

# Cyclist struck, killed on Mission Street in Santa Cruz

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SANTA CRUZ -- A quarry truck with a trailer apparently ran over a bicyclist at the intersection of Mission and Bay streets about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, killing the cyclist.

## Cyclists ride in mourning

Cyclists are invited to 'Take Mission' in a ride of mourning this evening to remember cyclists who have died on the busy thoroughfare. Anyone interested should meet at the Santa Cruz Town Clock at 5 p.m. and wear black.

Santa Cruz police Capt. Steve Clark said officers believe they have found the driver of the quarry truck, who may not have realized the accident occurred.

According to Clark, the bicyclist, a 40-year-old Santa Cruz man, and the truck were traveling next to each other toward downtown on Mission Street at 10 to 15 mph. Both were in the lane closest to the curb when the truck overtook the bicyclist and struck him.

The cyclist was riding a black, single-speed cruiser and was not wearing a helmet, Clark said. His name has not been released pending notification of family.

Witness Matt Cleaver, 27, was riding in a pickup behind the cement truck when the accident happened. Cleaver said it appeared the quarry truck clipped and ran over the bicyclist with the trailer.

"The big rig [driver] probably didn't even see it," Cleaver said.

Ted Fairbanks, 41, said he heard yelling outside Sylvan Music, where he works, and ran out to help with CPR. However, it was clear the cyclist was already dead, Fairbanks said, and he did not continue with resuscitation.

The truck and driver suspected in the accident were found at Highway 9 and River Street, Clark said.

Officers said Thursday evening they were still investigating where both the driver and cyclist were traveling to and from.

This is the second fatal accident at that intersection in eight months. A Pacific Collegiate School teacher riding a bike died on Aug. 7 at the same intersection. Four days earlier a female bicyclist suffered major injuries when she was hit by a gravel truck.

"I'm really, really upset," said Micah Posner, director of bicycle advocacy group People Power.

Posner said he will continue to push the state for signs letting motorists know that cyclists can take the entire right-hand lane on Mission Street, as it is the only safe way to ride, he said. Caltrans has jurisdiction over Mission Street, as it is part of Highway 1.

Traffic on Mission Street was backed up for blocks Tuesday afternoon.

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