

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

BIG CHANGES COMING FOR RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE

Kasey Kolassa, Recycling and Solid Waste Services Manager

Landfills will soon be a thing of the past in Santa Cruz County. The Buena Vista Landfill is nearing capacity and will likely close in less than ten years. Given the political environment in California, new landfills in our area are very unlikely. So what to do?

The County already has a waste transfer station in Ben Lomond, where trash is dropped off and then loaded into large trucks and transported elsewhere for disposal. Much of this goes to the Monterey Regional Waste Management District landfill in Marina, in Monterey County. A similar approach is being planned for the Buena Vista Landfill. Plans are being developed for a transfer station, which will handle waste from the rest of the County in a similar fashion. The facility may include sorting equipment to ensure that the County's current high level of recycling is maintained or improved upon. The County will also be investing in new trucks to haul the material, and is prioritizing electric vehicles to minimize the carbon footprint of transport.

A recent study found that up to 40% of what goes into the landfill is food waste and other organic matter. Removing this from the waste stream is a high priority, as decaying organic material produces methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. The County is also planning a large new compost facility at the Buena Vista landfill to turn organic waste into soil supplements to return nutrients to the ground, a boon for the local agriculture industry. Santa Cruz County has been composting food waste from local businesses for 15 years, and will soon be rolling out the same service for local residents.



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Valencia School Road (above) and White Road (below) storm damage that occurred on 1/28/21 totaling \$1.7 million in damage. Emergency repairs are planned to be underway in May 2021.



CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRE—DPW RESPONSE

Steve Wiesner, Assistant Director of Public Works



Damage to DPW Facilities:

- Destruction of nearly 15,000 LF of water supply line in Davenport.
- Partial Destruction of the CSA 7 Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Destruction of 419 roadside signs.
- Destruction of 3585 LF of Guard Rail.
- Destruction of 32 Culverts and associated drainage facilities.
- Destruction of the Swanton Road Bridge over Mill Creek.
- Nearly 9,000 roadside trees impacted by the fire were assessed as dangerous.

Restoration to DPW Facilities to Date:

- Water Supply Line in Davenport is fully restored.
- Restoration of CSA 7 Wastewater Treatment Plant is nearly complete.
- All roadside signs have been replaced.
- Nearly 1000 LF of Guard Rail has been replaced.
- All burned out culverts and drainage facilities have been rebuilt.
- 92% of all the dangerous roadside trees have been removed.

The CZU Lightning Complex Fire was ignited by an intense lightning storm the morning of August 16, 2020 and within two days after multiple fires began in the Santa Cruz Mountains, a change in wind conditions caused these fires to rapidly expand and merge, quickly growing to over 40,000 acres ultimately burning 86,509 acres in both Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. The blaze is one of the largest natural disasters to impact our County and destroyed 1,490 structures, including 911 homes.

The week the fire started, DPW personnel sprang into action supporting several arms of the County's coordinated emergency response, including the unprecedented evacuation of over 60,000 County residents from North Coast communities, the entire San Lorenzo Valley, and the City of Scotts Valley. DPW staff worked around the clock at the EOC, assisted at shelters and provided critical field support during the event. While the fire was still very active during the first week, DPW Road Crew members acted as first responders assisting Calfire in clearing roads of fallen trees and debris to aide in fire-fighting operations. By week two, DPW Roads and Sanitation staff mobilized inspection teams and began assessing damage to nearly 50 miles of County maintained roads, CSA 7 - Boulder Creek Golf Course Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Town of Davenport's water supply line. DPW's staff participation during this disaster event was exemplary with nearly 150 staff members contributing to the overall emergency response. Thank you DPW for your commitment to Public Service! We are proud to serve side by side with our incredible staff.



LA SELVA BEACH BRANCH LIBRARY

Damon Adlao, Project Manager



The Capital Projects Division of Public Works is pleased to announce the completion of the La Selva Beach Branch Library Remodel project. The project renovated the interior of the Branch, roughly 2000 square feet, of the La Selva Beach Branch Library for the Santa Cruz Public Library system. Utilizing Measure S Bond monies, this project included new electrical, HVAC, a new ADA bathroom, new entry-way, modern finishes and furniture, and updated technology. The La Selva Beach Branch Library is beloved by the local community and is located on a site which is utilized by the entire community for library programs. The project was designed by Jayson Architecture and built by C2 Builders. The design and construction team is very happy with how it turned out and are eager to hear how the community is able to fully utilize their new space. Once it opens, please visit the branch when you have the chance and let us know what you think!





DPW UPDATES

**EARTH DAY
51ST
ANNUAL
EVENT**



April 22, 2021

This year, Earth Day will be a virtual event in most of California. Santa Cruz County Public Works Earth Day event will be held online at searthday.org. Check for updates and event information—we'll see you there!



By formal proclamation from the Board of Supervisors, the Public Works Department will celebrate National Public Works Week from May 16 through May 22, 2021 with a national theme of "Stronger Together".



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Theodore Roosevelt

NEW EMPLOYEES

Brandon Shimizu

Parking Attendant

Anna Ward

Cashier Disposal Site

Daisy Vega

Cashier Disposal Site

Adriana Gutierrez

Cashier Disposal Site

Katey Higham

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

Angela Smith

Personnel Payroll Clerk

Victor Vega

Sanitation Maintenance Worker I

Cesar Vizcaino

Public Works Maintenance Worker I

PROMOTIONS

Chris Kaajisa

Sanitation Maintenance Worker III

Matthew Penick

Public Works Maintenance Worker IV

Joshua Miller

Public Works Maintenance Worker II

Taylor Walton

Public Works Maintenance Worker II

Bryan Wardlow

Engineering Tech II

Michael Rible

Electrical Instrumentation Tech II

Alex Sandoval

Road Superintendent

Nickolas Thomas

Public Works Maintenance Worker III

Sandro Garcia

Sanitation Maintenance Worker II

Francisco Zamudio

Sanitation Maintenance Worker III

John Williams

Public Works Maintenance Worker II

Ariel Craig

Public Works Maintenance Worker III

RETIREES

Michael Malwaukie

Paul Kleinhesselink

Steven Nail

Randall Doering

Laura Pendo

Vance Wagner

Thomas Speziale

Rodolfo Rivas

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