



City Manager's Weekly Update

January 29, 2024

☐ **STORM PREP ALERT!** ☐

This upcoming storm is expected to bring excessive rain and wind to our area! A flood watch is in effect from 4AM Wednesday, 1/31, to 4AM Friday, 2/1, with a wind advisory in place from 4AM Wednesday, 1/31, to 4AM Thursday. **It is time to prepare!** We may experience flooding, downed trees, power outages, and other storm-related impacts.

Sign up for emergency alerts: www.cruzaware.org

Get sandbags ahead of time!

- City Sandbag locations: <https://loom.ly/EZ8Yqlc>

- County locations: <https://loom.ly/rbznNdU>



Remember!

Stay away from moving water.

Respect barricades.

Fully charge phones, backup batteries, and medical devices.

Stay indoors during high winds.

☞ Secure outdoor objects—like furniture, toys or garbage cans in yards, on patios, or on balconies.

If you must drive, be cautious and keep a safe distance!

Where Does Our Water Come From?

Behind the scenes to ensure clean, safe water gets to your tap, a skilled and dependable team of Water Department employees works tirelessly. Dive into the complexity of our local water system in the latest [Our Water, Our](#)



Community Relations Specialist Amanda Rodriguez and new Water Commissioner Megan Goddard recently toured the City's water system. They are standing on top of the Newell Creek Dam and Loch Lomond Reservoir is behind them.

Future Newsletter.

If you feel like the changing climate is impacting every part of our lives, you're right — it is. Climate Resilient Santa Cruz is an ongoing initiative of the City of Santa Cruz that aims to respond to the anticipated impacts of climate change. The Santa Cruz Water Department is prioritizing a suite of projects to update aging infrastructure (i.e., “climate-proofing” it). We're also securing new and reliable sources of water for the future. [Sign up for their monthly newsletter](#) so you can stay up to date on these exciting and critical projects.

Community Conversations: 50-Year Vision for West Cliff

Join us on **January 30th at 5:30pm** to learn more about the 50-Year Vision for West Cliff!

On January 30, we'll dive into the data gathered from your input and share your feedback on the insights we've gained so far!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86795185521>



Neary Lagoon Neighborhood

On Monday, January 22nd, we experienced flooding after intense rain at Laurel Creek, which impacted our neighbors in the area. As the next storm event approaches, City staff has been working on several mitigations to reduce the chance of flooding on Felix Street. Those mitigations include clearing out debris in Laurel Creek where feasible (*no heavy equipment given the current saturation levels*), adding a temporary channel wall upstream at Laurel Creek to reduce spillover to Felix Street, restricting parking at the end of Felix Street to maintain access to the storm drain inlets during the storm, and augmenting the Neary Lagoon pump station operation to try and vacate water more quickly downstream.

While the mitigations may help reduce or eliminate flooding, much of the effectiveness will depend on the storm's intensity and the water flow and debris flow it generates. Many factors could contribute to flooding in this area, including but not limited to creek channel capacity. The engineering and operations teams are working together to look for long-term solutions. Those may include but are not limited to regular sediment removal of Laurel Creek, video inspections of both public and private storm drain lines prior to each winter, increasing pipe and catch basin capacity, and upstream channel walls/embankments on both public and private right-of-way.

As we get through winter and determine the best long-term solutions, City staff will update the

Planning Commission Approves Mixed Use Development for 1130 & 1132 Mission Street

The Planning Commission approved a project to redevelop the properties at 1130 and 1132 Mission Street, which is currently the Food Bin & Herb Room.

The application was approved on a 5-1-1 vote (Maxwell opposed, Gordon was absent). Many members of the public spoke in favor of and in opposition to the project. Supporters cited issues such as the need for housing, the walkability of the location, and the move away from auto-centric development where people have to pay for parking they don't necessarily use. Those opposed expressed concerns such as parking, building height, and neighborhood compatibility.



The project includes a five-story, 43,234 square-foot mixed-use development consisting of 2,627 square feet of ground floor retail (to be occupied by the *Food Bin & Herb Room*, according to the applicant), some shared facilities, on-site management, and 12 parking spaces. Fifty-nine residential single-room occupancy units are also included, each with a maximum of 400 square feet. The average unit size will be no greater than 345 square feet.

The project included a request for a Density Bonus and will utilize AB2097, which reduces parking for projects located within a half mile of a major transit stop. Compliance with the City's single-room occupancy inclusionary requirement automatically qualifies the project for a 50-percent Density Bonus and waivers under state law. Of the 40 units, the city Zoning Ordinance requires eight units, or 20 percent, to be restricted to Very Low-Income levels (50 percent of the Area Median Income).

As part of the Density Bonus request, three waivers were approved:

- 1) Exceed height limitations with a building that is approximately 61-feet in height and five stories
- 2) Reduce required setbacks
- 3) Exceed floor area ratio

The appeal period runs through January 29th. A submitted appeal will be scheduled for a City Council meeting within 60 days of the filing, if feasible, considering City Council agenda preparation procedures and meeting schedule.



Become a Master Recycler!

Our Waste Reduction division is now accepting applications for its 2024 Master Recycler Volunteer Training Program. Over five Tuesday evening and two Saturday morning sessions from February 6 to March 5, participants will train to become Master Recycler Volunteers in areas related to waste reduction and recycling. The interactive classes are taught by our staff and local discard management professionals.

[Learn](#)

[Apply Now](#)

Take the Age Well Santa Cruz Survey to Shape the Future

The City of Santa Cruz is partnering with Santa Cruz County's Human Services Department, local cities and Seniors Council to develop a Master Plan for Aging, a 10-year blueprint for implementing strategies and partnerships that promote healthy aging for all. This regional effort is called **Age Well Santa Cruz County**.



Age Well Santa Cruz County wants to ensure people of all ages and abilities in Santa Cruz County are afforded equitable opportunities to thrive as they age, how and where they choose. To learn more about Age Well Santa Cruz County, visit AgeWellSantaCruzCounty.org.

The Age Well, Santa Cruz County survey, is collecting community feedback focused on aging locally. If you are a resident of Santa Cruz County and 40 years or older, we encourage you to take the survey now: tinyurl.com/AgeWellSantaCruz

Take the Survey

Click here for PDF!



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