



WWTF Neighborhood News



FROM THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

DECEMBER 2023

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

Dear Neighbors:

Here at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, much progress has been made with our various construction projects. We continue our appreciation of your patience and hope that you will soon celebrate the completion of our new recycled water facility with us. The ribbon-cutting is expected in early 2024. We will let you know when and where!

Title 22/Recycled Water Facility Nears Completion!

Currently, our secondary effluent flows out to Monterey Bay through an outfall pipe. When our recycled water facility is completed, some of the effluent will be diverted to the pump station pictured above. Water from the pumps will feed effluent to two systems: Pure Water Soquel's Chanticleer Advanced Water Purification Facility, and our



City of Santa Cruz Title 22 reclamation system. The pumps will automatically respond to demand for water in both systems, using our new tall communications tower to send and receive signals between the facilities.

The recycled water facility will provide a supplemental water supply for the community and prevent seawater from contaminating groundwater. It will also provide over 200,000 gallons per day of Title 22 tertiary water for use here at the WWTF. Eventually, it will provide water for off-site City of Santa Cruz use as well.



The Title 22 reclamation system will utilize a three-stage process to remove contaminants. The first stage is a pair of automatic self-cleaning strainers that remove the largest particles of solids. There is plumbing in place to allow possible future expansion of the system with a third strainer.

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Pollution Prevention Celebration

At our Pollution Prevention Week dinner in September, Mayor Keeley presented Clean Ocean Business awards to local vehicle service and food service facilities in recognition of their best practices that protect Monterey Bay and local waterways by keeping pollutants away from both storm

drains and the sewer system. The awards recognize five, 10, 15 and 20 years of such consistent practices. A total of 66 facilities received awards this year. The complete list of awardees is available at cityofsantacruz.com/cleanoceanbusiness.



Bronwyn Eyre accepted the award honoring Engfer Pizza Works as a 20-Year Clean Ocean Business.



Clean Ocean Business best practices include the installation of carbon filtration systems to clean groundwater before discharge to the sanitary sewer.



Clean Ocean vehicle service facilities include spill response plans and "looped" covered wash systems to contain wastewater.

Look for the Clean Ocean Business emblem at these distinguished local businesses.



Clean Ocean food manufacturing facilities often install pretreatment clarifiers to reduce solids being discharged to the sanitary sewer. They install cooking air filters and various means of preventing cooking oil and grease from infiltrating wastewater.



Our Environmental Compliance Team: Inspectors Fred Baker, Mike Kelly, Manager Akin Babatola, and Senior Inspector Dave Martin.

Our Pollution Prevention dinner also highlighted the important work performed by our Environmental Compliance team. They maintain our commitments to the environment including the ordinances covering the storm drain system and the wastewater sewer system. They manage our partnerships in pharmaceutical diversion from wastewater and environmental waters.

In September, City Council approved their proposed changes to the municipal code to increase the safety of wastewater discharges from industrial users into our Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment System.

In recent months, the team also prepared detailed documentation for the renewal of our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board will review their work at a public hearing in December when our permit is expected to be renewed for another five years. The Board inspects how we discharge secondary treated municipal wastewater to the Pacific Ocean. This discharge will be permitted to include reverse osmosis concentrate and off-specification water from the Pure Water Soquel Advanced Water Purification Facility.



RAIL TRAIL SEGMENT 7, PHASE II BRINGS PLANT UPGRADES

We have reaped some unexpected rewards from the construction of Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7, Phase II that runs alongside our facility. It has replaced existing utility lines with new lines as follows: 8-inch water; communication including AT&T and Comcast; a spare, empty, conduit line that will become an electrical line; a spare, empty, 12-inch steel casing for our future 6-inch recycled water line under the railroad tracks.

This Coastal Rail Trail project will create 0.8 miles of paved, multiuse path from Bay and California streets to Pacific Avenue. Construction was delayed by last winter's storms and utility work, however, it is expected to be completed in late February 2024. The project connects to the recently completed Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7/Phase I, which serves over 600 active transportation users per day as measured by automated counter in 2021. We hope to see you on the trail in the new year!



Congrats to our team members for bringing home 5 California Water Environment Association Awards!



ROME NORMAN



AKIN BABATOLA



ARMANDO DELOERA

Our dedicated staff have been recognized with five 2022-23 awards by the California Water Environment Association-Monterey Bay Section.

Both Wastewater Collection/Flood Control Manager Rome Norman and Environmental Compliance and Laboratory Manager Akin Babatola received Quarter Century Awards for their commitment to improving the quality of life and the protection of the environment with 25 years of experience in the water environment industry.

Supervisor Armando DeLoera was honored with the Supervisor of the Year Award in recognition of his successful mentoring of team members, professional development, and effective communication.

Wastewater Field Crew Leader Jim Locatelli and Senior Wastewater Collection Maintenance Technologist Erik Pedersen won the Collection System Gimmicks & Gadgets Award. Their innovative "Sewer Snatcher" creatively removed a gasket lodged in

the sewer main avoiding replacement of the sewer line which would have cost thousands of dollars in both supplies and staff time.

And the Wastewater Treatment Facility Tour community engagement video was recognized with a Community Engagement and Outreach: Film Festival Award for its public education helping to inform the public and change behaviors and attitudes. The video can be viewed in English and Spanish at cityofsantacruz.com/wastewater.

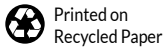
Thank you Rome, Akin, Armando, Jim, and Erik. We appreciate the many skills, ongoing commitment, creativity, and teamwork reflected in these awards!





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Recycled Water Facility *continued from cover page*



The second stage is a disc media filter. Water passes through double-sided fabric discs, removing finely divided solids. Multiple sets of fabric discs allow the filter to backwash itself in stages while maintaining continuous operation.



The final step in the Title 22 water reclamation process is disinfection by UV light. Pictured above is the reaction vessel that houses the high-intensity UV lamps. Disinfecting with UV, and adding a minimal amount of chlorine bleach will create reclaimed water that is safe to reuse for irrigation both inside and outside the treatment facility, and safe for human body contact.

**All of the equipment has been installed.
We are now in the final commissioning
phase before project completion!**

ALWAYS REMEMBER THE 3 “P”s!

Have you seen our humorous video yet?



It underscores the only three things that should be flushed down the toilet 😊. Check it out at cityofsantacruz.com/wastewater.

Our booth at the Water Harvest Festival at Chanticleer County Park in October was a hit! Environmental Compliance inspectors guided about 75 kids through interactive water pollution detective games. The youth enjoyed wearing official lab coats and goggles during microscope, pH, and Imhoff Cone experiment activities—all of which underscored how to prevent water pollution. The inspectors spoke to many adults as well with over 200 table visits.

