

Community Development & Infrastructure Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1
March 2023

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

Housing Element Update

Stephanie Hansen, Assistant Director Planning



Housing Element cycle is coming to a close and a new [2023 Housing Element](#) is currently being drafted for the 2023 - 2031 planning period. Right now, Santa Cruz County is experiencing a housing crisis of both supply and affordability. In response, the California Department of Housing and Community Development issued a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for unincorporated Santa Cruz County of 4,634 homes for the upcoming eight-year Housing Element. The document must also show that an adequate number of sites are available to accommodate housing development for all income levels, focusing on the needs of low- and moderate-income households, including 1,492 very low-income units.

State law mandates that the Housing Element include a statement of the community's goals, objectives, policies, and programs to maintain, improve, and develop housing as well as an assessment of housing needs. The Housing Element must be submitted to the state for approval by the end of the year to avoid significant penalties and permit process changes.

Every eight years, the County, like all California jurisdictions, must update the Housing Element of the County's General Plan to ensure the supply of adequate housing to meet community needs. The Housing Element is one of 10 required elements of the [General Plan](#), which guides land use planning and development activities in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County. The existing

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Housing Element Update 1
- Solid Waste Meetings 2
- Recovery Center Modular Project 3
- Events & Recognitions 4



CDI is preparing the draft Housing Element now and a public draft will be available for review later this summer. Public meetings on the Housing Element, housing programs, and needed rezonings are planned. Be sure to join us as we create more housing opportunities for all!

Public Meeting Schedule

May 15th – 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Aptos Village Park, 100 Aptos Creek Road, Aptos

May 30th – 5:30 to 7:00 pm (Virtual Meeting)

June 28th – 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Watsonville Civic Plaza Community Room, 250 Main Street, Watsonville

June through December – public study session and hearings at the Housing Advisory Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors (dates TBD)

Visit www.sccoplanning.com/2023HousingElement to learn more about the Housing Element Update process.



Solid Waste Meetings

Albert Eslit, Public Works Manager- Disposal Sites



For years (decades really), the staff at our Solid Waste facilities (Buena Vista Landfill & Ben Lomond Transfer Station) have not been able to meet regularly as a group due to the need for the facilities to remain open to the public. However, as of Wednesday, November 2, 2022, both Solid Waste facilities began closing one hour early (at 2:30 p.m.) to give staff the opportunity to meet as a group and discuss safety topics, have training events, and discuss policies and procedures. The goal of these meetings is to improve communications among staff and to provide training opportunities and additional support for staff, in an effort to improve overall operations at the facilities.

Since both facilities were open six days a week from 7:30am – 3:30pm, having meetings as an entire group was impossible. This was first brought to light during last year's Harassment Training event, as staff were not able to attend the scheduled training classes due to the obligation and service to the public. After numerous meetings and discussions on how to resolve this situation, an early one-hour closure was determined to be the best solution and approval was granted.

Meeting agendas are scheduled three months in advance, and one priority topic was how to deal with aggressive customers that were refusing to comply with policies and procedures. On Wednesday November 16, 2022, Santa Cruz County Sheriffs were on site at the Buena Vista Landfill offering guidance and support to all Recycling and Solid Waste staff regarding best practices on how to manage aggressive customers. Since then, a new standard operating procedure has been implemented, aggressiveness from the public has subsided, and communication amongst staff has improved. At times there are guest speakers such as: law enforcement, safety representatives, and solid waste industry experts. A big thank you to all who made this possible and to those who contribute and have made this a success!



Recovery Center Modular Project

Travis Rieber, Project Manager



The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office has maintained a program called the Recovery Center located at 265 Water Street since June 1, 2015. On December 16, 2020 a fire destroyed the building that had previously housed the program. In order to maintain this service for the County, the Sheriff's Office is proposing to restore the program through the use of a new modular building located on the same site.

The Recovery Center will provide a safe environment for non-violent intoxicated individuals to rest and recover until they are sober. Additionally, the Recovery Center will provide assistance and treatment options for clients. It will also relieve pressure on local law enforcement agencies and hospitals. By diverting non-violent intoxicated individuals away from jail, law enforcement officers can avoid the often-lengthy booking process and focus more of their attention on more serious crimes. The average drop-off time at the Recovery Center in 2017 was about 7 minutes compared to the current booking time which routinely is over an hour. The reduction in jail bookings also lowers the cost of operating the jail. Local hospitals, too, can benefit from the Recovery Center by reducing the number of inappropriate emergency room visits and ambulance transports. The project construction contract was awarded to 101 Builders Inc. at the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 28th. Construction is scheduled to begin in late April and is expected to be completed in October 2023. The Recovery Center will be operated by a Sheriff's Office contracted service provider.

CDI UPDATES



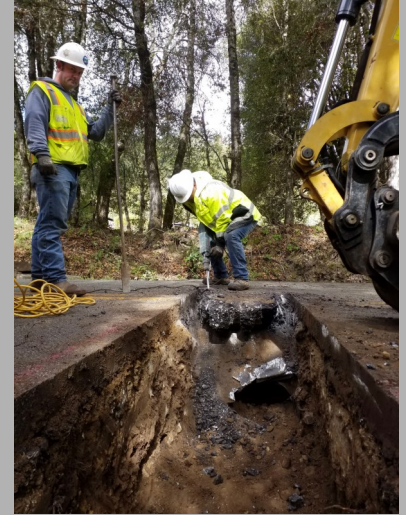
**CONNECTING
THE WORLD**
THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS
NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK
MAY 21-27, 2023

*This year's theme "Connecting the World Through Public Works Week" represents how public works connects us all through infrastructure and service, enhancing the quality of life for the communities these professionals serve.
Please join us for a luncheon at The Brommer Yard on May 25, 2023 at 11:30 am.*



Come learn and share knowledge about how we can preserve and protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods. Join us Saturday April 22, 2023 from 12-4pm On Cooper Street & The Mah.

County crews are replacing a road cross culvert in the Mid County area. Crew member is using a jackhammer to break up additional concrete around the old pipe.



NEW EMPLOYEES

Victor Ortiz

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

Delia Lopez

Program Coordinator– Extra Help

Ryan Kinch

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

Paul Brock

Sanitation Maintenance Worker I

Timothy Wolf

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

Ian Rivera

Student Worker III

Jacob Lutz

Student Worker III

Heather Willis

Senior Accounting Technician

PROMOTIONS

Alfonso Aguilera Jimenez

Heavy Equipment Operator–
Disposal Site

Todd Goudberg

Supervising Heavy Equipment
Mechanic

Vasant Sharma

Senior Engineer Associate

Brittany Williams

Senior Engineer Associate

Quintin Valdez

Public Works Maintenance Worker II

Samuel Santos

Sanitation Maintenance Worker II

James Swertel Jr.

Sanitation Maintenance Worker II

Michael MacMahon

Engineering Associate

Christopher Chacon

Treatment Plant Operator

Esmeralda Nava

Senior Accounting Technician

Angela Smith

Personal Technician

Forrest Revere

Senior Engineering Associate

Brian Rubin

Unified Permit Center Manager

RETIREES

Gregory Barry

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, and learning from failure"
Colin Powell

