
In Adelanto, a clown, a fridge and a dispute over transparency

By Shea Johnson

Staff Writer



Posted Jun 18, 2017 at 5:57 PM

Updated Jun 18, 2017 at 5:57 PM

The scene confused a deputy city clerk while Johnny Salazar, a one-time medical marijuana adviser to the city, admonished its top two policymakers for lacking transparency.

ADELANTO — A clown strutted into council chambers rolling a mini-refrigerator down the aisle. The scene confused a deputy city clerk while Johnny Salazar, a one-time medical marijuana adviser to the city, admonished its top two policymakers for lacking transparency.

Salazar's return to the chambers for Wednesday's Council meeting — his first in months — **underscored the tense relationship between Salazar and Mayor Rich Kerr and Mayor Pro Tem Jermaine Wright** since the city's prosecutor accused Salazar in February of fraudulently acquiring a business license for "wholesale medical marijuana" and opening an illegal dispensary.

He has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor charge. And instead he has chided Kerr and Wright for renegeing on promises to shield two ultimately shutdown dispensaries from enforcement and to push forward a nonprofit program to benefit veterans and seniors.

Salazar has used the fractured ties as a launch point for lobbying accusations of side deals and improprieties, which both Kerr and Wright have rejected as wholly false, suggesting Salazar plays loose with the truth.

When E.T. Snell, a self-described political activist who often dresses in colorful clown garb to accentuate his points, appeared with Salazar on Wednesday, his role was to return the mini-refrigerator to Wright.

Wright has acknowledged donating the fridge for Salazar's store on Bartlett Avenue, which city officials have said was expected to be solely a medical marijuana information center. The fridge was to keep cold juices for the community, Wright has said, although Salazar contends the mayor pro tem knew it was meant to store marijuana brownies.

The information center was never to be as Salazar, armed with a disputed license he touted as permitting his dispensary, began selling medical cannabis to patients before being closed down.

"Don't lie to the people," Salazar told Wright when the mayor pro tem reiterated the intention for the fridge Wednesday. "You've lied to me enough."

Salazar also urged the city to publicize the qualifications for **the four pot dispensary licenses the city will ultimately issue** and to employ a lottery system to ensure the licenses are dished out fairly.

"That would be righteous, that would be transparent," he said. "That would be the way to do it."

Wright took exception to Salazar "going after my integrity" and when Salazar suggested Kerr would not be re-elected, the mayor ordered him to "leave my chambers now."

Kerr said that had Salazar not sold marijuana at stores on Highway 395 and Bartlett Avenue, he "would have had the seniors and the veterans of the High Desert an honorary dispensary license that Jermaine and I were working on," which essentially would have enabled revenue to be deposited into a nonprofit to support those sub-populations.

"He screwed himself," Kerr said. "Sorry, guys."

Salazar disputes the narrative and has committed, he said, to exposing the corruption he claims has perverted the industry he worked early on to bring to Adelanto.

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Mountain Pass sells for \$20.5 million

Chinese-led consortium picks up America's only rare earths mining operation

Andrew Topf (<http://www.mining.com/author/andrewtopf/>) | 3 days ago | 👍 2,374 | 💬 0



Aerial view of Mountain Pass rare earths processing facility, courtesy of Molycorp.

The new owner of the Mountain Pass rare earths mine in California is MP Mine Operations LLC – a Chinese-led consortium including rare earths miner Shenghe Resources.

The mine, which was the only functioning rare earths mine in the US before it went bankrupt in 2015, went up for auction on Wednesday.

MP Mine Operations (MPMO) put in a winning bid of \$20.5 million, half a million above the competing consortium made up of ERP Strategic Minerals LLP, Swiss private equity firm Pala Investments and Peak Resources (ASX:PEK), an Australian rare earths company. The losing consortium also includes two creditor groups from the bankruptcy of Molycorp, the mine's former owner.

The eventual sale price was significantly higher than ERP's original "stalking horse" offer of \$1.2 million back in April. The deal still faces scrutiny from regulators, who may take issue with foreign ownership of a strategic asset. Rare earths are used in a number of important economic and strategic applications including magnets for green technologies like wind turbines and hybrid cars, aircraft engines and computer hard drives.

Mountain Pass was the only rare earths mine operating in the United States, before it went bankrupt in 2015 – a victim of low rare earth oxide prices. At the time Molycorp listed \$1.7 billion in debt. Through bankruptcy proceedings Molycorp was restructured, allowing it to receive \$130 million in debt financing.

NEWS > POLITICS

Will there be layoffs? We answer this and other questions about Riverside County's \$5.5 billion budget



File photo

Riverside County's budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 will be discussed this week by the county Board of Supervisors at the County Administrative Center in downtown Riverside.

By **JEFF HORSEMAN** | jhorseman@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
June 18, 2017 at 6:09 am



Riverside County supervisors Monday, June 19, will go over the county's budget for the new fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Rather than read [847 pages full of numbers and accounting terms](#), you can get answers about the budget here.

Q: How big is it?

A: The fiscal 2017/18 budget calls for \$5.5 billion in spending, down 2.2 percent from the current budget.



Riverside University Health System – Medical Center in Moreno Valley is just one of the services provided by Riverside County government.

It's a lot, but keep in mind that Riverside County is geographically about the size of New Jersey. And it has more than 2 million people, making it one of the [10 most populated counties in America](#).

County government is one of the area's largest employers with about 20,000 workers. It's also counted on to provide police, firefighters and social services, run a hospital, prosecute crimes, run five jails, provide lawyers for indigent criminal defendants and a host of other duties, from code enforcement to managing airports and maintaining parks.

The five elected supervisors have direct control over only about \$756 million, or roughly 14 percent, of the total budget. The rest is money primarily from Sacramento and Washington, D.C., designated for specific programs.

Q: How's the county doing financially?

A: It's under pressure. Revenues are growing, but it's not enough to keep up with a series of new, ongoing and inflexible costs.

Q: Like what?

A: In 2012, supervisors gave pay raises to unionized workers, who agreed to pay more toward their pensions and accept a lower tier of retirement benefits for new hires. That caused a ripple effect that boosted the pay of non-union employees.

Also, a lawsuit settlement requires the county to spend millions of dollars a year more on health



An artist's rendition of the Indio jail expansion currently under construction. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors in March voted to name the facility after the late Supervisor John Benoit.

care for jail inmates. [Staffing costs for the John J. Benoit Detention Center](#) in Indio, which opens next year, could be \$50 million annually.

The county dodged a bullet when Gov. Jerry Brown last month [put more state dollars into In-Home Supportive Services](#), a program that pays for in-home care for indigent adults in need.

In January, state officials asked counties to shoulder a greater share of the program's costs. That led Riverside County to impose a 6.5 percent across-the-board budget cut and prompted talk of layoffs.

Q: About layoffs – are there any in the new budget?

A: More than 30 county employees, mostly in code enforcement, received layoff notices in late May. No other layoffs are planned, said county spokesman Ray Smith.

“The departments are using other cost-saving measures to achieve their budget targets,” he said. “In addition, it helps that the state's IHSS decision had less of an effect than originally presented.”

Q: If not layoffs, what's the county doing to save money?

A: The 6.5 percent cut stays in place, and officials want to keep a tight lid on future costs. [That's led to friction between the county and unions](#) in ongoing collective bargaining talks.

Also, a private consulting firm, KPMG, is getting more than \$20 million to transform county government. Besides finding ways to be more efficient, KPMG is tasked with [changing the mindset of county leaders](#) to embrace a performance-driven model that uses data to make decisions.

Q: How's that going?

A: Among other findings, KPMG said \$40 million can be saved by changing how the county buys goods and services, and replacing an old human resources computer system can save \$30 million.

So far – at least publicly – the Board of Supervisors and District Attorney Mike Hestrin are on board with KPMG's plan. But [Sheriff Stan Sniff is more skeptical](#).

Q: Why does the sheriff's opinion matter?

A: Unlike other department heads, Sniff and Hestrin are elected by voters. That means they can't be fired, and they can run their departments as they see fit, and they have the freedom to openly disagree with the Board of Supervisors, which holds the purse strings.

If Sniff and Hestrin say the budget hurts public safety, it puts the supervisors in a tough spot. They promised in their campaigns to protect the public, but they've been warned that [unchecked county spending is unsustainable](#) and there's nothing left to cut from non-public safety areas.



Riverside County Sheriff Stan Sniff.

Q: What's Sniff saying about the budget?

A: In the past, he's asked for more than the county executive office – the day-to-day administrator of county government – wants to give him.

Sniff argues his costs go up because of raises the board gave to his deputies and staff. Sheriff's officials have said they've lost a lot of people through attrition, causing a drop in deputies patrolling the county's unincorporated communities.

Reading the budget document, there's a \$57 million gap between what the sheriff is asking for – \$712.3 million – and what the executive office recommends – \$654.6 million.

Q: What happens this week?

A: On Monday, supervisors will hold a daylong series of hearings with department heads to get budget feedback. Sniff and Hestrin will be given the opportunity to speak.

San Bernardino County's unemployment rate drops to 4.4 percent in May

Posted: Friday, June 16, 2017 9:50 am

San Bernardino County's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4 percent in May, according to data released on June 16 by the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

The county's jobless rate, which was 4.6 percent in April, has been declining steadily for the past several years, and is now lower than the state's historically low rate.

California's unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent in May, tying the record low that occurred in November-December 2000, the EDD said.

The state's non-farm payroll employment grew by 17,600 jobs in May, and California has now gained a total of 2,510,900 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The United States unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage point in May to 4.3 percent, with employers nationwide adding 138,000 non-farm payroll jobs.



San Bernardino County

The unemployment rate in San Bernardino County is now 4.4 percent, which is lower than California's historically low unemployment rate of 4.7 percent.

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

11-acre Zermatt fire in Wrightwood no longer spreading, officials say

By Ali Tadayon, The Press-Enterprise

Sunday, June 18, 2017



WRIGHTWOOD >> An 11-acre wildfire that [started Saturday in Wrightwood](#) and threatened some houses has stopped spreading.

The Zermatt fire, which was burning on Lone Pine Canyon Road in the San Gabriel Mountains, was 50 percent contained by Sunday morning, officials said. Firefighters on Sunday were continuing to build containment lines and “mop up” areas that have burned.

There is no estimated time for full containment, Angeles National Forest spokesman Nathan Judy said.

Though weather Sunday in Wrightwood is expected to be warm and sunny — with temperatures in the high 80s — officials don’t believe it will affect the fire, Judy said. The only weather-related concern fire officials have is for the firefighters themselves, he said.

About five homes were evacuated Saturday along Pacific Crest Drive between Zermatt Drive and Lone Pine Canyon Road, in addition to homes east of Pacific Crest Drive, officials said Saturday. The evacuation orders were lifted about 5 p.m. Saturday.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170618/11-acre-zermatt-fire-in-wrightwood-no-longer-spreading-officials-say>

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Zermatt fire in Wrightwood 20 percent contained; evacuations lifted

By Alex Groves, The Press-Enterprise

Saturday, June 17, 2017



WRIGHTWOOD >> A 10.8-acre fire prompted road closures and an evacuation of several homes in Wrightwood on Saturday afternoon.

The fire was burning on Lone Pine Canyon Road in the San Gabriel Mountains, confirmed Ryan Vaccaro, a San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman.

As of 5 p.m., firefighters had the blaze, dubbed the [Zermatt fire](#), 20 percent contained, according to Cal Fire Capt. Debbie Chapman, the public information officer in charge of the incident. The fire had charred 10.8 acres, she said.

Earlier in the day, the fire had been reported at 7 acres.

Vaccaro said firefighters from his agency would be working to mitigate threats to structures and assisting the Angeles National Forest.

Roughly five homes had been evacuated along Pacific Crest Drive between Zermatt Drive and Lone Pine Canyon Road, as well as for residents east of Pacific Crest Drive, said Vaccaro and Angeles National Forest spokesman Nathan Judy.

The evacuation was lifted about 5 p.m., Chapman said.

Judy says crews were able to clear brush surrounding the fire to stop its spread and that it appeared they had a handle on it. No homes were damaged.

Roads in the immediate area were closed as firefighters battled the blaze. They have since opened.

Saturday afternoon, about 200 personnel were on scene, including 25 fire engines, five hand crews and two helicopters, said Cal Fire Capt. Chapman.

Several agencies responded to the blaze, Chapman said. They were: the U.S. Forest Service, Angeles National Forest, the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Cal Fire, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

It's unclear how the fire started.

This story is developing. Check back for details.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

6/19/2017

Zermatt fire in Wrightwood 20 percent contained; evacuations lifted

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170617/zermatt-fire-in-wrightwood-20-percent-contained-evacuations-lifted>

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Smiley Fire 100 percent contained in Reche Canyon

By Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Monday, June 19, 2017



RECHE CANYON >> Firefighters have contained the Smiley Fire, which scorched more than 150 acres in Reche Canyon over the weekend, officials said.

Cal Fire Riverside [tweeted out](#) Monday morning that the blaze was 100 percent contained and that the cause of the wildfire was under investigation. Crews reached full containment around 3 a.m., about 12 hours after the fire first ignited, according to a news release.

The fire broke out about 3:10 p.m. Sunday along Reche Canyon Road east of Reche Vista Drive, according to Cal Fire. Smoke from the fire was visible as far north at Highland.

Several fire agencies, including ones from Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties, converged on the fire, according to officials. At its height, 210 firefighters, 19 engine companies, four helicopter, four air tankers, a helitender and other equipment battled the blaze, according to a news release.

According to fire officials, the fire consumed 153 acres of dry brush and grasses. No injuries were reported.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170619/smiley-fire-100-percent-contained-in-reche-canyon>

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40 King Rescue at Aztec Falls Twin Peaks

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By **Susan A. Neufeld**

On Sunday, June 18th San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Aviation was requested by San Bernardino County Fire Dispatch to respond to the Aztec Falls area for a possible hoist rescue of a fall victim. The Victim Kevin Gaylord, 23 years old from Los Angeles, was hiking when he fell in steep terrain and sustained non-life threatening injuries and could not hike on his own.

The sheriff’s patrol helicopter (40King4) quickly responded to the area located the victim and confirmed a hoist rescue would be required due to the steep and nearly inaccessible terrain. Sheriff’s Air Rescue 306 responded to the scene and lowered an Air Medic approximately 140 feet own to Gaylord. Gaylord was placed into a rescue harness and hoisted up to the helicopter and flown to Mountains Community Hospital for treatment of his injuries.

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Inmates at Devore jail learn how to bake their way back into society

By Doug Saunders, The Sun

Friday, June 16, 2017



DEVORE >> Inmates kneading a way to earn some dough when they get released from jail are offered an opportunity to learn a new trade by working in the bakery at Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center in Devore.

Inmate bakers learn how to produce all of the baked goods that are distributed daily to the county's three main jails and at special functions held by sheriff's staff.

“We bake hundreds of thousands of cookies, loaves of bread, dinner rolls and over a million bagels each year that feed inmates here as well as West Valley and the High Desert detention centers,” food services supervisor Hallie James said. “They also bake cakes, pies, cobblers and brownies for staff dining facilities and special events.”

Once their time in the bakery is completed, inmates become credentialed bakers in order to help them find a life outside of incarceration.

“We’ve had some inmates get jobs at Martha Green’s in Redlands, some at Stater Bros., at Costco and some who cater on the side,” baking instructor Kathryn Betancur said. “We offer the tools for success, and it’s on an individual basis if they choose to use these tools to their advantage.”

Inmates start their days about 3 a.m., preparing for the baking, which is in full swing by 7 a.m.

By 11 a.m., most of the baked goods are packaged and ready to ship out by truck. On any given day, inmates bake 2,000 loaves of wheat bread, 6,000 wheat bagels, 8,000 rolls and 8,000 cookies, Betancur said.

One inmate who is scheduled to be released shortly said the bakery program has made him think about becoming a professional baker.

“It’s an art. You’re creating cakes and different stuff sometimes, just letting your imagination and creativity loose,” Armando Corona, 35, of Los Angeles said. “I wouldn’t mind pursuing this when I get out if someone gave me a chance, but I’m a plumber by trade, so I’ll more than likely do this on the side.”

Jail staff say these work programs have several purposes.

“First and foremost, the inmates come away from this training with the knowledge and experience of seasoned bakers,” sheriff’s Lt. Carlos Espinoza said. “They learn a trade that could change their lives forever.”

The program is only one of several vocational programs at the jail which provide training that will help inmates earn a living once they are released.

The jail also has inmates that makeup a culinary arts team of cooks and teams of firefighters who respond to any number of crises in San Bernardino County, utilizing their newly learned trades. At one time, there was an

automotive repair program, but that has drifted away due to Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

Betancur said her bakers are the reason she loves her job so much.

“I don’t coddle them. No matter what they’ve done to find themselves locked up, they’re people and everyone makes mistakes,” she said. “But I’m so very proud of all of their accomplishments. I’m 65 years old, and I love coming to work with them every single day.”

Sheriff John McMahon is also a giant supporter of the occupational training happening at Glen Helen.

“I have always been a supporter of inmate programs,” McMahon said. “The skills that prisoners learn during their incarceration provides them with an advantage they can use to find jobs after their release, and it also gives them a sense of self-worth.”

Cakes on pedestals, fruit-filled pastries and pies, warm freshly baked rolls are displayed when the inmate bakery caters events, but it’s the brownies that many of the sheriff’s employees crave at their functions.

“These are the best brownies I’ve ever had,” sheriff’s spokeswoman Jodi Miller said during a recent event.

“These guys work so hard in the bakery, and it’s evident that they are honing their newfound craft.”

McMahon is enthusiastic for the success of the inmates in life after incarceration as a result of the occupational programs at Glen Helen.

“If one in 10 inmates finds a job on the outside that requires the skills they learn while on the inside, that is huge,” he said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170616/inmates-at-devore-jail-learn-how-to-bake-their-way-back-into-society>

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Crest Forest MAC hears from government agencies

Saturday, Jun 17, 2017

By Rhea-Frances Tetley

Speakers from several government agencies attended the Crest Forest Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meeting held on June 6. Todd Warren from the Air Quality Management District was scheduled to give a special presentation, but could not come. The external painting and other visual repairs have begun on the Lake Gregory Monitoring Station, but full renovation of the air quality monitoring office, which was estimated at \$300,000, will need to be reconsidered.

First order of business was the swearing in of new MAC member Stephen Garcia, a 15-year resident, who is the camp director of Thousand Pines Camp, which has 250 acres, employs 200 locals and has 550 beds and brings thousands each year to Crestline. Garcia, who is replacing Mike Pate, said he is excited to serve. The initial dredging materials from Lake Gregory, for use in the dam retrofitting, are stored on Thousand Pines Camp property.

Rick Dinon of the Lake Gregory Lake Committee had previously reported that when the Department of Safety of Dams came to Crestline to inspect progress on the dam, that despite the hundreds who came to the community meeting, the DSOD demanded that water be released from the lake. The water has been lowered to lessen the pressure on the 79-year-old, poorly compacted zone, through a new drain the DSOD required be installed.

The subsequent dredging was first done in the swim area, with clean sand added, and the resulting large beach in the west end of the swim area will be used by the Lake Gregory Company for additional space for beachgoers. The dredged materials are being stored on the former ballfield to drain and will be used to add support to the dam when needed next spring when the real construction on the dam begins. The former ballfield will be unavailable for emergency helicopter landings, but VOE and Rim High are nearby and available.

The widening of San Moritz Way has been surveyed and the hillside will need to have about four feet removed to widen the road. This will create a two-directional road to drive around the lake when the road over the dam is intermittently closed next spring and summer for final dam repairs.

"Lake Gregory had more visitors opening weekend than last year and is spending more on down-the-hill advertising to bring vacationing folks up the mountain," said Dinon. The floaties have been relocated on the lake into deeper water and new beach on the south shore area opened. The waterslide has been repaired and is in full working condition. "Reports of sales in town opening weekend were also up."

Lewis Murray, Supervisor Rutherford's representative, said the short-term rental ordinance has been approved and a 24/7 violation-reporting phone number will be announced around July 1. Also, the issue of low flying aircraft was discussed. Skypark was approved by the planning commission and only needs final Board of Supervisors approval for their full opening permit.

Caltrans, Burrtec and the USFS are all working together on a plan for trash cleanup from visitors for both winter and summer needs. The USFS also asked residents to report any suspected dead trees, so they can be removed and the bark beetle infestation progression stopped. If you find plastic-covered, downed trees in the forest do not open the plastic coverings or take the wood as the larvae of the bugs is being killed.

The next Crest Forest MAC meeting is scheduled for August 1, at 6:30 p.m., at the Crestline Sanitation office.

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This Week's Highlights

- Front Page**
- Blue Jay Jazz Festival relocates to SkyPark
 - Crest Forest MAC hears from government agencies
 - Lake Gregory hosts 'Fit Kid in Every Park'
 - Noose around black baby doll's neck confiscated on school bus
 - Sheriff's deputies thwart massacre plot
 - No decision on Crestline park
 - Lake Arrowhead vows to fight flight noise
- Top Stories**
- Crestline cannabis lounge closed by Code Enforcement
- My Town**
- The Speckled Band delights audience
 - MCH holds Rose Garden Memorial Ceremony
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Noose around black baby doll's neck confiscated on school bus



A hanging noose a symbol of extreme oppression known to be directed toward the African-American Community (Photo from Google Images)

Saturday, Jun 17, 2017

By Gail Fry

Several anonymous sources have come forward to *The Alpenhorn News* to report an incident where school children on the bus en route to the Valley of Enchantment Elementary School were discovered dangling a black baby doll from a noose.

The black baby doll and noose were confiscated by the bus driver according to sources close to the district and taken to Rim of the World Unified School District's (ROWUSD) Transportation Office.

It was what happened from there that is getting the school district in hot water. The anonymous sources claimed the black baby doll dangling from the noose was then hung on a curtain for all to see, implicating several district employees.

The doll was viewed by a Caucasian woman with close ties to the African-American community. She took offense by its open display and has retained legal counsel, according to sources, and is intending to file legal action against the school district.

All of the anonymous sources reported several ROWUSD employees were scapegoated in the matter, leading to more threats of legal action against the district.

"This issue is under investigation and relates directly to an employee disciplinary matter," Assistant Superintendent Lawrence King voiced in response to *The Alpenhorn News'* request for comment, explaining, "The District takes these matters very seriously and will act accordingly. The employee has privacy rights and therefore we are unable to comment any further."

The latest incident of racial animus directed toward African Americans occurring at ROWUSD harkens back to the Confederate flag displayed by students at Rim of the World High School at the beginning of the 2016/17 school year, which drew huge support by mountain residents as well as from former California Assemblyman Tim Donnelly at ROWUSD's September 1, 2016, workshop meeting.

RHS Student Andrew Newman, claiming to be the fourth generation great-grandson of General Robert E. Lee, denied its display as condoning "any racism, racial discrimination or any violent acts that are unjustifiable toward any person, ethnic group or background" explaining it was to "fight against a tyrannical government that our forefathers fought against."

Detractors of displaying the Confederate flag at ROWUSD's high school campus were in short supply at the September 1, 2016, meeting. RHS Student Body President Audrey Ferrara opined, "this flag and the swastika are dehumanizing and yet it is now being tolerated on my high school campus." Community member Alan Knopp objected to allowing flags which have a "history symbolizing hate, racism and prejudice to many people," on school grounds.

In the end ROWUSD took no action based on the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, legal precedents and insufficient "threats or disruption" of the campus.

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Front Page

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 - Noose around black baby doll's neck confiscated on school bus
 - Sheriff's deputies thwart massacre plot
 - No decision on Crestline park
 - Lake Arrowhead vows to fight flight noise
- #### Top Stories
- Crestline cannabis lounge closed by Code Enforcement
- #### My Town
- The Speckled Band delights audience
 - MCH holds Rose Garden Memorial Ceremony
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A press release from the district, dated September 5, cited four court decisions including United States Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines School District*, two 9th Circuit Court decisions, *Wynar v. Douglas County School District* and *Gathright v. City of Portland* and one California Appellate Court decision *Lopez v. Tulare Joint Union High School District* to support its decision.

According to news reports, the display of nooses, a symbol of extreme oppression representing a time in American history when African Americans were hung to death from nooses, and other expressions of hate directed towards the African American community, have been showing up more frequently in recent months. The Southern Poverty Law Center has had 1,300 reports of bias incidents in the three months following Election Day.

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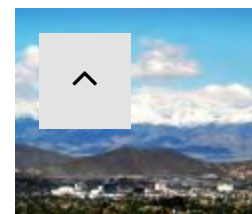


Retailers Join Mix at Redlands Packing House District

<https://www.connect.media/retailers-join-mix-at-redlands-packing-house-district/>



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Jobless Rate

June 16, 2017

Leasing activity is picking up at Evergreen Development's Redlands Packing House District. The packing house-themed redevelopment is under construction on Eureka Street in downtown Redlands, CA and is expected to open by early 2018.

Sprouts Farmers Market anchors the 88,075-square-foot center. Other retailers claiming space are Amazing Lash Studio , PetSmart, Club Pilates, Luna Grill and Chronic Tacos.

The retail and restaurant project is located on 10.42 acres of land owned by Property One LLC north of Stuart Avenue and west of Eureka Street. The developer envisions securing three major tenants and five outer buildings for retail stores and restaurants.

Western Retail Advisors' Ryan Sullivan and Eric Whitmer are handling the leasing.

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Disagreement emerges over who should pay for Bryce Hanes Park in San Bernardino

By Ryan Hagen, *The Sun*

Friday, June 16, 2017



SAN BERNARDINO >> Directors of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, formed to handle long-range water supply issues for a 353-square-mile area, are starting to chafe at the realization they may spend as much as \$100,000 per year to maintain a park in the city of San Bernardino.

The frustration started to boil over at a meeting of the district's park management and property committee workshop this week, one month after the newly constructed [Bryce Hanes Park](#) opened to the public.

"We're using the taxpayer money from the whole valley to maintain this one little park," said June Hayes, the board member whose vision includes Rialto, portions of Fontana and San Bernardino. "Does my attitude show?"

The attitude from some water district members is because, from their perspective, they did the city a favor — handling the \$5 million state grant to build the park because the state Parks Department refused to give it to the bankrupt city — and now the city is abusing their generosity.

"It is a great park and we're glad it's built, but we agreed to fund it until the city could afford to take over," said Gil Navarro, chairman of the park committee and the water board member whose division includes the park. "The city is [coming out of bankruptcy](#), and now they can afford it."

Not all the board's members feel the same way.

"Certainly, we're hoping that the city will be able to take over the park soon, and we'll celebrate that day when it comes," Susan Longville, the president of the water district and a former San Bernardino City Council member, in an earlier interview. "But if they don't, I wouldn't characterize myself as unhappy about that. It's their decision to make, and until they do, we're prepared to fulfill our obligation."

The water district's budget includes \$100,000 for the park in the 2017-18 fiscal year — an estimated \$5,250 per month in regular maintenance and operations, with another \$37,000 available for major repairs, Longville said.

The total figure is still uncertain, given that the park has been open for barely a month.

"We hope it doesn't reach that (\$100,000), but that way we won't have to increase it," Longville said.

In addition, time spent by water district staff on the park so far is equal to \$207,339 in salary, according to a water district calculation.

Neither the money nor the time impedes the water district's other responsibilities, according to Longville.

The water district's responsibility for the park stems from 2013, when its then-president, Pat Milligan, offered to handle the \$5 million state grant to build the park.

The city had qualified for a Proposition 84 grant meant to build parks in areas severely lacking in recreational space, and community members said they wanted the park, but the state initially rejected the application because of the city's bankruptcy, filed one year earlier.

So water district members and the City Council [agreed](#) to use a joint powers authority set up 15 years earlier for an aborted project called Lakes and Streams. The authority consists of water district and city officials.

The 2013 agreement, signed by Milligan and then-Mayor Pat Morris, is clear that the city will take over the park when it can — but vague on what that means.

“It is expressly agreed that the city will use reasonable efforts to assist with the ongoing administration, management and maintenance of the municipal park developed on the property,” the agreement states. “At such time as the city is reasonably able to allocate the funds necessary to do so, the city will fully assume the responsibility for the ongoing administration, management and maintenance of the municipal park developed on the property, or, if feasible, the city will create a maintenance district for such purposes.”

Mayor Carey Davis, who is set Monday to attend a meeting of the joint powers authority that oversees the park, said Friday that he wasn't familiar with the water district's objections.

“It's really premature to be having that discussion at this time, given the park has been open for what, less than two months,” Davis said. “I need to avail myself of some of the language that's in those original (agreements). It needs more review on my part as well as the city attorney's part. ... We need to make sure we honor it.”

Water district members also considered other ways to pay for the park, such as a special district that would collect money from people who live in the area of the park, but the idea got little support.

“I personally don't think burdening the people in this park's district with a special tax is something I would ever support,” Longville said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/lifestyle/20170616/disagreement-emerges-over-who-should-pay-for-bryce-hanes-park-in-san-bernardino>

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Full house turns out for Ord Mountain Solar project scoping meeting in Lucerne Valley

By Staff Reports

Posted Jun 16, 2017 at 11:07 AM

Updated Jun 16, 2017 at 11:07 AM

LUCERNE VALLEY — There were no empty seats at Tuesday night’s scoping meeting for the Ord Mountain Solar Energy Project. Over 100 attendees packed the Lucerne Valley Community Center to listen to yet another developer describe a utility-scale project that is working its way through the San Bernardino County planning process.

In order to construct its proposed 484-acre, 60-megawatt project, applicant Nextera Energy Resources, LLC must be granted a Conditional Use Permit from the county. John Oquendo, the county’s senior planner of Land Use Services, opened the meeting with an introduction to the process as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Due to the potentially significant environmental impacts as the lead agency, the county must solicit the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose of an EIR is to assess the effects of a proposed project on the environment.

“The county has not yet determined the recommendation that will be made,” Oquendo said. “After the EIR is complete staff will weigh results and make recommendations based on the full impacts of the project.”

The environmental consulting firm Michael Baker International, headquartered in Pennsylvania but with 15 offices throughout California, will prepare the EIR. Project Manager Bob Stark said: “This scoping meeting is the very beginning of this process, intended to solicit input from the community in order to understand what should be the focus of the EIR.”

Stark described the proposed project as 484 acres of completely disturbed land, 200 hundred acres of that completely without vegetation, to house 250,000 solar panels and an onsite substation. In addition to the Ord Mountain Solar Project, the EIR document also will include in its analysis Southern California Edison's 75-acre Calcite Substation.

While county staff indicated that the Ord Mountain Project is not the only potential project that could be the "trigger" for the Calcite Substation, the Southern California Edison website reads: "The Calcite Substation (Calcite) is a 220 kilovolt (kV) substation planned to connect NextEra's Ord Mountain's 60-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic solar project. Calcite will be located in the unincorporated community of Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County. In October 2016, NextEra submitted their application to the County of San Bernardino for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). NextEra included the SCE Calcite Substation Project description in its Initial Study submitted to the County. The CPUC has been made aware of the SCE & NextEra's joint efforts. After certification of the environmental review and issuance of a CUP by San Bernardino County, SCE will request a permit to construct the Calcite Substation from the CPUC."

Over 20 people spoke at the Tuesday meeting, including members of the Alliance for Desert Preservation, the Morongo Basin Conservation Association, Mojave Communities Conservation Collaborative and the Lucerne Valley/Johnson Valley Municipal Advisory Committee. Comments included concerns regarding cumulative impacts, air quality, industrialization of an established rural community, and the fact that the proposed project is in conflict with goals already expressed by the county and its Board of Supervisors.

"Don't be fooled folks, the Calcite Substation is just another Coolwater Lugo in disguise," said George Stone. "SCE would just love to get their paws on Lucerne Valley and our region. They will use the Ord Mountain Solar Project, or any other means they have, to do so. SCE wants to cover us in utility-scale projects sending that power down the hill, and all the while making big money off all that transmission. Remember, we stopped SCE and their Coolwater monster, we can stop Calcite too."

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

Ontario employees claim discrimination in series of new lawsuits

By Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Saturday, June 17, 2017

ONTARIO >> The racial discrimination lawsuit filed by the city's [former fire chief](#) is one of at least five filed against [Ontario](#) in the past year.

Woodland Hills-based attorney Paul Tashnizi has filed four complaints on behalf of six employees who allege five upper- and midlevel managers have discriminated against them for various reasons, including race, disability and/or gender.

The complaints show Ontario fails to protect employees from their bosses, who retaliate against them for filing claims and create a hostile environment, Tashnizi said.

“It seems they don’t like it when a lower-level employee complains about management. Rather than address it, management retaliates just because you complained about them,” said Tashnizi, who mostly handles employment issues involving private companies.

If city management doesn’t like you, he said, they put you on the bad list.

Chief’s complaint came first

Former fire chief Floyd E. Clark’s complaints came to light after he was fired in June 2016. In a lawsuit filed just weeks later — the first of the five pending cases — he alleged his ouster was racially motivated because he had complained about the Fire Department’s hiring practices. He says that when he started as a fire inspector in 1986, he was the only black firefighter, and not a single black firefighter was hired since.

In an amended complaint filed May 31, Clark’s new attorney Bradley Mancuso, [detailed further accusations](#).

In the legal documents, Mancuso says Councilman Jim Bowman referred to Clark using inflammatory racial slurs and an unnamed City Council member is willing to testify on Clark’s behalf.

Bowman, a former fire chief, said he was deeply saddened by Clark’s lawsuit.

He denied having made the references. Bowman said the alleged derogatory comments were overheard by an Ontario councilman who is not credible and will come to light in court.

“We treat all our employees fairly, they are like family and there’s no exception,” he said. “The factual matters will come out in court and I look forward to being totally exonerated.”

Bowman said he’s been involved in two of Clark’s promotions, including his appointment as the chief.

“It’s a shame he’s taken this position,” he said.

In response to questions by this publication, Ontario’s legal counsel for labor matters — whose comments were forwarded via City Manager Al Boling — said via email that employees may file a claim at any time with

Human Resources, or with any supervisor throughout the city — verbally, in writing or anonymously. The city also offers an ethics hotline employees may use.

“The city prides itself on having an accessible and responsive Human Resources Department,” according to a statement from Los Angeles-based Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, the city’s legal counsel.

That hasn’t been the experience of Tashnizi’s clients, he said.

Tashnizi filed the first lawsuit on behalf of an Ontario employee, a month after Clark’s initial lawsuit. Since then, he has been contacted by five other employees. The latest claim was filed in March.

Among the accusations:

- Employees being tracked on a company vehicle GPS system
- One employee was required to report restroom breaks on time sheets
- Many claimed they were excluded from training opportunities

While most of the plaintiffs are still employees with the city, one is on leave and another has been fired.

According to Ontario’s attorneys, the city has a discrimination/harassment prevention policy, available online and in writing to all employees. The city also regularly provides anti-discrimination training.

In the process of conducting witness interviews, Tashnizi said he’s learned the Human Resources Department uses “administrative leave to scare you and other employees. I’ve talked to witnesses who say, ‘I don’t want to complain.’”

The city’s attorneys said they wouldn’t comment specifically on pending litigation, according to the email.

An unexplained leave of absence

Donna McKnight, a supervising code enforcement officer and 16-year Ontario city employee, has been on leave since July 2016, and the city can’t tell her why, Tashnizi said.

In 2014, McKnight, an African-American, applied for the code enforcement manager position. Despite being told by her then-supervisor Karen De Vrieze that she was the top candidate, she did not get the promotion. The then-deputy city manager, Jacob Green, a white male, told McKnight’s supervisor she did well in the second interview, but he was “looking for someone that looks more like him,” according to McKnight’s lawsuit.

“McKnight was appalled and reacted to Karen De Vrieze by telling her that she was never going to be white and was never going to turn into a man,” according to the lawsuit.

Green, who has since left the city, said he could not comment on the allegation and referred all questions to the city of Ontario.

Rather than promote McKnight, Tashnizi said, the city opted to eliminate the position.

Having done the work comparable to a manager since 2012, McKnight requested in 2014 that the city give her out-of-class pay, a temporary salary adjustment given to employees when they perform higher-level duties. She filed a grievance when the request was denied.

In May 2015, her supervisor retired and Robert Gluck was named code enforcement director. The new director, according to the lawsuit, offered to grant the out-of-class pay as long as she shared it with two other employees, who weren’t requesting the pay.

Her claim alleges that Gluck pulled McKnight — who previously worked for the Los Angeles Police Department — off assignments and forced her to do administrative work. She says she was not given the opportunity to grow like her peers.

“Routinely, as many as 10 times in a day, Gluck went to McKnight’s office door, openly directing her to his office. He did this in front of staff to embarrass, intimidate and harass McKnight and to intimidate her staff,” the claim states.

After being diagnosed with diabetes, McKnight said Gluck refused to allow her to adjust her schedule so that she could attend classes for her medical condition.

Gluck said he could not comment because the matter is in litigation. He referred all questions to Ontario’s management.

She was then put on administrative leave without explanation, Tashnizi said.

Seeing a pattern?

“It feels systematic,” Tashnizi said. “There’s a culture of white men controlling the management.” Ontario managers “treat and look at minorities differently.”

In its email, Ontario’s legal team said: “(T)he city of Ontario is committed to promoting and encouraging diversity, inclusiveness and equal opportunity. We are not going to try Ms. McKnight’s patently false claims in the media, and look forward to disproving them in court.”

Three of the complaints are in the discovery phase; attorneys are arguing which documents and testimony to allow in court for the last claim, he said.

All are seeking more than \$25,000 each in damages.

The trial date for the first lawsuit Tashnizi filed is set for March 5, 2018. The trial date for McKnight is set for May 21, 2018. Dates have not been set for the other claims, he said.

Mancuso, Clark’s attorney, said it could be months or even years before that case goes to trial.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170617/ontario-employees-claim-discrimination-in-series-of-new-lawsuits>

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LOCAL NEWS

Hot, hotter, hottest – Inland heat heading for possible records



A boy and his father cool off underneath the dump bucket at The Cove Waterpark in Jurupa Valley on Sunday, June 18, 2017. (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

By **STEPHEN WALL** |

PUBLISHED: June 18, 2017 at 4:44 pm | UPDATED: June 18, 2017 at 7:17 pm



A Fathers Day weekend heat wave for the Inland area will get worse, with temperatures expected to climb a few degrees each day before peaking Wednesday, June 21 with a forecast high of 103 to 111 degrees, the National Weather Service said.

A high-pressure system centered over Arizona will push temperatures 12 to 18 degrees above average for this time of year for the Riverside and San Bernardino valley areas.

A heat advisory is in effect until 9 p.m. Wednesday for much of the Inland area.

Excessive heat warnings will last through 9 p.m. Thursday, June 22 for the San Gorgonio Pass, which is expected to hit 114 to 122 degrees through Wednesday, and the High Desert of San Bernardino County, where highs will range from 107 to 115 degrees during the same period.

The Weather Service is expecting some records to be set early this week. Palm Springs could tie or break its all-time record of 123 degrees on Wednesday, said James Brotherton, a San Diego-based National Weather Service meteorologist.

“This is definitely exceptionally hot for many areas, especially the length of the heat wave, almost a week of excessive temperatures,” said Brotherton. “It’s kind of to the point where you don’t want to be outside if you can help it.”

Cooling is expected to begin Thursday, June 22, with Inland temperatures dropping to the low-to-high 90s by Saturday, June 24.

Brotherton said heat exhaustion and heat stroke — which can be fatal — are both possible risks, especially to the elderly, children and those with medical conditions. People should check on their elderly neighbors and remind them to turn on their air conditioners before it gets too hot, he said.

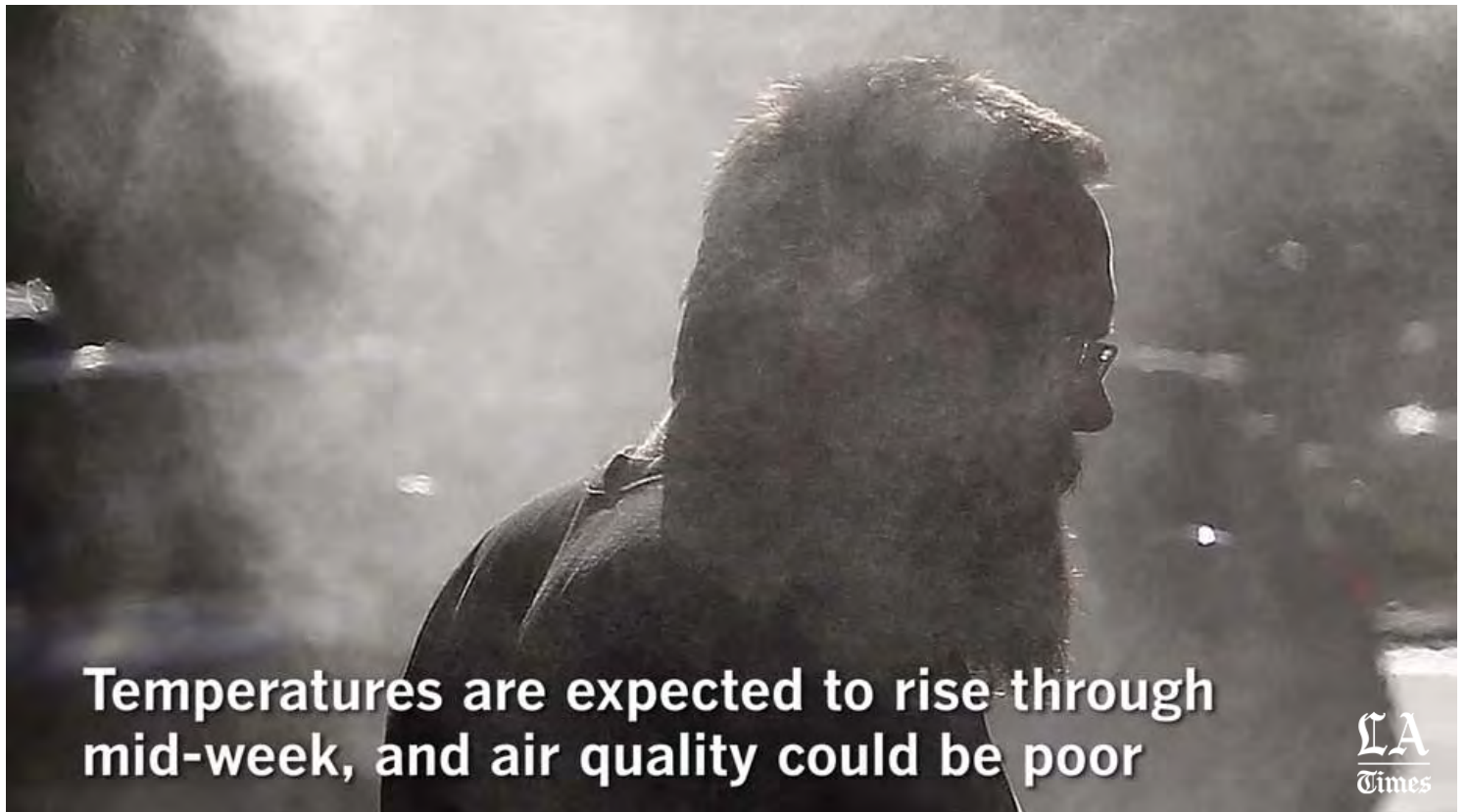
People who have to be outside are urged to wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothes, drinking plenty of water and taking more frequent breaks inside or at least in the shade.

Some residents found a respite from the heat Sunday at The Cove Waterpark in Jurupa Valley.

Austin Grissom took his wife and 6-year-old twins to swim the pool, play in the lagoon and float down a river.

“It’s a fantastic way to cool off,” said Grissom, a 49-year-old Eastvale resident.

When it comes to Southern California's heat wave, the worst is yet to come



This heat wave is going to get worse. (June 19, 2017)

By **David Zahniser and Ruben Vives**

JUNE 18, 2017, 9:05 PM

Firefighters labored in scorching heat Sunday against five separate brush fires across Southern California as forecasters warned of more triple-digit temperatures in inland communities.

The punishing heat wave broke records on Sunday in Lancaster, Palmdale and Sandberg, which saw highs of 108, 108 and 99 degrees, respectively. With a dry, high-pressure system parked over the Southwest, temperatures are expected to keep climbing through midweek, according to the [National Weather Service](#).

In Riverside County, firefighters tackled a 10-acre brush fire near Beaumont, a 40-acre fire near Moreno Valley and a 20-acre blaze just north of Lake Elsinore. In San Bernardino County, crews reported 50% containment on the Zermatt fire near Wrightwood, which consumed 11 acres.

North of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles city and county fire departments spent a second day working to control an 800-acre fire near Castaic Lake. By Sunday night, crews reported that the blaze had destroyed two outbuildings and was 20% contained. Fire officials had initially said the Castaic fire reached 1,000 acres.

The weekend's fires are "a precursor of what we expect through the summer," said Nathan Judy, spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service, which also had crews fighting the Castaic and San Bernardino County fires.

Authorities said crews were helped by higher humidity and relatively docile winds.

Hotter temperatures are forecast to last through Wednesday night, with moderate cooling through the weekend, said Bonnie Bartling, weather specialist at the National Weather Service. Over the next few days, some desert and inland areas will experience "pretty intense" temperatures that could trigger heat-related illness, she said.

"Obviously, you need to stay hydrated with water — and I emphasize, water," she said. "Do not leave anybody, pets or anybody, in the car for even a short period of time."

The National Weather Service posted a heat advisory through Wednesday evening for the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys, as well as the Santa Monica Mountains. The agency issued an excessive heat warning through Wednesday for the Antelope Valley.

Highs in the Antelope Valley are expected to reach 108 to 112 degrees, while highs of 100 to 106 were forecast for coastal valleys of Los Angeles and Ventura counties. [San Bernardino](#) could see a high of 107 by midweek, while temperatures could top out at 122 degrees in the Coachella Valley, according to the National Weather Service.

Adding to the discomfort, the South Coast Air Quality Management District is predicting [unhealthful air](#) on Monday across the Inland Empire and in the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys.

"Heat does drive the formation of ozone, our primary summer pollutant," said Sam Atwood, a spokesman for the air district. "And the fact that [the heat wave] is longer means there are going to be many days in a row with potentially unhealthy, or very unhealthy, air quality."

Public health experts are advising Southern Californians to drink plenty of liquids, avoid the outdoors if possible during the peak heat of the day and check on elderly relatives or neighbors.

Seniors whose homes don't have air conditioning have been advised to go to shopping malls or a local "cooling center" — typically libraries, senior centers or parks and recreation facilities — during the midday heat.

Despite the rising temperatures, health officials in Los Angeles County have opted so far not to extend the hours at any of their publicly run [cooling centers](#). That's due in part to the fact that temperatures have dropped significantly during the evenings.

Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, interim health officer for the county's Department of Public Health, said his agency plans to keep a close eye on weather conditions in the Santa Clarita and Antelope valleys — to see if cooling stations should have later operations.

“If we do see that the humidity goes up, or high temperatures are persisting into the early evening, we may extend the hours,” he said.

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Twitter: @DavidZahniser

ALSO

Third river fatality this year at Sequoia National Park

Brush fires near Castaic Lake and Wrightwood continue to burn for a second day

LAPD suspends cadet programs at stations where teens accused of stealing police cruisers were assigned

UPDATES:

8:35 p.m.: This article was updated with information on a fifth brush fire and with current figures on the growth of a fire in Castaic.

This article was originally published at 6:15 p.m.

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This article is related to: Wildfires, Droughts and Heat Waves, National Weather Service

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Infrastructure needs demand new, innovative funding solutions: Norma Torres

By Norma Torres

Friday, June 16, 2017



It comes as no surprise that the Los Angeles area boasts the worst traffic in the country with local drivers spending an average of 81 minutes stuck in traffic. As our region grows and more and more drivers take to the road, not only does congestion get worse but the average age of the roads we drive continues to go up and road conditions decline. All this is happening while infrastructure spending fails to keep up with growing needs.

The model of federal financing of transportation essentially hasn't changed since 1956, and current policy leaves the highway trust fund \$15 billion short every year. That doesn't even begin to address the nearly \$1 trillion backlog of transportation projects nationally. There is no question that there is an infrastructure funding problem. The number of projects continues to rise and the funding available for them is nowhere near enough. This is why we must look to new, innovative ways to pay for our state's and our nation's infrastructure needs.

That's why I recently convened two roundtables with local experts in the transportation, infrastructure and logistics industries to get their feedback on what federal solutions they believe will be successful in closing this funding shortfall, and which policies would not benefit our region. As I quickly learned back when I first served on the Pomona City Council, the most effective way to implement new policies that actually work is to talk to the local experts who work on those issues, and this feedback has proven vital in finding ways to tackle the infrastructure gap.

I have reintroduced one piece of legislation, the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Act, which came out of the Job Creation Listening Tour I embarked on when I first got to Congress. This bill would help attract private financing through "Regional Infrastructure Accelerators." Through these multi-state organizations, local and state governments would receive the technical assistance and funding needed to get a project off the ground. These accelerators would help communities get their projects ready so they can attract investors and would help private companies interested in investing find the right projects to suit their needs. Beyond that however, accelerators would also help develop best practices and regional strategic planning, increasing coordination between communities, avoiding redundancies, and helping our limited dollars go further.

Another way we can help fill this gap this is by maximizing the funding tools we already have available. For example, I recently introduced the American Infrastructure Opportunity Bonds Act to take advantage of times when the interest rate on Treasury bills and bonds drops below the rate of inflation. Essentially, when this happens, the federal government can get an interest-free loan. This legislation would set a trigger when this rate is hit to direct the Treasury to begin borrowing and to direct that new borrowing to be spent on infrastructure investments.

Congress and state governments need to step up and take the lead in filling the infrastructure funding gap, but in order for our economy to remain competitive, we can't afford to leave any stone unturned when it comes to options to meet this shortfall.

Investing in infrastructure isn't just about keeping roads and bridges in working order. It helps communities grow, attracts new businesses, and ensures existing companies can thrive. For example, in my own district, Ontario International Airport is in a position to become a major economic hub, conveniently located for businesses looking for less expensive land and real estate while being in close proximity to Los Angeles and major transit corridors and for residents who would otherwise spend hours getting to LAX. However, the airport's potential to grow is dependent on expanding transportation links, providing reliable freight corridors so companies can get their goods to market faster, and making smart investments in water, roads and technological infrastructure to make the region attractive to businesses and qualified workers alike.

Unfortunately, the budget President Trump recently presented cut funding from the Department of Transportation by \$100 billion and eliminated the TIGER grant program, meaning there are fewer federal funding opportunities for localities. We aren't going to solve this problem by making it harder for communities to pay for infrastructure projects. We have to look at all our options to cover the infrastructure gap, both through existing programs and by creating innovative new strategies.

Infrastructure has never been a partisan issue, and I firmly believe there are areas where members from both parties at all levels of government can agree. However, it requires the dedication and political will to come together, compromise and make the tough choices. We can't afford to wait until the next bridge collapse, flood or landslide to take action, and we certainly can't wait until competing countries that have made concerted, long-term investments in infrastructure lap us in the global markets.

Rep. Norma Torres, D-Ontario, represents the 35th District.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20170616/infrastructure-needs-demand-new-innovative-funding-solutions-norma-torres>

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BUSINESS

Manufacturing and logistics report card: Hide it from Mom



Stan Lim, staff

Workers put a Revero employ on a hybrid electric vehicle built at Karma Automotive in their Moreno Valley factory. Experts say that manufacturing is in better shape than people believe.

By **FIELDING BUCK** | fbuck@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
June 19, 2017 at 6:54 am



Despite being the gateway for many of the imported goods flowing to the rest of the United States, California gets remedial grades in logistics on an annual report card from Midwest researchers.

The state was given a B-minus in Logistics Industry Health in the 2017 Manufacturing & Logistics Report Card for the United States.



That grade is at least technically worse than the state got in the [2016 report card](#). Researchers initially gave California a B but then downgraded it to a C-minus based on updated federal data.

Part of the reasons for California's score is that logistics is concentrated in regions such as the Inland Empire rather than spread throughout the state.

The logistics industry was measured for such factors as its share in a state's total income and employment per capita.

States that got A's in logistics include Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Texas.

The report card issues grades in nine categories. California only got an A in one of them, Productivity and Innovation.

The report is prepared by the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University, for Conexus Indiana, a private-sector institution.

Nationwide, the report concluded that manufacturing is in better shape than many people perceive. Ball State Center director Michael Hicks called 2015 a record manufacturing production year in inflation-adjusted dollars and said "2017 looks to be a new record year."

The state's C grade in Manufacturing Industry Health shows that "California's dynamics have been a lot like the rest of the nation," he said in an email.

"Bottom line, GDP growth in manufacturing is pretty good, demand for new workers is not."

Tags: **economy**

L.A. County health officials say 42 people have been infected with mumps



Medical assistant Daisy Minor gives an MMR vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps and rubella, to 1-year-old Kristian Richard at the Medical Arts Pediatric Med Group on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times)



By **Soumya Karlamangla**

JUNE 17, 2017, 7:00 AM

A [mumps](#) outbreak in Los Angeles County this year has infected 42 people, most of whom live on the Westside, health officials said this week.

There have been several mumps outbreaks nationwide in recent years, including some that are ongoing in parts of Texas, Arkansas and Washington state. Last year there were 5,833 cases of mumps nationwide, the highest number in a decade, according to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

As of May, there had been 3,176 cases nationwide this year, according to the CDC.

Most people who contract mumps have no symptoms, or have flu-like symptoms along with swelling of their salivary glands, which is characteristic of the disease. But in rare cases, mumps can cause deafness or brain

swelling that can be life-threatening.

Dr. Franklin Pratt, medical director of the immunization program at the county's Department of Public Health, said that some of those infected in the outbreak had been vaccinated. Many outbreaks in other parts of the country, which often hit college campuses especially hard, also have included people who'd been inoculated against the virus.

Children get the first dose of the MMR vaccine — which protects against mumps, measles and rubella — between 12 and 15 months of age and the second dose between ages 4 and 6. The introduction of the vaccine in 1967 has reduced mumps cases by more than 99%, according to federal health officials.

Public health officials are unsure what has caused the recent outbreaks. Theories include that the vaccination's immunity wanes over time or that the current circulating strains of mumps are particularly strong, Pratt said.

“Across the country, we're seeing mumps kind of get strength again,” Pratt said, adding that L.A. County typically sees about 13 cases per year.

“This is clearly a blip,” he said.

Most of the local cases have been among gay or bisexual men, although some women have been infected as well, Pratt said. Public health workers have determined that most transmissions occurred at bars, theaters and nightclubs. Those infected often seem to share a social network, he said.

The L.A. County outbreak, Pratt said, isn't related to one at Chapman University in Orange during the spring in which more than a dozen people were infected.

Mumps can be transmitted through kissing, sharing drinks and utensils, or touching surfaces that have also been touched by someone who's infected with the virus.

Pratt advised that people remember to wash their hands and avoid sharing drinks. If someone is sick, he or she should avoid contact with other people as much as possible. And if the symptoms line up with mumps, they should see a doctor immediately.

“We appreciate that you have to live your life, but do your best to limit contact with other folks until you're past your infectious period,” Pratt said. “Getting the diagnosis is important for both advising that patient what they need to do, and also doing our very best to limit the spread.”

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ALSO

[L.A. County reports 2017's first case of West Nile virus](#)

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

LA County leaders may spend millions to defend immigrants facing deportation

By Susan Abram, Los Angeles Daily News

Sunday, June 18, 2017



Six months after Los Angeles city and county leaders proposed a legal defense fund to help people facing deportation, the Board of Supervisors is expected to vote Tuesday to authorize contributing \$3 million to the collection over the next two years.

The Board [almost voted](#) on allocating county money to the LA Justice Fund in April to help undocumented immigrants and others threatened with deportation. But they postponed their decision after questions were raised within the motion, including who would benefit from the fund. One pending concern was if the money should go toward defending undocumented immigrants with criminal records.

The California Coalition for Universal Representation, which includes members from the American Civil Liberties Union, had called for universal representation, including those with criminal backgrounds.

“The coalition believes that everyone caught up in the deportation system – even those convicted of serious crimes – deserves legal representation,” according to a group statement in April.

The contract agreement set before the Board on Tuesday states that legal services paid by the fund “shall not be provided to individuals who have been convicted of, or who are currently appealing a conviction for a violent felony,” including murder, rape, inflicting bodily harm, sexual assaults, carjacking, extortion and threats to victims or witnesses, and other crimes listed under the state’s penal code known as section 667.5, subdivision c.

But the agreement does have a breakdown of who would qualify, including residents of Los Angeles County who are at risk of removal and whose income falls below 200 percent of federal poverty level, or \$49,000 for a family of four. Those with close ties to Los Angeles County whose family members are U.S. citizens, or who are lawful permanent individuals with community ties, or those who are deferred action for childhood arrivals or DACA recipients will be given preference. Also, those who are heads of a household with one or more dependent family members, unaccompanied children and minors, veterans, and victims of domestic violence or human trafficking, also will be considered, according to the agreement.

The fund was proposed in December by members of the Los Angeles City Council and the Board of Supervisors in response to President Donald Trump’s pre-election remarks about deporting people who live in the country illegally. Los Angeles city and county leaders unveiled plans to contribute \$5 million to the proposed \$10 million fund, with local nonprofit organizations providing the rest.

The Los Angeles City Council earlier this month [adopted a budget](#) that sets aside \$1 million to L.A. Justice Fund, but have yet to vote on moving it forward, prompting criticism from some advocates for immigrants. The county plans to allocate \$1 million for the 2017-18 fiscal year, and \$2 million in the next fiscal year. So far, \$2.2 million from philanthropic and non profit organizations has been collected for the L.A. Justice Fund, which is overseen by the California Community Foundation.

Tuesday's consideration by the supervisors comes just days after U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly announced that the department has chosen to rescind President Obama's 2014 memorandum that created the program known as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans or DAPA. However, Obama's policy that created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA program will remain in effect, according to a statement from Homeland Security.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis called Trump's decision to end DAPA "heartless" and said his decision will allow the federal government to rip apart families and separate over 5 million immigrants from their loved ones."

"Trump's cruel actions will harm those who are simply trying to make better lives for themselves and their families," she said in a statement.

Tuesday's motion to authorize the county's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to allocate the money must include three votes to pass.

"It is my hope that the County's contribution to the LA Justice Fund will prioritize funding for legal representation for individuals with community ties to LA County, including family members who are U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, and DACA recipients," Solis said.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/social-affairs/20170618/la-county-leaders-may-spend-millions-to-defend-immigrants-facing-deportation>

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Orange County Human Relations Council wins funding reprieve as hate crimes continue to rise



Garden Grove Police Chief Todd Elgin was one of dozens of people who spoke at a meeting earlier this month before the Orange County Board of Supervisors, praising the work of the Orange County Human Relations Council. (Mark Boster/Los Angeles Times)



By **Anh Do**

JUNE 17, 2017, 5:35 PM

When the bag of feces arrived at the LGBT Center Orange County, Laura Kanter knew immediately what to do.

She picked up the phone and called the Orange County Human Relations Council to talk with Don Han, who deals with hate crimes.

Kanter, as director of policy advocacy and youth services for the LGBT Center in Santa Ana, recently recalled the disturbing incident that occurred in May. She said that the council provides an important service in the community.

“We can call the police and I did, and they’ll just take a report,” she said. “But I knew we had someone to turn to and that’s what these folks do best. They look at the bigger picture to create understanding between communities.”

Han’s nonprofit organization was founded in 1991 in part to raise money and develop programs overseen by the Orange County Human Relations Commission. The council and commission works with law enforcement agencies, compile an annual hate crime report and provide mediation and violence prevention programs in partnerships with schools, corporations, cities, foundations and individuals.

“We try to be a voice of reason and listen,” Han said, “and we’re committed to getting people from all sides to come together.”

The council has raised about \$30 million in the last 25 years to support the county commission’s work, [according to its website](#). But until recently the council was in danger of losing the funding that pays for three members of its staff, including Han.

For months, county supervisors debated back and forth, threatening to cut the \$252,000 needed to pay for the council’s personnel, while the group received an eviction notice to vacate the county building where it has operated, rent-free, by July 1.

Meanwhile, the number of reported hate crimes increased — 50 in 2016, compared with 44 the year before — with African Americans and the LGBT population as the two most frequently targeted communities across the county, according to the groups’ newest report. This trend, coupled with the fear that Orange County could lose its human relations advocates, prompted more than 300 supporters to swarm supervisors’ meetings this month, pushing to allow the two groups to continue their partnership.

Among the proponents praising the groups’ anti-bullying, interfaith and mediation campaigns was Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, who said “there is a lot of fear in our immigrant and LGBTQ communities. This is an important public safety and quality of life issue for us.”

The board voted 4 to 1 last week, with Supervisor Michelle Steel as the lone dissenter, to continue funding the council for at least another year. But the panel also urged the council and commission to stop “co-mingling,” with one supervisor noting that some commission staff members report to the council’s director.

Supervisor Andrew Do, the most vocal opponent before the vote, criticized the confusion between the operations of the council and commission, saying “it raises questions about accountability and leaves the board vulnerable to violations of state public meeting laws.

“The public has to be clear on the two entities,” he said. “Right now, they’re so intertwined, people don’t know who’s responsible for what and as supervisors, we don’t know what’s going on at the council while we’re the ones overseeing the commission that works with them.”

On June 6, supervisors deadlocked 2 to 2, with one member absent, on the personnel funding for the council. Supervisor Todd Spitzer proposed another vote a week later with the full board present. Do ended up voting to allocate the money because “the work is still viable,” he said. “People around the county still need a voice.”

Spitzer blamed the county for initially pressuring the nonprofit to raise funds for commission programs during a time when Orange County faced financial hardship, including a bankruptcy scandal. He said the board must choose if it wants to give money to programs and control its delivery — or allow the nonprofit to continue finding revenue.

Commission and council members promised to meet with county officials to find a “way to separate our administration and still be effective,” said Rusty Kennedy, the council’s chief executive. “We’re ecstatic to be able to continue.”

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State's 'balanced and progressive' budget carries big risks for taxpayers

Feedback

By Dan Walters | Jun 18, 2017 | COMMENTARY

Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders are patting themselves on the back for what Brown describes as a “balanced and progressive budget” for the 2017-18 fiscal year that begins July 1.

The “progressive” description of the \$185 billion budget alludes to expanding benefits for the very large number of impoverished Californians – at least a quarter, and perhaps more than a third of the state’s 39 million residents. They include an expansion of the

state's new "earned income tax credit" from low-income wage workers to the low-income self-employed.

The "balanced" claim refers to politicians' traditional view that if they don't spend every last dollar the state receives, or is projected to receive, a budget is "balanced."

However, a more comprehensive view of the state's financial situation clouds that characterization.

For instance, while the \$125 billion general fund doesn't directly rely on borrowed money, as have past budgets, it also doesn't account for an increase in debt that will have to be eventually covered by general fund taxes, such as income and sales levies.

Brown's revised budget proposal, released last month, points out that "the state now has \$282 billion in long-term costs, debts, and liabilities. The vast majority of these liabilities – \$279 billion – are related to retirement costs of state and University of California employees (which) have grown by \$51 billion in the last year alone due to poor investment returns and the adoption of more realistic assumptions about future earnings."

The budget does little or nothing to whittle down that burden on future generations of taxpayers.

The budget allocates nearly \$6 billion just for payments to the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and Brown's budget predicted sharp increases in the years ahead. He proposed, and legislators endorsed, another \$6 billion one-time payment by borrowing the extra payment from another state fund.



Borrowing to make the extra payment would not reduce the state's overall debt, obviously. Brown contends that it would save money in the long run, because the interest paid on the loan would be less than the projected growth of pension debt.

It's quite similar to the "pension obligation bonds" that local governments have floated, hoping to come out ahead via arbitrage, but they have sometimes backfired, and Brown is betting \$6 billion that CalPERS can achieve its 7 percent annual earnings goal despite what the governor describes as "poor investment returns."

Even if this fiscal gimmick works as hoped, the state's retirement debt will continue to grow. The state's regular payments to CalPERS fall way short of what would be needed to keep the debt from growing, much less pay it down. Overall, CalPERS has less than two-thirds of the money it needs to cover all pension commitments.

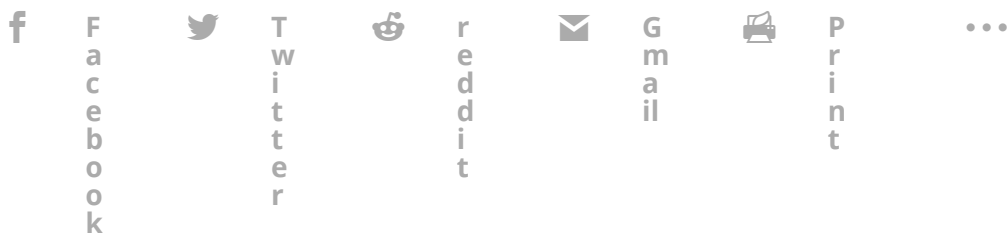
Another cloud on the budget is the \$9.9 billion in reserves that Brown and legislative leaders are touting as hedge against an economic downturn.

Most of it is in a "rainy day fund," it had better be a very light shower, because it's a truly paltry sum. Brown's own budget staff estimates that even a moderate recession would slash state revenues by \$55 billion over three years, largely because the state has become ever-more-dependent on income taxes from a relative handful of affluent taxpayers, making its revenue stream increasingly volatile.

The state sorely needs tax reform to reduce that volatility and ensure that the money will be there for all the goodies Brown and



legislators are happily handing out. But that would take political will that is in very short supply.



Feedback

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EMAIL ADDRESS

Surge in Latino homeless population 'a whole new phenomenon' for Los Angeles



Timoteo Arevalos, 55, rests in Hollenbeck Park in Boyle Heights on June 6. Arevalos, who has been homeless for a few months, spends his days in the park. "I feel safe. This is home," he said.

By **Esmeralda Bermudez and Ruben Vives**

JUNE 18, 2017, 5:00 AM

Timoteo Arevalos never imagined he'd end up here, loitering for hours on a bench at Hollenbeck Park in Boyle Heights, using his backpack as his pillow.

He used to have a government job, but the recession hit and he was laid off. He then tried to scrape by as a dishwasher, but last fall his hours were cut and he couldn't pay his rent.

Now, he is part of a rising number of Latinos who are living homeless in Los Angeles. Recent figures released by the county show that Latino homelessness shot up by 63% in the past year, a staggering number in a county that saw its overall homeless population soar by 23%, despite increasing efforts to get people off the street.

Nearly every demographic, including youth, families and veterans, showed increases in homelessness, but Latinos delivered one of the sharpest rises, adding more than 7,000 people to the surge.

“I would say it’s a whole new phenomenon,” said County Supervisor Hilda Solis, whose district saw Latino homelessness go up by 84%. “We have to put it on the radar and really think outside the box when we consider how to help this population.”

Homeless officials and outreach groups say Los Angeles’ rising rents and stale wages are the main drivers pushing many out of their homes.

According to a study released by the Homeless Services Authority, renters living in Los Angeles are the most cost-burdened nationwide. More than 2 million households in L.A. and Orange counties have housing costs that exceed 30% of their income.

Latinos are particularly at risk, with many working up to two to three low-paying jobs to make ends meet. Those lacking legal status are more vulnerable these days as they struggle to find work and avoid public assistance, which they fear could flag them for eventual deportation.

“It’s like they live with one foot on a banana peel and the other one step from homelessness,” said Rose Rios, who runs Cover the Homeless Ministry, a South Los Angeles non-profit that feeds people in the streets, many of them Latino.

After Arevalos lost his government job, he lived off his \$70,000 savings. When that dried up, he struggled to find a good-paying job. Eventually he settled for a dish washing gig, but when the restaurant cut back his hours last fall, he lost his Pico Rivera studio apartment.

Now, he receives \$900 in unemployment, enough for food and clothes, but not quite to cover rent and bills. Most days, he sleeps in a secluded alley in Pico Rivera, not far from the roar of passing trains and cargo trucks. To bathe, he goes to Roosevelt High School’s public pool.

“I’m frustrated and sad,” Arevalos said. “Having to go up and down and starting over takes a lot out of you.”

Countywide, an estimated 20% of Latinos live below the poverty level. Their average household income is about \$47,000.

“This is a population that’s already living under very difficult circumstances,” said USC sociology professor Manuel Pastor. “When you increase rents, you really start to see a bigger impact.”

In 2016, Latinos made up 27% of the county’s homeless population; that number has rocketed to 35% in the last year. Latinos make up about 48% of the county’s overall population. The percentage of white homeless people declined 2% in that time.

African Americans saw a slight increase in the number of homeless, but while they make up 9% of L.A. County’s overall population, they still represent a disproportionate 40% of the county’s homeless.

This year's homeless count, conducted in January, showed significant increases in the newly homeless, homeless youth and homeless living in cars. These figures seem to support the idea that the surge in Latino homelessness is made up of working poor who might have been priced out by the market, Pastor said.

Solis has noticed the difference as she drives around her district in East Los Angeles and parts of the San Gabriel Valley. She has seen more Latinos who apparently live in the riverbeds and freeway underpasses.

The supervisor said she hopes that the needs of homeless Latinos are taken into account as funds from Proposition HHH and Measure H are allocated over the next decade. The ballot measures approved by Los Angeles voters in November are expected to provide several billion dollars in housing, rent subsidies and services to the homeless.

"A lot of Latinos tend to come from tight-knit communities and don't like talking about how they're struggling," Solis said.

Many tend to not seek help from shelters and homeless outreach centers, such as the ones located in downtown L.A.'s skid row. They try to subsist, relying on relatives, friends, churches, clinics, all while living out of their car or in the street.

"We need service providers who reflect the community, who provide competent, culturally sensitive information in Spanish," Solis said.

At a church east of the Los Angeles River on a recent evening, nearly three dozen men sat around the courtyard, waiting for a warm meal and a place to spend the night. Most sleep in cots that line the church temple, near the altar and by the doors.

The men, all Latinos and some of them lacking legal status, have been coming here for nearly 30 years to seek emergency shelter.

Among them was Mario Martinez, 48, from Guatemala. He came to the U.S. when he was 17 years old.

He worked in factories and construction sites, eventually landing a job as a manager of a fabric and textile warehouse. He made \$18 an hour.

Martinez and his girlfriend and their two children, ages 4 and 10, used to rent an apartment in Montebello for \$1,400 a month.

"I had started from the bottom and worked my way up," he said.

But life took a turn and he and his girlfriend separated. Five years ago, he lost his job.

Work since then has been tough to come by and it's paid much less. When Martinez depleted his \$15,000 in savings a few months ago, he ended up in the street.

He hopes part-time work through an employment agency will help him get back into an apartment soon.

“I’m the kind of person who takes life as it comes,” Martinez said. “As long as you’re healthy and able to work and get sleep, you’re able to get back up.”

The church also provides similar assistance to Latinas.

In other parts of the city, several districts that have experienced gentrification saw Latino homelessness rise. That includes Councilman [Gil Cedillo](#)’s 1st District, where there was a 79% increase.

District 1 includes densely populated neighborhoods such as Pico-Union and Westlake, where many poor families crowd into high-rise apartments. The area’s proximity to downtown has made it enticing for developers in recent years, pushing rents up for many people.

At the center of Westlake, MacArthur Park has become a go-to destination for homeless from across the region. Their tents are spread across the 32-acre park, creating an endless cycle that doesn’t ease despite weekly outreach efforts conducted by Cedillo’s office and numerous organizations.

“The problem is a lack of sufficient housing stock,” Cedillo said. “People are very compassionate and concerned about the homeless, but what we need to do is get out of the developers’ way and begin to create a process so people can build and neighbors need to embrace this.”

In Highland Park, another area represented by Cedillo, gentrification has vastly spiked housing prices. Two-bedroom homes sell for more than \$600,000.

In 2009, Rebecca Prine founded Recycled Resources for the Homeless, a nonprofit outreach group that connects the homeless to housing and provides basic services, such as free laundry on Wednesday nights.

In the winters, the organization opens a shelter, the only one in the neighborhood. This past year, Prine said the shelter was filled mostly with Latinos. Many of them held down full-time jobs. But they couldn’t afford the rents. Others were older residents with fixed incomes.

“From one year to the next,” Prine said, “the face of homelessness changed for us.”

[To read the article in Spanish, click here](#)

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT



California's Boldest Pension Reform: Five Years In

POSTED BY : ED MENDEL JUNE 19, 2017

If you don't give city employees a pension, what happens?

San Diegans voted five years ago this month to switch all new city hires, except police, from pensions to 401(k)-style individual investment plans, becoming one of the first big cities to take the plunge.

Jacksonville, Fla., took a bigger step last April, switching all new employees including police and firefighters to 401(k)-style plans. Last week, Pennsylvania's governor signed legislation switching new state employees and teachers to three 401(k)-based options.

The Michigan legislature approved legislation last week that puts new teachers in a 401(k)-style plan unless they opt for a "hybrid" pension-401(k) plan. Michigan was the first to switch state employees to 401(k)-style plans two decades ago, followed later by Alaska and Oklahoma.

As one of the city forerunners of what public pension advocates hope does not become a trend, San Diego will be watched. The 401(k)-style plan is the radical reform, avoiding all pension debt for new hires, unlike milder California reforms that curb future pension costs.

Gov. Brown's pension reform five years ago, requiring new hires to work longer to earn full pensions and making other modest changes, covers CalPERS, CalSTRS, and 20 county systems — not UC and a half dozen big cities with their own pension systems, like San Diego.

A key part of a reform approved by San Jose voters five years ago, cutting the cost of pensions earned by current workers, was blocked by a court. As the police force decreased, a plan preserving some savings was negotiated with unions and approved by voters last fall.

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While the number of private-sector pensions, usually offered only by large companies, continues to drop one of the issues is whether the switch to 401(k) plans, originally designed to supplement pensions, will provide an adequate retirement.

An additional issue for local governments that switch is a job market where government pensions are standard. Remaining competitive, particularly for police, is the reason San Bernardino and Stockton did not try to cut pension debt while in bankruptcy.

So, how's San Diego doing five years into the switch?

Little information was readily available last week from the office of Mayor Kevin Faulconer, a signer of the ballot argument for Proposition B, or former Councilman Carl DeMaio, an author of the measure, or the San Diego City Employees Retirement System.

A union official said offering new hires a 401(k)-style plan rather than a pension is having an impact on recruitment, particularly for middle and upper management and skilled positions such as engineering and surveying.

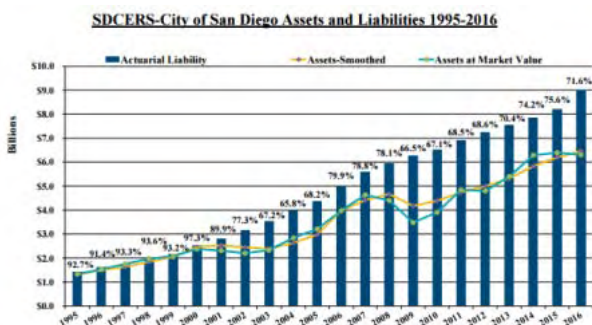
Michael Zucchet, San Diego Municipal Employees Association general manager, said the switch reduces services by contributing to an overall vacancy rate in city positions of about 10 percent, rising to 15 to 20 percent in some positions.

He cited the example of a staffing crisis for city 911 dispatchers on emergency calls. A survey found the total compensation of San Diego dispatchers was 30 percent below the regional average, resulting last June in a 26.6 percent pay raise over three years.

Firefighter positions (represented by a different union) still attract many applicants, said Zucchet. But a high failure rate raises questions about quality, and a loss of new firefighter suggests the city is a "training grounds" for other fire departments.

For persons pursuing a career in public service, said Zucchet, pensions are offered by San Diego County, 17 cities in the county that contract with the California Public Employees Retirement System, and other government agencies throughout the region.

"Because of that, to be perfectly frank, you would have to be sort of crazy to choose the city of San Diego," Zucchet said. "There must be reasons other than compensation and benefits to choose here, and that's still being felt."



One of the twists in the San Diego reform is that the city's independent budget analyst said in the ballot pamphlet that switching to a 401(k)-style plan is not projected to save money over the next 30 years.

Savings from ending pensions for new hires, except police, would be offset by the cost of the new 401(k)-style plan that allows a maximum city contribution of 9.2 percent of pay for most employees, 11 percent for safety employees. City employees do not receive Social Security.

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But the analyst projected potential Proposition B savings of \$963 million over 30 years from a freeze on pay counted toward pensions until June 20, 2018. Salaries could be increased during the freeze, but the increase would not count toward pensions.

Zucchet said because the freeze on pensionable pay was “locked in four or five years ago, the pension system was able to change its projections, and there was a realized long-term savings.”

About \$200 million is expected to be saved over 15 years by increased early payments of the debt for closing pension plans, a government accounting requirement said the latest [actuarial report](#).

Proposition B was said to be needed to curb a projected \$100 million increase in city pension costs during the next decade. Zucchet said costs had already been cut by steps such as an agreement in 2009 to give many employees a much lower pension.

San Diego was fertile ground for radical pension reform because two city deals that cut payments into the pension fund while increasing pension benefits resulted in soaring debt, budget cuts, a federal bond probe, lawsuits, and national notoriety.

Now the annual city payment to the pension system is scheduled to jump to \$324.5 million in July, up from \$261.1 million this fiscal year. The actuarial report said the increase is mainly due to a new estimate that retirees will live longer.

Longevity also is the primary reason the pension funding level dropped to 71.6 percent as of last June 30, down from 75.6 percent the previous year. The pension debt or unfunded liability jumped from \$2 billion to \$2.56 billion, largely for the same reason.

The actuarial report shows a very high weighted total city contribution rate, 88.7 percent of pay. The pension contribution exceeds pay in three plans: “police old” 114.5 percent of pay, “fire old” 122.6 percent, and “elected” 153.2 percent.

A San Diego County Taxpayers Educational [Foundation report](#) in March said the current fiscal year city pension contribution was 10.94 percent of the operating budget, amounting to \$233 per capita. The foundation is planning a new study on Proposition B.

There is still a chance that Proposition B may be repealed. An appellate court overturned a state labor board ruling that Proposition B was invalid because city officials did not bargain the issue with unions.

Last month, unions asked the state Supreme Court to review the appellate ruling. If the initiative is overturned, the city may face the cost of giving retroactive pensions to more than 3,000 employees that now have a 401(k)-style plan.

[Originally posted at Cal Pensions.](#)

Comments

0 comments

