
County supervisors extends review process of renewable energy plan

By Charity Lindsey Staff Writer

Posted at 7:09 AM

Updated at 7:09 AM

SAN BERNARDINO — The county remains on the brink of “a new era of sustainable energy” after the Board of Supervisors voted to extend the review process of its Renewable Energy Conservation Element that’s been four years in the making.

With nearly 60 people lined up for public comment and dozens more attendees than what the fire marshal would allow inside Covington Chambers, the public hearing for the REC Element was, as Supervisor James Ramos put it, “a long and tenacious dialogue.”

It was Ramos who ultimately made the motion to accept the element as recommended by the Planning Commission, with the following changes:

Exclusion of Renewable Energy (RE) Policy 4.10, which prohibits utility-oriented project development that would adversely affect unincorporated communities.

Deletion of any reference to a 10 megawatt specification on projects.

The changes made are to be reconsidered by the Planning Commission and brought back to the board with any revised recommendations.

The REC Element will be rolled into the county’s General Plan and is seen by many desert community advocates as the redemption for local lands threatened by state and federal utility-scale renewable energy projects.

The idea behind the REC Element, first referred to as SPARC, was to gather public input, which Tuesday’s meeting proved there’s been no shortage of.

Some say the plan lacks specifics; others say it's too restrictive. Some praise potential projects for the hundreds of jobs they'd create for the community; others argue those jobs are too short-term to be a sustainable benefit.

"We're not fighting your projects ... you just shouldn't have them in our neighborhoods," said one Lucerne Valley resident, Bill Lembright.

"It would destroy every reason my wife and I bought our home (here)," said another, Brian Hammer. "It would destroy the view, the solitude and the quiet."

Hammer and other residents voiced their approval of the section of the plan that requires the large-scale projects to be built on five designated areas of "disturbed" lands, including Amboy, El Mirage, Hinkley, Kramer Junction and Trona. Conversely, many union workers were outspoken against the restrictions that would keep projects away from rural living areas where residents could be adversely affected.

"This is a watershed moment for our county," Neil Nadler, a representative of the Alliance for Desert Preservation said. "If the county undermines its own land use authority with a flawed (REC Element), we all lose, and that's the end of the game."

According to Nadler, areas "left vulnerable to utility-scale development" including Apple Valley, Lucerne Valley and Helendale.

Other comments Tuesday reflected those that have been gathered over the past several years of forums, including a preference for small-scale accessory solar and wind power projects, and concerns about environmental quality and wildlife.

In particular for the High Desert region, worries are related to dust control and water consumption during construction.

In discussion just before the unanimous vote to hand the REC Element back to the Planning Commission for further review, Supervisor Josie Gonzales soothed some concerns among the crowd in saying she wanted to know the full scope of possible "unintended consequences" of future projects.

“I’d like to be able to explore, how do we mitigate, how do we implement steps or standards that will reduce, and preferably eliminate, those (things) from happening,” Gonzales said. “What I ultimately want is a long-lasting decision that is maybe not most welcome, but definitely has the best intentions 25, 30, 50, 100 years from now.”

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

San Bernardino County renewable energy development plan sent back to Planning Commission

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

SAN BERNARDINO >> Following a 5-hour, standing-room-only public hearing, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously voted to return the county's renewable energy development guidelines to the Planning Commission for further review.

For the past five years, county officials have been working on the guidelines that, once approved by the Board of Supervisors, will be included in the county's general plan and chart the course for solar energy development in the High Desert for generations to come.

Hundreds of people — citizens, developers, environmentalists, and union members wearing orange T-shirts — packed the Board of Supervisors chambers to weigh in on the proposed renewable energy development plan.

So many people showed up that it created a public safety concern and prompted the county to call in a sheriff's sergeant to screen people entering the chambers. The spillover crowd was asked to wait outside until space cleared inside for more people.

Since 2013, the county has hosted a series of public forums to get public buy-in on what it calls its "Renewable Energy and Conservation Element," the development guidelines for renewable energy projects, mainly solar, in the High Desert region.

California's environmental laws mandate that electric utilities obtain a certain percentage of their power from renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gases. That resulted in local utilities offering generous incentives to renewable energy developers, and an influx of applications at the county's land use services department from developers wanting to build solar farms and complexes in the High Desert, according to a staff report prepared for the Board of Supervisors.

While many of those in attendance Tuesday praised the county for its efforts in trying to adopt a plan that would meet the needs of all parties with a dog in the fight, it was clear the county still had a little ways to go before crossing the finish line.

Developers and union workers were not content with a section of the plan that required large-scale utility-oriented renewable energy projects to be built on already disturbed lands or designated them to the remote desert outposts of Amboy, Trona, Hinkley, El Mirage and Kramer Junction. Nor did they like the part of the plan that prohibited such projects from being built in rural living areas or in areas that would have an adverse impact on surrounding local communities.

So the Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to send that part of the plan back to the Planning Commission for review and revision while unanimously approving the remainder of the renewable energy development guidelines.

On the flip side, Robert Vega of the Alliance for Desert Preservation said the plan would leave communities across the Mojave Desert, including Apple Valley and Lucerne Valley, unprotected from large solar farms

moving in, leaving residents to fight the projects on their own.

“Large areas of our desert are under seige from industrial solar,” Lucerne Valley resident Brian Hammer told the board. “Please protect the stakeholders of San Bernardino County — the families that live, work and play here.”

Supervisor James Ramos was the first to suggest the portion of the plan dealing with large-scale utility development be returned to the Planning Commission for further review and recommendations.

“I believe it is a material component the Planning Commission needs to re-evaluate,” Ramos said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20170808/san-bernardino-county-renewable-energy-development-plan-sent-back-to-planning-commission>

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LA Daily News (<http://www.dailynews.com>)

San Bernardino rep asks Trump to shrink San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, citing ski resort and mining

Rep. Cook, and 16 other Republicans, ask for reductions in numerous monuments in California

By Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Tuesday, August 8, 2017



A San Bernardino County congressman is calling on the Trump administration to shrink the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, causing anxiety among some of the monument's ardent supporters.

Rep. Paul Cook, R-Yucca Valley, wants to lop off a finger of the [346,177-acre monument](#) located mostly in the Angeles National Forest in Los Angeles County. Cook wants to remove 4,873-acre portion jutting into the San Bernardino National Forest, north of the communities of San Antonio Heights, Upland and Rancho Cucamonga.

[As part of President Trump's review of 27 national monuments](#) created in previous administrations, Cook wrote a letter indicating his constituents had opposed the new monument from the start. He said President Obama ignored their concerns, and that the process did not include outreach to communities and leaders from San Bernardino County.

"The inclusion of 4,873 acres of non-wilderness Forest Service land was widely opposed by local residents due to its encroachment on local communities and economic activity," Cook wrote in a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke on June 8.

While Cook cited the economic restraints imposed by the monument on "a ski resort" nearby, the only resort in the area is the Mt. Baldy Ski Lifts, which lies just outside the monument boundary.

Cook wrote in an email that the owner was concerned the presence of the monument might prevent "future expansion."

On June 30, Cook was joined by 16 other Western Caucus congressional representatives in seeking a reduction in the San Gabriel Mountains monument as well as others in California. The process began in April when Trump asked Zinke to review certain monuments created by former presidents under the 1906 Antiquities Act.

Congressman Cook's letter also calls for shrinking the Castle Mountains National Monument near the Nevada border, as well as the 1.6-million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument. Miners want access to lands in both monuments, to dig for gold in Castle Mountains, for iron and other minerals in Mojave Trails.

In a national monument, mining companies can continue operating if they already have existing claims. But the law prevents expanding those activities.

In July, [Cook told the Southern California News Group](#) that the Mojave Trails monument was doubled in size by Obama from a previous proposal.

“This was accomplished without any public comment. This letter simply recognizes the illegitimacy of this action and asks that President Trump follow the publicly debated boundaries while rolling back the former president’s overreach,” Cook wrote.

In regard to his concerns about the San Gabriel Mountains monument, Cook said the Obama administration cut back the boundary but not enough.

“Officials from the Department of Agriculture assured us the monument would not protrude into the county,” he wrote in an emailed response.

Rep. Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, who worked to establish the monument first by introducing legislation for a San Gabriel Mountains national recreation area, said Cook was misinformed. She said she met with many San Bernardino County officials, including Supervisor Janice Rutherford, before Obama signed the proclamation creating the monument on Oct. 10, 2014.

In 2014, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution opposing the monument designation.

Chu said the city of Rancho Cucamonga supported the monument and were disappointed when the Obama administration shrunk the proposed boundaries, excluding popular trails in the Cucamonga Peak area. The city had hoped the monument would bring new resources to help with rescues as well as maintenance.

“There is no basis for doing it,” she said. “Instead there is everything to gain from it.”

In the nearly three years of the San Gabriel Mountains monument, [the U.S. Forest Service received \\$6.5 million in additional funding and \\$4.5 million from donors](#), including nearly \$1 million from Coca-Cola, she said.

“The monument itself has been a tremendous success. I would hate to see all that was accomplished by the monument status go down the drain by this short-sited and non-factual letter,” Chu said.

Daniel Rossman, acting California director of The Wilderness Society and a member of San Gabriel Mountains Forever, a coalition of conservation groups, business interests and faith organizations, said the process leading up to [the Obama designation](#) was lengthy and included numerous meetings over several years.

The monument has received the support of the [Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors](#), [the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments](#) and [the monument’s 45-member collaborative](#). All wrote letters to Zinke saying the monument should remain as it is.

Many point to the process as evidence that groups are working together to use monument status to improve recreation, trails and picnic grounds both in the overused Angeles National Forest and San Bernardino’s small portion.

The Trump administration’s review process is perplexing to Los Angeles County supporters.

“[We invited the secretary](#) to visit the San Gabriel Mountains and hear from locals as to why the mountains should be protected,” Rossman said. So far, they’ve not received a response to their invitation sent in May.

“It is leaving the community with great anxiety,” Rossman said.

A report from Zinke on the San Gabriel monument is expected by Aug. 24.

Sheriff's Information Committee offers 'direct access' to law enforcement

By Paola Baker

Staff Writer

Posted Aug 8, 2017 at 1:40 PM

Updated Aug 8, 2017 at 4:24 PM

VICTORVILLE — Law enforcement can't combat crime effectively without input from its community, and Michael Stevens aims to help in any way he can.

The Adelanto city spokesman recently spoke with the Daily Press about his participation in the "Sheriff's Information Exchange Committee," a group including San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon and several community leaders from throughout the county that meets multiple times a year.

Stevens' first appearance was at the committee's Aug. 2 meeting, which took place at Sheriff's Headquarters in San Bernardino. About 60 to 70 various community leaders, Sheriff's personnel and community members were in attendance, Stevens said.

"The impression I got is that it was the chance for the sheriff to address citizens and tell them, "This is what we're doing to combat crime in the High Desert and in the county," Stevens said. "It gives us a chance to get a better understanding of how the department operates and what they do to deal with criminals."

According to Lt. Sarkis Ohannessian, the committee, which is by invitation only, meets two to three times a year to exchange information on contemporary issues and the sheriff's position on various topics that can impact a community.

"The sheriff believes the citizens of this county should have direct access to him," Ohannessian said.

This interconnectivity is the key to these meetings, with Stevens touting the committee's ability to "facilitate two-way conversations" between the Sheriff's Department and the communities it services.

“No one there is shy — it’s no holds barred, there are no limits. If you want answers to your questions, you will get them,” Stevens said, describing the meeting. “We can take questions to the Sheriff’s Department and get uncensored responses.”

Several current efforts, such as the Sheriff’s Gang Suppression units — which routinely conduct sweeps throughout the region — other sweeps conducted with the probation department, substance abuse and job placement programs, and other efforts were discussed during the recent meeting.

“I left the meeting and felt a lot more comfortable knowing the Sheriff’s Department is on top of things,” Stevens said. He mentioned discussing a refrain commonly heard in the region: Why is there an apparent lack of law enforcement presence in local communities?

“There very well may not be a deputy anywhere you look, but there may be undercover units watching a home or unmarked probation units on your block,” Stevens said, by way of example.

The 45-year High Desert resident has been outspoken on the issue of crime in the region and said he was glad for the opportunity to join the committee. He hopes the meeting can be a turning point in

“I think the Sheriff’s Department is doing a great job with the resources they have, but they will always be outnumbered,” Stevens said. “We as a community need to take more responsibility and do what we can. I think that’s what the committee is about — we have to do our part.”

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Community •

Nominate an Action Hero

By **Staff** · August 9, 2017 TAGS: HEALTH SAN BERNARDINO

[San Bernardino, CA](#) - The Vision2BActive campaign is seeking nominees for Action Heroes in hopes of recognizing people in San Bernardino County who have made an impact on community wellness by participating in physical activity or promoting physical fitness.

Examples of Action Heroes include a person who has started their own walking club in their neighborhood; a teacher who encourages their students to be healthy by being active; a business person who incorporates physical fitness into the workday of their employees; a child who encourages friends and classmates to stay active; or person who changed their life or improved their own wellness by being physically active.

Nominate an Action Hero at www.Vision2BActive.com or contact Bernadette Beltran at BBeltran@dph.sbcounty.gov or 909-387-6614. Anonymous nominations of Action Heroes will also be accepted.

Vision2BActive is a campaign of the Countywide Vision to improve health and wellness in San Bernardino County by encouraging residents to increase their physical activity and connecting them to existing recreational programs, amenities and activities in their communities.

Only 23 percent of San Bernardino County adults and 34 percent of our youth get the recommended amount of physical activity, according to the most recent data from the California Health Interview Survey. In its 2008 issuance of "Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans," the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommended adults get 150 minutes a week of physical activity and children ages 5 to 17 were encouraged to move at least 60 minutes a day.

Vision2BActive.com is an interactive resource that provides residents with information about physical activity events, fitness tips and a GIS map featuring places to be active in the county.

The Countywide Vision was developed by the community in 2010-11 and adopted by the Board of Supervisors and the San Bernardino Council of Governments Board of Directors in June 2011 in order to create a roadmap for the future of San Bernardino County, which includes creating a healthy and prosperous future for all who live, work and play here. Vision2BActive is the second public campaign of the Countywide Vision Project following the successful Vision2Read literacy initiative that started in September 2015.

INLAND EMPIRE HEALTH NEWS

Inland Health Professions Coalition Offers Out-of-school Youth A Fresh Start With Health Training Program

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

New Fontana police body cameras record video — and much, much more

By Ali Tadayon, *The Press-Enterprise*

Tuesday, August 8, 2017



FONTANA >> The Police Department will enter the forefront of law enforcement technology in the coming month by equipping officers with state-of-the-art body cameras.

By Sept. 1, all patrol officers will be issued one of the cameras, which are actually smartphones loaded with software developed by Silicon Valley-based Visual Labs. The company refers to the cameras as “body-worn computers,” since in addition to being able to record video, among other things, they can record audio, transmit officers’ locations to their supervisors and live stream video.

“This really is the forefront ...,” said Visual Labs CEO Alex Popof. “The only device (officers) need is the smartphone. It’s real time and it’s a singular device.”

• **Video:** [See the Fontana police body camera in action](#)

The 200 Kyocera “rugged” smartphones — rugged being a term for military-style — were paid for in part by a [Department of Justice grant](#). The \$546,502 grant was split in half between the Fontana Police Department and the San Bernardino Police Department. San Bernardino police spokeswoman Eileen Hards said they will be implementing their body-worn camera program in the next few weeks.

The Fontana City Council approved funding to match the grant money, which was about \$273,251, said Fontana police Sgt. Kevin Goltara.

Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren said residents had been suggesting the cameras for years, and city officials agreed they were a good idea.

“I’m excited because this is top-of-the-line technology, but you know it’s service with integrity, it will increase public trust and also protect the officers,” Warren said. “It’s a win for everyone.”

Fontana Police Chief Bob Ramsey said he believes the program will help strengthen relations between police and the community.

“We’re hopeful and optimistic that this will bring people security and a sense of transparency that will bolster their confidence in law enforcement,” Ramsey said.

Officer Richard Guerrero, who is also the president of the Fontana Police Officers Association, believes the cameras will benefit officers by providing unbiased evidence when claims are made against them.

• **Related:** [President Barack Obama touts Rialto Police Department’s body-worn camera program](#)

Fontana police have developed a policy guide for the cameras, but expect it to evolve as officers use them. Goltara said all officers are encouraged to turn the cameras on during any contact with civilians, but are given

the discretion to leave them off in sensitive situations — like if the officer was interviewing a victim of a sex crime, or a confidential informant.

Fontana police Capt. Angela Stover said though the technology allows supervising officers to see things they normally wouldn't be able to, the cameras have their "limitations."

"The body-worn camera does not necessarily reflect the experience of the officers, their state of mind and all the factors involved in a particular incident," Stover said. "However, we will be using and considering all available evidence in a particular incident."

The footage, which is uploaded automatically to the cloud, will be considered "investigative records," according to the policy. The Police Department will comply fully with the Public Records Act in regard to releasing the footage, the policy said, but considers it "exempt from disclosure" unless otherwise authorized by the chief.

The policy also calls for the footage to be audited during officers' annual evaluation by their supervisors. The audit will consist of six random samplings to make sure the officer is complying with the policy. The program itself also will be audited.

"Our program and our policy will continue to evolve, you have it in its infancy stage ...," Stover said. "But we understand that our policy is only as good as the culture that we create as an organization to have our officers adhere to that policy. We want our community to hold us accountable."

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20170808/new-fontana-police-body-cameras-record-video-and-much-much-more>

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Search scaled back for couple missing in Joshua Tree National Park

Hi-Desert Star | Posted: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 4:07 pm

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK — Searchers having been looking for 10 days for a couple who disappeared in Joshua Tree National Park with few leads or traces.

Rachel Nguyen and Joseph Orbeso entered the park at approximately 6:45 a.m. Thursday, July 27, and have not been seen or heard from since.

An extensive search has been going on in the park since July 28. It has included resources from the National Park Service, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Joshua Tree Search and Rescue, San Bernardino County Search and Rescue, the Bureau of Land Management, the Orange County, San Diego and Riverside County sheriff's departments, the California Highway Patrol, the U.S. Border Patrol and the California Rescue Dog Association.

While resources have been scaled back, a special regional overhead team made up of investigators from Yosemite National Park and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park have arrived on scene as well as NPS drone specialists from the Grand Canyon.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department scaled back its search on Saturday but are still investigating the incident, Joshua Tree National Park spokesman George Land said.

Canine teams from JOSAR are also continuing the search when temperatures will allow.

“Our search teams have put forth a tremendous effort for the rescue and recovery of these two young people. We can only begin to imagine just how difficult and painful this whole experience has been for the parents, family and friends of Joseph and Rachel,” park Superintendent David Smith said. “It has deeply affected the men and women involved in this search. Although we have had to scale back the active rescue, we continue to dedicate park resources to finding them.”

The couple's vehicle was found at the trailhead of a popular hiking trail known as the Maze Loop. From there, searchers do not know where the two headed.

“The park will never stop looking for them,” Land stated.

The park is still searching for a hiker who disappeared in 2010, William Ewasko, he said.

Ewasko, a 65-year-old from Georgia, went missing while hiking on June 24, 2010. His girlfriend contacted authorities the next day to report that Ewasko did not check in with her as planned, and an intensive search



JOSAR Search

In this photograph provided by Joshua Tree Search and Rescue, searchers hike through a wash looking for signs of Rachel Nguyen and Joseph Orbeso. With them is K9 searcher Montana.

was launched. Ewasko has never been found.

Land explained that JOSAR will keep searching for Nguyen and Orbeso during monthly training.

Anyone who might have been hiking or stopping in the area and recalls seeing a couple in their early 20s, or who has other pertinent information about the two, is asked to contact San Bernardino dispatch at (909) 383-5652.

http://www.havasunews.com/news/fatal-boat-accidents-over-weekend-latest-in-deadly-summer-on/article_c42671e8-7bfb-11e7-acc4-bf14ba450738.html

CENTERPIECE

2 fatal boat accidents over weekend latest in deadly summer on Lake Havasu and the Colorado River

By BRANDON MESSICK Today's News-Herald Aug 7, 2017 Updated 20 hrs ago



A white Carrera deck boat and a yellow Eliminator watercraft lay in impound at Havasu's Water Safety Center after a fatal Sunday accident. The Eliminator's operator died at the scene.

Brandon Messick/ Today's News-Herald

Two fatal boat accidents over the weekend are just the latest in a string of deadly incidents on the water this summer.

On Saturday, a 30-year-old woman from Hemet, California, was killed when the boat she was riding in sank in the Colorado River near Big River, a town near Parker. The next night, a man was killed when two boats crashed in Lake Havasu.

The two accidents follow several water-related deaths on the lake in recent weeks. The increase in fatal incidents on Lake Havasu caught the attention of Lake Havasu Marine Association President Jim Salscheider, who on Monday said he planned to collaborate with law enforcement agencies to maintain boater safety. Salscheider said the details of that collaboration would be revealed in future weeks.

“We’ve been talking behind the scenes with law enforcement agencies to see what to do to make the lake safer,” said Lake Havasu Marine Association President Jim Salscheider. “Something needs to be done. There’s definitely been an increase in boat traffic, and we need a new marina — that’s in the works for next summer, and it will really cut down on traffic. But sometimes people come here who are just not knowledgeable about boating law.”

Sunday’s crash was reported around 9:30 p.m., according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department. The accident occurred between Havasu Landing and Lake Havasu State Park when a 25-foot Carrera deck boat, carrying a driver and three passengers, was struck by a 28-foot Eliminator watercraft, carrying three passengers. The Eliminator was traveling northbound without its lights on and struck the Carrera’s broad side at about 40 miles per hour according to San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Cpl. Jeffrey Cross. All passengers ejected into the water, and a passenger from the Carrera helped everyone back into the boats. The driver of the Eliminator was pronounced dead at the scene when emergency responders arrived, Cross said.

Three of the accident’s victims required medical treatment at Havasu Regional Medical Center, while a fourth victim required medical air-transport to a Las Vegas hospital, Cross said. Alcohol is believed to have been the cause, Cross said.

Sunday’s accident follows close on the heels of another accident in Big River Park, within the Parker area. At about 6:30 p.m., according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Office, a vessel launched from Big River Park for a tubing excursion, but the boat’s motor failed and the vessel began to take on water.

As the boat sank, six passengers managed to swim away, but a seventh was unable to free herself from a length of rope, and was pulled beneath the surface. The victim and vessel were only recovered Sunday morning.

Increase in incidents

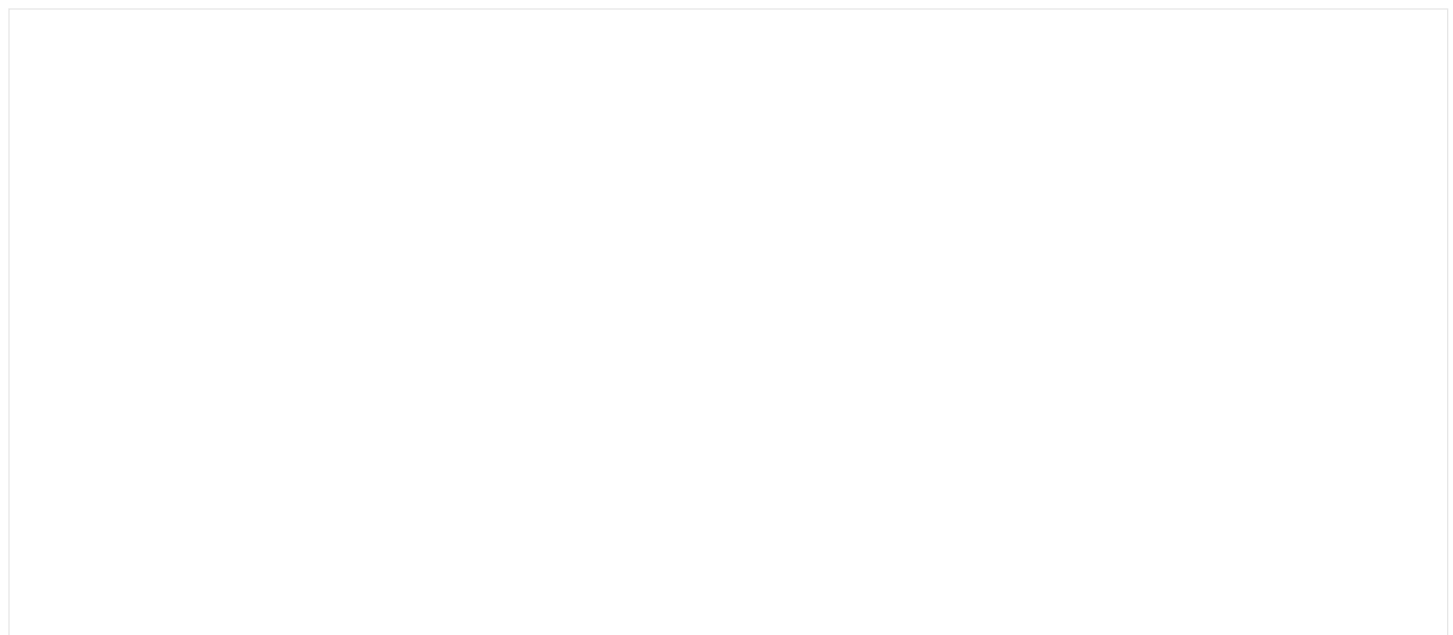
The Mohave County Sheriff’s Department has reported three fatalities on the lake this year, including a July 22 double-drowning near the launch ramp of Crazy Horse Campgrounds.

Also on July 22, a jet boat collided with a pontoon boat near Havasu’s sandbar, resulting in one severe injury and multiple minor injuries.

On July 4, a San Bernardino firefighter died while attempting to extricate a boating anchor from the river bottom in Parker; and on June 11, another victim was dislodged from a capsized watercraft when its operator took a sharp turn at high speed. While the driver died from apparent cardiac arrest at the scene, the dislodged victim was only found the following day, 40 feet beneath the surface.

On May 19, a personal watercraft pilot sustained severe head injuries when he fell into the water, and was struck by another personal watercraft operated by a friend.

This month, the remains of a woman presumed to have been missing since April were recovered from Ranger Point at Lake Havasu State Park.





Three injured in powerboat accident on Lake Havasu

Apple Valley official believes Liberty could have followed him before crash

By **Matthew Cabe**
Staff Writer

Posted Aug 8, 2017 at 6:12 PM

Updated Aug 8, 2017 at 6:12 PM

APPLE VALLEY — While fielding questions concerning a July 20 crash—
currently under investigation — that involved his vehicle, Assistant
Town Manager Marc Puckett asked for the name of the person who alleged
being hit by his 2011 black Cadillac CTS.

Although Lola Espinoza later agreed to the use of her name, she initially spoke to the Daily Press under the condition of anonymity, so her name was not revealed during the July 27 phone call.

Puckett, as a result, became agitated.

“Here’s what bothers me about that,” he said. “What, was I being followed by some Ranchos person?”

When asked whether he believed someone from Liberty Utilities — the water provider that bought Apple Valley Rancho and is currently locked in eminent domain litigation with the town — would follow him, Puckett replied, “Yes I do.” He then turned the conversation back to the crash the California Highway Patrol is currently investigating as a felony hit and run.

The “Ranchos” comments were not included in the initial Daily Press report on the crash because responses had not yet been requested from either the town or Liberty; however, spokespersons for both entities were informed of the comments prior to publication.

On Monday, in response to an inquiry that requested several responses — including one to Puckett’s comments and another as to the possibility of disciplinary action — Mayor Scott Nassif and interim Town Manager Lori

Lamson issued brief statements.

“We understand the CHP is investigating the matter,” Nassif said. “This is a serious incident that the town will monitor closely.”

“This unfortunate incident happened after work hours,” Lamson said. “The town doesn’t comment on the personal matters of our employees. Any personnel issues between the employee and the town must remain confidential.”

Neither official addressed the “Ranchos” comments or the potential for disciplinary action.

Meanwhile, Greg Sorensen, president of Liberty’s western region, said the comments had no merit.

“Mr. Puckett’s statement is false and disrespectful to (our) employees who serve the community with pride and professionalism,” Sorensen said. “We appreciate the work of the (CHP) to fully investigate this matter and trust they will determine what occurred and take the appropriate action.”

On July 20, Puckett’s Cadillac was involved in a two-car crash on southbound Interstate 15, about 600 feet after Foothill Boulevard, according to a CHP report. Espinoza said her 2011 gray Toyota Prius was hit from behind at approximately 11:30 p.m. Two photographs she provided show back-end damage to the Prius.

Espinoza was taken to Kaiser Permanente in Ontario following the crash. On Monday she said her car was totaled, and added that she has back pain that doesn’t allow her to sit for extended periods.

The Cadillac had moderate front-end damage, according to the report that lists Puckett as the vehicle’s owner but not the driver. Puckett previously told the Daily Press he “was in an accident,” but denied that a second vehicle was involved.

On July 21, he retrieved personal belongings from his Cadillac, which was towed after the crash, and contacted CHP officials.

“They said if there’s no one else involved I didn’t have to report it, but I got a police report in the mail,” Puckett said. “The only reason I left my car was because my cellphone was dead.”

Puckett gave a statement to Rancho Cucamonga CHP officials on July 28 that he said mirrored what he told the Daily Press. He has since declined all additional requests for comment.

Regarding the investigation, Rancho Cucamonga CHP Officer Jesus Garcia previously said the driver has not been identified.

Rancho Cucamonga CHP officials declined a California Public Records Act request that sought a more detailed report on the crash, citing the ongoing investigation.

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).

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

Santa's Village to host Blue Jay Jazz Festival

By Michel Nolan, The Sun

Tuesday, August 8, 2017



The 2017 Blue Jay Jazz Festival opens Thursday with its first concert, the King Brothers blues band, featuring Sam and Lee King.

Music so hot it's cool.

However, the location of the concert is a big deal as well.

The festival, which features internationally acclaimed performers from blues, soul and funk — as well as jazz — will present its three-concert series at SkyPark at Santa's Village on three consecutive Thursdays through Aug. 24.

Elves will be movin' and groovin.'

Santa's Village, of course, is the San Bernardino Mountains entertainment and dining destination that reopened in November after

extensive renovation.

While concertgoers' admission does not entitle them to the park's attractions, shops and restaurants will be accessible.

The King Brothers blues band, which stars drummer Sam and guitarist-vocalist Lee, has played, toured and recorded with such blues legends as their cousin, Freddie King, and their Rock and Roll Hall of Fame "adopted uncle," Albert King.

The All About Jazz website said of their music, "This is blues played the way it should be."

For all concerts, gates open at 5 p.m.; music starts at 6:45 p.m. at SkyPark at Santa's Village, 28950 Highway 18 in Skyforest.

Festival tickets are \$29 for ages 13 through adult, and \$19 for children 12 and younger. There is a charge for parking only on Saturdays, so concert parking is free.

Concert tickets are available for purchase by calling the SkyPark Admissions office at 909-744-9373, but tickets are also available at the door. Call for availability.

Jazz festival folks are excited about performing at SkyPark and the feeling is mutual — the elves around SkyPark at Santa's Village are ecstatic about hosting the concerts, too.

"It's just a win-win-win for SkyPark, the jazz festival and the community," said Patty Teachout, executive assistant to General Manager Bill Johnson.

"This is such a beautiful venue for everyone to enjoy."

For many of us, the park just drips with nostalgia, bringing back memories of the Lollipop Lady and the Bumble Bee Monorail.

Concerts will take place outdoors under the stars and surrounded by towering Ponderosa pines.

“There is a big stage area and a place for dancing,” Patty said.

Box dinners are available, or concertgoers can dine in or take out from two of the park’s restaurants.

Just as the park is closing, concerts will wrap up, according to Patty.

The next two concerts are powerful as well.

- Grammy- and Emmy-nominated Greg Adams and East Bay Soul will take the SkyPark stage on Aug. 17.

Adams, who first appeared at the Blue Jay Jazz Festival in 2004, is among America’s most admired trumpet players. Before releasing his first solo album in 1995, he was a founding member of the legendary Tower of Power.

More recently, he formed a horn-powered band of his own, East Bay Soul, which crosses genres — including jazz, pop, rock, R&B, soul and funk.

- Bringing the series to a rousing conclusion will be headliner Adrianna Marie and her Groovecutters on Aug. 24, with the Rim of the World High School Jazz Band.

This will be Adrianna Marie’s Blue Jay Jazz Festival debut. Her parents, part of the ’60s folk group the Carol Lee Singers, toured with their young daughter, teaching her the power of music. By age 10 she was performing in summer stock in New England, and at 17 headed to California.

Since 1996, the Blue Jay Jazz Foundation has been providing the Southern California mountain communities with fantastic musical artists.

Popular artists continue to entertain the community with traditional, modern and contemporary jazz.

Among the unforgettable performers to appear are Poncho Sanchez, Jack Sheldon, Kilauea, Gregg Karukas and Kenny Burrell.

All of this and Santa’s Village, too.

Come back and fall in love again.

Michel Nolan appears in The Sun on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Reach her at mnolan@scng.com or on Twitter [@MichelNolan](https://twitter.com/MichelNolan).

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/arts-and-entertainment/20170808/santas-village-to-host-blue-jay-jazz-festival>

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Bucking national trends, SB County manufacturing jobs solidly increasing

By Jim Steinberg, The Sun

Tuesday, August 8, 2017



FONTANA >> Manufacturing jobs have been increasing in the Inland Empire at a much faster rate than the state and nation.

From 2009 to 2016, manufacturing jobs in San Bernardino County increased 13.3 percent — from 49,000 to 55,500 jobs, said Robert Kleinhenz, economist for The Center for Economic Forecasting and Development at UC Riverside.

During that time, manufacturing jobs increased 3.4 percent nationally, and 1.5 percent in California, Kleinhenz said.

Part of the reason for San Bernardino County's manufacturing job growth is that companies are relocating from Los Angeles County because land is cheaper and they can design plants that reflect today's more automated manufacturing process, said Kleinhenz and John Husing, chief economist for the Inland Empire Economic Partnership.

Husing did not have the statistics available, but he said the trend is occurring in Riverside County as well.

Another reason is that local governments in the two-county area are more receptive to manufacturers' needs, and companies can hire employees for less money here, in part because employees will spend less for their workday commute, Husing said.

Fabricated metal manufacturing employs about 8,000 people in San Bernardino County and comprises the largest job sector for the industry, Kleinhenz said.

Food manufacturing accounts for 7,000 jobs in San Bernardino County, while plastics and rubber product manufacturers employ about 6,000, he said.

It's unclear how long the rapid growth will continue here.

• **Photos:** [Congresswoman Norma Torres tours Santa Fe Machine Works](#)

Most of the manufacturing job losses in the U.S. over the past 25 years have been related to automation. This trend will continue to put long-term downward pressures on employment in San Bernardino County, Kleinhenz said.

State regulations also are a challenge to manufacturers, the economists said.

Scott Kelly, director of shop operations and sales at Santa Fe Machine Works in Fontana, said Tuesday that one way his company has coped with higher costs resulting from California's strict environmental policies is to ship some work out of state.

For example, the injection and extrusion screw manufacturer sends some items requiring a specialized heat treatment process to Michigan, where the work can be done for the fraction of what it would cost to have it done within this state, Kelly said.

Santa Fe was one of several firms included in a multi-day tour of Inland Empire manufacturers by Rep Norma Torres, D-Pomona, to learn about the challenges local manufacturers face.

Also included on the tour, which concludes Friday, are manufacturers in Ontario, Pomona, Chino, Bloomington and Rialto.

“Most people don’t think of manufacturing when they think of the Inland Empire, yet local manufacturers continue to fuel the region’s economy and produce goods used across the globe in nearly every sector,” Torres said in a statement.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/business/20170808/bucking-national-trends-sb-county-manufacturing-jobs-solidly-increasing>

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BUSINESS

Why Inland area remains top bargain for logistics centers



John Valenzuela/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Construction crews continue to work on the QVC Western Regional distribution center, the company's first West Coast distribution center, in the city of Ontario, Ca., Wednesday, June 1, 2016.

By **RICHARD DEATLEY** |

PUBLISHED: August 8, 2017 at 2:26 pm | UPDATED: August 8, 2017 at 6:19 pm



So near, and yet so different.

The Inland area's top-rated logistics buildings had a year-over-year rent increase of 4.7 percent, while the neighboring Los Angeles/Orange County market saw a 9.2 percent jump, according to commercial real estate and investment firm CBRE.

The CBRE's worldwide look at prime logistics properties for the first quarter of 2017 put Los Angeles at sixth place for increases, with the Inland area in 21st place. The per-square-foot, per-year rent for Los Angeles/Orange County was at \$8.52 and the IE was \$5.40, placing them at 10th and 48th place, respectively, on CBRE's list.

Part of the historical higher cost for the logistics centers in the coastal Southern California counties is location, where big parcels of undeveloped land for large projects are less available or affordable.

ADVERTISING

But another emerging factor is the retail industry's shift into e-commerce, which is driving the demand for space.

"E-commerce operators require an estimated average of three times more space than traditional warehouse users due to the way items are packaged and the volume of goods handled," the CBRE report said.

The Inland market has nearly 200 logistics buildings that are 500,000 square feet or more, with several current projects exceeding 1 million square feet.

"We consider ourselves an extension of the ports," said Joe Cesta, managing director of CBRE's Ontario office. The Inland convergence of the 10, 15 and 60 freeways also help shipping to Western states, or back into Southern California, he said.

Last year, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach sent just under 8 million cargo containers into the Inland area.

Construction of new logistics structures for the Inland area has been at nearly [20 million to 24 million square feet per year since 2014](#). Cesta said. A prime logistics building now has an interior clearance of 36 feet for stacking items, plus a truck court and loading base.

Gross absorption, which measures leased space with no consideration for vacated space is “off the charts, close to 40 million square feet a year,” he said. Net absorption, which deducts vacated commercial space, is 15 million to 18 million square feet annually for the Inland area.

“That is delivering new product and having net absorption that are almost at equilibrium,” Cesta said. “And vacancy is steady, if not reduced.” It was at 3.3 percent for the Inland area overall at the end of the second quarter.

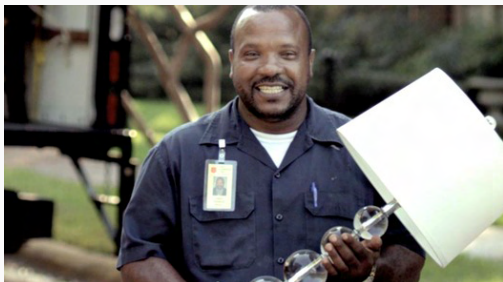
The area has 5,376 logistics buildings, according to CBRE, accounting for nearly 492 million square feet.

And FYI: Top-dollar for per-square-foot, per-year rent is Hong Kong, at \$32.40. For U.S. cities, Oakland is ahead of Los Angeles, No. 9 in the world, at \$8.73.

Tags: [commercial real estate](#), [Echo Code](#), [economy](#)



Richard DeAtley



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By The Salvation Army



NEWS > POLITICS

The primary's almost 300 days away, but 11 candidates already are running for Riverside County supervisor



File photo by Kurt Miller, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG

Riverside County supervisors hold a meeting at the County Administrative Center in downtown Riverside in this May file photo. With almost a year to go until the 2018 primary, 11 candidates have declared for three supervisorial seats.

By **JEFF HORSEMAN** | jhorseman@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise
August 9, 2017 at 6:01 am

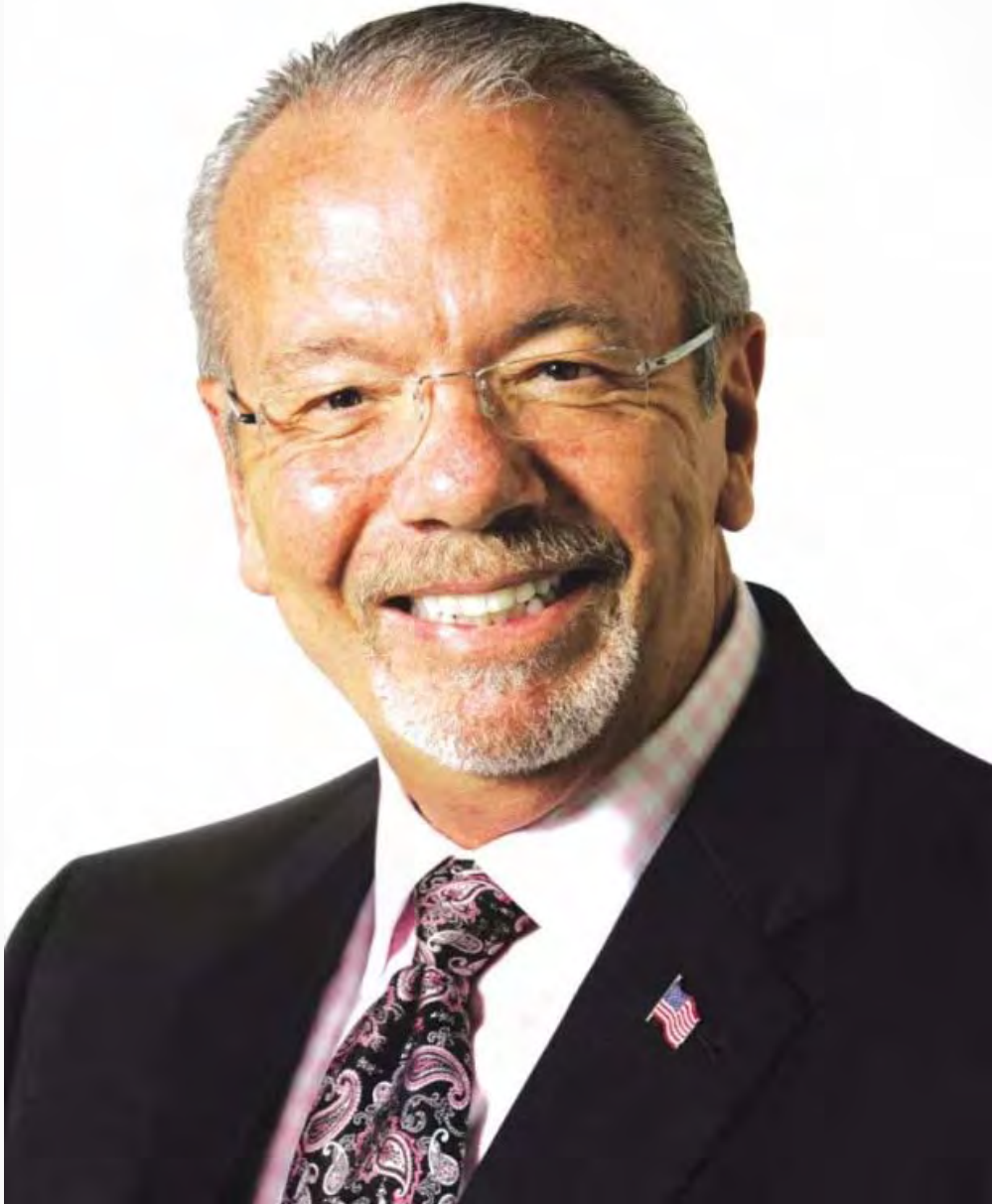


Three seats on the ballot plus two retirements equals no shortage of interest for the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

Even though next year's primary is almost 300 days away, 11 candidates already have filed to run for the board. Last year, six candidates, including both incumbents, competed for two seats in the primary.

The latest candidate, Russ Bogh, **launched his campaign** Monday, Aug. 7.

“I made the decision to seek the Fifth District Supervisorial seat because I want to play a more active role in the important financial decisions we need to make about our roads, criminal justice system and core county services,” Bogh, who served as a Republican in the Assembly from 2001 to 2006, said in a news release.



Riverside County Supervisor John Tavaglione.

It's not the first crowded field for supervisor. John Tavaglione, the county's longest-serving supervisor, recalls 13 candidates in the primary for his seat when he first ran in 1994.

The five supervisors serve staggered four-year terms. Each represents a district of more than 400,000 people.

Supervisors oversee a government with roughly 20,000 full-time employees and a \$5.5 billion annual budget. They earn a base salary of more than \$153,000 – there's extra pay for attending various board and commission meetings – along with the use of a county vehicle or a \$550-a-month car allowance, a taxpayer-funded pension, health insurance and other benefits.

With 2.3 million residents, the county, which ranks near New Jersey in square miles, is one of the nation's most-populated and it's one of California's fastest-growing.

Running against an incumbent supervisor is normally an uphill fight. But Tavaglione and Supervisor Marion Ashley aren't seeking re-election. Their terms expire at the end of 2018.

Six candidates have filed to run for Tavaglione's seat, which represents Corona, Norco, Eastvale and Jurupa Valley and part of the city of Riverside. They are Corona council members Eugene Montanez and Karen Spiegel; Riverside Councilman Mike Gardner; former GOP Assemblyman Eric Linder; environmental activist Penny Newman and Will Martinez, who worked as Linder's field representative.

Spiegel, who has Tavaglione's backing, is leading the fundraising race, with more than \$104,000 in her campaign account as of June 30.

Gardner reported \$49,000 on-hand, Montanez had \$43,000 and Newman, who entered the race in May, had close to \$24,000 in the bank at the end of June. Fundraising information for Martinez was not available.

There's no limit to how much one can give a supervisorial candidate or how much a candidate can raise. It typically takes six figures to mount a viable campaign.

Going well past that marker are the two candidates for the Fourth District seat representing the Coachella Valley. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez raised more than \$266,000 by July 1 while Palm Desert Mayor Jan Harnik took in more than \$237,000 between Jan. 1 and June 30.

A former Democratic assemblyman, Perez was appointed supervisor in May by Gov. Jerry Brown to serve out the term of John Benoit, [who died of cancer in December](#). Benoit's widow has endorsed Harnik.

While the office of supervisor is technically nonpartisan, Democratic officials are rallying around Perez, and Republican lawmakers are supporting Harnik.

Fifth District

Ashley represents the Fifth District, which includes Calimesa, the Pass, Moreno Valley, Perris and Menifee. Hoping to succeed him are Bogh, Menifee parks and recreation board member Altie Holcomb and Ashley's chief of staff, Jaime Hurtado.

Hurtado raised almost \$78,000 for his campaign between Jan. 1 and June 30 while Holcomb took in almost \$7,900 in the same timeframe.

The Second, Fourth and Fifth district seats will be on the June 5, 2018, ballot. If no one gets a majority of the vote, the first- and second-place finishers will advance to a November runoff.

Whoever wins will come to office with the county struggling to gain footing financially. Tax revenue has not kept up with a growing list of expenses, from the rising cost of jail inmate health care mandated by a lawsuit settlement to a projected cost surge for an in-home care program for indigent adults who are elderly, disabled or both.

Supervisors also must decide whether to allow and regulate marijuana commerce in the county's unincorporated areas or ban it outright. And there's the perpetual challenge of attracting high-paying jobs in a county where long commutes to livable wages are a way of life.

Who's in

Here are the candidates who have filed papers to run for Riverside County supervisor in 2018, according to the county Registrar of Voters.

Second District (part of Riverside; Corona; Norco; Eastvale; Jurupa Valley)

Mike Gardner, Riverside councilman

Eric Linder, former assemblyman

Will Martinez, former Linder aide

Eugene Montanez, Corona councilman

Penny Newman, environmental activist

Karen Spiegel, Corona councilwoman

Fourth District (Coachella and Palo Verde valleys)

Jan Harnik, Palm Desert mayor

V. Manuel Perez, incumbent

Fifth District (Calimesa, the Pass, Moreno Valley, Perris and Menifee)

Russ Bogh, former assemblyman

Altie Holcomb, Menifee parks and recreation board member

Jaime Hurtado, chief of staff to Supervisor Marion Ashley

Tags: [elections](#), [Political Insider](#), [Top Stories PE](#)

Jeff_Horseman_m49g.jpg

Jeff Horseman

Jeff Horseman got into journalism because he liked to write and stunk at math. He grew up in Vermont and he honed his interviewing skills as a supermarket cashier by asking Bernie Sanders “Paper or plastic?” After graduating from Syracuse University in 1999, Jeff began his journalistic odyssey at The Watertown Daily Times in upstate New York, where he impressed then-U.S. Senate candidate Hillary Clinton so much she called him “John” at the end of an interview. From there, he went to Annapolis, Maryland, where he covered city, county and state government at The Capital newspaper before love and the quest for snowless winters took him in 2007 to Southern California, where he started out covering Temecula for The Press-Enterprise. Today, Jeff writes about Riverside County government and regional politics. Along the way, Jeff has covered wildfires, a tropical storm, 9/11 and the Dec. 2 terror attack in San Bernardino. If you have a question or story idea about politics or the inner workings of government, please let Jeff know. He’ll do his best to answer, even if it involves a little math.

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By VICE News

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

Closure of 60 Freeway through Riverside more than a year – not months – away

By Imran Ghori, The Press-Enterprise

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

The next “Carmageddon” is further away than originally announced.

A planned paving project on the 60 Freeway that will close the entire freeway for several weekends between Jurupa Valley and Riverside is set to begin in late 2018 or early 2019, a Caltrans spokeswoman said Monday, Aug. 7.

Last week, officials said the project would begin in January 2018, but spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said the agency made a mistake.

The \$134 million project will repair pavement on a 27-mile stretch in both directions on the 60 from Euclid Avenue in Ontario to the 60/91/215 interchange in Riverside. The project is expected to be finished in mid-2021, Kasinga said.

Caltrans plans to use 55-hour closures for several weekends during the construction — a strategy done in Los Angeles on the 405 that was called “Carmageddon.” and in Corona on the 91 in February 2016 in a project some dubbed “Coronageddon.”

In March, the 15 through Fontana was closed for two weekends

The full 60 closure — which will be in one direction at a time — will only take place between Valley Way and the 60/91/215 interchange.

Fully closing a freeway allows crews to “get more work done in a shorter amount of time,” Kasinga said.

With the portion of the 60 between Ontario and Jurupa Valley — where there’s more room — Caltrans plans to put in an extra lane where the center median is located, she said. That will allow for one lane of traffic to remain open while the outside lanes are shut during construction, Kasinga said.

Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey said he and other city officials plan to meet with Caltrans to discuss minimizing the closure’s impacts on Riverside residents.

City leaders are concerned to see if any closures take place during the Festival of Lights, which begins in late November and goes through early January. The holiday event near the Mission Inn draws about a half-million visitors during the season to downtown, city officials say.

“As the Festival of Lights continues to grow we need to make sure we have every access point available as they’re coming from all over Southern California to Riverside,” Bailey said.

Bailey said city officials hope that Caltrans may be able to push any closures until after the event.

Kasinga said the precise dates are not set yet. The agency will begin designing the project in March and seek bids in fall. Construction could begin in in December 2018 or January 2019.

Weather and the contractor's schedule will help determine the dates, she said.

Caltrans will do a big public information push before the closures and will coordinate with affected cities, public safety agencies and business owners, Kasinga said. She said such efforts have been successful, such as during the 91 weekend closure, in encouraging drivers to avoid the area.

"We usually get through these pretty well," she said.

During past closures on the 91, 405 and 15, many motorists stayed away after extensive warnings about traffic delays.

The 60 corridor is one of the busiest in the Inland area.

Riverside spokesman Phil Pitchford said city officials hope any closures won't be of the magnitude that inspired apocalyptic names.

"Anything that ends with 'geddon' is kind of unnerving," he said.

The 60 corridor has seen extensive cracking and breaks in the pavement because of weather, age and heavy truck use, Kasinga said. It continues to deteriorate and the results will impact drivers if no repairs are made, she said.

The project, which will also improve ramps and connectors, will add a new layer of concrete that will extend the roadway's life for 40 years and should mean a smoother ride for motorists, Kasinga said.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/general-news/20170809/closure-of-60-freeway-through-riverside-more-than-a-year-not-months-away>

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SPORTS > GOLF

Top ten: El Rivino heads list of 10 Inland golf courses that are no longer here



The front gate remains at the former El Rivino Country Club, but not much more. The 18-hole course, known for its opening par-6, 626-yard hole, closed in 2005 and has since been completely razed. (Brian Goff / Staff photographer)

By **LONDON NEGRI** | Inegri@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: August 8, 2017 at 8:30 pm | UPDATED: August 9, 2017 at 7:42 am



The words aren't synonyms, but they could be.

El Rivino. Par-6.

“I had never seen a par-6 before,” said longtime [San Bernardino Golf Club](#) pro Frank Hillpot, who worked at El Rivino from 2000 to 2002. “So it was definitely interesting.”

Perhaps still one of the more well-known holes in the Inland Empire, the No. 1 hole at El Rivino Country Club and the entire course itself ranks as the top defunct course in the Inland area. [As the game and Southern California courses struggle to survive in a downturn in popularity and lack of water resources](#), it's a good time to look back at the top 10 defunct golf courses in the region.

To make the list, a course had to be regulation distance and a full 18 holes. Criteria considered included longevity and local relevance.

Eleven such courses were considered, with Corona National — the former track near Corona's Butterfield Park — surveying as the odd course out. Nine-hole layouts, such as the old Orange Show Road course, and short tracks, like Sun City's North Course, also were not considered.

Most have closed in the last 15 years, though two call to another era

1. El Rivino Country Club, Bloomington (1956-2005): El Rivino was not glamorous, but generations grew up playing the venerable track.

A challenging back nine contained back-to-back par-5s on the 15th and 16th holes. The par-4, 420-yard fourth-hole and its peninsula green was one of the best holes in the Inland area, overshadowed only by that par-6, 626-yard first hole.

“That hole truly played like a par-6 when the Santa Anas were blowing,” Hillpot said. “It was right into the teeth of that 30-40 mph Santa Ana, because it really blew hard there, too.”

After almost 50 years, the par-73, 6,437-yard course closed in favor of a yet-to-be built redevelopment project. The courses' trees and clubhouse have been razed. In fact, the only proof remaining of a golf course is the presence of a couple of concrete cart paths.

Mike Savage was a Colton High School product who now lives in Kingman, Ariz. and once aced No. 7 at El Rivino. His stepfather, Bill Creavy, was a club pro there in the early 1960s, and remembers the first hole well.

“It was just a par-5 then,” Savage said, “but it was a long son of a gun.”

2. El Rancho Verde Golf Club, Rialto (1957-2011): A staple in Rialto for more than a half-century died due to a development dispute. The course, which essentially reared [LPGA](#) standout and Eisenhower grad [Brandie Burton](#), was a favorite.

But a developer who owned the golf course — which played to more than 7,000 yards from the black trees — and a proposed adjacent development could not continue taking losses while fighting opposition for the development.

Citizens in the surrounding area fought to keep El Rancho Verde alive but it closed in late 2011. The land there was never developed, so it sits, with gates locked and weeds covering what was once tree-lined fairways.

3. Moreno Valley Ranch (1988-2015): The only course on the list that could conceivably come back, Moreno Valley Ranch is/was a 27-hole layout that hosted the Nike Tour's Inland Empire Open between 1994 and 1999.

Having been sold twice in recent years, should Moreno Valley Ranch come back, it would likely be as an 18-hole layout as part of a redevelopment project. The [Pete Dye](#)-designed track has some beautiful holes, including the [elevated par-3, 166-yard No. 7 on the Mountain course](#). Stay tuned on this one.

4. Empire Lakes, Rancho Cucamonga (1996-2016): Apparently, the Inland Empire Open was a bit of a curse. The tournament left Moreno Valley Ranch for Empire Lakes in 2000, and though it was quite successful there during its seven-year run on the [Web.Com Tour](#), its 160 acres became more and more valuable for development — even with being designed by the late Arnold Palmer.

At par-72 and 6,923 yards, it was a solid and consistently challenging from hole to hole.

5. Quail Ranch Golf Club (1965-2008), Moreno Valley: Even farther east than Moreno Valley Ranch was Quail Ranch, the longtime course that graced the side of Gilman Springs Road on the way to San Jacinto. It was a challenging course in which the locals would tell you that all the putts would break toward one certain hill to the west — and they were right.

Though the course drew players from both Hemet-San Jacinto and Moreno Valley, its rural home also may have played a role in its closure in the late 2000s. The property is still there, with the palm trees still visible hovering over the growth and weeds behind chain-link fencing.

[Which defunct Inland golf course do you miss most?](#)

6. Riverside Golf Club (1954-2009): Also known at times as Springbrook Golf Club, this staple on Riverside's north side was not the toughest, nor most challenging. It did have a number of fun holes, including the closing par-5 that challenged hitters when the well-placed creek was added in front of the green.

Nevertheless, the course operator filed for bankruptcy and the course closed abruptly in September, 2009. Much debate ensued about what to do with property, and it eventually became the [Riverside city cross country course, which has been home to CIF-Southern Section postseason meets](#) the last two years.

7. Norconian (1929-1941): As part of the sprawling and impressive Norconian resort built in the late 1920s, the accompanying golf course, designed by John Duncan Dunn, opened with much fanfare in early 1929. Movie stars and celebrities came to play there, including, reportedly, Babe Ruth. Several movies were shot here, with parts of the course serving as a backdrop for the 1930 movie “Love in the Rough.”

Problem was, Norconian opened just before the stock market crashed in 1929. It didn’t make money and the [property was eventually bought by the Navy in the fall of 1941](#). Good thing, too, as the resort was turned into a hospital and pressed into service by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The property, including the lake, is still there but closed to the public.

8. Southern California Athletic & Country Club, Wildomar (1924-1925): Yes, this really existed.

Several years before Norconian’s opening, Dunn designed an 18-hole course long forgotten on the southwest side of Lake Elsinore. The course was along Grand Ave, just north of Corydon Ave., with perhaps some of Rome Hill used.

It was part of a more expansive athletic club at a time when Lake Elsinore was a well-known resort area. It was so long ago, in fact, one newspaper report talked of a group of men who left San Juan Capistrano by horseback to survey the mountains for the feasibility of a Capistrano-to-Elsinore highway. The group had dinner that night at the clubhouse.

The roadway — [Ortega Highway](#) — was eventually built in the 1930s. But Grand Ave. wasn’t all that easy for golfers to get to in the 1920s, and the course lasted about 18 months before closing.

9. Palm Meadows Golf Course, San Bernardino (1959-2005): Long the on-site course for Norton Air Force Base, Palm Meadows became a full public course in 1994 and was a favorite.

“I liked the front nine,” Hillpot said. “A tree line and a big, giant (eucalyptuses). Back, not so much. I think the two nines were night and day, but it was a fun course to play, and it was usually in pretty nice shape. The greens always rolled good.

“I think everybody hated to see it go.”

10. Mountain View Country Club/Serfas Club, Corona (1963-2009): It was narrow and it was challenging, but for years Corona-area golfers enjoyed this track in southwest Corona.

However, a struggling late 2000s economy and rising costs led to its closure. As recently as last year, former Mountain View homeowners were fighting plans for redevelopment.

Landon
Negri

Landon Negri

Landon Negri has covered local sports in the Inland Empire since 1996, primarily in the Temecula-Murrieta area, but also throughout the I.E. and into eastern Los Angeles County. He is a native to the I.E., having been born in Redlands, raised in Calimesa and having graduated from Yucaipa High School. He also attended Cal State Fullerton. While he covers all sports, he does concentrate on basketball, golf and football.

 Follow Landon Negri [@landonnegri](https://twitter.com/landonnegri)

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AUG. 8, 2017, 1:30 P.M.
REPORTING FROM SACRAMENTO

California sheriffs and Gov. Jerry Brown in talks over possible changes to 'sanctuary state' legislation



Jazmine Ulloa

Members of the California State Sheriffs Assn. say they have been in discussions with Gov. Jerry Brown in hopes of amending a state Senate bill that seeks to keep local and state law enforcement agencies from enforcing federal immigration laws.

On a Tuesday conference call, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown, president of the sheriffs association, said his organization wants to ensure that the legislation does not prevent local law enforcement officers from notifying federal immigration agents about the release of dangerous people from their jails.

In its current form, the bill **“will provide sanctuary to criminals and endangers the public,”** Brown said. **“Many, many serious and violent criminals... would return to our communities and would prey on the immigrant community.”**

[Senate Bill 54](#), introduced by Senate leader Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), would prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies from using resources to investigate, detain, report or arrest persons for the purposes of immigration enforcement.

De León [has tried to address concerns](#) from Republican lawmakers and sheriffs over the release of violent felons. The bill now allows officers to pass

along information to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement about inmates who have previously been deported for a violent felony, or are serving time on a misdemeanor or felony and have a prior serious or violent felony conviction.

Some law enforcement agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, already make release dates publicly available on their websites.

But on Tuesday the sheriff's group said not all agencies release that information. The bill's exceptions for violent and serious felons remain too narrowly defined, they said, and would keep federal officers from picking up criminals at county jails, forcing them into neighborhoods where they could also arrest other immigrant bystanders.

Their proposed amendments would eliminate most of the provisions preventing communication between federal immigration agents and local and state officers about inmates or suspects who are detained or arrested.

The remarks come just days after Brown expressed reservations about the high-profile legislation during an interview on [NBC's "Meet the Press."](#) The governor said he was in discussions with De León [about changes](#) to the bill, but it was unclear what those changes will be.

Watchdog says L.A. Sheriff's Department collects flawed data, reports inaccurate statistics



Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)



By **Maya Lau**

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The [Los Angeles County Sheriff's](#) Department uses flawed methods to collect data about violence in county jails that result in unreliable and in some cases inaccurate statistics published internally and in public reports, according to the agency's principal watchdog.

Inspector General Max Huntsman said his 17-page report, released Tuesday, calls into question whether the department "is in control of itself" as it continues to implement reforms a few years after an abuse scandal rocked the nation's largest jail system.

"They themselves said that they didn't believe their own data," Huntsman said. "If they can't assess themselves, and if they can't tell us what's going on in their own department, then we can't assess them."

Huntsman said his review was prompted by questions earlier this year from the Los Angeles Times about why the department was reporting inconsistent numbers of inmate-on-inmate assaults.

The department told the newspaper this past spring it could not stand by the inmate assault statistics it had previously issued to the paper and to the inspector general's office — which had already published the numbers in a few of its reports — and that it would review its data systems.

Huntsman's office found the department tracks jail incidents using various types of software that are incompatible with one another and sometimes allow for duplicate entries and other times enable multiple events to be listed as one, among other errors.

As a result, the numbers that the department collects for its internal records versus the statistics it reports to outside agencies can diverge significantly.

In one example cited by Huntsman, the department recorded in an internal report that there were 382 inmate-on-staff assaults in 2015, but the department told the office of inspector general there were 464 of those assaults that year. The inspector general described this as a 17.7% variance.

In 2012, the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence [voiced similar concerns](#), saying that the department relies on antiquated, incompatible systems to track uses of force and that it should replace those methods with a uniform, comprehensive data tracking system.

Sheriff Jim McDonnell, then chief of the Long Beach Police Department, was one of seven members of that citizen's commission.

Assistant Sheriff Kelly Harrington said he agreed with many of the inspector general's findings and that the department would be better served by an integrated jail data system with one repository for information.

But Harrington, who oversees the department's jails and previously served as a director in the state correctional system, said creating a streamlined jail management system "has not been a top priority" in the year and a half he's been with the Sheriff's Department.

He emphasized, however, that the trend line on severe or inappropriate uses of force by guards — arguably the most important metric to examine in the wake of the jail abuse controversy — is indeed down.

"Those issues aren't happening in the jails, and if they are, those individuals responsible are being held accountable," Harrington said.

Peter Eliasberg, chief counsel at the ACLU of Southern California, which monitors the jails, agreed that "brutal, heavy-handed assaults" by guards in which inmates' teeth are kicked in or jaws shattered appear to no longer be a common feature in the county's jails.

But Eliasberg said it's still critical for the department to collect precise data about all types of jail incidents, including minor uses of force by guards, inmate-on-inmate assaults and inmate-on-staff assaults. Even relatively small fluctuations in those statistics, such as a 5% rise or drop, can signal the need for officials to examine problems more closely.

Miriam Krinsky, a former federal prosecutor who served as the executive director of the 2012 commission, said the inspector general's report underscores the continued need for oversight of the Sheriff's Department.

"Any law enforcement agency can only improve what it knows and what it tracks," she said.

Huntsman's report recommends that there be a single unit in the department responsible for compiling and verifying all jail violence data in order to generate more accurate information.

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The Reporter (<http://www.thereporter.com>)

Water board won't appeal court decision, Chromium 6 standard returns to 50 ppb

By Melissa Murphy, The Reporter, Vacaville

Tuesday, August 1, 2017

The State Water Resources Control Board will not appeal a recent court decision that called out the board for not conducting an economic feasibility analysis of drinking water when it came to imposing an extremely high standard of maximum contaminant level for Chromium 6.

Ourania Riddle, a member of the Solano County Taxpayers Association (SCTA) confirmed that the board voted not to appeal the trial court's decision on Chromium 6.

"The State Water Resources Control Board adopted a resolution today to remove the current maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the pollutant hexavalent chromium found in drinking water," wrote the board in a prepared statement. "The State Water Board will now begin work on establishing a new MCL for the contaminant."

The board must file with the court by Aug. 15 proof that it has submitted to the Office of Administrative Law a "change without regulatory effect" to delete the text of the Chromium MCL pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 1, Section 100.

In 2014, the California Department of Public Health (DPH) set a new state drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium at 10 parts per billion (ppb). The lawsuit, filed by the Solano County Taxpayers Association and the California Manufacturers & Technology Association in 2014, asked the court to order DPH to withdraw the 10 ppb drinking water standard and to adopt a new standard at a level that is economically feasible. It asserted that the state did not consider economic feasibility in adopting a drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium.

The court sided with the SCTA.

"The Court found that the State had not conducted an economic feasibility analysis of the drinking water standard as is required by law and ordered that the standard be withdrawn and a new standard be established," the ruling stated.

The board explained in the statement that, "The court did 'not decide whether the MCL is economically feasible,' nor did it conclude whether the MCL was too high or too low. Rather, the court said the regulation did not adequately document why the MCL was economically feasible."

Additionally, since the current MCL will be removed, the State Water Board will no longer enforce compliance plans that public water systems entered into for hexavalent chromium.

Riddle, who was the president of the SCTA at the time the lawsuit was filed, explained that the board expects it to take two years to come up with a new standard. Until then, the Chromium 6 level goes back to the previous standard which was 50 parts per billion.

During the meeting, the SWRC board noted that, "While the board staff disagrees with the court's conclusion, the board staff's recommendation is to not appeal the trial court's decision. It will likely be more expedient to begin the process of adopting a new MCL, rather than expending time and resources appealing the court's order.

The State Water Board hopes that the wealth of data obtained during the nearly three years the MCL has been in place will enable the Board to adopt the new regulation more quickly.”

Riddle said she was one of numerous speakers who addressed the Board.

“The taxpayers of Solano County are pleased with the court’s ruling and look forward to the deliberative process of analyzing and understanding the economic feasibility of a new state standard for hexavalent chromium,” she told the board. “SCTA and the many other stakeholders and water systems around the state look forward to providing data and participating in the development of a state policy for evaluating economic feasibility in this context. We will help in any way we can to get this rule making right for our community and all of California.”

Hexavalent chromium occurs naturally in water supplies across the state at levels that often exceed the 10 ppb standard. According to engineering studies commissioned by the Association of California Water Agencies and submitted to the Department of Public Health on the proposed regulation, efforts to eliminate this naturally occurring hexavalent chromium would have cost water utilities upwards of \$4 billion. These costs would have been passed on to California consumers. In its August 2013 analysis of the drinking water standard, DPH reported that in smaller water districts, an average household would pay \$5,630 more per year on their water bills to meet the 10 ppb standard.

Vacaville Utilities Director Royce Cunningham said the city has spent several hundred thousand dollars to date on design costs, and on well modification costs to several of its wells. Vacaville was anticipating to spend \$15 million to become fully compliant with the 10 ppb mcl by January 2020.

According to the water board, Chromium 6 remains a threat to public health as it is still present in the water supply of many public water systems. Because of this, the Board will establish a new MCL for Chromium 6 as close as possible to the public health goal set by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

“The new standard could be at the same level as the now invalid one,” the board noted.

It added that public water systems that planned and, in some cases, completed projects to install treatment may be able to use that information and experience in any work necessary to comply with the new MCL when it is adopted.

“Public water systems that have already (been) installed and are operating treatment systems are encouraged to continue to operate these facilities,” the board wrote.

An update was not available before press time on a pending lawsuit about the Chromium 6 in Vacaville’s drinking water filed by Sebastopol-based California River Watch.

Attorneys Jack Silver and David Weinsoff filed the lawsuit in March on behalf of California River Watch in the United States District Court, Eastern District of California. While acknowledging that the city is spending millions to address this issue, River Watch alleges that the city is violating federal hazardous waste laws and has failed to adequately warn the community.

The city contends, however, the level of chromium in Vacaville’s drinking water has always been below the current federal standard of 100 parts per billion and the previous California standard of 50 parts per billion.

“We appreciate our residents’ concerns about their drinking water,” the city said in a prepared statement at the time the lawsuit was filed. “Our drinking water is safe. The State of California has certified our drinking water as safe. Our water is regularly tested to assure the safety of our drinking water supply.”

City officials noted that Vacaville has mailed notices to its water customers regarding this issue and published information at www.cityofvacaville.com/cr6.

They sued for Clinton's emails. Now they want information on California voters



A conservative legal group is demanding detailed information on all California voters, alleging voter registration totals are larger than the eligible population in 11 counties. (Rich Pedroncelli / Associated Press)



By **John Myers**

AUGUST 8, 2017, 4:15 PM | REPORTING FROM SACRAMENTO

California's top elections officer and 11 county registrars have been asked to hand over detailed voter registration records or face a federal lawsuit, a request that centers on new accusations that the records are inaccurate.

The effort by the conservative-leaning organization [Judicial Watch](#) seeks an explanation for what its attorneys contend are official records that don't match the group's estimates of the legally eligible voting population in the counties, including Los Angeles County.

"We want the actual data," said Robert Popper, an attorney for the Washington, D.C.-based organization.

The effort was sharply criticized Tuesday by California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, who said he has yet to make a final decision on how to respond.

“It's bad math and dubious methodology,” Padilla said of the accusations.

Judicial Watch has recently attracted attention for its aggressive effort to gather emails from Hillary Clinton's time as U.S. secretary of State, as well as documents related to the 2012 attack on the American embassy in Benghazi, Libya.

The latest effort seeks information about two separate lists of registered voters. Like other states, California elections officials maintain both an “active” and “inactive” list of voters. In a letter sent to Padilla last week, the group charged California officials don't have “an accurate record of eligible voters.”

The exact size of the alleged errors is unclear. Judicial Watch declined a request from the Los Angeles Times to provide the full details of its voter registration analysis.

“We may be in litigation shortly,” Popper said when asked why the information won't be shared.

Those details, however, are at the heart of the complaint. Judicial Watch alleges that adding together the active and inactive voter lists in the 11 counties produces a total number of voters significantly larger than the estimate of voting-age citizens calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The organization used the ACS five-year average for its baseline of eligible voters.

The letter to Padilla claims that combined registration in the counties — Imperial, Lassen, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Stanislaus and Yolo — exceeds 100% of the eligible voting population. Popper said his group believes it's important to include both active and inactive voters in the tally — because inactive voters can show up and cast ballots.

“There are a lot of different ways that a system can be abused,” he said. “When you get a really big inactive list, like they have in California, it's a sign that things aren't going well.”

Dean Logan, the registrar of voters for Los Angeles County, countered that the two lists are quite different. He said the inactive voter list is more like “a fail-safe to make sure that people are not administratively disenfranchised.”

Even then, elections officials argue the lists shouldn't be compared with ACS data, which are compiled with caveats about population accuracy.

“Voter registration is not a survey,” Gail Pellerin, registrar of voters in Santa Cruz County, said in questioning Judicial Watch's methodology. “We deal in real facts.”

Pellerin said Santa Cruz County has 44,172 names on its inactive list, and only 12 of them came forward to cast ballots last November. A voter on an inactive file who moves to a new residence must cast a provisional ballot —

which isn't counted until elections officials confirm the person's eligibility. In her county, Pellerin requires voters who are on the inactive list due to not voting to recite their entire address and sign new registration forms under penalty of perjury.

"We want our voter file to be as accurate as possible," she said.

[Political Road Map: California's big change in elections is off to a rocky start for 2018 »](#)

Rules governing the list of inactive voters in each of California's 58 counties are dictated by both state and federal election law. Elections officials aren't easily able to discard the registration of voters who stop casting ballots. Last year, a long-awaited statewide voter registration database went online that allows counties to quickly maintain records that can track the movement or death of voters.

The Judicial Watch allegations come on the heels of intense debate over [President Trump's unproven claims of massive 2016 voter fraud in California](#) and other states. Those comments led to the creation of a presidential commission on voter fraud, whose leaders have asked for similar details — names, addresses and birth dates — regarding California voters as the new legal complaint.

Padilla, [who has twice refused to give the information to the presidential panel](#), said he doesn't believe the new allegations are a coincidence.

"To me, it's clearly part of a concerted effort, a continued attack on voting rights and setting the stage for the Trump administration to roll back voting rights," he said.

Judicial Watch's letter warned a federal lawsuit is possible if active and inactive voter data aren't turned over next week. Padilla said he hasn't yet decided how, or when, to respond to the request.

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UPDATES:

4:15 p.m.: This article was updated with an additional quote from Robert Popper.