

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

ANIMAL SHELTER CAMPUS RENOVATION

Robert Tidmore, Project Manager

Phase 1 of the campus renovation project is well underway at the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter! Construction kicked off August 5th and has been moving quickly since then. The project involves two main components. The first is the renovation of 1,000 SF of the main shelter building to modernize and enlarge the Shelter's veterinary clinic. The second is a 700 SF expansion on the building's east side that will create better bunny and cat adoption facilities, including a sunny cat porch where visitors can interact with adoptable cats in a bright, sunny space. The project's goals are to improve veterinary services and increase adoptions of high-need animals at the Shelter. The project will also feature new public artwork by Janice Serilla in the cat adoption rooms as part of the County's Percent for Art Public Art Program. The Percent for Art program sets aside up to 2% of construction costs to commission new public art for applicable projects. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Friday, September 17 with representatives, staff, and volunteers from the County, Shelter, and the Animal Shelter Foundation, which is helping to fund a portion of construction. R.C. Benson & Sons General Contractors of Mountain View was awarded the construction contract for \$935,000, just below the cost estimate of \$941,000. Given the busy construction market and the high price of some construction materials, including lumber, the team was relieved to have bids come in on-budget. Availability of materials, however, has been a big challenge. Windows are always a long-lead item, but with COVID's disruption to global supply chains and resultant shortage of materials and components, the lead time for windows on this project is 23 weeks; that's almost 6 months! For reference, the entire project schedule is 180 days. As a result, completion of the project will likely be delayed by four to six weeks.

During over-excavation for the expansion's footings, workers found an undocumented and previously unknown concrete septic tank that had to be removed and the void filled with compacted base rock. Since then, however, the project has progressed smoothly. The footings and concrete slab were poured the last week of August, and the walls and roof are currently being framed out. The shape and scale of the expansion's rooms are now materializing; it's an exciting time, but there is still lots of work to do. Project completion is expected in March 2022. The shelter is a well-loved cornerstone of the County's critical infrastructure to support the needs of our furry and feathered friends, and the Capital Projects team is honored to be a part of this great project!

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NO FLOOD OF SUPPORT FOR RIO DEL MAR FLATS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Kent Edler, Assistant Director of Public Works

The Rio Del Mar Flats sees some level of flooding nearly every year. This is due to several factors. The area is located in a 100-year FEMA floodplain, and prior to development in the 1920's the Flats was a wetland which Aptos Creek meandered through. When the Flats was developed (i.e., when the wetland was filled in with soil from surrounding areas), the final elevations were not high enough to effectively drain the area. So, the neighborhood has been stuck with drainage pipes that are too flat and don't efficiently drain the area into Aptos Creek. The problem is further exacerbated when creek levels are high and the water in the creek hinders drainage from releasing out of the pipes. Additionally, when the creek levels are high, creek water actually flows backwards up the pipes in the streets. Stormwater Management staff have been studying the area for many years to come up with a solution. In 2014, Public Works was awarded a grant from FEMA for approximately \$617,000 to further study and design a solution to help with some of the flooding issues. The design includes new drainage pipes and inlets in parts of Aptos Beach Drive, Venetian Road, Rio Del Mar Boulevard and Beach Drive which would direct drainage to a new pump station located on the triangular piece of land across Venetian Road from Bailey Properties and the Pixie Deli. From the pump station the storm water would be sent to infiltration pits located on the beach, approximately 50 to 100 feet east of the beach bathrooms.



The project as designed would reduce flooding and associated claims of flood damaged properties, but there are additional benefits. One added benefit is an improvement to evacuation access and emergency response during flooding events. Additionally, direction of stormwater to the pump station and away from Aptos Creek would reduce pollution discharges to the impounded creek channel where fish habitat and water quality are a concern.

Last summer, Public Works was awarded just over \$4.2 million in grants to help pay for the estimated \$4.8 million project, with the balance coming from drainage impact fees which have been set aside for the project.

Building a project like this requires ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M), however there is not a funding source to pay for the estimated \$121,000 annual O&M costs. The community in the Rio Del Mar area that would directly benefit from the project was approached to form an assessment district to pay for these costs, since the properties in the area would have the greatest benefit due reduced flooding of their neighborhood (these types of assessments are similar to many County Service Areas throughout the County). A consultant was hired to develop a Proposition 218 compliant Engineer's Report which

established the annual assessment on properties. Proposed assessment amounts for single family residences ranged from \$125 to \$375 annually.

On August 24, 2021, the ballots were received and tabulated. The ballots were certified by the Board on September 14, 2021, with 61.2% of the property owners in the area voting against the assessment. Unfortunately, what this means is that the project to alleviate the flooding issues in Rio Del Flats will not move forward and the grant funding will not be accepted, as it doesn't make sense to build a project that cannot be adequately operated and maintained. Ultimately, it was the community's decision whether the flooding issue in their neighborhood was important to them. One Board member described the community's decision to turn down \$4.2M in grant funds as penny wise and pound foolish, especially in an era of increased impacts due to climate change.



PAVEMENT CHANGES

Alex Sandoval, Roads Superintendent

With a network of nearly 600 miles of county-maintained roadway, keeping our roads in their current conditions and improving them takes a change. In past years our yearly pavement resources would be focused on using a temporary asphalt coldmix for pothole repairs and permanent pavement projects would be scheduled as each road district had the resources, time and saw fit while balancing their workloads.

Our past practice of asphalt coldmix was used for the ease of loading and placement in potholes or road deformities. With some of our less traveled roads this temporary repair could hold up to traffic conditions and become a permanent repair. In other higher traveled roads this temporary mix would fail causing multiple visits with the same repair approach. A change was made to eliminate coldmix as a whole for any pothole work and after testing a variety of materials we came up with a new source for permanent pothole repairs when crew sizes are limited, Perma-Patch. Perma-Patch has been used for the past year and a half with a large success rate. When larger crew sizes are available, our method has changed to using our Roadpatcher or hotmix material for potholes.

With the approach to changing how we repair potholes; came the change on how we improve our larger scale roadbed failures. For the past two summers a new focused program has been formulated to perform productive, quality, large scale repairs for 30 weeks out of the 52 a year. In this time a crew is dedicated without disturbance on a scheduled lists of roads across our North, Mid and South County maintenance areas. Crews use a variety of equipment like our large asphalt milling machine, skip loader, backhoe and patch truck to prepare the road surface. With a follow up of our dump trucks loaded, with hot mix from one of the three quarry's in our county, to run our pave box and trench paver attachment. With this focused pavement mindset, we have produced phenomenal results with wheel track repairs, full width digouts and overlay projects across our county roads. Although resources are limited, this does not slow down the mindset our road crew employees have to perform as much work as possible.





DPW UPDATES


KINDNESS
 A GIFT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD TO GIVE
COMBINED GIVING 2021 SEPTEMBER 1-30

It's that time of year to show our love (through a payroll deduction) to our favorite Non-Profit Organizations (NPO), which are an alliance of many charities, OR to YOUR favorite charity of choice.



*In Memory
Faran Sanchez
1966-2021*

NEW EMPLOYEES

- David Martinez**
Sanitation Maintenance Worker II
- Christine Hicks**
Accountant III
- Daisy Vega**
Cashier - Disposal Site
- David Tuitupou**
Solid Waste Inspector I
- James Swertel Jr.**
Public Works Maintenance Worker I
- Guadalupe Cruz**
Public Works Maintenance Worker I
- Lonnie Forst**
Public Works Maintenance Worker I
- Benjamin Caldwell**
Public Works Maintenance Worker I

PROMOTIONS

- Maria Warnke**
Senior Departmental Administrative Analyst
- John Struckmeyer**
Lead Heavy Equipment Operator
- Emily Olaguez Ruiz**
Public Works Maintenance Worker I
- Gilbert Gallegos**
Sanitation Maintenance Worker II
- Kristine Conley**
Senior Engineering Associate
- Michael Sandobal**
Public Works Maintenance Worker II
- Edgar Zuniga**
Public Works Maintenance Worker II
- Anthony Chacon**
Public Works Maintenance Worker II

RETIREES

Tim Goncharoff



(Above) Say hello to our cool dump visitors.

(Right) Christina Horvat & Mary Ann LoBalbo "talking trash" with Rosie Chalmers from KSCO.



(Bottom) Out staff and volunteers hard at work at the Santa Cruz County Fair.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"It is not joy that makes us grateful. It is gratitude that makes us joyful"

David Steindl-Rast

