

BEHIND THE SCENES OF STORM WORK

2018 Annual Water Quality Report

The 2018 Water Quality Report is available.

Visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water to view the report to learn more about the sources and quality of your drinking water.

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The City's Public Works Department prepares for storms months in advance.

The City's Public Works Department is divided into seven divisions. While most have a role in storm preparedness and response, the Streets Operations & Infrastructure Management Division has a special role to ensure public safety and protect our infrastructure. The Streets Division prepares for storms, patrols streets during storm events, fights floods, and repairs flood damage. Preparation begins months before the rainy season arrives.

Preparation

The Streets Division has crews that routinely inspect every inlet and catch basin connected to our vast system of storm drains. These inspections determine if our system is clean and able to support storm flows as designed. If debris is found in pipes or catch basins, the crew will vacuum and clean out the debris. If other blockages are found, Streets staff will make the necessary repairs to get that system working properly. Sometimes that includes a complete replacement or redesign of the system. The goal is to have all of our storm drain infrastructure ready for any storm event the City will face. The Streets Division also must make sure that the Laguna Pump Station is ready to operate, and that the Laguna Channel and all of our creeks are free of debris that could cause flooding.

Storm Patrol

Prior to a storm event, Streets crews are divided into eight maintenance sections, with two crews assigned to each section. Other staff are assigned to operate critical systems, like the Laguna Pump Station, while others are assigned the responsibility of heavy equipment operation if needed.

During the event, crews will patrol their sections, providing an active response to any problems that they may encounter: mud slides, debris flows, plugged storm drain inlets, failed storm pipes, sink holes in City streets, and the accumulation of debris on our bridges. The crews carry all the signage needed to close streets and warn the public of flooded areas and other hazards.

Flood Fighting

The Streets Division is a First Responder to emergencies during rain events. Streets crews work closely with public safety personnel to respond to life-threatening events, providing heavy equipment support to clear roads or provide emergency egress for the public. There are times that crews will be actively engaged in protecting property or lives by diverting water and debris flows with sandbags, K-rails, and other devices. They also move debris from mud slides to disposal sites.

Repairs

After a major rain event, crews begin the cleanup and repair of our public right-of-way. This includes patching potholes, repairing sink holes, replacing storm drains, repairing washed-out sections of street, and clearing debris from the roadway. Sometimes fallen trees break up sidewalks, curbs, and gutters that have to be replaced. In some cases, during major storms, crews will work with contractors to remove and dispose large amounts of debris, including mud, rocks, trees, and wrecked cars. Crews must be prepared to face any number of adverse conditions and respond calmly and effectively. Storm preparation and response is just one of the many responsibilities of the Streets Division. Although these are not everyday tasks, they are a critical part of the service provided by City Public Works.



City of Santa Barbara
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ATTEND THE STRATEGIC ENERGY PLAN STAKEHOLDER SYMPOSIUM



Provide your feedback to help the City move toward a 100% renewable energy future.

Attend the City's Strategic Energy Plan Stakeholder Symposium, on March 14, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Central Library's Faulkner Gallery and provide your feedback.

In 2017, the City adopted a resolution to transition to 100% renewable electricity communitywide by 2030. The City is now developing a Strategic Energy Plan to identify local policy options for both municipal facilities and the community as a whole to move toward a 100% renewable future. The Strategic Energy Plan will assess the need for a local agency, facilitate siting potential, identify funding resources, and promote public-private partnerships to accelerate energy improvements and advanced energy concepts within the city limits.

Please RSVP to Aparenteau@SantaBarbaraca.gov

THIS FIX A LEAK WEEK, CHASE DOWN HIDDEN LEAKS IN YOUR HOME

Minor household leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of wasted water every year in the U.S.—that's enough water to fill Lake Cachuma more than 15 times! National Fix a Leak Week takes place March 18 – 24, but remember that you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home all year long.

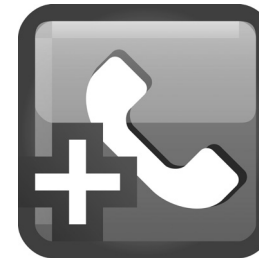
To find hidden leaks on your property, take a photo of your water meter before and after a period when no water is to be used, such as during your work day. The numbers on the meter work like an odometer in a car and will increase as water goes through the meter. If the meter read changes when water was not supposed to be used, you probably have a leak. Common household leaks include silent toilet leaks, breaks and holes in drip and sprinkler systems, water softeners, water heaters, and faucets and fixtures.

For more information on how to read your meter and find and repair leaks, visit SantaBarbaraca.gov/Leaks. The City's Water Conservation Program is here to help everyone save water with a free Water Checkup appointment. Call (805) 564-5460 for more information. Let's save together!



Find and fix household leaks this Fix a Leak Week

CAN WE REACH YOU IN CASE OF UNUSUAL ACTIVITY IN YOUR WATER ACCOUNT?



Update your contact information so we can reach you.

When City Water Resources staff notices an unusual increase in your water usage, they will attempt to contact you to alert you of a possible leak on your property. To ensure we can reach you in a timely matter, please update the contact information on your account if it has changed. To update your contact information, call Utility Billing at (805) 564-5343.

Upcoming Water Wise Classes!



**Rainwater
Harvesting 101**
Tuesday, March 5th



**Graywater
101**
Monday, March 11th

**Water Wise Plant
Maintenance 101**
Thursday, March 21st

All classes are scheduled from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
at the Louise Lowry Davis Center
located at 1232 De La Vina St. Santa Barbara CA, 93101.

\$10 suggested donation to Sweetwater Collaborative.

Classes are provided by Sweetwater Collaborative
and sponsored in part by the City of Santa Barbara.

For more information, visit SantaBarbaraca.gov/GardenClasses

