sale collections rising to 25.9%. Most sales categories saw a dramatic increase compared to the lows of 2020 during the height of the pandemic shutdowns.

The City's share of the countywide use tax pool, a stable source of revenue for the City, bumped up to 5.8% due to the continued embrace of the convenience of e-commerce. However, gains from countywide tax pools slowed to 2% due to new tax collecting requirements imposed by [AB-147](#) for online retailers.

Of the categories that stood out, consumer goods reflected a major return to in-store shopping as consumers felt more comfortable shopping with the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, casual dining made a significant return as people enjoyed dining out, potentially contributing to the reduced grocery store shopping. Similarly, service stations revenue rose due to higher gas prices, increased travel, and daily commuter demand.

Surprisingly, one of the more robust sectors has been restaurants and hotels, forecasted initially to take an extended time to recover. Sales tax remittances from this sector are expected to continue growing due to ongoing pent-up demand combined with increasing restaurant tabs as the cost of food and staff wages surge.

Receipts from general consumer goods recovered steadily, especially discount department stores that sell gas, which helped exemplify the strength of brick and mortar merchants. On the other hand, car dealers expressed concerns over inventory challenges caused by supply chain disruptions and computer chip shortages. However, for this period, vehicle sales still posted solid gains.

Overall, economic growth is expected to continue through the end of the 2021 calendar year. However, possible headwinds into 2022 include:

- Pent-up demand for travel and experiences shifting spending away from taxable goods.
- Higher prices for fuel, merchandise, and services displace consumers' disposable income.
- Expected interest rate hikes result in more costly financing for automobiles, homes, and consumer loans.

[View the full sales tax newsletter here.](#)

Housing Development & Preservation | City Receives \$5M For Local Housing Trust Fund



The City of Santa Cruz has been awarded \$5 million through the State Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department's highly competitive grant program, Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF).

There were 24 applicants competing for the \$57 million total funds, which were oversubscribed by 50.6% (approximately \$86 million total was requested).

The City finished in joint first place with two other jurisdictions out of the 18 jurisdictions awarded. To score competitively in the application, these funds have been allocated to the development of the Pacific Station North Project.

[Learn more about the project here.](#)

Homelessness Response

Safe-Sleeping, Shelters, and Encampment Management

The Transitional Community Encampment at 1220 River Street continues to fill up. There are 24 people enrolled in this program, and we expect to be at full capacity (approximately 30) by the end of next week. The campers at this new site come from a number of existing encampments, including Benchlands, Cemetery, Sycamore Grove, and Depot Park. The team continues to press The Salvation Army about completing the contracting process so that we can open the 75-bed shelter program at the Armory Property.



1220 River St.

We continued our cross-department efforts in planning for closures of encampments. Lot 27 was closed this week in advance of a construction project by Soquel Creek Water District. The temporary evacuation site at Depot Park will close early next week. Notices have been provided to all campers to alert them to the closure. Several campers have been placed at other shelter sites (1220 River, County's program at the Armory). The Benchlands is being offered as an alternative location for remaining campers in the interim until new programs come online.



Lot 27 | Before and After

Safe Parking

At the public hearing on Jan. 12, the Zoning Administrator approved the Coastal Permit and Design Permit related to the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance and the Safe-Parking program operation. Staff is meeting regularly to move forward the application and permitting process required by the ordinance. If the approval is appealed to the Coastal Commission, staff will continue work on programmatic elements outside the coastal zone.

100-Day Encampment Challenge

The Santa Cruz County 100-day Encampment Challenge kicked off last week. Santa Cruz is one of five counties participating in this cohort of the statewide initiative. City outreach staff have been participating in the design of this focused effort to reduce the size of encampments and will be working with the County and other services providers to connect people living in encampments to services and on a path to housing. The goal of this 100-day initiative is to move an additional 40 people into housing.

Parks and Recreation

City Hall – California Native Bent Grass

Parks is busy working on a list of beautification projects around City Hall. You may have noticed the newly installed lawns flanking the fountain. These new lawns complement an already beautiful plaza but now add a sense of place to reflect and relax during our busy days. To maximize our water savings, we designed and installed a new irrigation system to responsibly irrigate the highly drought-tolerant California native Bent Grass, *Agrostis pallens*. Take a walk through and enjoy the new space for a spell next time you are at City Hall.



Police

A Record 10 New SCPD Recruits in Police Academy

SCPD is expanding with the newest class of recruits of ten cadets starting the Police Academy this week.

The goal of Police Academy is to provide SCPD Officers with the best possible law enforcement instruction in a professional, motivating, intensely challenging, and disciplined environment.

The six month academy provides recruits with academic skills, practical scenario training, physical training and discipline to prepare them for a career in law enforcement.

All graduating students will meet or exceed the [Peace Officer Standards and Training \(POST\)](#) professional standards and successfully pass all written and practical skill tests required for a California.

After the academy graduation, the officer moves into an 18-week Field Training Program at SCPD. During this program, they are paired with a Field Training Officer and evaluated each day. Upon completion of the Field Training Program, the officers are assigned to a patrol team to work as a solo beat officer.

What YOU do makes a difference at the Santa Cruz Police Department. These recruits want to be part of something bigger than themselves and make a difference in our community.

Do you know someone in your life who would make a great police officer? Or are you that person?

Santa Cruz Police is hiring people with positive attitudes, integrity, energy, and the ability to communicate to solve problems. Career opportunities for entry-level, academy-trained, and lateral police officers.

[Start your journey with Santa Cruz PD today!](#)

In Police Academy Training



Those interested in how to become a police officer tend to be active, community-minded, and motivated to make a difference.

These character traits set the tone for a journey to a career that plays a crucial civic role.



Thank You for the Messages of Appreciation for SCPD

This past Sunday marked National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Our Santa Cruz Police Officers have chosen a profession that puts their lives on the line every day. They've answered a call to public service that is both demanding, rewarding, and often unappreciated.

On National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, we salute their bravery in the face of danger, their eagerness to help others, and their commitment to making a difference in our communities.

Interim Chief Escalante expresses his thanks to our Officers and employees who work hard to keep our community safe. "Thank you to our residents, business owners, and visitors for your support, and it means a great deal to our department," said Chief Escalante.

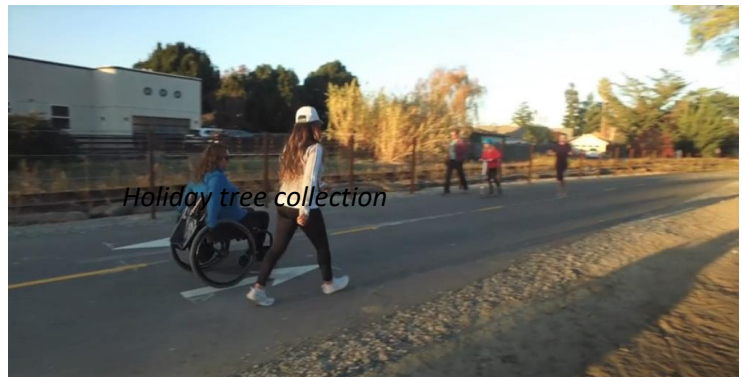
We are grateful to work in a community that appreciates our officers today and throughout the year. Thank you, Santa Cruz!

Send us a compliment or thank you to our officers and civilian workers for a job well done anytime. [Click here to THANK A COP](#)

Public Works

Engineering

Our "Westside Rail Trail" has been honored with a 2021 Caltrans Excellence in Transportation Award and an ACEC California 2022 Engineering Excellence Merit Award! Hats off to RRM Design Group, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Graniterock Construction and our amazing Public Works engineers! Read more [here](#).



Resource Recovery

Our Collections team is in the second and final week of holiday tree special collection. This collection is done after the normal routes are completed. The trees are chipped at the Landfill facility and added to our mulch product which is used by a local farmer in his compost mix.

The Dimeo facility experienced another break-in over the weekend. The fence was cut through, and scrap metal was taken. It appears that the culprits' entrance was through the State Park gate by car on fire roads to get as close as possible, with stealing thereafter on foot. This second time the thieves became stuck in Wilder and were cited by State Park Rangers; we are able to recover some of the items.





Traffic Engineering

Our Street Smarts pedestrian and cyclist traffic safety booth at Wednesday's Downtown Farmers Market served over 100 visitors with education, activities for youth and reflective items to help them be seen at night. 4 more booths are planned, including Abbott Square Market's First Friday on Feb. 4. Learn more [here](#).

Wastewater Treatment Facility

To handle increased flows during the new year's storm events, operators put a second Solids Contact Tank and a third Secondary Clarifier into service. As daily flows returned to normal, operators observed some sludge starting to float to the surface. Analysis of water samples indicated this was due to nitrification in the Solids Contact Tanks -- a biological process that converts ammonia to nitrate when retention time in the secondary treatment process grows long enough. Under certain conditions, the nitrate later decomposes into nitrogen gas in the Secondary Clarifiers, creating gas bubbles that can carry settled sludge to the surface. Based on the floating sludge and sample analysis results, we decided to reduce retention time by taking one Clarifier and Contact Tank out of service.

Pure Water Soquel construction contractors prepared the foundation for the building that will house the new filtration system. They drilled deep holes with a crane and boring machine with a long auger. Each hole is fitted with a steel rebar support cage and then is filled with concrete. These steel and concrete piles will resist soil compaction from the weight of the new buildings, despite high groundwater under the foundation.



Maintenance technicians and operators shut down the Heat Loop water system that carries heat from the Cogeneration engines to warm the digesters as a small leak had been discovered. The shutdown lasted over five hours until the leak was repaired. Because Cogeneration Engine #1 had to be shut down along the Heat Loop pumps, mechanics performed an oil change service on that engine along with the leak repair.

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Cc: dl_Dept Heads
Subject: Council Quick Updates

Mayor and Council (Bcc'd)

In addition to the CM Weekly Report, I will also be pushing out a streamlined "Quick Updates" to the Council and Department Heads only. Have a nice weekend.

Sales Tax Receipts Up 20% Over 2020

Santa Cruz sales receipts for the third quarter of 2021 were 20.2% higher than the third quarter of 2020. After adjusting for modifications, actual sales were up 21.2%, with an overall place of sale collections rising to 25.9%. Most sales categories saw a dramatic increase compared to the lows of 2020 during the height of the pandemic shutdowns.

PD Recruits in the Pipeline

The Police Department is expanding with the newest class of recruits of ten cadets starting the Police Academy this week. We now have a total of 17 cadets making their way through the academy.

\$5M for Affordable Housing

The City of Santa Cruz has been awarded \$5 million through the State Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department's highly competitive grant program, Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF). These funds have been allocated to the development of the Pacific Station North Project.

Encampment Management

There are 24 people enrolled in the Transitional Community Encampment at 1220 River Street, and we expect to be at full capacity (approximately 30) by the end of next week. Lot 27 was closed this week in advance of a construction project by Soquel Creek Water District. The temporary evacuation site at Depot Park will close early next week. PD issued notices yesterday.

Safe Parking

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Rail Trail Kudos

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Matt Huffaker

City Manager

City of Santa Cruz

www.cityofsantacruz.com

831-420-5010



Julia Wood

From: Donna Meyers
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 6:25 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: Re: Council Quick Updates

You rock!!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2022, at 6:03 PM, Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

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831-420-5010



Julia Wood

From: Sonja Brunner
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 7:47 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: RE: Council Quick Updates

Awesome.
Thank you for the updates.
Have a good weekend!
Sonja

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com>
Cc: dl_Dept Heads <dl_DeptHeads@cityofsantacruz.com>
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Matt Huffaker

City Manager

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831-420-5010



Julia Wood

From: Laura Schmidt
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 8:38 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: Re: Council Quick Updates

This is great, Matt. Really like the brief format.

Thank you,
Laura
City of Santa Cruz
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2022, at 6:03 PM, Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

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831-420-5010



Julia Wood

From: Renee Golder
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 9:44 PM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: Re: Council Quick Updates

Thanks! This is great!

On Jan 14, 2022, at 6:03 PM, Matt Huffaker <mhuffaker@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Mayor and Council (Bcc'd)

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City Manager

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831-420-5010



Julia Wood

From: Lee Butler
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:17 PM
To: Matt Huffaker; 'Cassie Bronson'; Bernie Escalante
Cc: Larry Imwalle; Heather Sawyer; Megan Bunch; Laura Schmidt
Subject: Depot Park status update

Just in from Megan via Heather... Parking's relocation efforts just finished for the day, and nearly everyone has been relocated from Depot Park. Only one or two stragglers remain at Depot. This is a significant shift from earlier today and will make it much easier for Bernie's team tomorrow. Huge thanks to Heather and her team for all their work yesterday and today!

Lee Butler, AICP, LEED AP
Deputy City Manager /
Director of Planning, Community Development, & Homelessness Response
809 Center Street, Room 107 | Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Main: 831-420-5110 | Direct: 831-420-5103



Julia Wood

From: Bernie Escalante
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:52 AM
To: Matt Huffaker
Subject: Depot Park



I wanted to share this photo. These are the consequences that Council probably isn't aware of (but should be), and staff end up cleaning up.

Bernie Escalante, Interim Chief of Police
Santa Cruz Police Department
155 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Office: (831) 420-5814
bescalante@cityofsantacruz.com
SantaCruzPolice.com

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 5:14 PM
To: Bernie Escalante
Subject: FW: Depot Park

Thanks for sharing, Bernie. Great example of the herculean lift staff has undertaken (and twice within week of each other). I'll be sure to use this in my conversations with Council. Thanks.



I wanted to share this photo. These are the consequences that Council probably isn't aware of (but should be), and staff end up cleaning up.

Bernie Escalante, Interim Chief of Police
Santa Cruz Police Department
155 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Office: (831) 420-5814

bescalante@cityofsantacruz.com

SantaCruzPolice.com

Julia Wood

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 5:31 PM
To: Bernie Escalante; Lee Butler; Larry Imwalle; Megan Bunch; Tony Elliot; Mark Dettle
Cc: Laura Schmidt; Elizabeth Smith
Subject: Depot Park

Team,

I just wanted to drop a quick note to express my gratitude for the excellent work and huge lift that went into the demobilization of Depot Park temp encampment. I ran by the site during my run today, and the parking lot looked brand new. Please pass along my appreciation to all those involved.

Matt

Matt Huffaker
City Manager
City of Santa Cruz
www.cityofsantacruz.com
831-420-5010



Julia Wood

From: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 8:50 PM
To: Matt Huffaker; Bernie Escalante; Lee Butler; Larry Imwalle; Megan Bunch; Tony Elliot; Mark Dettle
Cc: Laura Schmidt; Elizabeth Smith
Subject: Re: Depot Park

Thank you for bringing this to our attention Matt.

I'd like to echo that. I know its been a very difficult last month. Thank you all for the work!
Shebreh

From: Matt Huffaker
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 5:30:40 PM
To: Bernie Escalante; Lee Butler; Larry Imwalle; Megan Bunch; Tony Elliot; Mark Dettle
Cc: Laura Schmidt; Elizabeth Smith
Subject: Depot Park

Team,

I just wanted to drop a quick note to express my gratitude for the excellent work and huge lift that went into the demobilization of Depot Park temp encampment. I ran by the site during my run today, and the parking lot looked brand new. Please pass along my appreciation to all those involved.

Matt

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