

Community Development & Infrastructure Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1
March 2022

Building communities from the ground up. Striving to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by providing essential services for daily life.

DRAINAGE

Alex Sandoval, Roads Superintendent



Our County Drainage Crew operates out of the Roy Wilson Yard, off Holohan Rd in Watsonville, and is tasked with maintaining open and closed drainage conveyances across multiple Flood Control Districts including Zones 5, 6, 7, 8, and the Pajaro Valley Storm Drain Maintenance District (PSDMD). Flood Control District - Zone 7 encompasses the Pajaro River and Salsipuedes Creek levee systems. Routine work performed by the Crew consists of slope compaction, slope and bench mowing, rodent control, flap gate inspections, culvert maintenance, levee road repairs and

channel vegetation clearing. Each fall as winter approaches, the Drainage Crew shifts their focus to vehicular inspections (winter patrol) of the levees and flood fighting preparation. On occasion the Pajaro River mouth closes causing localized flooding at the Pajaro Dunes development and West Beach Road. During these events the Crew will respond with a skilled operator and excavator to breach the river mouth. The breaching work is done with the guidance of County Flood Control staff, permitting agency staff and local biologists. A successful breach results in the river mouth staying open throughout the remainder of the rainy season.

The work the Crew performs in Zone 7 and PSDMD is often visible to the public and high profile, however, the work done in other Flood Control Districts throughout the County is often unseen, but, nevertheless just as important in protecting our communities. The Crew continuously performs work in the County's drainage channels, sometimes involving hand work, to clear vegetation, downed trees, unclogging culverts, replacing culverts, removing built up debris and clearing debris racks. During the rainy season the Crew focuses its efforts on continuously inspecting drainage channels and flood fighting. In the rainy seasons following the CZU Lightning Complex Fire the Drainage Crew responded to multiple North County channel crossings along County roads to clear burnt debris for the safety of County residents and the motoring public. This work is especially important to mitigate the increased risk of hazardous debris flows in the burn zone.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Drainage 1
- SCCSD Manhole Inspections 2
- Affordable Apartments 3
- Events & Recognitions 4

SCCSD MANHOLE INSPECTIONS

Kent Edler, Assistant Director - Special Services

The Santa Cruz County Sanitation District (SCCSD) has approximately 4,780 concrete manholes of varying ages, which range from a couple of feet in depth to over twenty feet. Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S) gas is common in sewer systems and deteriorates concrete over time. Sanitation Operations staff have recently embarked on an inspection program to evaluate each manhole.

In order to get organized for the inspection program, Sanitation Operations staff worked with Public Works' GIS Analyst, Bryan Kriete, to create a manhole assessment form in Lucity (our Asset Management Software) which allows operation staff to inspect and identify deficiencies with the use of a tablet, and track which manholes have been inspected. The manhole assessment information is used by Sanitation Engineers so that rehabilitation of the manholes can be prioritized and a budget can be developed.

Over the years, the Sanitation group has experimented with various treatments to fix deteriorated manholes and has had success with epoxy lining. See attached photos showing a deteriorated manhole and the lining process. The cost for the epoxy lining varies with manhole depth and quantity of manholes to be lined, but on average, the cost to line a manhole is around \$5,000. Additionally, when manholes are lined, typically new frames and covers are replaced that are made from composites which will be more resistant to corrosion and will be easier for operations crews to lift. Many thanks to those involved in the manhole inspection program and their dedication to improving the sewer system for residents!



GROUNDBREAKING ON 57 AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS

Suzanne Ise, Principal Planner

After five years of planning and effort by multiple County departments, including Economic Development, Housing, Development Review, Building, multiple DPW divisions, Environmental Health, Health Services Agency, and various outside agency partners, on March 16, 2022, building permits were issued for construction of 57 affordable apartments for families and at-risk tenants at 1520 Capitola Rd. in Live Oak. Construction will begin on March 21st.



These apartments are the second phase of construction on a mixed-use development (MLD 18-1579) on former RDA property. The first phase included two new non-profit health clinics (Dientes Dental and Santa Cruz Community Health Center), currently under construction in front of the housing site. The apartments are scheduled to be completed by August 2023. The project includes 10 units for extremely low-income households, 28 for very low income households, and the balance for low-income households. It is the first major 100% affordable rental project to break ground in the unincorporated area since late 2016. It will contribute significantly toward the County's regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) objectives for the 2015-2023 RHNA period. The project received a wide



range of funding including a loan of Low-Mod Housing Funds from the Housing Division, a NPLH loan from Health Services Agency, an award of project-based vouchers from the Housing Authority, and 2020 Disaster Tax Credits through the State of California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC).

CDI UPDATES



NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

This year's theme "Ready & Resilient" represents the superheroes that lie within each and every public works professional. Always ready to serve their communities, and resilient as ever in their abilities to pick themselves up off the ground after encountering challenges.



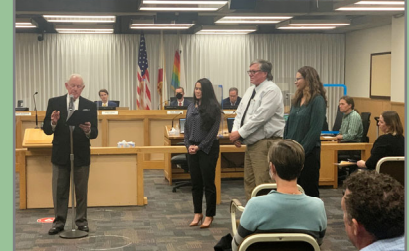
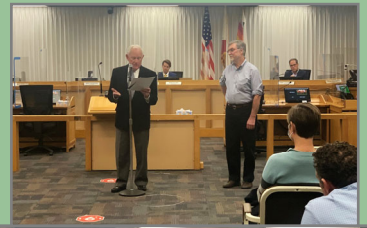
HAPPY RETIREMENT

Wishing Paia a happy and healthy retirement! Thank you for the 35 years of dedicated service to the County of Santa Cruz. We will miss you!



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Come learn and share knowledge about how we can preserve and protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods. Join us April 24, 2022 from 12-4pm at the Watsonville City Plaza.



LAND & USE REGULATORY AWARDS

**Jeffrey Nolan*Annette Olson*Evan Ditmars*Elizabeth Hayward*Jocelyn Drake*Aimen Al-Refai* Nada Algharib*Yan Zhang*Kimberly Finley*NicoleSteel*Douglas DuBois*

NEW EMPLOYEES

Samuel Santos

Sanitation Maintenance Worker I

Leopoldo Ferrel Lopez

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

Alejandra Marcene Medina

Student Worker III - Extra Help

Isaac Soria

Student Worker III - Extra Help

Anthony Sanchez-Robeson

Sanitation Maintenance Worker I

Renee Inlow

Asst Department Admin Analyst

Jacob Smrt

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

Derek Nelson

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

Eduardo Morales Mendez

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

Cat Thrasher

Building Inspector II

PROMOTIONS

John Struckmeyer

Public Works Supervisor

Robert Ouse

Heavy Equipment Operator

Bryan Wardlow

Engineering Technician III

James Swertel Jr.

Sanitation Maintenance Worker I

Michele Suttora

Accountant II

Kevin Starkweather

Public Works Maintenance Worker III

Mark Hernandez

Public Works Supervisor

John Williams

Public Works Maintenance Worker III

Luis Nava

Public Works Maintenance Worker III

Mike Lam

Planner I

Stephanie Hansen

Assistant Director - Code, Housing, and Policy

Carolyn Burke

Assistant Director - UPC

RETIREEES

Alfonso Rico

Constance Silva

Delia Lopez

Donald Ward

Shaun Deyhim

Brian Ayres

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can"
-Arthur Ashe

DPW.CO.SANTA-CRUZ.CA.US

