

<http://www.breitbart.com/economics/2017/08/30/exclusive-donald-trump-urged-to-nationalize-americas-only-rare-earth-mine/>

Exclusive: Donald Trump Urged to Nationalize America's Only Rare Earth Mine



by [JOHN CARNEY](#) 30 Aug 2017 1,625

President Donald Trump met with an executive from an American advanced materials manufacturer who urged the president to prevent China from cornering the market in rare earth materials by nationalizing the only rare earth mine in the United States.

An investor group that allegedly has ties to the Chinese government in June purchased the rare earth mine in Mountain Pass, California that was one of the final remaining assets of the now bankrupt Molycorp Inc. The mine is one of the very few not already controlled by China, which accounts for 97 percent of the global rare-earth mineral production.

“By buying up Mountain Pass, the Chinese have locked up the only operating rare earth mining operation outside of China,” said Michael Silver, chief executive of American Elements Corp., in an interview with Breitbart News about his White House meetings.

China's control of rare earth mining has implications for the U.S. military. According to a 2016 Government Accountability Office study, certain rare earth materials are "essential to the production, sustainment, and operation of U.S. military equipment." Critical military uses include rare earths employed in antimissile defense systems, precision-guided weapons, lasers, communications systems, night vision equipment, satellites and military aircraft.

"Reliable access to the necessary material...is a bedrock requirement for the [Department of Defense]," the GAO wrote.

The GAO found that the Defense Department lacked any comprehensive plan for how to deal with "potential supply disruptions."

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The Decline and Fall of America's Rare Earth Capacity

The U.S. was once the world's largest producer of such metals but in recent decades has lost out to China, where the rare earth minerals are plentiful and companies are not burdened by environmental and labor regulation. By 1999, more than 90 percent of the rare earth materials used by U.S. industry came from deposits in China. Today, China produces 97 percent of rare earth elements used globally.

Last year, there were no rare earth materials mined in the U.S., according to the Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey. The U.S. imports between \$120 million and \$160 million worth of rare earths a year, around 9 percent of total global demand for the minerals.

The 2015 bankruptcy of Molycorp, which owned the Mountain Pass rare earth mine, was responsible for shutting down U.S. production. That followed from a sharp decline in prices of rare earth as China kept up its massive production, flooding the market. This global excess supply pushed the price of some rare earths below their cost of production, making the mining and processing uneconomical outside of China.

A buyout group led by U.S. investors and backed by China's Shenghe Resources Holding Co. won approval in June by a bankruptcy court to buy the mine. Rival bidder Tom Clarke has called for the U.S. government to review the acquisition with an eye to Shenghe's alleged ties to the Chinese government.

Silver met with Trump twice in July to discuss nationalizing the Molycorp mine. He also held meetings with Trump's senior staff, including then chief strategist Stephen Bannon and then deputy assistant Sebastian Gorka. He urged the Trump administration to use the power of eminent domain to acquire the mine for use as a new national laboratory dedicated to preserving America's rare-earth mining capacity.

Rare-earth minerals were first used commercially to produce color televisions. Today they are used in the manufacture of high-tech items that are central to the modern economy, including laptop computers, iPhones, wind turbines, camera lenses, aircraft engines and hybrid electric

cars. According to a report from the U.S. Geological Survey, rare earth elements are “vital to modern technologies and lifestyles.”

China’s ramped up production was a reversal of a 2010 that had capped its rare earth exports. The U.S. viewed this cap as an attempt to force manufacturers to locate in China and put pressure on China to reverse its stance. That happened in 2015 following a ruling by the World Trade Organization that China’s practices were unfair. The lifting of the caps sent rare earth prices crashing.

Silver, the American Elements executive, says this was the result of China dumping the minerals on the market at rock-bottom prices in an effort to drive out competitors. Any attempt to make the Molycorp mine commercially viable will fail, according to silver, because China can hold prices lower for longer than any competitor can stay solvent.

Now China is using its control of the market to cajole companies to manufacture in China, according to Silver. That puts any efforts to restore manufacturing in America at risk, he said.

A Plan to Prevent China’s Sole Control

“We need to assure high-tech manufacturers that it is safe to locate plants in the U.S. At this point, the only place you can site a plant is China because of their control over the minerals,” Silver said.

Under Silver’s plan, the mine would become one of the U.S. government’s national labs. The best-known of these research facilities run by the Department of Energy is the famous Los Alamos National Laboratory. Nationalizing the mine would guarantee that manufacturers wouldn’t lose access to the rare-earth minerals if China decided to restrict their import.

“One you guarantee access to the minerals, where’s the best place to site your plant? The U.S. because of quality labor, our academics, our know how,” Silver said.

Nationalizing the mine would not stop China’s ability to set price globally. But government ownership would allow the mine to continue operating even if it were unprofitable. That, in turn, would allow the U.S. to continue to employ rare earth scientists domestically and develop new rare earth technologies. Under the U.S. Constitution, the government is allowed to take ownership of the property through the power of eminent domain so long as property owners receive appropriate compensation.

American Elements is a Los Angeles-based manufacturer of metals and chemicals with a catalog of more than 15,000 products, according to Silver. He was one of the first Americans to set up a distribution supply chain from China to North America, he said in an interview.

“I probably stand to lose money by arguing for nationalizing the mine. But I feel like this is my duty as a patriot,” Silver said.

Chromium-6 standard removed by State Water Resources Control Board

By Matthew Cabe
Staff Writer

Posted at 8:24 AM

SACRAMENTO — The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently adopted a resolution to remove the current maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium found in drinking water, in accordance with a court ruling.

Superior Court of Sacramento County Judge Christopher Krueger invalidated the 10 parts per billion (ppb) standard for chromium 6 in May, citing the state Department of Public Health's (DPH) failure to consider how compliance alternatives "would affect the economic feasibility of the MCL, particularly for small water systems," court documents show.

The five-member board disagreed with the court's decision, an SWRCB statement shows; however, "it has decided not to appeal and instead will begin the process for adopting a new MCL as soon as possible."

A reason for why the board opted against appealing was not included in the statement.

The unprecedented 10-ppb regulation was set in 2014 when the Division of Drinking Water was under DPH authority, according to the statement. The division was transferred in July of that year to the SWRCB, which is listed as the respondent in court documents.

The new standard, which made California the first state to issue such a regulation for chromium 6, went into effect Jan. 1, 2015, after the passage of Senate Bill 385.

“The Board will use the wealth of data collected over the last three years since the standard was adopted to help craft a new MCL,” the statement shows.

“Generally, regulation development takes between 18 and 24 months to complete.”

Last year, a range of 10 to 16 ppb of chromium 6 were found in five wells operated by the Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District (PPHCSD) and, additionally, all five wells servicing residents of Oak Hills contained levels between 18 and 23 ppb.

The heightened levels forced PPHCSD and the San Bernardino County Special Districts Department to seek mitigation plans. The former opted to undertake a blending project while the latter began exploring a pilot program for technology that collects chromium-6 from water samples and provides data on how much of the metal is being removed from those samples.

Both plans came with costs estimated in the millions, and each water provider has responded in a similar way to the SWRCB’s removal of the state standard that made lowering chromium-6 levels a requirement.

In Phelan, \$3.7 million has already been spent toward mitigation, according to General Manager Don Bartz, who said compliance will likely remain an issue going forward.

“We believed the (SWRCB’s) previous 10-ppb mandate timeline was economically restrictive and costly while providing no additional safety for our customers,” Bartz said in a statement. “The State Board, however, has indicated its court-ordered economic feasibility study will likely result in the reinstatement of the 10 ppb standard.”

As a result, PPHCSD will continue to move forward with its \$17 million blending project, which will mix water purchased from the Meadowbrook Dairy in El Mirage with the district’s current supply via approximately 10 miles of pipeline.

Bartz said the district will “reinvestigate all options,” but added that blending project, which included the purchase of additional water rights, may remain the most cost-effective compliance method.

“These additional water rights will not only protect service levels, but will also allow the district the ability to naturally blend our water supply to dilute chromium levels without the need for less ideal, and more expensive, chemical wellhead treatment,” Bartz said.

Bartz’s expectation is that treatment will lower chromium 6 levels to about 8 ppb, according to a previous Daily Press report. The district’s hope is that the project “will translate into long-term savings for our customers because we would not have to invest in more costly alternatives.”

Meanwhile, in Oak Hills, the Water and Sanitation Division of the Special Districts Department continues to test various treatment methods, but has not yet started to treat water for public consumption, according to San Bernardino County spokesperson David Wert.

“California water systems in compliance with SB 385 had a Jan. 1, 2020, deadline for meeting the 10 ppb chromium 6 MCL,” Wert said. “In Oak Hills ... the district is on track to meet that deadline.”

With that said, Wert added that not knowing what the state’s new standard will be “poses some challenges to the district’s current testing program.”

“If the state’s chromium 6 MCL turns out to be the same or lower than the previous 10 ppb, the work the district is doing is appropriate for meeting that standard,” he said. “However, if the standard turns out to be higher than the current average level occurring in Oak Hills, the district may not be required to perform additional treatment.”

Both Bartz and Wert said the levels of chromium 6 in the two communities were below the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) national standard of 100 ppb; however, that regulation is for total chromium and includes trivalent chromium — chromium 3 — which is an “essential human dietary element.”

Both types occur naturally in the environment, but chromium 6 “can also be produced by industrial processes,” according to the EPA.

“There are demonstrated instances of chromium being released to the environment by leakage, poor storage, or inadequate industrial waste disposal practices,” the agency’s website shows.

That was the case in Hinkley in the 1990s when Pacific Gas & Electric's long-term use of ponds to store water allowed extremely high levels of chromium-6 to seep into the community's groundwater supply.

In 2010, Hinkley's contamination plume exceeded 9,000 ppb, according to a previous Daily Press report. By comparison, the levels in the Oak Hills wells currently average 19.4 ppb, Wert said.

Matthew Cabe can be reached at MCabe@VVDailyPress.com or at 760-951-6254. Follow him on Twitter [@DP_MatthewCabe](https://twitter.com/DP_MatthewCabe).

LOCAL NEWS

Most of Colton loses power, canceling classes; 1,000 others without power in Inland region

By [BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA](#) |

PUBLISHED: August 31, 2017 at 7:40 am | UPDATED: August 31, 2017 at 8:28 am



A citywide power outage in the Colton has led several Colton Joint Unified School District campuses to cancel classes Thursday morning.

Elsewhere in the Inland region, Southern California Edison crews are working to restore power to more than 1,000 people and businesses from Rialto to Corona on Thursday morning.

In Colton, parents were alerted to the school cancellations through text messages, calls and through social media messages from the district. Those parents then shared the information on a Facebook community page.



Colton Joint Unified
@ColtonJUSD

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Citywide power outage. District office and sites affected. We will keep everyone posted as we get more information.

7:37 AM - Aug 31, 2017

1 7 2

It wasn't immediately clear how many homes and businesses were affected by the Colton outage, but a dispatcher with the Colton Electric Utility call center said service went out around 6:30 a.m. He also said the center had fielded about 50 calls, as of 8 a.m., with about 15 or so still holding.

Colton radio station K-FROG morning host Kelli Green posted to [Facebook](#) that they lost power around 7 a.m.

In other cities, one of the largest affected areas is near Riverside and Randall avenues in Rialto, which has knocked out power to 628 customers, according to the Edison's online outage map.

Smaller pockets of lost electricity were reported in San Bernardino, Grand Terrace, Rialto, Mira Loma and Corona due to a variety of reasons, including storm conditions and equipment failure.

Outages have been reported since Wednesday night, some because of increased use of electricity as people try to stay cool during the heat wave, Edison officials said.

About 3,000 people in La Verne lost power in the area of Base Line near Emerald Avenue, north up to Golden Hills Road on Wednesday night. Service was restored by Thursday morning.

Check back later as further information is made available.

Tags: [power outage](#), [Top Stories IVDB](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories Sun](#)



Beatriz E. Valenzuela

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NEWS

Environmentalist seeks to rally support for bill blocking water transfer



Chris Clarke, California Desert Program Manager of the National Parks Conservation Association, speaks to locals about the Cadiz Project and asks for support in preserving the eastern Mojave during an informal presentation in front of the Pioneertown Mountains Preserve Ranger Station in Pioneertown, Calif. on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017. The environmentalist asked supporters to call elected officials and urge them to back a bill, AB 1000, that would block the controversial project to sell groundwater. (Photo by Rachel Luna, The Sun/SCNG)

By **JIM STEINBERG** | jsteinberg@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun

August 30, 2017 at 4:21 pm

PIONEERTOWN >> As yellow jackets and bees darted above, an environmentalist asked those interested in preserving the eastern Mojave to call elected officials in support of a bill that would block a controversial plan to sell groundwater.

"This is a way for Californians to say they are not going to allow the Trump Administration to force destructive projects on the state without environmental review," Chris Clarke, California Desert program manager of the National Parks Conservation Association, told 35 people gathered Tuesday night near the front porch of the Pioneertown Mountains Preserve Ranger Station.

Clarke said Friday is a crucial day for Assembly Bill 1000, sponsored by assembly member Laura Friedman, D-Glendale, which would prohibit transfer of groundwater south of Interstate 15, east of State Highway 247, north of State Highway 62, west of Interstate 95, and west of the Nevada state line between Interstate 95 and Interstate 15, unless the State Lands Commission, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, "finds that the transfer of the water will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat, of those federal and state lands."

The geographic boundaries match those of the Cadiz Project, a project to transfer groundwater in the parched, remote eastern San Bernardino County desert to parts of Orange County and other locations where it could serve as many as 400,000 people.

Friday is the day the bill must clear the Senate Appropriations Committee, or die, Clarke said, as he urged those attending the porch-side discussion to email or call their state representatives prior to Friday.

While the bill “targets Cadiz, its boundaries do include the Mojave Water Agency and the City of 29 Palms Water District area. The City of Los Angeles, also moves water from desert lands, so it may also be impacted,” said Courtney Degener, a Cadiz spokeswoman.

“It is not clear what type of environmental review would be required, as the project has already completed a full CEQA process that has been sanctified by the courts, but we assume it is an attempt to force a do-over of the already court-approved California environmental review,” Degener said, in an email.

“We don’t believe any new or additional review would reach a different conclusion as the project is a safe, sustainable project that will not harm the environment,” she said.

Environmentalists have been concerned the Trump Administration will make the Cadiz project since December when it surfaced on a preliminary list of infrastructure projects provided by the transition team.

In late 2015, the Obama Administration’s Bureau of Land Management rejected Cadiz’s use of an 1875 railway right-of-way to build a critical 43-mile pipeline from Fenner Valley – about 40 miles northeast of Twentynine Palms – to the Colorado River Aqueduct, where it could be delivered to future customers.

This action blocked a way for the Cadiz project to get its water to customers without a full environmental review, environmental groups say.

One of the 35 at the preserve Tuesday night was Gwen Barker, co-owner of the Rimrock Ranch, a motel near Pioneertown, who said the basic tenant of the Cadiz project, taking water from the desert, doesn’t make sense.

Barker said that many people are moving into the desert area from big metro areas like Los Angeles and are giving a desert a voice it has never had before.

“I don’t like that this project might mess up with nature out in the desert,” said Cain Motter, 46, who divides his time between residences near Pioneertown and in Venice Beach, and was another one of Tuesday night’s attendees.

The Pioneertown Mountains Preserve is one of 15 owned by the Oak Glen-based The Wildlands Conservancy, the largest nonprofit nature preserve system in California.

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Jim Steinberg

Jim Steinberg is a national-award winning environmental writer. He also covers medical and healthcare issues, drones and aviation, military and the cities of Fontana and Rialto.

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LOCAL NEWS

Hemet expected to hire former San Bernardino leader as interim city manager



FILE PHOTO

Former San Bernardino City Manager Allen Parker is expected to be named interim city manager in Hemet.

By **CRAIG SHULTZ** | cshultz@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
August 30, 2017 at 4:45 pm



Hemet is expected to hire veteran administrator Allen Parker as its interim city manager during a special meeting Thursday afternoon, Aug. 31.

He will replace Alex Meyerhoff, [who resigned Aug. 8](#) amid some clashes with the council. Police Chief Dave Brown has been acting city manager since.

Parker, 76, is being offered [a six-month contract](#) based on an annual salary of \$200,000, the amount Meyerhoff was being paid. He would receive health and other benefits, a \$500 monthly car allowance, paid time off and retirement benefits. He will not receive any severance when he leaves the post.

After Parker spends three months as interim manager, the City Council will evaluate whether to hire him as its permanent manager.

“The council sees this as an opportunity to get to know his management style, productivity and interaction with the community,” Mayor Linda Krupa said in a statement. “We are very fortunate to have an opportunity to evaluate each other to make sure it’s a good fit.”

If Parker doesn’t become the manager, he will assist the city in its search for a full-time boss.

Parker will be the 12th person to serve as Hemet’s city manager since 2000.

Hired by San Bernardino in February 2013, six months into the city’s bankruptcy, he [left the post](#) in December 2015, given a year’s salary of nearly \$222,000 in exchange for his resignation.

[San Bernardino Mayor Carey Davis asked for Parker’s resignation](#) in December 2014, blaming him for the city remaining in bankruptcy court for more than two years after the case was filed.

Parker, however, refused to quit and the council at that time did not act to remove him.

With 25 years of experience, Parker arrived with a reputation as a “fiscal fixer.” Cities where Parker worked previously include Oak Park, Ill.; Kansas City, Mo.; Compton; Garden Grove; and Seal Beach.

Parker and his wife Sara live in Beaumont.

Tags: [Top Stories PE](#)



Craig Shultz

Craig Shultz primarily reports about the San Jacinto Valley. He started his journalism career there in 1985 and has reported on the community and region for most of that time, covering everything from sports to city halls and schools. He was previously the editor of The Hemet News and The Valley Chronicle. Shultz was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles and graduated from Cal State Northridge.

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By Chamberlain University



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LOCAL NEWS

31-year-old Ontario woman accused of leaving toddler in hot car

By [STEPHEN RAMIREZ](#) | stramirez@scng.com | San Gabriel Valley Tribune
PUBLISHED: August 30, 2017 at 6:21 pm | UPDATED: August 30, 2017 at 6:25 pm



A 31-year woman was arrested Tuesday on accusations that she left her 2-year-old daughter unattended in her car while temperatures soared above 100 degrees, Ontario police said.



Samar Mansour Mari, 31, of Ontario was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of child cruelty. Photo provided by the Ontario Police Department.

Samar Mansour Mari, of Ontario, was taken into custody on suspicion of child cruelty, Ontario police said in a news release. She was arrested outside a Target store at 4200 E. Fourth Street in Ontario. She is being housed at the West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga. Bail is set at \$100,000.

Police were alerted Tuesday via a 911 call that a child was left unattended in car outside a Target store just after 6 p.m., the release said. The vehicle had its engine off and the windows were left “slightly” ajar.

Officers arrived to find the “child sweating heavily and in distress.” They removed the child from the car and medics treated her. She was taken to an area hospital and then released to Child Protective Services.

Mari was taken into custody, the release said, when she returned to her car.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Ontario Police Department at 909-986-6711. Those wishing to offer information anonymously can call We-Tip hotline at 800-78-CRIME or on the internet at wetip.com.

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Stephen Ramirez

Steve Ramirez writes about public safety issues including criminal justice and fires in Inland Southern California. He previously covered high schools, college football and motor sports for the San Gabriel Valley Tribune since 1989. He's a big fan of Buddy Holly and loves World War II movies.

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A soaring debut: Hesperia welcomes The Villas senior community

By Rene Ray De La Cruz

Staff Writer

Posted Aug 30, 2017 at 4:59 PM

Updated Aug 30, 2017 at 5:00 PM

HESPERIA — It was standing room only as the Eagle Real Estate Group unveiled its newest housing development with a ribbon cutting and celebration of The Villas 55+ senior community.

City of Hesperia officials also welcomed the crowd that gathered for the event at the Spanish Mission-style apartments located on Avenal Street, just east of Mariposa Road, Wednesday.

“Eagle is so very proud to bring this beautiful affordable seniors community to the City of Hesperia and we are excited to bring life into this special place,” said Randall Friend, founder of the real estate group.

Friend told the Daily Press two-thirds of the 96-unit, two-story project is already pre-leased, with many seniors showing interest in the remaining units. He also remarked that plans are in the works for another 96-unit facility adjacent to the property.

Hesperia Mayor Paul Russ told the audience the vision for the Villas project began years ago when several Council members visited Eagle’s 120-unit senior facility in Colton.

“We felt the housing money allocated to us should be spent on affordable housing for our seniors,” Russ said. “Twenty percent of this project is subsidized, and if you’re going to subsidize a group of people, let’s subsidize those who have been around, they lived their lives, they paid into society, they raised their kids and now they need to scale back a little.”

Apple Valley Mayor Scott Nassif applauded 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood after he called the housing project a “proactive engagement” for “growth opportunity,” and credited the city and Eagle for partnering to “build a better desert.”

Lovingood also complimented Eagle and the city for locating the Villas in close proximity to Main Street, with its many eating and shopping opportunities.

Many in the audience applauded when Russ said the Victor Valley Transit Authority rerouted one of its bus routes to accommodate those living at the new apartments.

“The VVTA actually picked up the tab to build the bus stop,” Russ told the Daily Press. “That’s two government agencies working together for a low-cost solution to meet the needs of our seniors.”

The Villas leasing office contains several large, black and white photos showing the history of Hesperia. Some of the photos include the Hesperia Hotel built in the 1880s and workers harvesting Tatum’s T Brand white rose potatoes in the 1940s.

The ribbon cutting included music by Phat Cat Swinger, presentations by local and regional representatives, and brunch. Several residents, who will move into the apartments when they are completed in about two weeks, were also in the attendance.

During the event, several workers put the finishing touches on the project, which includes gas meter installation, landscaping and painting.

The \$13 million gated community on 10 acres broke ground in August 2016 and includes four two-story buildings, each consisting of 24 units each. Other amenities include a pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center, media center, community room, putting greens, dog park, in-unit washers and dryers, carports and on-site bus stop.

Units include 629-square-foot one-bedroom and 875-square-foot two-bedroom apartments. Monthly rates for one-bedroom units range from \$640 to \$840, with the lower range sold out, and \$952 for the larger units.

Friend said he's proud the construction of the senior community included several local subcontractors at the request of the City Council.

Some local companies involved in the project include: Apple Valley Insulation, David's Drywall Company, Medrano's Paving, Ron Shamlin Plastering, W.W Nelson Carports and Inline BluePrinting.

Despite last year's Bluecut Fire hindering subcontractors and forcing the shutdown of the job site, the housing project remained on schedule, said Friend, who thanked neighbors near the project for "courtesy and cooperation" during construction.

Eagle is currently under exclusive negotiation agreements to bring similar affordable senior housing communities to the communities of Barstow and Yucaipa, Friend said.

"Eagle is very appreciative of Hesperia's mayor, City Council and its staff for their amazing vision and leadership for this great community and their collective trust in Eagle to make their vision a reality," Freind said.

The Villas 55+ is located at 13552 Avenal St., just east of Mariposa Road, in Hesperia. For leasing and general information on the Villas, call 909-370-4554 or visit **www.eaglereg.com**.

*Rene Ray De La Cruz may be reached at 760-951-6227, RDeLa
Cruz@VVDailyPress.com or on Twitter [@DP_ReneDeLaCruz](https://twitter.com/DP_ReneDeLaCruz).*

NEWS

D'Arca Formal Wear offers sale, prepares to stop selling dresses



John D'Arca is closing D'Arca Bridal Boutique, located at the corner of North D Street and West 9th Street in San Bernardino. (Stan Lim, San Bernardino Sun/SCNG)

By **RYAN HAGEN** | rhagen@scng.com | San Bernardino Sun

PUBLISHED: August 30, 2017 at 6:16 pm | UPDATED: August 30, 2017 at 6:17 pm



SAN BERNARDINO >> More than once, a beaming mother has entered John D'Arca's store, explaining that she bought her wedding dress from him decades ago and now her daughter is here to buy her own gown from the same place.

Both industry-wide pressures and the downturn of San Bernardino affected the business, he said.

“People don’t want come to San Bernardino,” he said. “I can’t pick up the store and move it somewhere else.”

D’Arca, 72, said he’s seen the decline since [Norton Air Force Base closed](#) in 1994. Before that, he opened and later closed two satellite stores, in Riverside and Corona, which he attributed to family reasons.

But he’s also stuck in San Bernardino out of loyalty — something he’s known for, said Jo Hale, 83, of Redlands.

Hale worked for D’Arca for 22 years, but she came by Wednesday to find a dress to wear to a wedding in two weeks.

“I would never go anywhere else,” Hale said, after grabbing a cup of coffee from D’Arca. “If there is another (wedding), I’ll wear something from my closet.”

Current employee Cathryn Armenta said she was drawn in after shopping for her own wedding gown at D’Arca a year ago.

“I was here so much they wouldn’t let me leave,” Armenta said with a laugh, before turning serious. “It’s rewarding when you see a bride’s dream come true before your eyes. When you have generation after generation coming here, you know it’s something special.”

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OPEN AND INTERACTIVE MEETING ON TWENTYNINE PALMS' PROJECT PHOENIX TONIGHT

By Z107.7 News, on August 31st, 2017

Twentynine Palms will be holding what's described as an "open and interactive" meeting to discuss Project Phoenix tonight. The purpose, according to a press release, is to get public input on various aspects of the project including parking access and other infrastructure needs. The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Twentynine Palms Community Center on Joe Davis Drive.



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NEWS

Inland Empire gets first licensed medical marijuana dispensary; more to follow



Jean Dillard from Hemet waits for customers at the Green America medical marijuana dispensary that just opened and is the first licensed medical marijuana dispensary in the Inland Empire at Green America in Perris Wednesday, August 30, 2017. FRANK BELLINO, THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE/SCNG

By **BROOKE STAGGS** | bstaggs@scng.com | Orange County Register
PUBLISHED: August 30, 2017 at 3:14 pm | UPDATED: August 30, 2017 at 4:14 pm



The Inland Empire has its first licensed medical marijuana dispensary, with Green America now open for business in Perris.

“This is the first time that patients will be able to purchase their products from a permitted dispensary,” said Mark Douglas, chief executive of the nonprofit that runs Green America. “This is a historic day not just for Green America Inc., but for the city of Perris and all of the Inland Empire.”

The move comes after more than 77 percent of Perris voters in November approved Measure K, an initiative put on the ballot by the Perris City Council to remove the city’s ban on marijuana businesses. The measure permits dispensaries in industrial and commercial zones, with strict rules on record keeping, buffers from schools and more.

ADVERTISING

Perris has received eight applications from aspiring dispensary owners, city spokesman Joseph Vargo said. So far, only Green America's has been approved.

Green America is serving patients with a doctor's recommendation for medical marijuana at its shop on Harley Knox Boulevard, along the 215 freeway just south of March Air Reserve Base. The shop had a soft opening Friday, Aug. 25 and a grand opening is planned in coming weeks.

It took months to go through the approval process and get the shop set up in compliance with local laws and new state regulations that will take affect Jan. 1, according to Justin Shively, who also has an ownership stake in the dispensary. He said he and his partners know the spotlight is on them as the first shop in the area, but insists they're up to the challenge.

"It makes us want to set the standard," Shively said, promising a clean, safe and friendly shop with competitive prices.

That last promise is key if Green America hopes to compete with nearby unlicensed shops that remain open despite city efforts to shut them down. The website Weedmaps shows 14 rogue dispensaries in Perris alone, with many more in surrounding cities such as Moreno Valley and Hemet.

"Unfortunately, a lot of these places are not paying their proper taxes and helping our industry," Shively said.

The four-man team behind Green America have experience dealing with this conflict. They also own New Generation, which is one of 16 licensed medical marijuana dispensaries open in Santa Ana — the only Orange County city to permit cannabis stores. And they hope to open more shops as cities consider regulating marijuana businesses, with his team looking at expanding their two-store chain in places such as Long Beach and Los Angeles.

But as an Inland Empire resident, Green America co-owner Travis Campbell said he's particularly excited to see the local industry grow and the tax revenue that his shop will bring to Perris.

Perris voters in November also approved Measure J, which allows the council to tax dispensaries at 10 percent. The city's attorney has estimated those businesses could add \$875,000 to \$1.2 million in new revenue to the city each year.

The city is also getting one-time revenue of \$13,008 from every permit application submitted, Vargas said, plus \$300 per owner and employee for background checks. So far, would-be dispensary owners have paid more than \$100,000 in in application fees.

That's good news for this diverse city of 76,000 people, which suffered during the past decade's real estate foreclosure crisis and recession.

The city is best known for Lake Perris recreation area and for having one of the largest skydiving centers in North America. But the median household income in Perris is \$49,325, U.S. Census data shows, and more than 25 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

The biggest employer in Perris is Ross Dress For Less, city financial reports state. And state records show the July unemployment rate in Perris was at 9.1 percent, nearly 3 percent above Riverside County's rate and nearly double the state and national rates.

Perris has been able to maintain rainy-day reserve funds and revenues have fully recovered from the recession, according to its most recent budget report. But city officials note that operational costs are rising faster than revenues, so they had to dip into reserves to cover a \$2.6 million deficit in the general fund for the 2015-16 fiscal year and a \$2.9 million deficit for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The city is still finalizing the 2017-18 fiscal year budget, Vargas said. So it's not yet clear whether a deficit is predicted this year or how revenue from the cannabis industry might impact city finances going forward.

Tax revenues could grow at an even faster rate if the city decides to allow Green America and any future dispensaries to sell recreational marijuana.

Under Proposition 64, a state ballot measure that passed in November, all adults 21 and over will be allowed to buy cannabis starting Jan. 1. But the law also says cities get to decide whether to allow such businesses in their boundaries.

Along with legalizing medical marijuana dispensaries, Perris' ballot measure said the city can choose to let dispensaries sell recreational cannabis. For now, the new shop is restricted to serving customers with doctor's recommendations.

Shively said they're proceeding cautiously as the first city in the Inland Empire to welcome marijuana businesses.

Of course, that distinction does depend on your definition of the Inland Empire.

Several Coachella Valley cities already allow dispensaries, including Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City and Palm Springs. And the city of Needles, in eastern San Bernardino County near the Arizona border, also permits dispensaries.

But Perris takes the title of first dispensary-friendly city per the popular definition of the Inland Empire as being southwestern San Bernardino County and western Riverside County.

Another I.E. city is very close to following suit.

San Bernardino residents also voted in November to allow dispensaries. That ballot measure has been caught up in legal battles, but the city started taking applications from potential shop owners in June and spokeswoman Monica Lagos said the first permit was handed out on Thursday, Aug. 24.

With about 4 million people living in or near the Inland Empire, Shively sees plenty of opportunity for entrepreneurs willing to put in the effort and follow the rules. And once neighboring cities begin to see revenue from licensed marijuana businesses, he predicts more Inland Empire cities will roll out the green carpet.

Tags: **Top Stories PE**

Associate
mug of
Brooke
Staggs,
Reporter
South
County.
Date shot:
01/02/2013
. Photo by
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REGISTER

Brooke Staggs

Brooke Edwards Staggs is a general assignment reporter with a focus on covering the politics, business, health and culture of cannabis. Journalism has led Staggs to a manhunt in Las Vegas, a zero gravity flight over Queens and a fishing village in Ghana. The Big Bear native is addicted to education. She earned her bachelors degree in English from California Baptist University, then got her master's in education as she taught high school English in the Inland Empire. After four years in the classroom, she left in 2006 to be a student again herself, earning a masters degree in journalism from New York University while interning and freelancing for a variety of publications. She sees journalism as another form of teaching, helping readers make informed decisions and better understand the world around them. Staggs spent five years as a staff writer then city editor at the Daily Press in Victorville. She won several awards for her work there, including best breaking news story from the California Newspaper Publishers Association for her tale of a teen who shot his father in a hunting accident. She joined the Orange County Register in January 2013, covering several south Orange County communities and the city of Tustin before taking on the marijuana beat in February 2016. On occasion, she also teaches community college and ghostwrites nonfiction books. Staggs loves dancing and new adventures. She hates water slides and injustice. If she doesn't get right back to you, there's a good chance she's sitting with her DJ husband on a plane or train or boat destined for somewhere – anywhere – they've never been.

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LOCAL NEWS

Looking for relief from the heat in the Inland region? Don't expect it to come quickly

By **ALMA FAUSTO** | afausto@scng.com and **CHRIS HAIRE** | chaire@scng.com | Orange County Register
 PUBLISHED: August 29, 2017 at 12:00 pm | UPDATED: August 30, 2017 at 12:38 am

The past couple weeks in the Inland region have actually been relatively cool, but that's now over — desert-like heat has taken its place.

A heat wave with record-breaking temperatures has hit the Inland region and much of Southern California this week – with cities across the Southland setting up cooling centers, and public safety officials warning hikers and others to be cautious when exercising.

“There were some pretty comfortable days, weren't there?” said Matt Moede, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service. “You could go outside without it being sweltering. Those days are over.”

Where to cool off:

[Lake Perris' new water park](#)

[From cabins to a water park, all the fun new things at Lake Hemet](#)

[Explore Inland water parks](#)

[Beat the heat and humidity: Go jump in an Inland lake](#)

The last several days have not just been scorching, they've [been record breaking](#).

Riverside reached a high of 109 on Monday, beating out its previous high temperature record of 108 set in 1981. Lake Elsinore reached a sizzling 114, beating out a record of 110 in 1998.

It was still hot Tuesday, with highs ranging between 105 and 111 for the Inland valleys. Lake Elsinore set a new record high for the day with a temperature of 112 degrees, besting the old record of 111 set in 1998.

An excessive heat warning is forecast through 10 p.m. Friday for many Riverside and San Bernardino County cities, including Riverside, San Bernardino, Ontario, Moreno Valley, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana and Corona. The warning means that certain groups such as children and elderly are very susceptible to heat-related illnesses.

While the valleys were sweltering, the Big Bear area got a reprieve and record a temperature of 61 degrees after a half-inch or rain fell.

The chance of rain will stick around in the Inland mountains through Labor Day.

In the Inland region, temperatures will start to decrease slightly Wednesday, Aug. 30, but will remain above average going into the weekend, said meteorologist Jimmy Taeger.

“Sunday there are less areas that will be in the hundreds,” Taeger said. “I'm seeing a handful of areas in the upper 90s, so it's going to be not as widespread — closer to normal.”

Staff writer Alex Groves contributed to this report.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FORECAST

Today: Valleys will be sunny, with a high near 107. The Riverside County mountains will have a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 91.

Thursday: Valleys will have a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 104. The Riverside County mountains will have a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 86.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 105. The Riverside County mountains will have a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 91.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 105. The Riverside County mountains will have a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 89.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 101. The Riverside County mountains will have a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 86.

Labor Day: Sunny, with a high near 100. The Riverside County mountains will have a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 85.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FORECAST

Today: Valleys will be sunny, with a high near 106

Thursday: Valleys will see a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 103. Mountains will see a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny with a high near 80.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 105. Mountains will see a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny with a high near 78.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 105. Mountains will see a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny with a high near 81.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 100. Mountains will see a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny with a high near 78.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 99. Mountains will see a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny with a high near 78.

Tags: [Top Stories PE](#), [weather](#)



Alma Fausto

Alma Fausto is a crime, breaking news and public safety reporter for the Register. She has worked for the Register since 2013. Previously, she lived in New York City while studying at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism where she covered the growing Mexican immigrant population in the city. Alma has also lived and studied in California's rural and agricultural Central Valley. She's an Orange County native from Costa Mesa, and in her spare time likes to read, visit libraries and drink good gin.

[Follow Alma Fausto @AlmaFausto1](#)



Chris Haire

Chris Haire is a general assignment reporter for the Orange County Register, covering everything from spot news to human-interest features. He also covers the cities of Garden Grove, Westminster and Stanton, and the ethnic enclave of Little Saigon. He has been with the Register since December 2012. He graduated with honors from the Columbia University School of Journalism, with a master's degree. Chris also has a bachelor's degree in journalism from San Francisco State University and would like, one day, to get a doctorate in history. (He's kind of nerdy.) He also loves Russian literature, including Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Pushkin and Solzhenitsyn.

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Officials bust Hesperia cockfighting ring Wednesday; suspect still at large

By Staff Reports

Posted at 4:07 PM

Updated at 4:07 PM

HESPERIA — The search for a man suspected of running a cockfighting ring continues after authorities busted the operation Wednesday.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials said Edgar Boiso, 29, is believed to be the primary suspect behind a cockfighting operation found at a home in Hesperia Wednesday. Boiso remained at large as of Wednesday afternoon.

Deputies with the Sheriff's Rural Crime Task Force launched a search at a home in the 9000 block of Cottonwood Avenue at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday after previously receiving information that a possible cockfighting operation was there.

The task force found the property was being used as a breeding and training location for cockfighting, officials said. The team found "multiple implements of cockfighting" there, including cockfighting knives, paraphernalia, and a training facility. Officials said 132 roosters were also seized from the location.

Boiso was not at the property when deputies searched it, but officials said he's wanted for questioning in this case, in addition to an assault with a deadly weapon case. Further details weren't available Wednesday.

Anyone with information relating to this case is asked to contact Deputy Stanley or Deputy Oakleaf at 760-248-7665. Persons wishing to remain anonymous can contact the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or online at

NEWS

Officials insist Adelanto ICE detainees properly cared for, immigrant rights activists disagree



Detainees make their way through a hallway at the Adelanto Detention Facility, the largest immigration detention center in California, on Thursday, Aug. 17. Photo by Micah Escamilla, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG

By **ALEJANDRA MOLINA** | amolina@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: August 26, 2017 at 7:00 am | UPDATED: August 30, 2017 at 10:27 pm



Dozens of male immigrants wearing blue, orange and red jumpsuits sat inside nondescript holding areas Thursday, Aug. 17, waiting for their housing assignments.

They were at the Adelanto Detention Facility's West Intake Center. With its light blue walls and bright lights, it somewhat resembles a doctor's office. It's where all male detainees start and end their time at the center.

There, the men are classified to determine their housing units based on any past criminal activity. Their medical history is also reviewed. This process can take from two to 12 hours.

High-risk detainees wear red. Those with prior misdemeanor convictions or no criminal history wear blue. Immigrants in orange fall somewhere in the middle. Detainees in red and blue are kept apart.

Immigrants can end up in Adelanto after seeking asylum at the San Diego and Tijuana border or after they're arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, agents in [enforcement operations across Southern California](#).

They are there solely for administrative purposes, pending decisions in their immigration cases or while awaiting deportation.

The facility, though, has drawn criticism over the number of detainees who have died at the facility. There also have been complaints of sexual assaults and poor medical care.

Six detainees housed in the Adelanto center have died since the facility opened in 2011, said Virginia Kice, ICE spokeswoman. This includes three men who died between March and May this year.

[The facility ranked third](#) on a list of the five detention centers with the most sexual and physical assault complaints – 22 between October 2012 and March 2016, according to the nonprofit group Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement, or CIVIC, which monitors the center.

Immigrant rights advocates have been keeping a watchful eye on the facility by holding a number of protests outside the center and visiting detainees. They are hopeful that a [provision in California's new budget](#) will not only add more oversight, but eventually bring an end to the private detention industry in the state.

About the facility

At 409,000 square feet, the Adelanto Detention Facility is the largest center of its kind in California with an average daily population of 1,600. Immigrants stay anywhere from a couple of months to several years. More than 70 nationalities are represented among immigrants currently detained there. Most are Mexican nationals, followed by immigrants from Haiti and El Salvador.

The private facility, which used to be a city-owned jail, began housing immigrant detainees in 2011 after an agreement between ICE and the city of Adelanto took effect. The city contracted with The GEO Group to operate and manage the center.

Christina Fialho, co-founder and executive director of CIVIC, said abuses at the center occur behind closed doors. She contends there is little to no oversight. Her organization coordinates regular visits to the center.

“The immigration detention system is created to isolate people from their families and their communities of support,” Fialho said. “Visitor volunteers break this isolation and act as the eyes and ears of this profit-driven system.”

Officials with ICE and The GEO Group, however, insist they run a clean ship. Immigrant detainees get full physicals within 14 days of arrival and can access dental, mental, and other medical needs, said Thomas P. Giles, deputy field director for ICE's Los Angeles-area office.

A day in Adelanto

Giles, on Thursday, Aug. 17, led the media on a tour of the facility. He walked reporters through a pharmacy, dental and urgent care rooms. For serious issues, detainees are taken to a nearby hospital.

The men are housed in windowless dormitories surrounding round dining tables where they can eat from commissary options. The dining rooms have big-screen TVs. Little League baseball was on. A cart with books, mostly Bibles and religious materials, is available to them. Detainees also have access to a law library and kiosks to make commissary purchases. Officials said the prisoners also have X-Box access.

There is also disciplinary segregation housing for immigrants who violate rules. Administrative segregation housing is available to detainees who request protective custody.

A quick tour of the separate women's facility showed a more open dormitory space. There were no walls separating beds. Showers and dining tables are all on the same housing unit. Just after lunch, some women helped clean the area while others played basketball outdoors.

All detainees get three meals a day using menus developed by a registered dietician, Giles said. Lunch that day was a chicken patty with white rice, beans, and steamed vegetables.

Detainee complains

Carlos Hidalgo, 49, is a former Adelanto detainee who paints a different picture of the facility.

“I was in there. I was able to discover all the atrocities,” said Hidalgo, who now lives in North Hollywood.

He said phone calls and commissary services were expensive. Medical care was not the fastest.

“If you have headaches, two days have gone by and you're lucky if you get an aspirin,” said Hidalgo, who was in Adelanto for about 10 months.

He tore his calf while in Adelanto. Hidalgo said a doctor told him The GEO Group would not pay \$1,000 for an MRI. The Tylenol he was given wasn't enough to ease the pain, he said.

Hidalgo said he ended up in Adelanto after being arrested for cashing a check from someone who owed him money. He was released when he posted a \$10,000 bond. Now, he manages a chain of restaurants and advocates for better care of immigrant detainees.

End of private detention

State Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens, and Attorney General Xavier Becerra in June said the California Justice Department will assess conditions of confinement in private, city, and county facilities in the state.

On top of that, the state budget provision limits new beds for immigration detention, dealing a blow to the Trump administration's efforts to boost deportation. The provision prevents local governments from signing or expanding contracts with federal authorities for immigration detention facilities.

Though the provision doesn't end immigration detention nationwide, it's a step in the right direction, Fialho said.

She's also hopeful the Dignity not Detention Act, which was vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2016, will become law this time around. Lara re-introduced the legislation in response to Trump's call to beef up deportation efforts. The bill, known as SB 29, would force local governments out of for-profit immigration detention in California.

The legislation passed the Senate in May. It's been referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

"The private immigration detention industry may be trying to expand under the Trump administration, but the industry's days are numbered in California," Fialho said.

Tags: [California politics](#), [immigration](#), [Top Stories PE](#), [Top Stories Sun](#)



Alejandra Molina

Alejandra Molina has been a reporter since 2006 and has covered a number of beats -- from crime and transportation to religion and immigration -- for The Orange County Register and The Press-Enterprise.

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How to help the victims of Tropical Storm Harvey



Here are nine organizations providing on-the-ground services and accepting donations: (Aug. 28, 2017) (Sign up for our free video newsletter here <http://bit.ly/2n6VKPR>)

By **Agnus Dei Farrant**

AUGUST 28, 2017, 1:10 PM

Tropical Storm Harvey, a Category 4 hurricane at its peak, continues to drench the Gulf Coast. As many as 13 million people are under flood watches and warnings.

Houston had already received 30 inches of rain and braced for more water early Monday.

The flood threat is spreading into neighboring Louisiana, the [National Weather Service](#) warned, and will bring up to 25 inches of rain in the southwest part of that state.

Rescue and assistance efforts are underway, but residents still need help as an estimated 30,000 people will seek temporary shelter.

Here's are organizations providing on-the-ground services and accepting donations:

- **American Red Cross** — The organization has shelters open, and is shipping truckloads of supplies for distribution. Volunteers are also in place.

- **Salvation Army** —The Salvation Army is deploying 42 mobile kitchens — each of which can serve an average of 1,500 meals per day — to staging areas in Dallas and San Antonio. They'll also distribute supplies of water, cleanup kits, food, and shelter supplies.
- **United Way** — United Way of Greater Houston has established a Flood Relief Fund. Donations will be used to help with both immediate, basic needs and long-term recovery services such as case management and minor home repair.
- **Houston Food Bank** — Donations to the Houston Food Bank provide meals in emergencies and throughout the year.
- **San Antonio Food Bank** — The San Antonio Food Bank is collecting monetary donations, along with nonperishable goods and supplies like water, baby food, diapers, flashlights and new batteries.
- **Feeding Texas and local food banks** — Feeding Texas is coordinating with partner agencies to provide donation coordination and distribution of food to the public.
- **Houston SPCA and SPCA of Texas** —These organizations conduct rescues of pets and farm animals, and provide equipment and shelter in emergencies.
- **Humane Society of Louisiana** — The Humane Society of Louisiana has so far rescued 162 animals from shelters in the hurricane's path or at risk of flooding.

Times staff writers [Matt Pearce](#), [Molly Hennessy-Fiske](#) and [Jenny Jarvie](#) contributed to this article.

ALSO

[30,000 expected in shelters, 450,000 may need disaster help](#)

[Texans' J.J. Watt raises nearly \\$400,000 to help hurricane relief efforts in Houston](#)

[Here's what we know about Tropical Storm Harvey: Rain, flooding and people needing rescue](#)

UPDATES:

1:10 p.m.: This post has been updated with United Way.

10:30 a.m.: This post was updated with descriptions of the aid agencies.

This post was originally published at 9 a.m.

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This article is related to: [Floods and Flooding](#), [Hurricanes and Tropical Storms](#), [Hurricane Harvey](#), [United Way](#), [American Red Cross](#), [National Weather Service](#)

LOCAL NEWS

Stater Bros. joins Salvation Army's Hurricane Harvey relief effort



Associated Press

Bruce Peterson, of Austin, stands inside a cargo trailer containing relief supplies brought by The Salvation Army to Seadrift, Texas.

By **FIELDING BUCK** | fbuck@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: August 30, 2017 at 3:33 pm | UPDATED: August 30, 2017 at 3:46 pm

Stater Bros. is partnering with the Salvation Army on Hurricane Harvey relief.

All 170 supermarkets in the San Bernardino-based chain are accepting donations, according to a news release.

Shoppers can add their donations to their grocery totals at checkout. Funds will be donated to the Salvation Army, which will dedicate them to hurricane relief.

The procedure is explained in a message from "the Stater Bros. family" [on the grocery chain's website](#).

The Salvation Army is an evangelical organization whose mission includes disaster relief.

It has deployed its disaster staff to meet the needs of flooding victims and first responders in southeast Texas, including 42 mobile feeding units that serve as many as 1,500 meals per day, and two field kitchens, each serving 15,000 meals per day.

Donations provide food and shelter to "Houstonians in need," Lt. Col. Ron Busroe, Salvation Army spokesman, said in a news release.

NEWS

Riverside County declares impasse with labor union contract talks



Service Employees International Union Local 721 members picket outside Riverside County Administration Center after delivering strike notice to Riverside Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017. Members protest what the union says are unsafe working conditions at the county hospital that led to an ER nurse being assaulted. (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

By **JEFF HORSEMAN** | jhorseman@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: August 30, 2017 at 12:28 pm | UPDATED: August 30, 2017 at 4:11 pm

Riverside County is declaring an impasse in contract negotiations with two county employee labor unions, county spokesman Ray Smith said Wednesday, Aug. 30.

Impasses are being declared in talks with Service Employees International Union Local 721 and Laborers International Union of North America Local 777, Smith said.

The declarations allow the county to impose contract terms on SEIU and LIUNA, which represent thousands of employees.

On Tuesday, **SEIU issued a strike notice to the county Board of Supervisors in a boisterous protest** at the board meeting. The strike is scheduled to start Sept. 6.

This is a developing story. Please check back for updates.

LOCAL NEWS

Riverside gives temporary chief financial officer the job on a permanent basis

By **ALICIA ROBINSON** | arobinson@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
August 30, 2017 at 1:00 pm



About a month after taking over Riverside's finance department on a temporary basis, Adam Raymond has been hired as the city's permanent chief financial officer.

Raymond has been with the city for six years and in 2016 became assistant chief financial officer, according to a city news release. He assumed the top post in July after the [departure of Scott Miller](#), who had held the job for about 16 months.



Riverside has named Adam Raymond the city's chief financial officer.

Besides working in the finance department, Raymond has also worked in the city's Innovation and Technology and Internal Audit departments and the city manager's office, and he has performed audits of cities and counties and worked for city managers in several other Southern California cities, the news release stated.

Raymond will earn an annual salary of \$180,000.

L.A. City Council replaces Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day on city calendar



Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, pictured in 2016, pushed for Columbus Day to be replaced by Indigenous Peoples Day. (Al Seib / Los Angeles Times)



By **David Zahniser**

AUGUST 30, 2017, 1:20 PM

The [Los Angeles City Council](#) voted Wednesday to eliminate Columbus Day from the city calendar, siding with activists who viewed the explorer as a symbol of genocide for native peoples.

Over the objections of Italian American civic groups, the council made the second Monday in October a day in L.A. to commemorate “indigenous, aboriginal and native people.” The day will remain a paid holiday for city employees.

Appearing before city lawmakers, Italian Americans voiced anguish over the proposal, saying it would erase part of their heritage. Some said they supported Indigenous Peoples Day but wanted it to be held at a different time.

“On behalf of the Italian community, we want to celebrate with you,” said Ann Potenza, president of Federated Italo-Americans of Southern California, speaking in a room packed with Native American activists. “We just don’t want it to be at the expense of Columbus Day.”

That idea was unacceptable to Chrissie Castro, vice chairwoman of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission. She argued that city lawmakers needed to “dismantle a state-sponsored celebration of genocide of indigenous peoples.”

“To make us celebrate on any other day would be a further injustice,” she told the council.

Wednesday’s debate had been driven by two men with different visions of how to replace Columbus Day. Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, a member of the Wyandotte Nation tribe in Oklahoma, pushed for Indigenous Peoples Day, arguing such a move would provide “restorative justice.”

Councilman [Joe Buscaino](#), a first-generation Italian American raised in San Pedro, had sought to replace Columbus Day with a different name, one that celebrates “all of the diverse cultures in the city.”

Buscaino said many had forgotten the prejudice faced by Italian Americans in the United States — and asked his colleagues not to “cure one offense with another.”

“All of our individual cultures matter,” said Buscaino, who represents neighborhoods stretching from Watts to San Pedro.

Buscaino and three of his colleagues — [Gil Cedillo](#), David Ryu and [Mitchell Englander](#) — pushed an alternative proposal that would move Indigenous Peoples Day to Aug. 9, a day when native peoples are celebrated by the United Nations. The council rejected that proposal.

Councilman [Mike Bonin](#), the great grandson of Italian immigrants, said he felt genuinely pained at having to disagree with Buscaino. But he argued that Columbus Day actually diminished the accomplishments of his ancestors and other Italian Americans.

“This gesture, of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day, is a very small step in apologizing and in making amends,” said Bonin, who represents coastal neighborhoods from Westchester to Pacific Palisades.

The council’s vote comes at a time of heated debate over the nation’s holidays and historical monuments.

Activists have been pushing for the removal of statues honoring military leaders who served the Confederacy. Two weeks ago, New York City Mayor [Bill de Blasio](#) called for a 90-day review of “[all symbols of hate](#)” on city property.

Several U.S. cities — including Phoenix, Seattle, Albuquerque, Denver and Portland, Ore. — have already replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. Los Angeles has been discussing the idea since 2015.

O'Farrell, who represents an Echo Park-to-Hollywood district, said the plan for Indigenous Peoples Day also called for Oct. 12 — the date of Columbus' arrival in 1492 — to be set aside as Italian American Heritage Day at City Hall. That day would not be a day off for paid employees.

Replacing Columbus Day, O'Farrell said, would right a "historical wrong."

"We are not creating a racial conflict," he said. "We are ending one."

david.zahniser@latimes.com

Twitter: [@DavidZahniser](https://twitter.com/DavidZahniser)

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Houston offers a grim vision of Los Angeles after catastrophic earthquake

By **Rong-Gong Lin II**

AUGUST 31, 2017, 7:40 AM

For years, scientists have drawn up terrifying scenarios of widespread destruction and chaos that would come to Southern California when a catastrophic earthquake hits.

Their efforts to warn the public may get an unlikely boost from the unprecedented disaster unfolding in Houston, where Tropical Storm Harvey dumped trillions of gallons of rain across Texas and brought America's fourth-largest city to its knees.

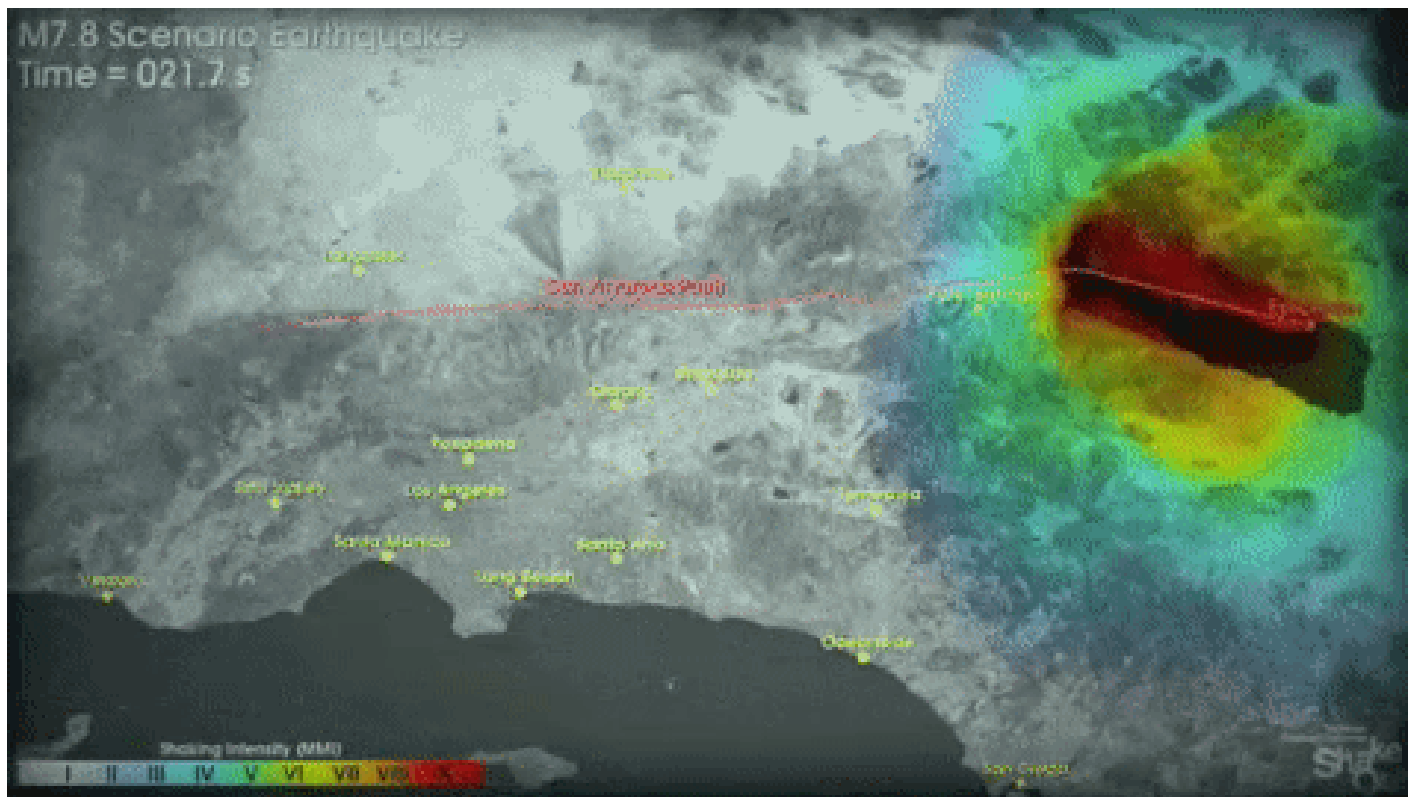
While epic flooding is different from a powerful temblor, both natural disasters fundamentally alter daily life for months or years.

In recent years, officials have drawn up detailed scenarios of what would happen if a huge quake struck this region, part of a larger campaign to better prepare.

The last two big earthquakes to hit Los Angeles — the 1971 Sylmar quake and 1994 Northridge quake — caused destruction and loss of life. But the worst damage was concentrated in relatively small areas and did not fundamentally bring daily life across all of Southern California to a halt.

Experts have long warned that a significantly larger quake will eventually strike and that the toll will be far greater.





This [animation](#) shows how intense shaking is directed from the San Andreas fault into the Los Angeles Basin. Areas of [yellow](#) indicate strong shaking; orange is "very strong" shaking and red is "violent" or "extreme" shaking, causing collapses. (U.S. Geological Survey / Southern California Earthquake Center)

DANGER ON THE SAN ANDREAS

Preparing for a quake 45 times stronger than Northridge

The biggest concern for scientists has been the San Andreas, because that fault has a long history of producing large earthquakes more often than others. The San Andreas is the longest and fastest-moving fault in California — a combination that makes it more capable of producing a catastrophic quake we might see in our lifetime.

A quake as strong as magnitude 8.2 is possible on the southern San Andreas fault and would bring disaster to all of Southern California simultaneously, with the fault rupturing between near the Mexican border to Monterey County.

Such an earthquake would “cause damage in every city” in Southern California, said seismologist Lucy Jones — from Palm Springs to San Luis Obispo and

everything in between.



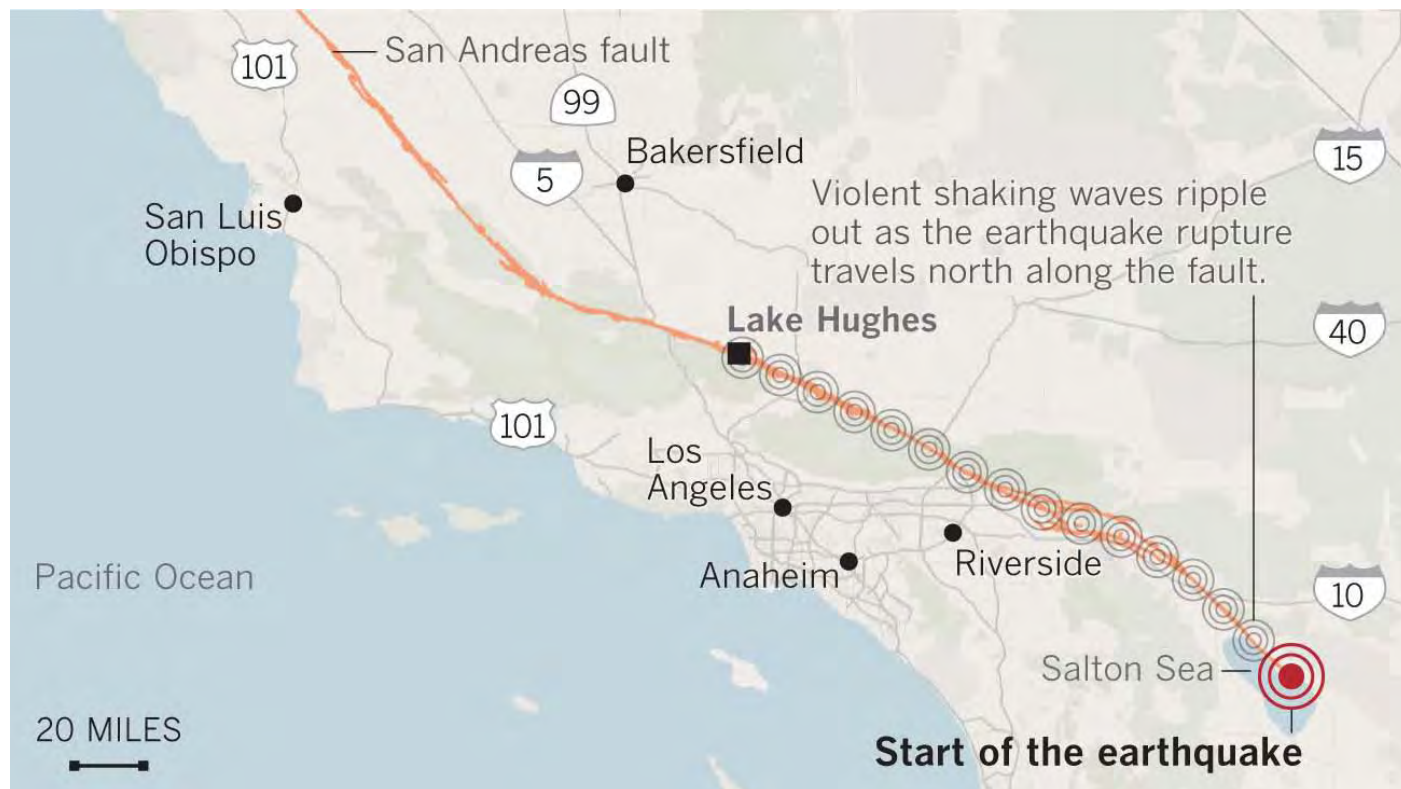
A worst-case magnitude 8.2 earthquake would rupture the entire length of the San Andreas fault, from the Salton Sea near the Mexican border through Monterey County. (U.S. Geological Survey, Mapzen, OpenStreetMap, Angelica Quintero / Los Angeles Times)

The last California seismic event that reached magnitude 7.8 was the Great San Francisco earthquake of 1906. The last one in Southern California struck in 1857. (The magnitude 6.7 Northridge earthquake, which occurred on a much smaller fault in the San Fernando Valley, was **45 times weaker** than the so-called Ft. Tejon quake.)

Back then, the region was sparsely populated. Today, some 23 million people live in eight counties in Southern California that could be hit hard in a southern San Andreas megaquake.

In 2008, the U.S. Geological Survey and a host of other state government agencies and academics published a study called the **ShakeOut Scenario** that told the story of what could happen if a hypothetical magnitude 7.8 earthquake returned to Southern California.

A 7.8 earthquake is a kind “so powerful that it causes widespread damage and consequently affects lives and livelihoods of all southern Californians. A catastrophe is a disaster that runs amok when a society is not prepared for the amount of disruption that occurs,” the report said.



A magnitude 7.8 earthquake could rupture the San Andreas fault between the Salton Sea, close to the Mexican border, through Lake Hughes in Los Angeles County. (U.S. Geological Survey, Mapzen, OpenStreetMap, Angelica Quintero / Los Angeles Times)

A GRIM SCENARIO

Hundreds dead, region paralyzed

Here are some of the findings of what could happen in a 7.8 earthquake that strikes at 10 a.m. on a dry, calm Thursday in November, based on feedback from 300 experts in both the private and public sectors:

The death toll could be one of the worst for a natural disaster in U.S. history: nearly 1,800, about the same number of deaths as resulted from Hurricane Katrina. More than 900 could die from fire; more than 400 from the collapse of vulnerable steel-frame buildings; more than 250 from other building damage;

and more than 150 from transportation accidents, such as car crashes due to stoplights being out or broken bridges.

Los Angeles County could suffer the highest death toll, more than 1,000, followed by Orange County, with more than 350 dead; San Bernardino County, with more than 250 dead; and Riverside County, with more than 70 dead. Nearly 50,000 could be injured.

Scared? Don't be. Here are tips on how to prepare »

Main freeways to Las Vegas and Phoenix that cross the San Andreas fault would be destroyed in this scenario; Interstate 10 crosses the fault in a dozen spots and Interstate 15 would see the roadway sliced where it crosses the fault, with one part of the roadway shifted from the other by 15 feet, said Jones, who was the lead author of the [ShakeOut report](#).

“Those freeways cross the fault, and when the fault moves, they will be destroyed, period,” Jones said. “To be that earthquake, it has to move that fault, and it has to break those roads.”

The aqueducts that bring in 88% of Los Angeles’ water supply and cross the San Andreas fault all could be damaged or destroyed, Jones said.

A big threat to life would be collapsed buildings. As many as 900 unretrofitted brick buildings close to the fault could come tumbling down on occupants, pedestrians on sidewalks and even roads, crushing cars and buses in the middle of the street.

Fifty brittle concrete buildings housing 7,500 people could completely or partially collapse. Five high-rise steel buildings — of a type known to be seismically vulnerable — holding 5,000 people could completely collapse.

Some 500,000 to 1 million people could be displaced from their homes, Jones said.



Rescue workers sift through the debris of an unretrofitted brick building in the wake of the 2003 Paso Robles earthquake. Two women who worked in the building died as they tried to flee. (Spencer Weiner/Los Angeles Times)

EXPECT ISOLATION AFTER BIG ONE

Southern California cut off

Southern California could be isolated for some time, with the region surrounded by mountains and earthquake faults. The Cajon Pass — the gap between the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains through which Interstate 15 is built and is the main route to Las Vegas — is also home to the San Andreas fault and a potentially explosive mix of pipelines carrying gasoline and natural gas, and overhead electricity lines.

All it would take is for the fuel line to break and a spark to create an explosion. “The explosion results in a crater,” the report says.

ShakeOut coauthor Keith Porter, research professor at University of Colorado Boulder, warned in a [2011 study](#) in the journal Earthquake Spectra that under certain conditions, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake could create such a sudden interruption of high-voltage interstate transmission of electricity that “potentially all of the western U.S. could lose power.”

Power could be restored within hours in other states, the scenario said. But restarting the electric grid in Southern California could take significantly more time.

Anne Gonzales, a spokeswoman for the California Independent System Operator, which runs the electric grid, declined to comment on the 2011 report, but said it could take several days to recover if a complete system blackout did occur.

“These are the kinds of things that keep me up at night,” said Ken Hudnut, the U.S. Geological Survey’s science adviser for risk reduction. Efforts are being made to work on vulnerabilities, such as the risk to the aqueduct systems, Hudnut said, including L.A.’s plan to strengthen the tunnel through which the Los Angeles Aqueduct crosses the San Andreas fault.

There could be up to 100,000 landslides, scientists say, based off how many landslides have occurred in past magnitude 7.8 earthquakes. “The really big earthquakes ... are much more destabilizing to the hillsides,” Jones said.



Flames billow from a ruptured gas main beyond a crater in the 11600 block of Balboa Boulevard in Granada Hills after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. (Patrick Downs / For The Times)

Thousands could be forced to evacuate as fires spread across Southern California; 1,200 blazes could be too large to be controlled by a single fire engine company, and firefighting efforts will be hampered by traffic gridlock and a lack of water from broken pipes. Super-fires could destroy hundreds of city blocks filled with dense clusters of wood-frame homes and apartments.

The death toll could mount as hundreds of people trapped in collapsed buildings are unable to be rescued before flames burn through. Possible locations for the conflagrations include South Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Ana and San Bernardino.

“If the earthquake happens in weather like today or in a Santa Ana condition, the fires are going to become much more catastrophic. If it happens during a real rainy time, we’re going to have a lot more landslides,” Jones said.

Several dams could be shaken so hard that “they would be so compromised that they would require emergency evacuation,” Jones said. Even damage to just a single dam above San Bernardino could force 30,000 people out of their homes, the ShakeOut report said. Another problem, Jones said, could be shipment of key

supplies, such as food, which are now distributed from areas like Victorville on the other side of the San Andreas fault as part of a “just-in-time” shipment economy.

The USGS, FEMA, and the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services have also begun work on forecasting damage from other faults. Hudnut on Wednesday presented information based on a theoretical magnitude 7.3 quake on the Palos Verdes fault, which could rupture off the coast of Newport Beach and continue underneath the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and into the northeast side of the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

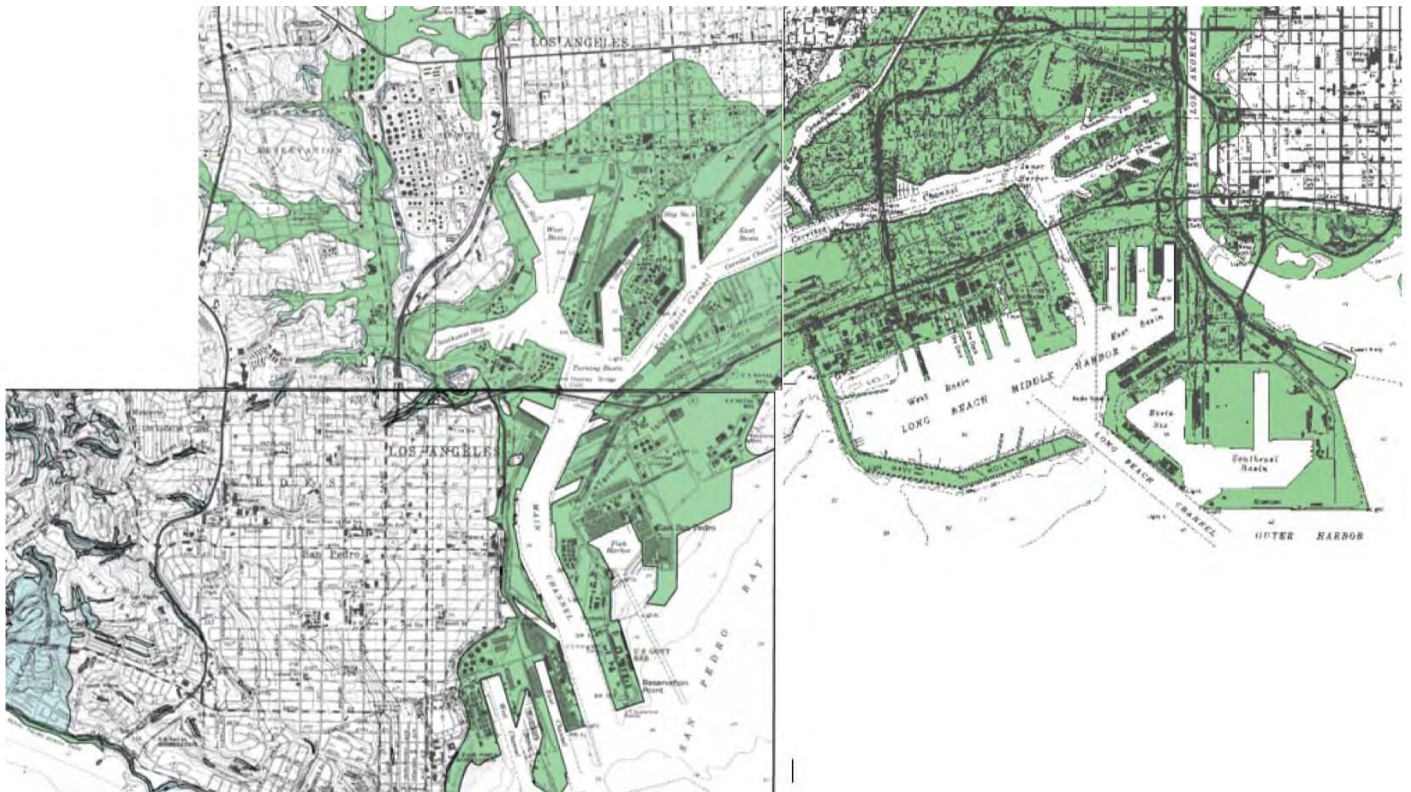


The artificial land underneath the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach could liquefy if a magnitude 7.3 earthquake strikes the Palos Verdes fault. (USGS)

Such a quake could kill more than 200 people and destroy more than 2,000 buildings. It could liquefy the artificial land underneath the nation’s largest port complex and cause extensive damage to infrastructure, Hudnut said.

Engineering options to reduce the liquefaction risk at the ports are costly and complicated. They include pumping water out of artificial land, injecting grout

underground, or replacing concrete foundations that support buildings at the port, Hudnut said.



A state map shows areas in green at risk of liquefaction in an earthquake. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are at risk of liquefaction in a major earthquake on the Palos Verdes fault. (California Geological Survey)

FREEWAYS, UTILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE

Trying to prepare for the worst

Some government agencies have been trying to focus on preparing for earthquake safety in recent years. The USGS and other agencies have led the ShakeOut earthquake drill annually for nearly a decade. A few California cities, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley, Santa Monica and West Hollywood, have enacted laws in recent years requiring retrofits of certain vulnerable building types, such as wooden apartments with flimsy ground-floor columns over carports that can collapse in an earthquake.



Why wood apartments can collapse in earthquakes (Raoul Ranoa / Los Angeles Times)

While interstates that cross the San Andreas fault will be severed in the ShakeOut scenario, other California freeways maintained by Caltrans are expected to perform well, given comprehensive retrofit work following the failure of elevated roadways in the 1989 Loma Prieta and 1994 Northridge earthquakes. And state officials subject hospitals and public schools to more stringent earthquake standards.



A model of how a wooden apartment complex with carport parking on the first story, held up by flimsy columns, can collapse.
Source: [SFGovTV](http://www.sfgovtv.com)

Many cities have yet to require vulnerable buildings to be retrofitted. But public sentiment is changing. In San Francisco, there was a time when the idea of the city requiring retrofits of apartments was controversial. Now, “people have kind of accepted it,” said Patrick Otellini, the former director of earthquake safety for San Francisco.

The reality of Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy’s toll on society have shown the proof of the great harm cataclysmic events can bring. Preparing for them, he said, is “something that has to be practiced all the time. Disasters are the new normal.”

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UPDATES:

6:30 a.m.: This article was updated to note that the high-rise steel buildings that could completely collapse are of a type that are known to be seismically vulnerable.

This article was originally published at 5 a.m.

ECONOMY

Home Health Care: Shouldn't It Be Work Worth Doing?

Eduardo Porter

ECONOMIC SCENE AUG. 29, 2017

Do you know who is going to care for you when you are old and frail? By current standards, it's likely to be a middle-aged immigrant woman, with maybe a high school education and little if any training, making \$20,000 a year.

And that's if you are lucky. If you live in rural America, you may already have a hard time finding somebody to look after you. Paul Osterman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management calculates that if nothing is done to draw more workers into the field, there will be a shortage of at least 350,000 paid care providers by 2040.

This, I'm sure you'll agree, makes little sense.

How to provide long-term care for a fast-aging population poses one of the more convoluted challenges of the American labor market. Care providers — home health aides, personal care attendants and certified nursing assistants, in the government's classification — are expected to be among the nation's fastest-growing occupations.

The Department of Labor's economists expect about a million more will be added from 2014 to 2024.

And yet despite their critical importance to the well-being of tens of millions of aging Americans, one-fourth of these aides live in poverty. The jobs are so unappealing that it is hard to keep workers in them: four in 10 leave the occupation entirely within a year. Many prefer the fast-food business.

"Home care is absolutely the bottom rung on the ladder, but home-care workers are the people that spend the most time with the client," said Adria Powell, who runs Cooperative Home Care Associates, a worker-owned long-term-care agency in New York.

As President Trump promises to recover the jobs of an ancestral age populated by well-paid coal miners, steelworkers and assemblers of air-conditioners, he is missing one of the most critical challenges of the American work force: transforming long-term care into a higher-quality, better-paid job that could support the middle class of the future.

It can be done. In his new book, "Who Will Care For Us?," to be published next month by the Russell Sage Foundation, Professor Osterman suggests that improving these jobs could actually improve the quality and efficiency of the entire health care system. "It could save the system money," he told me.

There are a few reasons long-term care is such a bad job. "Most people see it as glorified babysitting," said Robert Espinoza, vice president for policy at PHI, an advocacy group for personal care workers that also develops advanced training curriculums to improve the quality of the work force.

The fact that most workers are immigrant women does not help the occupation's status. Occupational rules that reserve even simple tasks for nurses, like delivering an insulin shot or even putting drops into a patient's eye, also act as a barrier against providing care workers with better training.

But perhaps the most important barrier is the government's budget: Medicaid — funded by federal and state governments — picks up more than half the tab for the

\$300 billion or so spent every year on long-term care.

States spend about \$200 billion of their own funds on Medicaid. It is the second-biggest item on their budget, after education. To raise reimbursement rates for long-term care agencies, they would have to find the money elsewhere.

Still, Professor Osterman points out that shortchanging long-term care is shortsighted. Home health aides trained to do more — to spot patients' health problems, to keep track of their pills and doctors' appointments and to offer advice on healthy living — could wring billions of dollars in savings from the health care system.

Better-trained aides could help patients manage chronic conditions like obesity and diabetes. They could also help manage the transition out of a hospital, ensuring that patients took their medication and followed up with the doctor, to prevent them from having a relapse or ending up in a nursing home.

One assessment of the academic literature concluded that there are \$250 billion in savings to be had from better managing chronic conditions and reducing hospital and emergency room admissions and readmissions.

And there are other jobs for personal care aides to do. For instance, community health workers doing home visits can help bridge the gap between patients and doctors — improving rates of immunization, helping manage conditions like high blood pressure and otherwise encouraging healthy behaviors.

Marisol Rivera offers a glimpse at how this could be done. After 16 years as an aide for Cooperative Home Care Associates, she was promoted to senior aide, assisting less-experienced aides in the field. She reminds them how to use the Hoyer lift to get patients out of bed and into their wheelchair. She keeps tabs on hospital discharge papers to make sure patients — which the firm calls members — make their next doctor's appointment. "Most of time the reason members go back to hospital is because they don't check back with the doctor," Ms. Rivera said.

Ms. Rivera offers some hope for the profession. Her hourly wage went from \$11 to more than \$15. Still, her situation is rare. Worker-owned Cooperative Home Care

Associates has only two senior aides like her. What's more, she says, "I still live week by week."

Changing the system of long-term care, to give more responsibilities to better-trained, higher-paid aides will not be easy. For starters, there is the awkward question of the distribution of costs and benefits. Medicaid pays for most long-term care, but Medicare would reap most of the potential cost savings from things like fewer hospital readmissions.

Cash-short states have resisted efforts to raise aides' pay. Worried that overtime rules would break their budget, some opposed the Obama administration's effort to cover home care aides under the Fair Labor Standards Act, from which they had been excluded based on the outdated argument that they were little more than babysitters.

Then there are the powerful nursing unions, ready to fight tooth and nail to keep aides from encroaching on their turf. Carol Raphael, former chief executive of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, the largest home health agency in the United States, told Professor Osterman that when the association tried to expand the role of home-care aides, the "nurses went bonkers."

Even advocates for older Americans have lobbied against tighter rules covering things like training for long-term care workers. Many of them also opposed covering aides under the Fair Labor Standards Act, as states facing overtime payments might cap the workweek for aides at 40 hours. If a relative were caring for you and the government said that she could work for only 40 hours, how would you get more hours if you needed them?

Still, overhauling long-term care seems within reach. Penalties for excessive readmissions are already encouraging hospitals to rethink the role of home-care aides. And Obamacare is changing the health care industry in ways that would support a better-trained, better-paid home-care work force, pushing providers to manage the overall health of patients rather than offer health services for a fee.

"There is a light bulb that is sort of going off," Ms. Powell said. "Shouldn't we figure out how to leverage this work force and invest in this work force to reduce

hospitalization, to reduce E.R. visits, to manage chronic diseases that are so expensive?”

This is encouraging the formation of health teams, in which long-term-care aides — who are cheaper than doctors or nurses — could have a larger role in managing patients' well-being.

You might think of it in terms of demographics. By 2040, there will be more than 50 million disabled people in the United States needing some form of long-term care, 12 million more than today. Most will be cared for by family members, but the demand for care workers will explode.

It makes sense for these workers to be better trained and empowered to offer better care. If nothing is done to improve the quality of their jobs, many will go unfilled — losing the competition for workers with McDonald's.

In the end, the issue is not just who will care for you when you are old and frail. The broader issue is what American society will look like then. Because these are the jobs of America's future. And America will look much better if they can sustain a middle class.

A version of this article appears in print on August 30, 2017, on Page B1 of the New York edition with the headline: Rethinking Home Health Care as a Path to the Middle Class.

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Why 'Sanctuary Cities' Are a Target for Trump: QuickTake Q&A

By **Jordan Yadoo**

February 14, 2017, 9:00 PM PST

Updated on April 26, 2017, 9:47 AM PDT

Donald Trump's November victory owed little to the largest U.S. cities, which [voted against him](http://www.citylab.com/politics/2016/11/how-americas-metro-areas-voted/508355/) in force. So far in Trump's presidency, there's no sign of warming relations. Elected leaders in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Seattle and other major cities have vowed to stand up to Trump by continuing to withhold their cooperation from U.S. immigration-enforcement efforts. Trump signed an [executive order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/25/presidential-executive-order-enhancing-public-safety-interior-united) that threatens to block federal funding to such "sanctuary cities," setting up a state-federal legal battle that lost no time in reaching the courts.

1. What's a sanctuary city?

While there's no official legal definition, the label generally applies to cities (or counties, or other jurisdictions) that declare they won't assist in immigration enforcement and deportation efforts. The phrase has been used for decades by county and municipal governments that have policies offering some level of welcome to undocumented aliens. These policies were introduced in the 1980s in response to [a movement](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/central-americans-and-asylum-policy-reagan-era) of hundreds of U.S. churches and synagogues to provide safe haven for Central Americans fleeing civil conflicts. One of the first big cities to join was Los Angeles, where the city council in 1985 voted to [oppose the deportation](http://articles.latimes.com/2011/aug/26/opinion/la-ed-sanctuary-20110825) of law-abiding Central American refugees. Other early adopters were Berkeley, California; Cambridge and Brookline, Massachusetts; Madison, Wisconsin; and Takoma Park, Maryland.

2. Does it offer genuine sanctuary?

[No](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/08/03/exploding-the-myth-of-sanctuary-cities.html). No jurisdiction is beyond the reach of federal immigration authorities. Policies in sanctuary cities, however, can make it less likely that an undocumented alien will come to the attention of federal officials or wind up in their hands. Many sanctuary cities refuse to honor "ICE detainees" [or requests from the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to hold someone in custody for an additional 48 hours.](https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights/ice-and-border-patrol-abuses/immigration-detainers)

3. How many sanctuary cities are there?

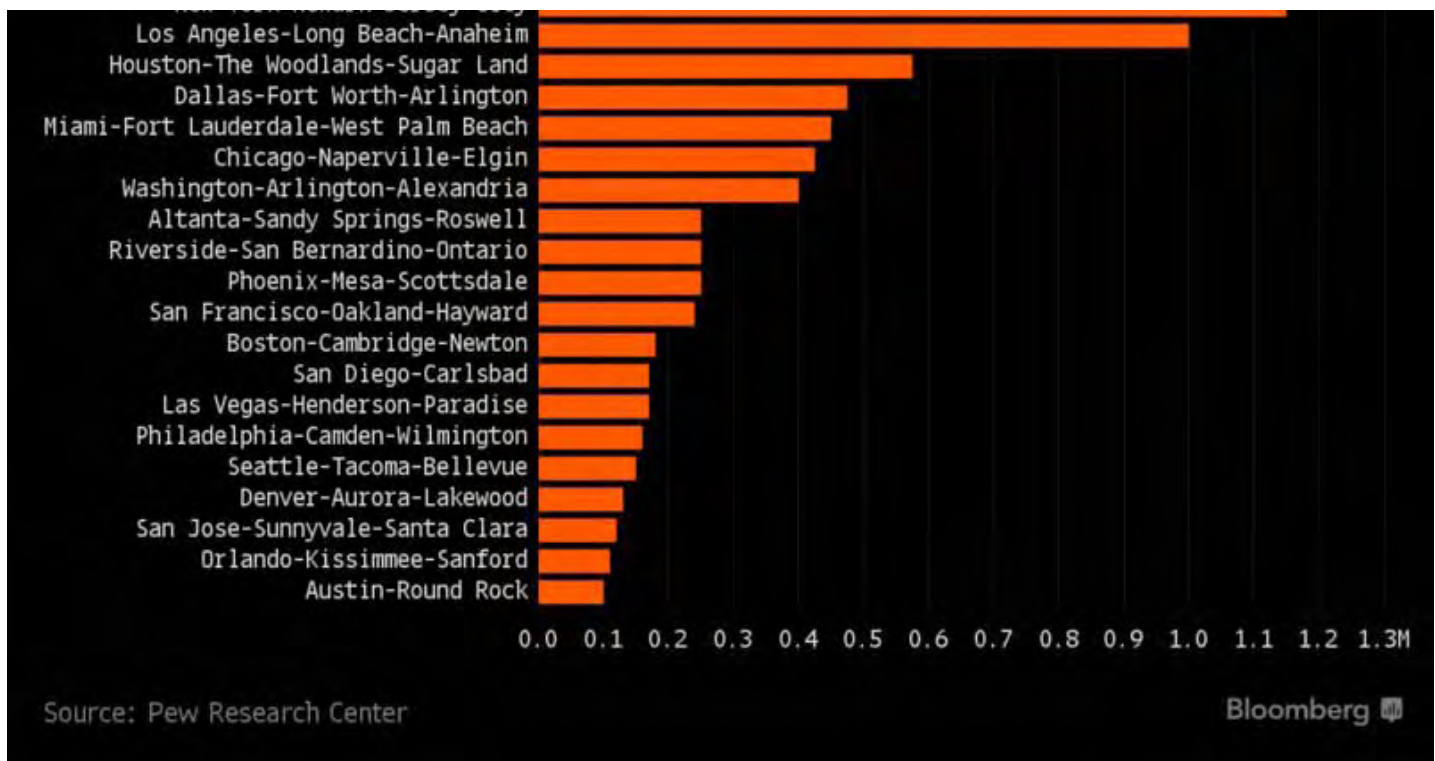
There's no definitive list. The San Francisco-based Immigrant Legal Resource Center, which supports the sanctuary movement, says at least 635 U.S. counties -- more than one in five -- refuse to hold people in jail on federal detainer requests, while at least 53 counties, or about 2 percent of the total, prohibit using local resources to assist federal immigration enforcement. The Trump administration said 118 local governments [refused to comply](https://www.scribd.com/document/342459907/ICE-Declined-Detainer-Outcome-Report-Jan-28-to-Feb-3-2017-1#from_embed) with detainer requests during the week of Jan. 28.

Highly Concentrated

About 61 percent of the U.S.'s 11.1 million unauthorized immigrants live in just 20 major metro areas

■ Unauthorized Immigrant Population

New York-Newark-Jersey City



4. What is Trump's objection?

He says sanctuary cities "are not safe" and "breed crime," though there's [little evidence of a correlation](http://www.factcheck.org/2017/02/no-evidence-sanctuary-cities-breed-crime/). Trump cites [anecdotes](http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/jul/21/who-were-victims-illegal-immigrants-trump-named-rn/) such as the fatal shooting of a 32-year old woman in San Francisco in July 2015, allegedly by an undocumented immigrant with a criminal record. (The accused, a Mexican national named Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, [is going on trial](http://www.mercurynews.com/2016/11/15/kate-steinle-case-murder-trial-set-for-february/) for murder.) Trump's order cites a [law](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1373), enacted in 1996 under President Bill Clinton, prohibiting local governments from telling employees not to share information with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

5. What is Trump doing about it?

His Jan. 25 [executive order](https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-01-26/trump-s-fast-start-using-executive-actions-quicktake-q-a) directs the withholding of federal grants, "except as deemed necessary for law enforcement purposes," from jurisdictions that refuse to cooperate with federal immigration officials. It doesn't specify which sources of federal funding will be targeted, though the [likely options](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/01/25/donald-trump-sanctuary-cities-immigration/97043106/) include money distributed by the departments of Justice and Homeland Security. Trump also ordered that, every week, the government "make public a comprehensive list of criminal actions committed by aliens and any jurisdiction that ignored or otherwise failed to honor any detainers with respect to such aliens."

6. How much money could be at stake?

At the moment, guesses range from [tens of millions](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-sanctuarycities-idUSKBN1592V9) to [billions](http://dailysignal.com/2017/02/03/sanctuary-cities-targeted-by-trump-receive-billions-in-federal-funds/) of dollars, depending on what funding sources Trump targets and whether courts permit him. Fitch Ratings says the cuts aren't likely [to be steep enough to affect](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-01-30/sanctuary-cities-are-safe-from-trump-fitch-ratings-says) the bond ratings of sanctuary cities, since federal grants mainly flow to specific programs -- like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and school-lunch subsidies -- rather than to general government operations. Fitch noted, "Much federal funding to the municipal level flows to states, counties and school districts rather than cities themselves."

7. Do sanctuary cities oppose federal immigration laws?

Not necessarily. Generally speaking, leaders of sanctuary cities just don't want their local law enforcement personnel to be active participants in enforcing those federal statutes. Requiring local police to inquire into immigration status, or to detain a suspected undocumented immigrant who would otherwise be free to go, would spur racial profiling and discourage immigrants from reporting crimes or seeking needed services, according to this line of argument. It's "not any local jurisdiction's job nor legal obligation to carry out the federal government's immigration enforcement work," as the ILRC puts it.

8. What do those cities do with undocumented immigrants?

The ILRC https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/sanctuary_report_final_1-min.pdf identifies seven different types of "sanctuary" policies. They include barring federal agents from secured areas of local jails without a warrant and prohibiting local officers from participating in joint patrols with federal agents. Adherence to the seven practices varies. Only two counties -- Cook in Illinois, which includes Chicago, and San Francisco County in California -- enforce all seven policies and thus offer the "most comprehensive protections" for undocumented immigrants, according to the ILRC.

9. How can they do this?

In a 1997 ruling <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/95-1478.ZO.html>, the Supreme Court held that the federal government can't require state officials to enforce federal law, a doctrine known as the "anti-commandeering principle" <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2016-11-29/sanctuary-cities-are-safe-thanks-to-conservatives>.

10. What's been the response to Trump's order?

San Francisco filed a lawsuit <https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-01-31/massachusetts-san-francisco-sue-trump-over-immigrant-orders> that got a federal judge to temporarily block <https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-04-25/trump-s-sanctuary-cities-order-blocked-by-federal-judge> Trump's threatened cuts to funding. The mayors of New York <https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-01-26/trump-threat-to-deny-funds-draws-defiance-from-sanctuary-cities> and Boston <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/sanctuary-cities-vow-resist-trump-order-despite-funding-threat-n712251>, among other city leaders, spoke out in continued support of their sanctuary city protections. New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman <http://bloom.bg/2lkyBfr> federal grant money must be "directly related to the program at issue" and cannot be "cut off in a coercive way." But Trump's threat did have an impact in at least one place: The mayor of Miami-Dade County [ordered the city's jails](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article128984759.html) [to comply with federal requests going forward.](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article128984759.html)

The Reference Shelf

- Trump's [executive order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/25/presidential-executive-order-enhancing-public-safety-interior-united) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/25/presidential-executive-order-enhancing-public-safety-interior-united>.
- A QuickTake Q&A on Trump's fast start <https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-01-26/trump-s-fast-start-using-executive-actions-quicktake-q-a> using executive orders and memoranda.
- A QuickTake <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/quicktake/political-asylum> explainer on refugees, political asylum and Trump.
- "Searching for Sanctuary," a report https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/sanctuary_report_final_1-min.pdf by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center.
- Texas is [battling](https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-02-08/texas-prepares-to-battle-its-sanctuary-cities) <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-02-08/texas-prepares-to-battle-its-sanctuary-cities> its own sanctuary cities.

Column Hey President Trump, leave the San Gabriel Mountains alone



President Trump has threatened to scale back the national monuments designated by his predecessor. (Aug. 30, 2017) (Sign up for our free video newsletter here <http://bit.ly/2n6VKPR>)



By **Steve Lopez**

AUGUST 30, 2017, 4:00 AM

When the temperature hits 100 degrees in Southern California, lots of people think beach. On Tuesday morning, as the asphalt began to cook under a stubborn late-August sun, I went north, instead. To the mountains.

You can find relief there, too, in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

“This feels like air conditioning, right?” asked the Wilderness Society’s Daniel Rossman, my hiking partner, as we walked the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. “You’ve got the breeze coming off the river, and the shade.”

To be fair, there was no such respite where the sun knifed down into the canyon, unfiltered. It felt like you could scramble an egg on a lizard’s back. But then we were strolling under the trees again, or dipping our toes in cool,

clear running water. It was hard to believe we were so close to the steaming metropolis, and yet so distant from the built environment; it felt as if we'd traveled back in time. Cellphones were useless. Land sculpted over the centuries by natural forces was unspoiled. The air was pine-scented and the sign said watch out for bears.

In 2014, President Obama visited the San Gabriels and announced his decision to designate the federal land a national monument, assuring added protections.

“Over 15 million people live within 90 minutes of the San Gabriel Mountains,” said Obama. “These same mountains provide residents with roughly 30% of their water and 70% of their open space.”

Obama used the same authority, granted him under the Antiquities Act, in other parts of the country. Before leaving office he made a flurry of monument designations to prevent mining, drilling and other commercial operations on environmentally sensitive lands.

But in April, [President Trump](#) called those designations “an egregious abuse of federal power” and announced a review of more than two dozen of them by Interior Secretary [Ryan Zinke](#), former board member of a Santa Barbara-based oil company.

“We’re going to free it up,” Trump said of the protected land, this being a man whose privileged sense of a recreational outing is to board Air Force One at taxpayer expense, fly to a country club and play another round of golf.

[By some news accounts](#), we may soon know what Zinke comes up with. He’s said no sites will be eliminated, but there may be a scaling back in some locations. On the list, and on the chopping block for now, are California’s Berryessa Snow Mountain, Carrizo Plain, Giant Sequoia, Mojave Trails and San Gabriel Mountains.

They’re California treasures, all of them, and one can only guess whether Trump’s motivation is to punish a state that voted overwhelmingly for his opponent, to throw a bone to buddies who’d frack [Yosemite](#) if given the chance, to take a bulldozer to all that Obama built, or all of the above.

“This is nothing more than tossing red meat to the extractive industries and anti-public land legislators that have been champing at the bit to make private profits off public lands for decades,” said Casey Schreiner, who’s been covering the fray on his Los Angeles-based blog [Modern Hiker](#).

Schreiner called Zinke’s brief “review” of monuments a sham, noting that years of research went into the protection of those sites, and Zinke hasn’t even taken the time to visit all of them.

It’s unlikely that the San Gabes would be in for any major scarring by commercial enterprise; other monuments around the country appear to be in far greater danger. But some San Gabriels boosters remain worried, with possibilities that include expansion of a ski resort into the monument, erection of cellphone towers and tunneling for the bullet train.

But Schreiner is adamant about preserving rather than chipping away at the San Gabes, and he's equally passionate about the other national monuments, calling them "a sacred part of our shared heritage as Americans.... Over more than 100 years, the Antiquities Act has provided dozens of forward-thinking presidents of both parties the opportunity to preserve the places, landscapes and stories that make America special."

Long before the Trump-Zinke threat, the local chapter of the Wilderness Society was working with U.S. Reps. Adam Schiff and Judy Chu and other national and local leaders to enhance services in the Angeles National Forest, educate people on the history and environmental significance of the region and rally support for more legislative protection. You can learn more about those efforts at San Gabriel Mountains Forever, or sangabrielmountains.org.

On Tuesday morning, when I headed to the mountains for a hike with the Wilderness Society's Rossman, the first person we bumped into was Jorge Arrillaga. He said he left his home in Azusa at 4:30 a.m. and biked up the mountain to pick up cans for recycling, a daily six-hour routine that lets him get a workout while enjoying the mountain, keeping it clean and making a few bucks.

At mid-morning, Mario Gomez and his wife held the hand of their 4-year-old granddaughter, Andrea, and walked over the bridge that spans the West Fork of the San Gabriel. Gomez said he's been visiting the park for 20 years.

On the East Fork, Luis Roman and Cesar Flores settled in for the day with friends and family from Santa Ana and Garden Grove, 28 of them altogether. They set up for a picnic and swam in clear-water creek pools to cool off and celebrate the last days before the start of school.

"What's not to enjoy?" said Roman, who added that the beach is too crowded in hot weather and a place like Yosemite is too far and too expensive.

"What I do most appreciate is that so many people enjoy this," said Rossman, who noted the range of income levels and backgrounds. "If you go on a weekend you'll see baptisms happening in the river, families enjoying the respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, and I've seen groups of Korean hikers in their 60s passing me on the mountain."

As we hiked, Rossman pointed out how diverse the terrain and vegetation can be. Conifers and big pines on north-facing walls of the mountain. Yucca and chaparral on south-facing cliffs. Sun-dappled riparian vegetation along the river where, several years ago, I went on a trout fishing expedition.

On a sandy beachfront at a gentle bend in the river we came upon James Gladden of North Hollywood and his 4-year-old son, Zen. They visit a couple times a month and camp overnight to slow down and escape the bonds of the wired world, said Gladden.

"I'm usually playing the guitar and he's usually burying himself in mud," said the father.

We talked briefly about the possibility of protections being scaled back in many places across the land.

“That’d be sad,” said Gladden. “We’ve got little enough left.”

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With the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program uncertain, immigrant advocates and DACA participants are turning to local leaders like Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti for help.

But Garcetti acknowledged Tuesday that the city's ability to protect the young immigrants known as Dreamers from deportation is limited.

"The reality is that we cannot completely defend everybody who is a DACA recipient if this is repealed, which is why this is so dangerous," Garcetti said.

President Trump has come under pressure from some state GOP leaders to end the program that provides participants two-year, renewable work permits and protection from deportation. Created under the Obama administration, DACA covers about 800,000 unauthorized immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children, roughly 200,000 of whom live in California.

On Tuesday, Garcetti briefly visited the offices of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles near downtown, urging constituents via Facebook Live to contact elected leaders. He also called a voter to encourage support for DACA as part of CHIRLA's DACA [phone bank campaign](#).

In California, state and local leaders have focused on attempting to convince the Trump administration to keep DACA alive. In recent days, Gov. Jerry Brown, Attorney General Xavier Becerra and other officials have sent [letters to the White House](#) pressing Trump to maintain the program.

Still, while Los Angeles and several other local cities have immigrant-friendly police policies and have set up legal defense funds, there isn't much local governments can do in the face of an executive action by the president to end DACA.

Garcetti said city officials will work to maintain safe spaces at schools and city facilities by demanding court orders from immigration officials. And Los Angeles police will continue to decline requests from immigration agents to hold immigrants they arrest longer than required by law.

"In our jails, we are not going to violate the Constitution and hold people for more than 48 hours, because the Constitution has been very clear, whether you are a citizen or a non-citizen, you cannot do that," Garcetti said.

To benefit from these policies, one must be arrested first, says Louis DeSipio, a political scientist at University of California, Irvine. Most so-called "sanctuary" law enforcement policies are geared toward those who wind up in the custody of local police, he said.

"It is at that point that these sort of municipal or sanctuary protections, or whatever local protections, might come into effect, because the local jurisdictions that have passed some sort of protection or sanctuary would not be turning over information about people that are detained for minor infractions to Homeland Security," DeSipio said.

But if DACA recipients lose their protection and are arrested by immigration officials, "they're out of luck, because ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is not subject to local law," DeSipio said; the Dreamers would be subject to deportation like any other unauthorized immigrant.

Garcetti did point out that those in need of legal help could benefit from a new legal defense fund for immigrants facing deportation, set up recently with city, county and philanthropic funds. DACA recipients are among those who would be considered priorities for assistance.

A deadline is looming for Trump to act on DACA. If the president does nothing by early September, several state attorney generals have threatened to sue to end the program, throwing the fate of DACA to the courts.

Asked if the city might get involved in court action, Garcetti said "with DACA, it's difficult."

"It was an executive action," he said. While some local supporters could come together to defend the program, "the president has the right to probably rescind what President Obama did, which is why we want congressional action," the mayor said.

Pending legislation in Congress would give current DACA recipients a path to permanent legal status, and let others who came to the U.S. as minors pursue legal status if they meet certain conditions. But in a GOP-controlled Congress, chances of passage are slim.

The focus for now remains on preserving DACA, said Melody Klingenfuss, a Dreamer and immigrant advocate who came to the U.S. at age 9 from Guatemala. The 23-year-old said she and others are preparing for DACA rallies all week, including a vigil at La Placita Olvera on Wednesday and a rally Friday at the downtown federal building.

Advocates are also advising DACA recipients to make contingency plans and get their affairs in order just in case the program is rescinded.

"We are always encouraging people to visit an attorney and get a screening and have an emergency plan, especially if you have kids, to already have that going if you are to be detained," Klingenfuss said.

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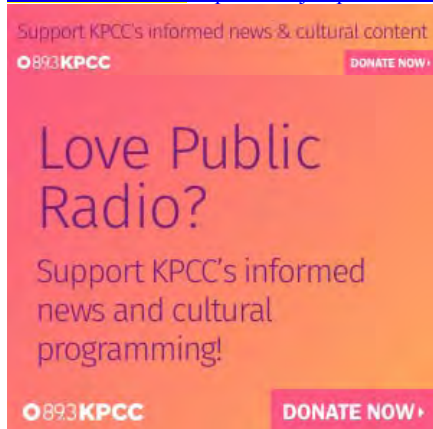
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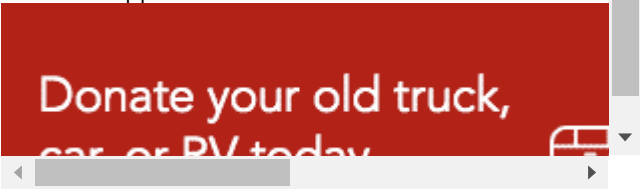
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Victoria Williams processes a mail-in ballot at the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters office in Sacramento, Calif., Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012.

File / Rich Pedroncelli / AP

Sacramento and four other California counties are preparing for an overhaul of how they conduct elections, before voters head to the polls next year.

Polls actually won't exist in Sacramento, Napa, San Mateo, and Nevada counties. Instead, every registered voter will receive a mail-in ballot, which they can send in or drop-off, or they can head to any of their county's new voting centers, which will replace precinct-level polling sites.

Sacramento County Assistant Registrar of Voters Alice Jarboe says it's a lot of work to prepare.

There's a lot of outreach," she says. "A lot of internal process changes to make sure all of these components flow together."

Jarboe says that includes locating voting centers in areas near public transit and accessible to those with disabilities. Counties may also have to win the trust of voters. A new UC Davis poll out the week of Aug. 29 shows 61 percent are wary of the change.

Of the other 10 counties approved to undertake the elections overhaul last year, Orange and Shasta Counties declined, while Santa Clara is waiting until at least 2020, when all California counties can make the switch.

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Ben Bradford

State Government Reporter



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