



WWTF Neighborhood News



FROM THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

NOVEMBER 2022

Providing
quality-of-life service
to the community while
helping to reduce the
City's carbon footprint
and protecting the
environment.

Dear Neighbors:

All of us at the Wastewater Treatment Facility hope that you and your family are healthy as the COVID-19 pandemic continues with new strains.

Here at the plant we are making headway with our various construction projects. They will continue throughout the year and so we appreciate your patience. These infrastructure improvements will not only ensure safe wastewater treatment for many years to come, but they will transform the plant into a "recycled" water facility!

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BRING RECYCLED WATER

As part of the Soquel Creek Water District's Pure Water Soquel project, a new recycled water facility is being built here at the WWTF. It will reduce our discharge of secondary effluent and will provide recycled water for two purposes.

First, it will provide wastewater treated to secondary standards as source water for the Pure Water Soquel project. The project will provide a reliable supplemental water supply for the community and prevent seawater from contaminating groundwater. It includes the installation of about 8 miles

of pipeline under various streets between Santa Cruz and Aptos. These pipelines will carry source water from our facility to the Chanticleer Advanced Water Purification Facility (under construction) in the Live Oak area. From there, highly purified water will be piped to three Seawater Intrusion Prevention (SWIP) wells where it will be introduced into the groundwater basin.

The new recycled water facility here at the plant will also provide an increased capacity to produce over 200,000 daily gallons of Title 22 ter-

tiary water. This water will be used onsite at our facility for cleaning and other work. In the future, Title 22 tertiary water may be provided for offsite use as well such as irrigation of La Barranca Park and a bulk water fill station for construction dust control.

The new recycled water facility is a regional collaboration between the Soquel Water Creek District and the City of Santa Cruz. Work is in progress with estimated completion in 2024.





STATE-OF-THE-ART ULTRAVIOLET DISINFECTION SYSTEM IS UP AND RUNNING!

We have completed installation of our new ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system. New technology, controls and lamps will be providing significant energy savings and reducing operating costs.

UV disinfection is part of the final treatment process for secondary effluent wastewater before ocean discharge as prescribed in the State of California Ocean Plan. UV is an alternate disinfection used instead of chlorine

gas or sodium hypochlorite (strong bleach). This UV process also provides compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit effluent limitations.

The new system is significantly more efficient, using only one-third of the energy as our previous UV system which was installed in 1997 and operated until construction began for this project in 2020.

Laboratory Helps Measure Recreational Water Pollution and Covid-19 Virus Levels

We are proud that our Environmental Laboratory was one of 16 laboratories across the country selected for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and National Institute Standards of Technology's (NIST) successful validation testing in the development of a standard to improve pollution measurements in recreational waters. This new "NIST SRM 2917" can also be used to support storm water management, food production monitoring, wastewater surveillance and outbreak exposure route identification.

Our lab staff also processes samples for generating data on the Wastewater SCAN Dashboard of SARS-CoV-2 and Monkey Pox viruses. There, through community wastewater partnerships, you can see SARS-CoV-2 and Monkey pox virus levels for Santa Cruz and other communities.

Visit: cityofsantacruz.com/environmentalcompliance.

Temporary Odors

We apologize for any strong odors you may have encountered recently. Rest assured that these odors do not reflect any toxicity or airborne health hazards.



We believe that our current construction projects may have contributed to these elevated odors. This is an unfortunate part of the important infrastructure improvements that will ensure safe treatment for years to come.

We respond to odor complaints with hydrogen sulfide meters to detect and quantify H₂S. All readings to date remain very low within acceptable parameters. We also recently completed an extensive Human Health Risk Assessment of all air emission sources throughout the facility per Monterey Bay Air Resources District guidelines and have not found anything unusual in the collection system.



Solar Panels, Cogeneration, Hydroturbines and Wind Generators Are All On the Net Zero Agenda in Santa Cruz

By James Careless, TPO Magazine, July 2022 (excerpt)

Amanda Bird is on a mission to achieve net zero energy at the Santa Cruz (California) Wastewater Treatment Facility.

To Bird, senior wastewater treatment operator and interim operations supervisor, that means obtaining all the power needed to run the facility from renewable energy sources.

"We're trying to do this through a range of renewable options," she says. "Here at the facility, we burn methane gas created by our treatment process to generate electricity. We have solar panels as well that help provide power during the daytime." At night, the facility sources power from external green energy producers.

"We're not at net zero yet, but 90% of our power is generated from renewable green resources," says Bird. "It may take us another 30 years to get there, but we're on the right track. For instance, we can always install small wind turbines on site and put paddlewheel generators in line between our tanks and use falling water to drive them.



"We simply strive to reduce our purchased energy in order to reduce our overall facility operation costs, a cost savings we pass on to our customers."

Bird's passion is genuine and strong. Her devotion to the wastewater industry and her skills explain why she received the 2020-21 Operator of the Year award from the California Water Environment Association.



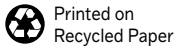
We offer several opportunities to join our award-winning team at the WWTF both with and without a college degree requirement. Perhaps you or someone you know will be interested in joining our dynamic team with on-the-job training. Read the details of these entry-level job openings at: cityofsantacruz.com/wastewatercareers.





WWTF Neighborhood News, November 2022
Janice Bisgaard, Editor
City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility
110 California St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 420-6050 cityofsantacruz.com

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SANTA CRUZ, CA
PERMIT #505



WIPES LABELING BILL BECOMES LAW

How to #FlushSmart

Just because things are small enough
to flush doesn't mean you should.

Flushing these items down the toilet can damage
homes, schools, businesses, water treatment
systems and our environment.

DO NOT FLUSH!!!

Baby Care/ Sanitary Items



Baby wipes



Diapers



Sanitary pads



Tampons &
condoms



Toilet paper
tubes, packaging

Grooming Items



Facial wipes,
tissue



Cotton swabs,
Balls, Pads



Makeup sponges,
sheet masks



Dental floss, teeth
whitening strips



Hair, hair weaves

Household Items



Cleaning wipes



Paper towels,
rags



Cooking oil, grease,
fats, and motor oil



Medicines, syringes,
bandages



Trash, cat litter,
charcoal, food items

In October 2021, California's AB 818 was signed into law by Governor Newsom making California the fourth state to require "Do Not Flush" labeling on non-flushable wipes. The new law avoids the contentious issue of setting flushability standards for wipes that are designed to be flushed, focusing instead on the important "Do Not Flush" labeling that provides consumers with a clear message that these types of wipes should not be flushed.

Prevent clogs and overflows, headaches and plumbing bills: Don't flush wipes—even if the label says "flushable"!

TAKE A VIRTUAL FACILITY TOUR!

Follow our senior operations staff Dave Meyers and Amanda Bird. See what happens to 7 million gallons of wastewater daily as it travels from your home and through our treatment facility for environmentally friendly, all-natural processing at: cityofsantacruz.com/wastewater.

