

MESA LAUNDROMAT RECOGNIZED AS 2020 CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATER HERO

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Lalo and Maribel Rivera, owners of the Mesa Laundromat, won the 2020 Water Hero Award for saving 285,000 gallons a year due to washing machine upgrades.

Every year, the City of Santa Barbara Water Conservation Program honors an individual, business, or organization that has gone above and beyond in their water conservation efforts and serves as an example of resource efficiency in our community. The Mesa Laundromat has been awarded the 2020 Water Hero Award for significantly reducing water usage through upgrades to their washing machines.

The Mesa Laundromat has been an important part of the mesa neighborhood for 25 years and the current owners, Maribel and Lalo Rivera, have owned it for five years. "Since we took over, we have been welcomed by the Santa Barbara community and the mesa. We've got great customers who have been coming here for years," said Mrs. Rivera.

Due to city and statewide drought conditions, the Riveras were motivated to look for opportunities to save water at their business. "During the drought we noticed that water levels

were going down and we wanted to do our share and we felt that this was the best way that we could contribute to the city," said Mrs. Rivera. In November 2018, the Riveras replaced 17 of their washing machines with newer, more efficient models. The old washers used an average of 60 gallons of water per load, but the new high-efficiency washers use an average of 12 gallons per load. "The old washers were designed to hold a lot of water in the bottom of the drum, which is called dead water, and has no use. The new washers have a better design which eliminates the dead water and that alone saves many gallons of water per cycle," stated Mr. Rivera.

The Riveras were able to fund the project, in part, by participating in the City's WaterWise Survey and Incentive Program for commercial, institutional and industrial properties. The program entails City staff working with business owners to identify cost-effective water efficiency upgrades and by providing funding to help cover a portion of the cost of the upgrades. The Mesa Laundromat received a rebate of \$15,000 for the 17 machine replacements, saving about 24,000 gallons of water per month and over 285,000 gallons per year. The success of this project also incentivized them to replace the older washers in their other laundromat, the Professional Wash Center in Carpinteria.

In addition to the water and sewer bill savings, the Riveras are also seeing savings on their electricity and natural gas bills. "The motors have inverter controls which makes the motor go faster with less electricity consumption. Therefore, the laundry comes out almost dry so you spend less time in the drier, saving gas as well," said Mr. Rivera.

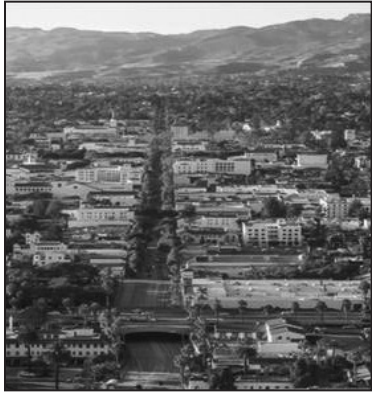
The new washing machines have not only proven to be a benefit to the environment, but to the Mesa Laundromat customers as well. "Our customers are very pleased with the changes. They feel that the washers still perform well as far as getting their laundry clean and when we talk about the amount of water we're saving everybody is very happy. We're glad to hear all the positive comments we've gotten and we've had a lot more new customers because of that," said Mrs. Rivera.

The Mesa Laundromat is committed to water efficiency and serving as a role model for sustainability. Congratulations to the Mesa Laundromat for being a Water Hero! For more information visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterHero.



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FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN STATE STREET COMMUNITY SURVEY



Help the City shape the future of Downtown State Street by taking the community survey.

In late May 2020 in response to the pandemic and public health restrictions, the City closed State Street in downtown from Haley to Sola streets to vehicular traffic on a temporary basis to create a pedestrian promenade, encourage shopping and facilitate outdoor dining. Due to the strong community interest in this new downtown environment, the City Council formed a State Street Subcommittee to oversee the visioning effort for the future of Downtown State Street. To facilitate the visioning City staff have been meeting with a number of commissions, committees and stakeholder organizations to gather their feedback and input. More importantly, the City wants to hear from residents about what they envision for the future of Downtown State Street and has released an on-line survey in both English and Spanish. The survey will be open through the month of January. The survey is available at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/StateStreet.

Additionally, Downtown Ambassadors will be conducting in person surveys on State Street and recording the responses on tablets. Examples of the questions that the community will be asked include: what can be improved on State Street, what issues should Council take into consideration and what would bring people downtown. The survey also asks residents what they hope State Street and downtown will be like in ten years and what they hope doesn't change.

"We are asking the community to tell us what they believe Downtown State Street should be like, and what experiences and activities they would like to see on State Street in the future" said Councilmember Meagan Harmon, Chair of the State Street Subcommittee. "We are excited about what State Street can be and what our residents have to say."

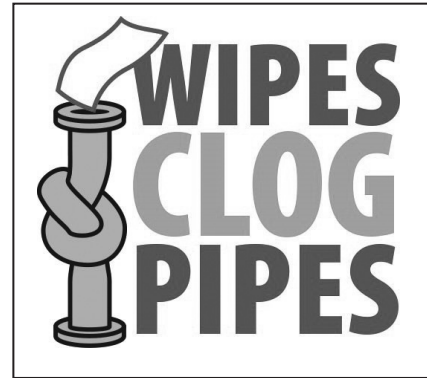
The community survey will close at midnight, January 31, 2021. Staff will present the collective feedback to the State Street Subcommittee and the subcommittee will be asked to create a vision statement based on the collective feedback received that defines the future of Downtown State Street for Council's consideration. The vision statement will guide the decisions for the future of State Street.

The survey is available at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/StateStreet.

The public is invited to participate in the State Street Subcommittee meetings in January or view past meetings or presentations, the State Street Subcommittee webpage can be found at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityCouncil.

Comments and questions can be emailed to the State Street Subcommittee at FutureStateStreet@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

WIPES CLOG PIPES



Paper towels, disinfecting wipes and similar items are not flushable and can cause damage to pipes, pumps, and other wastewater treatment equipment.

As our community continues with protective measures against coronavirus by disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, we want to remind you that paper towels, disinfecting wipes, and any other items outside pee, poo, and paper (the 3 Ps), should be disposed of in the trash, not in the toilet. These wipes and other items do not break down in sewer or septic systems and can damage your home's internal plumbing as well as local wastewater collection systems. So called

"flushable wipes" can clog your toilet and create sewer backups in your home or neighborhood. Learn more about what to flush at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WTF.

INDIO MUERTO STREET RENAMED HUTASH STREET



In December, Indio Muerto Street was renamed Hutash Street during a virtual renaming ceremony.

In spring of this year, the Barbareño Chumash Tribal Council requested that the City rename Indio Muerto Street, Spanish for "Dead Indian" to Hutash Street, a Chumash term for "Earth Mother." The City has a well-established history of its original street names. However, the City Council determined that the street name was not appropriate

and voted on September 29 to rename the street Hutash, effective December 14, 2020. In December, the City held a virtual renaming event. If you missed it, you can view the video by visiting: youtu.be/WIHj-E-7NGs.