

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

Plans in development stage for permanent Dec. 2 memorial

By Richard K. De Atley, The Press-Enterprise

Thursday, June 1, 2017



San Bernardino County's plan for a permanent memorial to honor the victims of the Dec. 2, 2015, terrorist attack is still in the development stage, county officials said this week.

Current work is on developing a request for proposal built around research done in 2016 by the December 2nd Memorial Committee, formed in February 2016 to look at several aspects of the project.

The group's last meeting was in November, when it established the guidelines for a future request for proposal. That outlines requirements when bids are solicited for a project. The county has

previously stated the process would be deliberate, and could take a decade to complete.

"It is the desire of the December 2nd Memorial Committee that a memorial, regardless of medium, both captures the magnitude of the loss and reflects the diversity of those affected," 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales said in a statement.

She is one of the leaders appointed to head the committee.

The committee already has said the memorial should recognize "the broad diversity and lives of the victims, as well as those who stepped up to preserve and protect life." The memorial also will recognize the county employees who survived the attack, many of whom were wounded both physically and mentally.

Syed Rizwan Farook, a San Bernardino County health inspector, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, opened fire with semi-automatic weapons on a gathering of Farook's co-workers on Dec. 2, 2015, at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, where they had gathered for a training session and holiday party. Fourteen people died and 22 were injured.

All but one of the fatalities were county employees.

Farook and Malik died later that day in a shootout with law enforcement officers.

The committee said the memorial "should be a place for quiet reflection."

"We must recognize the heavy responsibility that comes with creating something worthy of the men and women who sacrificed so much on that day," Gonzales said in her statement. "It must transcend time in such a way that future generations may look upon it and recognize the beauty that each victim brought into the world they live in."

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

Officers in Dec. 2 shootout exemplified bravery, professionalism

By The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Thursday, June 1, 2017



The district attorney's report on the Dec. 2, 2015 shootout between law enforcement offices and the two terrorists who had killed 14 civilians earlier that day gives the community another chance to appreciate the professionalism and bravery of the officers.

San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael Ramos' office found, of course, that all the officers were justified in their use of force against the two mass murderers. After all, the suspects fired on officers first from inside their SUV on a residential street in San Bernardino. The pair fired about 80 rounds; police responded with 440

rounds, killing them both.

Among the officers involved:

- San Bernardino police Sgt. Gary Schuelke, whose narcotics team found the suspects and followed their SUV.
- Redlands police Sgt. Andy Capps, who joined the pursuit and used his patrol car to try to stop the SUV; gunfire erupted when the SUV stopped.
- San Bernardino County sheriff's Deputy Shaun Wallen, who stopped his patrol car closest to the SUV and was pinned down behind his vehicle by gunfire and wounded.
- San Bernardino narcotics Officer Nicholas Koahou, who ran to the front of Wallen's vehicle to help him, firing at the suspect, and was wounded in the leg.
- San Bernardino police Officer Brian Olvera and others who laid down covering fire while a deputy (unnamed in the report) drove a vehicle forward to provide cover so that Koahou and Wallen could retreat.
- Redlands police Officer Matthias Knudsen, district attorney's Senior Investigator Tom Boyles and an unnamed, undercover investigator from the Riverside Sheriff's Department, who were among those who fired rounds at the killers.

Other officers involved include Deputy Bruce Southworth and Cpl. Rafael Ixco of the Sheriff's Department; Redlands police Officers Joseph Aguilar, Daniel Gonzalez and John Manly; San Bernardino police Sgt. Scott Murray, Detective Eric Bennet, Officers Jose Loera, Brian Karmann, Ryan Schuelke (Gary's son), Jose Vasquez, Raymond Bonshire and Edward Lee, Sgt. Gerald Beall and Sgt. Jeff Harvey.

We owe all these brave officers a debt of gratitude for putting themselves in harm's way to eliminate two mass murderers who likely would have killed again.



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Protest Against Sharia Law To Take Place Near Site Of San Bernardino Attack

June 1, 2017 11:44 AM

Filed Under: [Female Genital Mutilation](#), [Sharia Law](#)

Watch & Listen

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SAN BERNARDINO (CBSLA.com) — A protest against Islamic [law](#) is set to take place next week at the site of the San Bernardino terror attack.



The rally [lead by the local chapter](#) of ACT for America is part a series of nationwide demonstrations called “March Against Sharia Law” and will take place near the Inland Regional Center, where [fourteen people died](#) and 22 others were injured in the shooting on Dec. 2, 2015.

More than 300 people are expected to attend the protest, which will feature several speakers who will “educate the crowd about Sharia Law and its devastating effect on the United States”, according to ACT volunteer Denise Zamora.

Sharia law is [a strict Islamic law](#) designed to guide devout Muslims in their personal and professional dealings, and has been cited by the Taliban and other Islamic fundamentalist groups to justify limits on women’s rights and harsh punishments, including amputation and stoning, according to CBS [News](#) .

POPULAR

Zamora says the [event](#) is aimed in part at raising awareness of female genital mutilation (FGM), a practice which has come under increased scrutiny following [the arrest of a Michigan doctor](#) accused of performing the procedure on girls as young as between six and eight years old.

The World Health Organization said the practice of removing or injuring female genital organs has no known health benefits but has been performed on roughly 200 million women and girls in 30 countries.

ADVERTISING



Islamic scholars and experts say the practice is cultural, not based in religious principles, while opponents like Zamora say FGM is supported by sharia [law](#) .

“Our nation is built on the freedom of religion — a pillar of our democracy — which we must always respect, protect, and honor,” Zamora said. “Sharia [Law](#) is a direct threat to our freedom and democracy. It is completely incompatible with the constitutional rights that made our county great.”

County Closes Cannabis Club

By Heidi Fron, Reporter | Posted: Thursday, June 1, 2017 11:00 am

The opening of a cannabis lounge in Crestline was announced in the May 25 issue of the Mountain News, and the pot patio went dark the same day.

San Bernardino County Code Enforcement declared the establishment to be in violation of county ordinances that regulate food service and restaurants, such as the Lake Gregory Coffee House where the Blazing Bear was based. The presence of cannabis in all its forms also was declared to be in violation of the law.

Erric Jackson, also known as Erric Zhade, was the proprietor who had planned to make the patio along Lake Drive available to users of cannabis daily from 5 to 9 p.m. Jackson emphasized that no cannabis products would be bought or sold on the premises; individuals would bring their own personal supplies to use at the Blazing Bear.

The notice of violation from code enforcement ordered the business to cease immediately the dispensing/distributing of cannabis products on the premises.

In a phone message to the Mountain News, Jackson said that the community response was quick and severe.

“We’ve had a massive backlash — a huge clash — over everything,” exclaimed Jackson, whose original intentions were to generate profits for the failing coffee shop and to provide the cannabis community a place to gather and network socially.

Jackson said that he contacted both the health department and the sheriff’s station about his proposal before proceeding, and he felt that he had a green light to make his plan a reality.

Officials at the county Department of Public Health (DPH) did not know who might have spoken to Jackson, since his questions would not have been within that department’s purview.

“Marijuana is not a food item,” explained Lana Cao, public information officer for DPH. “We are not the enforcement authority as far as the restaurant being closed. We cannot speak to those questions,” she added.

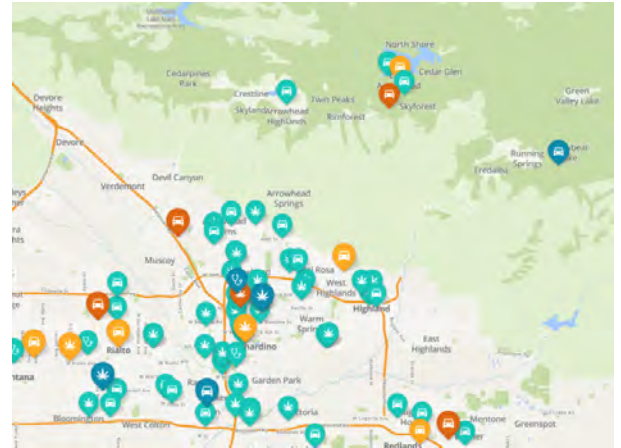
Cao went on to say that smoking is prohibited in food preparation areas, but the ordinances make no distinction as to what is smoked, i.e., tobacco versus marijuana. “About smoking on the patio, we can’t speak to that. I don’t think we would have anything to do with that,” Cao said, after consulting with an attorney from San Bernardino County Counsel.

Marijuana Laws Limit Use, Possession

By Heidi Fron, Reporter | Posted: Thursday, June 1, 2017 11:03 am

Proposition 64 legalized possession of up to one ounce of marijuana for adults, and went into effect on Nov. 8, when California voters approved the initiative measure. Since then, websites have sprouted up all over the Internet, directing cannabis users to sources of marijuana through delivery services, dispensaries and other methods.

One website, www.weedmaps.com, strikingly shows how the number of sources has proliferated over the past several months. Icons on the maps illustrate where cannabis in its various forms may be obtained, and by which method. The icons are piling up rapidly on top of one other. Even the mountain communities have approximately twice as many icons as they had just a couple of months ago.



Weed Maps

A lot of confusion surrounds the new law, most likely because few individuals have actually read the text of the law, which was distributed in the Official Voter Information Guide prior to the general election. The details covered 32 pages.

Anyone who wants to remain in compliance should study the law itself. It's available online and it's probably still sitting in that stack of mail and newspapers you've been saving since last November.

Several main points pertaining to the Adult Use of Marijuana Act are listed below. This summary is not intended to be legal advice. Consult with a licensed attorney as needed.

POSSESSION

Any adult 21 years or older may obtain, possess, transport or give away to other adults, 21 and older, no more than one ounce (28.5 grams) of marijuana or no more than eight grams of concentrated cannabis.

Possession with intent to sell any amount of marijuana is still a felony.

Note that retail sales for adult use will not begin until licensed stores are in operation after Jan. 1, 2018.

CULTIVATION AND

MANUFACTURING

Since possession is legal, the question arises as to how an individual can obtain marijuana, since sales are illegal except from licensed dispensaries in counties that allow them.

Under the law, Californians may grow up to six plants per residence for personal use only. Cultivation is limited to inside a private residence or in an enclosed, secure, locked accessory location on the property. The plants must be out of public view.

The six-plant limit is per residence, not per person.

USE

Even if an individual may possess marijuana, it may not be consumed in any public place. No legal provisions exist for any premises to allow on-site consumption and no licensing procedures are in place.

However, a lot of people don't wish to sit at home alone while using marijuana. They want to congregate, socialize and network among other members of the cannabis community.

Some individuals recall that smokers may not smoke marijuana in any location where tobacco smoking is prohibited. To their own advantage, they have turned the rule around to assert that cannabis users may smoke marijuana in locations where tobacco smoking is allowed. This logic is erroneous.

Further, most people who have a job need to remember that employers may forbid their employees from using marijuana.

Additional state laws address vehicles, minors and medical patients. Federal laws continue to prohibit possession, use and all other aspects of cannabis commerce.

Whatever your plans are for possession and use of marijuana, it is essential to check the language of the laws or obtain professional legal advice from a licensed attorney for your own protection.

LOCAL NEWS

How Riverside closed all its medical marijuana dispensaries — 118 in 10 years



Boards cover up what was once G6, a marijuana dispensary, at a building on Indiana Avenue in Riverside on Tuesday, May 23. Photo by Stan Lim, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG

By **ALICIA ROBINSON** | arobinson@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: May 24, 2017 at 4:47 pm | UPDATED: May 25, 2017 at 7:14 am



For some California cities, officials say trying to shut down illegal pot dispensaries can seem like an endless game of Whack-a-Mole — close one down, and another pops up.

But in Riverside, officials appear to have whacked every last mole.

Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki told council members Tuesday, May 9, that city efforts have rid Riverside of all but one pot dispensary.

The last facility shut May 12, days before another opened Tuesday, May 16. Then the new one agreed to close after city officials visited the next day. Okazaki said Wednesday, May 24, that officials believe there remain none in the city.



A note is informing customers that G6, a marijuana dispensary, is now closed hangs on an Indiana Avenue building in Riverside on Tuesday, May 23.
Photo by Stan Lim, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG

Riverside has been working to eradicate medical marijuana dispensaries since banning them in its zoning code in 2007. In 2015, city voters [rejected a ballot measure](#) that would have allowed and regulated a small number of medical pot facilities.

A 1996 state law allows patients to use pot as medicine, and an initiative California voters approved last year says adults 21 and older can use the drug and grow small amounts. But those rules don't strip cities of the right to control or ban pot-related businesses.

This isn't the first time the city has reached zero, Okazaki said.

An earlier wave of dispensaries was [closed around 2013](#), when Riverside [won a California Supreme Court case](#) asserting cities' right to bar them.

But officials say more pot shops began opening again in the run-up to last November's election, when California voters [legalized adult use of marijuana](#).

So the city renewed its vigilance, closing 16 dispensaries since Jan. 1, and a total of 118 since 2007.

Not everyone is cheering Riverside's accomplishment.

James De Aguilera, a Redlands attorney who represents dispensary operators including some that have tangled with Riverside, considers the city's approach misguided.

"To completely prohibit that which the state law says is allowed ... it's mind-boggling," he said.

"I'm not a personal advocate of marijuana, but when the voters vote, I think it's the responsibility in a democracy to listen to the intent of the voters."

DISPENSARIES SHUT

Riverside officials say they've closed every illegal pot shop in the city. Here are the streets that had the most medical marijuana dispensaries and how many have been closed since 2007.

Magnolia Avenue



Hole Avenue



Arlington Avenue



University Avenue



Indiana Avenue



Brockton Avenue



Source: City of Riverside

How the city did it

Riverside's success contrasts with other Southern California cities that are looking for more tools to shutter pot shops.

Across the Santa Ana River from Riverside, Jurupa Valley has managed to get 40 dispensaries down to about a dozen that remain open in the past few years, but officials want more help from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office, Jurupa Valley City Councilman Verne Lauritzen said.

"It is a serious, expensive problem," he said. "We get an injunction and we close one down, and the same owners go around the corner and ... they start up again."

This month Pasadena officials **approved a plan** to shut off utilities to dispensaries that refuse to close. The Orange County city of Stanton sent police to raid a pot shop in April, according to news reports.

In the fight to close illegal pot shops, Riverside's not-so-secret weapon is weedmaps.com, a website on which dispensaries and delivery services can advertise their location and products.

City attorneys check the site daily and also get complaints from residents, neighboring businesses and code enforcement officers.

When they learn about a pot shop, they approach the operators and ask them to comply with the city's ban, Okazaki said. If operators refuse, the city goes to court to seek a temporary restraining order and then a permanent order to close the business.

The shops are usually in leased space, so the city reaches out to the landlord or property owner, some of whom say they weren't aware dispensaries are illegal in Riverside, Okazaki said. Sometimes the owner will begin eviction proceedings, but the city can usually move faster to get the pot shop out.

Riverside police can help by observing the facility and making an undercover buy to determine it is indeed selling pot, Riverside Police Sgt. Andrew Misenheimer said.

"Most of the time we're fairly sure that's what's occurring," but going inside the shop lets police know if there's armed security, how operators control customer access, and whether the set-up — barred windows, locked doors — creates other safety issues, he said.

The city attorney's office and police work with the fire department, code officers and building and safety staff to gather information and make the case in court that the dispensary is an illegal operation.

With stubborn operators who won't close, the court may appoint a receiver to take over the property. In February, Riverside took its harshest approach yet, raiding and boarding up [a Magnolia Center pot shop](#) that had reopened with a generator after the city turned off the utilities.

Under the prior city attorney, Greg Priamos, Riverside **spent more than \$800,000** using outside lawyers on dispensary cases. Current City Attorney Gary Geuss has brought the work back in house, but officials don't have a cost estimate for the time employees have spent on pot issues.

Mixed response

Some welcome the city's efforts.

Robert Earle, who owns Magnolia Alignment on Merrill Avenue, said two dispensaries have opened by his auto shop, with one operating as recently as a few months ago. Sometimes he could smell the weed, and a line of customers would form as soon as the place opened.

A few years ago the city **raided a pot shop** behind him.

"They had the SWAT team come out with the whole gear," Earle said.

While he didn't see the dispensaries as a safety threat, he said, he's glad the city closed them.

"It's never good for the neighborhood."

City Councilman Mike Soubirous, whose ward had five dispensaries closed this year, said he gets complaints about pot shops opening in homes that are zoned for businesses such as a law office but border residential neighborhoods. City officials also cite robberies, shootings, and even one **kidnapping and torture** case connected with a dispensary.

Others seem ambivalent, like Sam Salib, who has owned Indiana Liquor & Market on the edge of the Casa Blanca neighborhood for 17 years. In 2013, a dispensary in the same shopping center as Salib's store was the scene of an altercation that led to **a security guard shooting** a driver, who struck the guard with his SUV.

Salib said he didn't see the shooting and the dispensary didn't affect his business. The people he saw going there looked old or sick, he said, and now that it's closed they may have to buy marijuana on the street.

Salib is fine with people using pot for medical reasons, and said it's hard to argue that the drug should be banned while alcohol is widely sold.

Riverside resident Patrick Maloney, 37, who uses medical marijuana for pain from a back injury, made a similar argument.

City leaders are "totally cool with us having bars," he said, but unlike alcohol, nobody dies from marijuana.

The Riverside dispensaries Maloney used to visit seemed clean and safe, he said, but now he has to go out of town for the drug.

"I just don't see why we should put any resources or time into fighting medical marijuana in this town when we should be putting time into fighting crime or homeless issues," he said.

De Aguilera, the attorney, predicted a wave of litigation as would-be pot entrepreneurs test whether the new law provides more protections for marijuana, as he believes it does.

"Prop. 64 is a whole new ballgame for cities. They just haven't seen it yet," he said. "Each city individually acting in its own personal interest and ignoring the impact to the region, that's not going to be acceptable under the law."

The Riverside City Council [hasn't made a decision](#) on whether to allow recreational pot to be grown or sold in the city.

Until and unless the ban on medical marijuana shops changes, Soubirous said, people need to understand the dispensaries are violating city rules and could be putting the public at risk.

"It'd be like if I wanted to open up my own restaurant and I said I don't care about any of the health and safety rules and I don't care about the (health department grade), I'm not going to pay a permit or anything," he said. "That's the problem that we have here."

BY THE NUMBERS

Riverside officials say their efforts to enforce a ban on medical marijuana dispensaries have paid off.

118

Dispensaries closed since 2007

0

Dispensaries open now in the city

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

ALICIA_ROBINSON

Alicia Robinson

Alicia Robinson has been at The Press-Enterprise since 2007 and has covered Riverside and local government for most of that time, but she has also written about Norco, Corona, homeless issues, Alzheimer's disease, streetcars, butterflies, horses and chickens. She grew up in the Midwest but earned Southern California native status during many hours spent in traffic. Two big questions Alicia tries to answer with stories about government are: how is it supposed to work, and how is it working?

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

San Bernardino to accept applications for marijuana business permits

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Thursday, June 1, 2017



SAN BERNARDINO >> Seven months after voters [repealed the city's ban](#) on marijuana and replaced it with a regulatory system, city officials will begin accepting the first applications for marijuana business permits Monday.

The city had delayed moving forward with marijuana regulation after [two lawsuits](#) challenged the ballot measure's validity.

If a judge struck down Measure O, California law would replace it with Measure N, a different marijuana regulation scheme that also

passed in November, but with a smaller majority — 51 percent compared with 55 percent.

Given the bankrupt city's limited finances, it wouldn't make sense to spend staff time and money on implementing one regulatory framework only to later have to start over on a different framework, City Attorney Gary Saenz said when the lawsuits were filed.

But the lawsuits are “shams,” and the city attorney has a duty to defend Measure O as the official law of the city, attorney Roger Jon Diamond said.

“The city of San Bernardino along with its officials are engaged in a conspiracy to frustrate the right of initiative embodied in the California constitution,” Diamond wrote in one of two lawsuits demanding the law be implemented. “Respondent city of San Bernardino is purposely refusing to obey the law.”

Diamond filed two lawsuits in March on behalf of clients who want to open dispensaries at locations authorized by Measure O. They allege that the city violated their First and 14th Amendment rights, as well as rights under the California election code and city charter, by refusing to accept their application or a check for the \$250 application fee.

A [section of the city website](#) devoted to Measure O alerts the public to the existence of four ongoing lawsuits.

“Two of the lawsuits claim Measure O is invalid and that the City should stop all implementation of the measure. The other two lawsuits claim the opposite, that Measure O is valid and that the City should begin implementation as soon as possible,” the notice states. “Absent a valid court order, the City is obligated to implement Measure O, and has been doing so since the measure became effective in December. The City has also initiated its own litigation seeking a Court's determination on the validity of Measure O and expects the Court to rule sometime this year.”

In January, before the lawsuits challenging the delay were filed, the city had [said it would provide an update](#) in March on the progress toward implementation.

Until November, San Bernardino had consistently banned any marijuana dispensaries, despite officials' estimates that dozens of dispensaries operated openly and illegally in the city.

Two separate groups of marijuana advocates then pushed for different regulation schemes. Dispensary operators who backed the second-place initiative — Measure N — are among those challenging the legality of Measure O, saying the measure was specifically geared to benefit the businesses behind it.

The city also pushed an alternative, Measure P, that would have allowed city officials to change marijuana policy in the future. That measure failed to reach a majority.

Measure O was [projected](#) to raise \$19.5 million to \$24.8 million, according to a study by Whitney Economics on behalf of the campaign. A study done by New ERA on behalf of Measure N said that Measure O would bring only \$2.4 million in revenue to the city, while it calculates that Measure N would bring \$18.2 million.

Four-page applications for marijuana business permits are available in the Community Development Department, which is at 290 N. D St., and [online](#).

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170601/san-bernardino-to-accept-applications-for-marijuana-business-permits>

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http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/napa-county-and-its-cities-discuss-coordinating-marijuana-policies/article_b76444b0-a73d-5cd8-a4c5-5c7c10d8d77f.html

FEATURED

GOVERNMENT

Napa County and its cities discuss coordinating marijuana policies

BARRY EBERLING beberling@napanews.com Jun 1, 2017 Updated 12 hrs ago



Dreamstime

Napa County and its cities are learning together as they deal with a post-Proposition 64 California that has legalized recreational marijuana.

Representatives from county and city governments met Wednesday at Napa Valley College for what was billed as a “Napa Countywide Cannabis Roundtable.” They heard presentations and then had a discussion.

The outcome – they want to meet again and dive deeper into some aspects of Proposition 64, such as possible environmental effects from outdoor cultivation, possible tax revenues and youth marijuana education.

“This is like building the airplane as you’re learning to fly it,” American Canyon Mayor Leon Garcia said.

California is still working on legislation connected with Proposition 64. Meanwhile, the county and cities are working on their own laws, given the power they have over how some aspects of Proposition 64 will unfold locally.

County Supervisor Ryan Gregory a few months ago proposed having the cannabis roundtable with two representatives each from the county and its five cities. The agencies want to learn how to build and fly the plane together, even if their individual laws-to-be might differ.

Their guides on Wednesday were Paul Smith of the Rural County Representatives of California and Amy Jenkins of the lobbying group Platinum Advisors, where she represents both local governments and the cannabis industry.

State voters passed Proposition 64 in November 2016, 57 percent to 43 percent. The initiative allows people over age 21 to grow up to six marijuana plants indoors and to use recreational marijuana in their homes and at licensed marijuana businesses. It lays out guidelines for a recreational marijuana commercial industry.

Cities and counties have the power to decide whether to allow outdoor cultivation. They can allow or ban marijuana businesses, as well as tax recreational – but not medical—marijuana.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal laws, but the Obama administration maintained a hands-off approach if a local regulatory system was in place, Smith and Jenkins said. How the Trump administration might modify this approach in regard to recreational marijuana is an unknown.

Meanwhile, Gov. Jerry Brown has a proposed a trailer bill for the state budget that would merge regulations for recreational marijuana and medical marijuana, which has been legal in California since 1996. The state is considering such issues as shipping, licensing, packaging and what potency caps might be in place.

“This is changing literally minute-by-minute,” Smith said.

Napa Mayor Jill Techel wondered if Proposition 64 will, indeed, be the tax Gold Rush for cities that some say they think it will be.

Jenkins had no definitive answer. She said Coachella approved a 111,000-square-foot cannabis production campus with the expectation that tax revenues will increase by 30 percent. Colusa could have a 10-acre cannabis production campus.

“It is difficult to estimate at this point what your revenue-generation ability is,” Jenkins said.

Techel and Garcia were interested in the group further discussing youth education programs on marijuana.

Calistoga Mayor Chris Canning said the county’s stance on commercial cannabis activity in rural areas could affect cities. A ban could shift pressure to land within cities that could otherwise be used for housing. He wants further discussion among the county and cities.

Yountville Mayor John Dunbar expressed concern that commercial, outdoor marijuana cultivation in rural areas could affect waterways. He wants more discussion on what environmental precautions might be taken locally.

“I don’t think it takes a large mega-grow for there to be an impact,” Dunbar said. “I think we’re all sensitive to what’s happening to the Napa River and the watershed.”

Supervisor Belia Ramos asked if Napa County and other counties would have marijuana appellations similar to wine appellations. Jenkins said the state is looking at the issue and related “truth-in-labeling” requirements.

Voters in Napa County favored Proposition 64 by 61 percent to 39 percent.

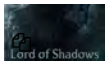
“We have the numbers on Proposition 64 that, I would say, requires us to not just be compliant, but be responsive to the desires of residents in a responsible manner,” Ramos said.

The county and cities are trying to have their marijuana laws in place by the end of the year.

Local resident and long-time medical marijuana advocate James Hinton told the roundtable representatives during public comment that they seem to be heading in a promising direction. He repeated his offer to arrange tours of cannabis dispensaries and cultivation.

Barry Eberling

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Man who helped stop cyber attack speaks out

Public Resentment Grows

BY Heidi Fron, Reporter | Posted: Thursday, June 1, 2017 10:59 am

One or two low-flying planes overhead can be shrugged off. But one after another after another heightens the awareness that something is different; something is extraordinarily disturbing. So it goes as the Lake Arrowhead community becomes increasingly annoyed by planes directly overhead on their respective descents into Ontario International Airport.

Many residents and visitors alike believe that the peace and enjoyment of this tranquil resort community has been broken and needs to be fixed. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Ontario International Airport Authority (OIAA) will take no action unless residents voice their objections to the new flight path. Pressure may be brought to bear upon local elected officials as well.

•Complaints should include

your name, address and a detailed description of your noise issue.

•List the times and dates that you experience noise disturbances. Indicate whether the noise is recurring occasionally or if it is continual.

• Identify whether the noise comes from commercial jets, helicopters, general aviation or another source.

•Document every official you have contacted regarding this issue.

The Federal Aviation Administration has an ombudsman established to receive information about noise complaints and to serve as a liaison for the public. The contact information by U.S. Postal Service, phone or e-mail is as follows:

Federal Aviation Administration,

Aviation Noise Ombudsman, AEE-2

800 Independence Ave. S.W.

Washington, DC 20591

Phone: (202) 267-3521

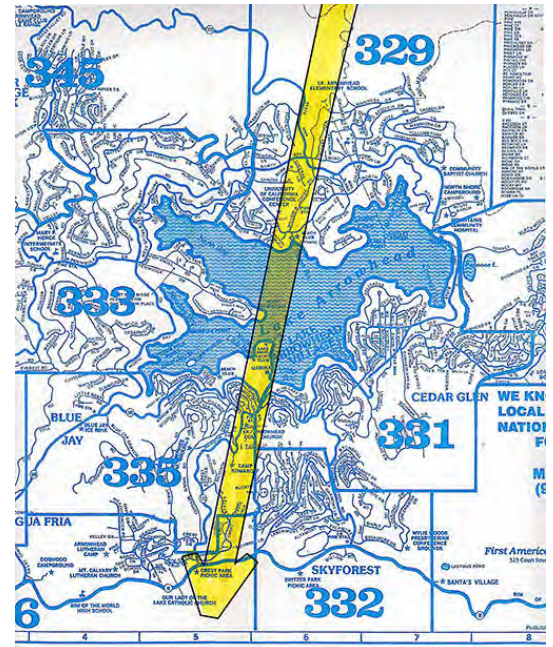
e-mail: 9-AWA-NoiseOmbudsman@faa.gov.

More specific information is available on the web page at

www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/noise_emissions/airport_aircraft_noise_issues/noise_ombudsman/.

Whew! That's a lot to type into your browser. Instead, try simply typing faa.gov. That will bring you directly to the right web page where "Noise & Emissions" is clearly labeled on the left. There you will find names of key officials, their titles and additional contact information.

The City of Ontario and the County of San Bernardino formed the OIAA in August 2012 by enacting a Joint Powers Agreement. The OIAA provides overall direction for the management, operations, development and marketing of Ontario International Airport (ONT). The authority's overarching goal is to provide a benefit to the economy of Southern California and to residents of the four counties surrounding the airport.



CleanFlight path on APN map

Using an Assessor's Parcel Map, Lake Arrowhead resident David Caine illustrates the flight path of jets descending into Ontario International Airport since the route was redirected from the Cajon Pass.

The OIAA meets regularly at 3 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The OIAA Administration Building is located at 1923 E. Avion Avenue in Ontario.

The main phone number for the authority is (909) 544-5300.

The website, www.flyontario.com, provides flight information, but no general information about flight paths and policies that affect decisions about flight paths.

Those ~~and~~ ~~ç~~ Planes

Posted: Thursday, June 1, 2017 10:53 am

It is 5:30 p.m. Memorial Day and we're heading out for a late wake board run. Two bald eagles circle over my boat, cutting through the calming lake as most of the visitors have headed home. Suddenly, the roar of a low-flying commercial jet approaching its landing into Ontario International Airport destroys my idyllic scene. My serenity turns into yelling at the plane.

The Mountain News staff has interviewed numerous retired pilots and FAA officials who have attested to the ridiculous reasons first offered by airport officials for the alteration of the incoming jetliners' paths over our mountain communities. Inside this issue of the Mountain News, the news team has listed contact information for the FAA and Ontario Airport officials.

Let's seize the opportunity to band together as residents, businesses and organizations to demand that the flight paths be restored to the previously sane paths and away from flying directly over Lake Arrowhead.

Sports Photo Correction

We have a policy — to identify all photos. A concerned parent left me a message that we did it wrong last week, and we are making amends by running the sports pictures again with the athlete's ID in the caption. No excuses; I appreciate your pointing it out. We want our readers to hold us to a higher standard. All our mountain athletes and scholars matter to the MN. Our apologies.

Doper's proposed Pot Pit

The Crestline Cannabis Community suffered an immediate set back and the "Closed" sign is up on the Lake Gregory Coffee House. While government agencies decided who's going to enforce what, the MN will continue to be vigilant and report the late-breaking news on a weekly basis.

Ready for another dopey shocker? The MN has published, online, a copy of the map from weedmaps.com, which shows the locations of pot dispensaries located throughout the Inland Empire and our mountain communities. Can you believe that marijuana can be delivered to your home as readily as a pizza?

Pay attention to the tikes' safety

I posted signs at the ALA courtesy docks in the Village suggesting, "Kids under 12 must wear PFDs on the boat and dock." I left them up after the Boat Show. The MN is researching an article aimed at encouraging parents to be more aware of kids' safety around the water. It has been my unfortunate duty in the past to report tragic drownings. Kids' life vests are available at the Marina.

What is all this jibber-jabber?

What is the difference between an Editorial and a Column? In journalism school I learned how to write an Editorial. It has a structure that involves research, focus and a logical conclusion, resulting from a high degree of intelligence — among other things.

A Column is just pontificating in a random blather. It's easy. That's why I write the Column and my highly educated and experienced news team take turns writing the Editorials. And, I always sign what I write so that you know whom to accost in the checkout line.

Think of the local newspaper as an institution in which you have a vested interest as our reader. I want to hear from you: approach me in line or online or with a sharp crayon written on cardboard shoved through the mail slot on the MN door. We enjoy your feedback.

— Harry Bradley, Publisher

Lake Gregory Opens for Summer

By Mike Harris, Editor | Posted: Thursday, June 1, 2017 11:06 am

Sunny weather and the third annual Lake Gregory Trout Derby, offering \$5,000 in cash prizes, brought out the crowds to Crestline over Memorial Day weekend to officially open the summer season for the regional park.

“I would estimate we had between 2,000 and 3,000 visitors over the three days,” said Chris Freeman, Lake Gregory Recreation Company’s manager. “And Sunday was our busiest day.”

Lake Gregory was to have opened on Friday, May 26, but heavy fog forced Freeman to close. “We couldn’t even see across the lake,” he said.

On Saturday, Mother Nature cooperated and visitors were welcomed with blue skies and sunny weather.

Freeman and his crew worked nearly ’round the clock to prepare Lake Gregory for opening day.

Visitors on Saturday found the South Beach reopened after many years of non-use. Rim of the World Waterpark was moved into deeper water in front of the South Beach area, and a new lifeguard tower was placed on an exposed dirt mound in front of the beach. It quickly earned the unofficial name of Gilligan’s Island among crew members.

Also operating for visitors to see are the five fountains in front of the twin water slides. Improved pumps are allowing all five fountains to function, and Freeman said that plans are to use red-, white- and blue-colored lights at night to reflect off the spraying water.

A last-minute settlement in early May between the county and state Department of Fish and Wildlife officials cleared the way for dredging of the North Beach swim area, and several tons of sand were brought in to make the beach a pleasant place to spend the day.

Also new this year for visitors are two-person and family cabanas placed in the North Beach area.

Dredging continues to the east of the South Beach which should be completed by the end of June, Freeman noted. Dredging will then move to the San Moritz area.

The Cove Cafe was not open for Memorial Day weekend, but Freeman said that there were food trucks available for beach goers. They included Loaded Buns hamburgers from Los Angeles, Pitmasters from Riverside and Toni’s Mexican Food in Crestline. Also available was Kona Ice from Temecula with a variety of frozen offerings.



Lake Gregory

Designed for groups of up to six persons, Lake Gregory's luxury cabanas add an extra level of comfort for beach goers.

One major change this year for visitors who forget to purchase a parking pass is that they will not run the risk of having their car towed.

An arrangement with the county's parking concessionaire, who will patrol the north and south shore and San Moritz parking lots, however, means that those not showing the \$10 parking pass will still face having their car ticketed.

"We changed procedures this year, so that visitors can buy their parking passes at the same time they pay their entrance fees, and use their credit cards to make their purchases," Freeman said.

One of the concerns for this year's summer season at Lake Gregory Regional Park was the uncertain impact of having to lower the lake level by five feet below the spill basin water level.

To help encourage visitors, county supervisors approved offering 50 percent off for both admission and a water slide/splash combo during the first two weekends in June.

For these specific weekends, June 3-4 and 10-11, the price of admission will be \$5 and the water slide/splash combo will be \$10. Both will include swimming access.

The discount will be offered again for the last two weekends of August to encourage visitors to enjoy the lake as the summer comes to an end.

"We want to encourage everyone in Southern California to take the time to enjoy one of the true gems of the San Bernardino Mountains," said Supervisor Janice Rutherford, whose Second District includes Lake Gregory. "We hope to see families taking advantage of the discounted entrance and water park fees, so they can see first-hand what Lake Gregory is all about."

Big Winners at Trout Derby

By Mike Harris, Editor | Posted: Thursday, June 1, 2017 11:07 am

More than 400 anglers had a great day on the water on May 27 for the third annual Lake Gregory Trout Derby, with the winner netting a check for \$3,000 for catching the longest trout.

Taking home first place bragging honors for the longest fish was Crestline resident Guy Roberts. His trout was measured at 18 inches long. Roberts caught his winning rainbow using a JMR Outdoors clear Kraken jig. The trout weighed in at 2.86 pounds.

Second place honors went to Mikarah Lee Johnsen whose trout measured 17.25 inches. Johnsen took home a check for \$1,500. The trout weighed in at 1.95 pounds.

Third place went to Angel Salgado who brought in a 17-inch trout. His prize was \$500. The trout weighed in at 2.11 pounds.

New this year for the derby was the use of SHOUTtag web service to text live alerts to anglers while the derby was ongoing. The service allowed derby organizers to give real-time text messages to anglers, announcing the leader during the fishing contest. SHOUTtag is a stand-alone, one-way messaging platform.

“We had 171 participants tracking by text!” Freeman said. “It saved them a lot of time by not having to come into the boathouse every time just to see if their catch made the leader board, and saved the fish, too, because if it wasn’t big enough it could be released back into the lake.”

Freeman mentioned that derby anglers really appreciated that feature and he plans to use it again next year.

Anglers had good fishing conditions, as Saturday turned out to be warm and sunny. Friday the lake was socked in with fog.

They were greeted with a stocking from Friday morning of more than 5,000 pounds of trout, delivered by Jess Ranch, “and all of them were good-sized, catchable trout,” Freeman added.

The total number of anglers — 417 — also set a new record for the derby, Freeman said.

“Last year we had around 300 anglers,” he explained. “We’re hoping for maybe 500 next year.”

Freeman said that one of the changes this year that helped was allowing anglers to register online, as well as fishing bibs, provided by Goodwin’s Market, that were mailed to contestants. That way they were able to have everything ready to just get on the water and start fishing.

“It really made things easier for the fishermen,” he remarked.



Trout Derby

Registered anglers were automatically entered into a drawing for prizes, and several anglers took home free passes to Rim of the World Waterpark at Lake Gregory, as well as other prizes.

Freeman noted that anglers came from all over the region. There were even fishermen from Huntington Beach.

“What was interesting is that many anglers told us they didn’t know about Lake Gregory and really enjoyed fishing here,” Freeman concluded.

SkyPark Opens — Lures Adventure Seekers

By Heidi Fron, Reporter | Posted: Thursday, June 1, 2017 11:01 am

For a memorable Memorial Day weekend and a superb start to the summer season, visitors flocked to SkyPark at Santa's Village in Skyforest over Memorial Day weekend.

Even without snow, the historic winter wonderland stirred nostalgic notions about all the things that make Christmas and other holidays — especially summer vacation — magical.

Previously a winter destination only, Santa's Village will be open year-round with the new SkyPark adventures that take advantage of Southern California mountain weather in every season.

The newest adventures at SkyPark include the Frozen Falls climbing tower. A great way to get exercise and to test individual climbing abilities, the tower features an automatic system for descending. It is inspected daily and is considered to be much safer than relying upon a person on the ground providing manual assistance.

The climbing tower has various approaches designed for different levels of expertise, experience, size and strength. Similarly, the Bouldering Room has climbing areas for children of all ages and skill levels.

Even two-year-olds can find fun things to do, such as the toddler-powered Strider Balance Bike Trail. Special needs children and adults can enjoy custom-built bikes developed particularly for them.

SkyPark received approval to construct and operate a zipline that soon will soar high above the park and its scenic forest. Watch for that attraction to open soon.

Many attractions involve physical activities and skills so that visitors can improve their own fitness and abilities. The Serrano Archery Range, Blitzen's Bungee, the ice skating pond/rollerskating rink and other activities will encourage park guests to become physically involved while helping the environment with fewer electric-powered rides.

When it's time for a meal or a snack, the options are plentiful. St. Nick's Patio and Grille serves up burgers, hot dogs and traditional menu items. Gatherings offers more of a "fine dining" experience. Ice cream, desserts and candies can be found at K's Kandyshoppe and Creamery, at The Gingerbread House or at Kringle's Coffee and Gifts.

Also new to SkyPark at Santa's Village will be Thursday Night Band Night, featuring music groups from local mountain communities. Thursday nights were chosen to avoid competing with entertainment already established on Wednesday nights and weekends. The first such event, however, is scheduled for Friday, June



SkyPark

SkyPark at Santa's Village opened with much success this past Memorial Day weekend.

2, due to the limited availability of the featured group, the Shotgun Jefferson Band. Thereafter, the concerts will be on Thursdays.

One-day admission is \$19 for adventurers under 12 years old, and \$29 for everyone 12 years and older. The admission includes all adventures, which is a big plus for everyone. Some guests might arrive with plans to ride a bike, but they can decide to do something else, as well, knowing that other attractions are available, too. Only a few features involve rental fees.

Annual passes are available for \$99 and include free parking, which is normally \$10 per vehicle per day.

Summer hours for SkyPark at Santa's Village are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. The theme park is closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Expansion of CalEITC will lift IE families out of poverty.

By **Contributing writer** - June 1, 2017



Photo/New American Media: Inland Empire Regional Field Organizer for the Golden State Opportunity Foundation, Samuel Sukaton, awards a gift basket to the winner of a raffle held during the Tacos & Taxes filing drive held at San Bernardino Valley College on Saturday, February 1

The Inland Empire is one of the fastest growing regions in the country and will likely remain so for years to come.

UC Riverside's School of Business Administration Center for Economic Forecasting and Development predicts the growing economy and rising coastal home prices will continue to cause residents to move to more affordable areas like the Inland region. Already the state's fifth largest metropolitan area by economic output, having added 240,000 jobs in the last five years, the Inland region gained over 48,000 residents in 2015, according to The Press-Enterprise, as Riverside County's population grew 1.3 percent.

This influx of residents is even more reason to take advantage of resources to help those in need and make sure everyone can share in economic security. One of those resources is the nascent California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), one of the most effective tools for lifting children and their parents out of poverty and into financial security.

The CalEITC is mirrored after the federal EITC, which has decades of success benefiting children, people of color and low- and middle-income working families and communities. Receiving EITC refunds keeps people at work, reduces hardships, improves families' health and increase academic achievement and future earnings of their children all the while pumping money back into the local economy.

In 2015, CalEITC's first year, the program benefited 815,000 Californians, half of whom were children. Families with children received over 90 percent of the \$200 million in refunds. The Inland Empire has been especially impacted by the policy. San Bernardino and Riverside County residents have collected the second- and fourth-most money of any county in CalEITC's first two years. As of May 20, 24,230 claims in San Bernardino County have led to over \$14 million, while 21,323 claims in Riverside County have totaled over \$12 million, both increases from last year's numbers. That's money that goes to groceries, rent, medicine and bills.

Right now, the State Legislature is considering expanding the CalEITC. We strongly urge the Senate and Assembly Leadership to do so to help even more low-income Californians. After all, the CalEITC is actually relatively limited as is.

Parents of one child do not qualify if they earn more than \$10,000, half a full-time, minimum-wage salary. Parents of two children can't earn more than \$14,000. The full-time minimum-wage job of a single mom exceeds the current qualifying income limit. Raising the CalEITC's income threshold to the federal EITC's limit would allow some 2.7 million households to reap the rewards of the tax credit.

Equally stupefying is that, between the federal EITC and dozens of state EITCs, the CalEITC is the only one that excludes self-reported income. This is especially problematic given that it is our state's fastest-growing kind of income and earned disproportionately by women and people of color. Allowing small entrepreneurs, independent contractors and other self-employed workers to qualify for the CalEITC is the just thing to do; it would also impact another 134,000 low-income households across the state.

Workers eligible for the tax credits need to actually claim them though. In 2012, for instance, nearly 146,000 eligible workers did not claim the EITC. That resulted in almost \$144 million in unclaimed EITC money left on the table in San Bernardino County and \$135.5 million in Riverside County, according to the IRS. Some people don't know about the credits, others simply don't want to file taxes, whether because they are not required or can't afford the cost.

It is imperative the State Legislature also invest money in CalEITC outreach and promotion and increase the number of free tax preparation services so all hard-working Californians and their families benefit from the \$2 billion of unclaimed EITC money that California leaves on the table each year.

Three out of four Californians are \$700 — a broken bone, a blown tire, a leaky pipe — away from financial crisis. The EITC is a real solution with a history of success for millions of people.

We call on our leaders in the Senate and Assembly to expand and strengthen the CalEITC so millions more California workers and children, especially here in the Inland Empire, can realize its benefits for achieving economy security.

Armand D. Domalewski is with the California Earned Income Tax Credit organization

Contributing writer

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Down to wire, but Meals on Wheels program funded for June

Thursday

Posted Jun 1, 2017 at 4:36 PM

Updated Jun 1, 2017 at 4:36 PM

The center had previously acknowledged it “got caught short” for June by essentially spreading the program too thin while donations dramatically declined, raising questions over whether funding existed to fulfill obligations.

By

Staff Writer

[Follow](#)

BARSTOW — The Barstow Senior Center announced Thursday its Meals on Wheels program, which acts as a critical source of nutrition for the elderly, will be fully funded this month, the last of the fiscal year, after receiving a “generous grant.”

The center had previously acknowledged it “got caught short” for June by essentially spreading the program too thin while donations dramatically declined,

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On Thursday, Maurice Lessard, program director of Barstow Senior Nutrition, said that a donation by the Rhynard Family Foundation would keep the congregant and home-delivered meals program for senior citizens unaffected this month.

“With this grant,” he said, “we will not have any worries that the seniors that participate in our programs will have to go without a meal and a visit.”

The program, which the Barstow Senior Center assumed control over in October 2013 amid dire financial conditions, serves 650 meals a day to senior citizens throughout the High Desert.

The program’s \$650,000 budget, funded in part by the Administration on Aging’s Elderly Nutrition Program, requires the senior center bankroll 11 percent — a slice that is solely reliant on fundraising and donors.

In addition to a home delivery service, the program serves lunch meals weekdays at sites in Barstow, Victorville, Hesperia and Adelanto.

Despite the narrowly averted shortfall for June, Lessard said by phone the center believed the program would be fully funded during fiscal year 2017-18, which begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2018.

The optimistic view on a program that had been _____

_____ is reflective of Lessard’s hope that underway operational tweaks and eyeing cost effectiveness will make a difference.

Since April, the center has implemented reservation lunches at its Adelanto site to ensure the count is accurate and there are no leftovers, which he said had been an issue in the past. If the shift proves successful, implementation could extend to other sites, which are being reviewed to curb situations where there’s too much food.

Starting in July, the program will also cut its 650 meals a day by 20 to 630, although the impact won’t be felt by the home-delivery element, and it’s suspected that it won’t hurt individual sites, either, according to Lessard.

Cutting back 20 meals a day over the program’s 253 days of service each year, Lessard added, would accumulate to significant cost savings.

“I think the budget will work out a lot better,” he said, “and we just need to be more efficient with our production.”

The center, as always, urges private and public donations in order to ensure senior citizens in the High Desert have proper access to nutritional meals and to potentially stave off any difficult budget-led decisions.

Interested parties should mail donations to Barstow Senior Nutrition, 555 Melissa Ave., Barstow, CA 92311, with checks payable to “Barstow Senior Nutrition.”

For more information, visit BarstowSeniorCenter.com or call 760-256-9111.

Shea Johnson can be reached at 760-955-5368 or

. Follow him on Twitter at

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

Colonies key witness begins fifth day of testimony in San Bernardino

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

and Richard K. De Atley, The Press-Enterprise

Thursday, June 1, 2017



SAN BERNARDINO >> Defense attorneys in the [Colonies bribery trial](#) on Thursday attacked the credibility and character of key witness and former San Bernardino County Assistant Assessor Adam Aleman, claiming he was shaping his statements to conform to the prosecution narrative of the case and “making things up as he went along.”

Following defense attorney Jennifer Keller’s cross-examination of Aleman, attorney Rajan Maline, representing defendant and former Assistant Assessor Jim Erwin, questioned Aleman on his motive behind seeking out a plea agreement with prosecutors in 2009, saying Erwin had already delivered them a lot of information.

Both attorneys took on specific instances where they said Aleman was caught in a lie, but also fired on his character, with Maline at one point, over a sustained prosecution objection, calling him “pathological,” to which Aleman responded, “That’s your word, I’m not a psychologist.”

Over another sustained objection from Deputy Attorney General Melissa Mandel, Keller, representing defendant and Rancho Cucamonga developer Jeff Burum, concluded her questioning by saying Aleman had lied to, among others, district attorney investigators and a civil grand jury investigating malfeasance at the Assessor’s Office during the reign of Bill Postmus.

“Unless we have been able to confront you with a specific document to prove you are lying, you just keep lying, don’t you?” she asked. Her question was met with an objection by Mandel, sustained by Judge Michael A. Smith.

Prosecutors from the District Attorney’s and state Attorney General’s offices allege in the Colonies case that three county officials were bribed by Burum to settle a land rights lawsuit with Burum’s investor group, Colonies Partners LP, for \$102 million in November 2006.

Also charged in the case are Erwin, former county Supervisor Paul Biane, and Mark Kirk, the chief of staff for former Supervisor Gary Ovitt. All the defendants have denied any wrongdoing, saying political contributions by Colonies Partners totaling \$400,000, which prosecutors allege were bribes, were legal, publicly reported and part of Colonies’ attempts to mend fences after the contentious, nearly 5-year legal battle.

[Aleman](#) and [Postmus](#) entered into plea agreements with prosecutors within two years of one another in 2009 and 2011, respectively. They both agreed to testify against the defendants and cooperate with investigators in exchange for lighter sentences.

Aleman was charged in June 2008 with four felony offenses in connection with falsifying Assessor’s Office records he produced for the civil grand jury and for destroying the hard drive from a county-owned laptop

computer used by Postmus when he was a supervisor.

Postmus was convicted of abusing his elected office of Assessor for personal gain and was a defendant in the Colonies case before entering into his plea agreement in March 2011.

Aleman followed Postmus to the witness stand, and underwent his fifth day of testimony Thursday.

Facing more than eight years in prison, Aleman approached district attorney investigators in 2008, originally offering to turn state's evidence about the Assessor's Office. But Erwin had already reported to the District Attorney's Office in 2007 what Maline called "shenanigans" at the Assessor's Office under Postmus's leadership.

"After looking at the (District Attorney) reports... you knew there was no way out for you, they had the goods on you... you were as guilty as sin, and had no choice but to go to the D.A.," Maline said, to which Aleman agreed. Aleman said Erwin called him the day after his arrest and suggested he tell investigators "everything you know about Bill."

Once Aleman became aware of Erwin's tipping off investigators about criminal activity at the Assessor's Office, Maline suggested Aleman began searching for what he could offer as "serious criminal activity" while working for Postmus.

Maline read from a November 2008 transcript in which District Attorney Investigator Hollis "Bud" Randles told Aleman that the Colonies case was crucial to them, and that it should be important to Aleman, too.

Aleman said the Randles quote on Colonies was taken out of context.

Looking at eight years in prison, Aleman needed to produce something useful to investigators in order to cut a deal, Maline proffered.

"But you had to give them something... it had to be good stuff, serious criminal activity," and investigators offered up Colonies to Aleman, Maline said.

In more than a dozen secretly recorded telephone and in-person conversations Aleman had with Postmus, Postmus never mentioned anything about being bribed by Burum.

When Maline asked Aleman why he didn't just ask Postmus directly about whether he was bribed or mention bribes, Aleman said he was concerned it would sound an alarm with Postmus.

"I believe he could tell the signs that someone was recording him. His father was in law enforcement, and I believe he could tell the tell-tale signs someone was recording him," Aleman said.

Maline, over prosecutor's objections, accused Aleman of "making things up as he went along," tailoring his testimony, and what he told investigators years ago, to fit his own agenda.

Maline also questioned Aleman on keeping Postmus' homosexuality and methamphetamine addiction secret in the early 2000s, when Postmus, a Republican who fronted a conservative, family values persona, was at the peak of his political career.

"You agreed to participate in this kind of fraud on the public," Maline said.

Aleman said "fraud" was the word Maline was using to describe his actions, and that he did not necessarily see it that way.

"What you discovered was the more meth he used the more power you had," Maline said. "So it was kind of in your best interest for him to be out of it."

“That’s not correct,” Aleman said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20170601/colonies-key-witness-begins-fifth-day-of-testimony-in-san-bernardino>

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Supervisor James Ramos to hold community coffee

Thursday

Posted Jun 1, 2017 at 7:24 PM

By Staff Reports

Residents are invited to attend Supervisor James Ramos' Community Coffee from 9 to 10 a.m. on June 8 at the Barstow Senior Center, 555 Melissa Ave., Barstow.

Come share your thoughts regarding county issues impacting the community.

For more information, call 909-387-4855.

Sheriff's officials ID men killed, wounded in Walmart shooting Wednesday

Thursday

Posted Jun 1, 2017 at 2:34 PM

Updated Jun 1, 2017 at 5:31 PM

By

Staff Writer

Follow

HESPERIA — Authorities released more details on the fatal officer-involved shooting in the Walmart Supercenter parking lot Wednesday morning, including the identities of the suspects involved.

James Gleason, 24, of Phelan, was shot and killed by two officers assigned to the San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force (SANCATT) in the parking lot of the Walmart, 13401 Main Street, just after 8 a.m. Wednesday. Alexander Robert Herd, 31, of Phelan, was struck and wounded by the officers' gunfire during the shooting.

Gleason, Herd and a third Phelan man, identified as Austin Banuelos, 22, were reportedly attempting to steal a vehicle from the parking lot when the officers first approached them. The shooting occurred after an officer was nearly struck by the suspects' vehicle, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Cindy Bachman said.

The officers were conducting a separate stolen vehicle investigation in the parking lot of the Walmart early Wednesday morning when they first noticed the group. Bachman said the team used their unmarked vehicles to block in the suspects and prevent them from driving away.

"The suspect driver accelerated, nearly striking one of the officers, and an officer-involved shooting occurred," Bachman said.

The vehicle, a dark green Honda, continued accelerating until it crashed into one of the unmarked vehicles. Gleason and Herd were struck and wounded during the shooting, according to Bachman, while Banuelos escaped injury.

Gleason was taken to Desert Valley Hospital but was subsequently pronounced dead, authorities said.

Herd was taken to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center where he was treated before getting arrested on suspicion of burglary Wednesday afternoon, authorities said. Banuelos was detained and taken to the Hesperia Sheriff's Station for an interview, according to Bachman, where he was later arrested on suspicion of receiving stolen property.

The vehicle the group was driving was reported stolen early Wednesday morning from a home in Victorville, Bachman said.

Both Herd and Banuelos remain behind bars at the High Desert Detention Center. Herd remains in custody in lieu of \$25,000 bail, booking records show, while a \$50,000 bail was issued for Banuelos. Both men are expected to appear in court at 12:30 p.m. Friday.

Court records show Herd is a felon who's been charged with several crimes, including several vehicle theft charges and convictions for burglary and grand theft. He was sentenced to 136 days in county jail in April 2016 after pleading no contest to a charge of vehicle theft, court records show.

This investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact Specialized Investigation Division Detective Chuck Phillips at 909-387-3589. Persons wishing to remain anonymous can contact the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-782-7463 or online at

.....:

Paola Baker may be reached at 760-955-5332 or

..... *. Follow her on Twitter at*

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

San Bernardino school shooting inspires bill to fund domestic violence prevention

By Beau Yarbrough, The Sun

Thursday, June 1, 2017



A bill introduced by Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes, D-San Bernardino, would help fund new efforts to prevent domestic violence in California, inspired by the [death of North Park Elementary School teacher Karen Smith](#) in April.

If approved, AB 1268, dubbed the “Domestic Violence Education Act” by Reyes and co-sponsor Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio, D-Baldwin Park, will require the state to evaluate existing domestic violence assistance initiatives, [according to an analysis](#) created before the Assembly floor vote. It also would create a California Domestic Violence Prevention Fund, which would be used to provide grants to nonprofit organizations, local education agencies and local

governments to educate communities about domestic violence and existing resources for victims.

Although the bill does not indicate how large the fund would be, “any meaningful grants will each exceed \$50,000,” the analysis reads in part.

“The issue of domestic violence is not a new one, given that in California alone 40% of women experience physical intimate partner violence,” Reyes says in the release issued Wednesday. “Though the state has done a great deal of work when it comes to caring for victims, it is critical however that we also prioritize prevention efforts. We can and must do more.”

The Assembly unanimously approved [Assembly Bill 1268](#) on Wednesday. The bill now heads to the state Senate.

San Bernardino City Unified School District’s North Park Elementary was [closed for a week](#) after the April 10 shooting. Riverside resident [Cedric Anderson](#), 53, entered the special education classroom of [Smith](#), his estranged wife, and opened fire, killing her and 8-year-old student [Jonathan Martinez](#) and wounding student [Nolan Brandy](#), 9.

At the time of the shooting, Smith, 53, was inside her classroom with two aides and 14 special needs students between first and fourth grades.

Anderson and Smith married Jan. 28 but separated in March, police officials said. Smith had apparently not told anyone at the school about the separation.

Anderson reportedly signed in at the front desk and told office staff he was there to drop something off for his wife. Once inside the classroom, without a word, [he pulled out a six-shot .357 Magnum revolver and started firing](#), striking Smith. Anderson fired a total of 10 bullets. Students Jonathan and Nolan were struck in the exchange. Anderson then turned the gun on himself.

The [district improved security at the school](#) before it reopened April 17 and more upgrades are planned for this summer.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20170601/san-bernardino-school-shooting-inspires-bill-to-fund-domestic-violence-prevention>

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Public safety officials crack down on illegal fireworks in Fontana

Posted: Friday, June 2, 2017 8:18 am

Public safety officials are cracking down on illegal fireworks in Fontana as the Fourth of July approaches.

The City of Fontana, in collaboration with the Fontana Police Department and the San Bernardino County Fire Department, will be working to send a zero tolerance message against the use of illegal fireworks through a prolonged awareness and enforcement campaign.

The campaign, which runs through July 5, will remind the public that only "Safe and Sane" fireworks are accepted for use within the Fontana city limits. In addition, no fireworks at all are permitted in the unincorporated San Bernardino County area of Fontana.

So far this year, Fontana P.D. officers have cited two individuals for illegal fireworks, arrested three individuals for possession and sales of illegal fireworks, and have seized more than 100 pounds of illegal fireworks.

Fines for possession and discharge of illegal fireworks range from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

In 2016, the San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of the Fire Marshal in cooperation with law enforcement seized more than 25,000 pounds of illegal fireworks from being trafficked into the county.

The Fontana P.D. will staff extra officers and conduct saturation patrols over the holiday weekend to cite and arrest any individual caught in possession of or igniting illegal fireworks. Officers will be looking for people using illegal fireworks, which consist of any fireworks that explode and fly such as M-80s, bottle rockets, firecrackers, Roman candles and mortars.

"We understand the growing concern regarding the dangers associated with the use of illegal fireworks and we are asking for your help to make this Fourth of July holiday safe," said City of Fontana Spokeswoman Martha Guzman-Hurtado. "Illegal fireworks use is not worth the risk of getting caught, paying expensive fines, causing injury or damaging property."

Police urge residents who plan on purchasing fireworks to buy the "Safe and Sane" variety, which are less likely to cause injury and do not explode or fly.

Still, the "Safe and Sane" fireworks are still dangerous, especially for children. Any child using any type of "Safe and Sane" firework should have adult supervision.

The "Safe and Sane" fireworks may be discharged in Fontana between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. from June 28 to July 5.



Illegal fireworks

These were some of the illegal fireworks that were confiscated by police in Fontana in 2016.

Fines for the illegal use of Safe and Sane fireworks range from \$250 to \$1,050. This includes modification, allowing a minor to set off fireworks, and discharging them outside the time frame allowed by the Fontana City Code.

Fontana continues to be one of the relatively few cities to allow the sale of "Safe and Sane" fireworks in the Inland Empire. As a result, the Fourth of July generates a significantly higher number of calls for service for police.

"Residents play an important role in our fireworks investigations," said Fire Marshal Mike Horton. "If you see something, say something. Call the authorities or the WeTip hotline at 1-800-47-Arson to report illegal fireworks."

"We want Fontana residents to enjoy a safe and responsible 4th of July," said Fontana Police Chief Bob Ramsey.

As an alternative to purchasing fireworks, the City of Fontana will have a Fourth of July Celebration at Fontana High School with music, food and fireworks from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more information about this event, call (909) 349-6900.

For more information about the use of fireworks in Fontana, call the Fireworks Information Line at (909) 356-7101.

(See accompanying video produced by the City of Fontana.)

Column Loma Linda residents live a really, really long time. It's not because of their health insurance



Betty Streifling, 101, on her morning walk in Loma Linda. (Los Angeles Times)

By **Jonah Goldberg**

MAY 30, 2017, 4:00 AM

While Washington freaked out over the [Congressional Budget Office's](#) verdict on the American Healthcare Act (a.k.a. Trumpcare) and how cutting back health insurance would cost countless lives, the more interesting accounting came out of California. The dream of implementing single-payer healthcare across the Golden State came with a gobsmacking annual price tag: \$400 billion, almost twice California's annual budget.

So maybe this is a good opportunity to look for another homegrown solution to the problem of healthcare. And it just so happens that one answer is close to home.

Loma Linda has one of the highest life expectancies in the world. Residents there are 10 times more likely to live to 100 than typical Americans. The average male in Loma Linda lives to 89, the average woman to 91 — both are ten years longer than the national average.

Before you make like Ponce De Leon and head there to find the Fountain of Youth, let me tell you there's nothing in the water. Loma Linda is home to a thriving population of Seventh-day Adventists who place great stock in treating their bodies like temples. They don't smoke, drink alcohol or eat meat, and they get lots of exercise.

“

The average male in Loma Linda lives to 89, the average woman to 91 — both are ten years longer than the national average.

So maybe we should make former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg czar, proscribe meat, tobacco and booze and require North Korea-style calisthenics every morning before eating a mandatory breakfast of wholesome grains and raw vegetables.

No, we shouldn't. But we can learn something from the Loma Linda residents.

Whenever the subject of healthcare comes up, advocates for more government involvement insist that America's comparatively low life expectancy is a searing indictment of our dysfunctional insurance system. Sen. [Bernie Sanders](#) recently seized on Donald Trump's statement that the Australians have a better insurance system, by noting that Australians live longer, which is true. They live, on average, about three years longer than Americans.

But the gold standard of social organization for Sanders isn't Australia. It's Denmark. He often waxes lyrical about how Denmark has a different — and better — definition of freedom that, naturally, involves a cradle-to-grave socialist welfare state. Obviously, there's a lot to debate there, but how does Denmark's supposedly more enlightened approach translate in terms of life expectancy? The Danes live about a year and a half longer, on average, than Americans — or not quite as long as Australians.

And that “on average” conceals more than it reveals. A recent study by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation measured life expectancy by county across the United States. In 2014, a child born in Summit County, Colo., could be expected to live 86.83 years. The life expectancy of a child born in Ogala Lakota County in South Dakota, seat of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, will likely be about 20 years shorter. Something tells me these discrepancies have much more to do with lifestyle than insurance.

Indeed, the chief reason American life expectancy lags — slightly — behind other developed countries has nothing to do with healthcare whatsoever. When the World Health Organization ranked America 19th out of 29 in life expectancy in 2009, Scott W. Atlas of the Hoover Institution pointed out that if you removed fatal car crashes and murders, the U.S. suddenly had the “world's best life expectancy numbers.”

I can't see how adopting Danish healthcare would affect driving habits or homicide rates. It's also far from clear that government-provided healthcare does much to improve health generally. The Pine Ridge Lakota Indians already have it — in the form of the Indian Health Service. Of course, the IHS, like the Veterans Health Administration, has real problems. But a huge study of Medicaid expansion in Oregon found that — with the exception of depression diagnoses — increased health insurance yielded no significant improvement in health.

In 2016, when millions received coverage under [Obamacare](#), American life expectancy went down for the first time in over 20 years. I'm not suggesting a causal relationship: Obamacare didn't kill anyone. If it saved individuals' lives here and there, that's great. Still, those numbers vanish in the national data as anecdotes, not significant trends.

There are still good reasons to reform healthcare. But a little humility about what government can do, and the stakes involved, might be in order.

jgoldberg@latimescolumnists.com

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EMMA FOEHRINGER MERCHANT SCIENCE 05.31.17 11:00 AM

HOW THE 'ORANGE EMPIRE' BECAME THE LAND OF MEGAWAREHOUSES



GETTY IMAGES

This story originally appeared on Grist and is part of the Climate Desk collaboration.

Just a few decades ago, California's Inland Empire billed itself as "the Orange Empire" for the citrus orchards that fueled its primary industry. Today, many of those groves are gone, and so is the nickname. The landlocked region of 4 million people an hour east of Los Angeles now sprouts more enormous warehouses (a billion square feet of them) than fruit trees.

Forty percent of the nation's consumer goods—iPhones, sneakers, and everything available from Amazon—spend time sitting on those warehouse shelves after coming off ships at nearby ports, awaiting delivery to stores and homes. What was once a mostly rural region finds itself struggling with a high poverty rate and growing population. Residents are plagued by tremendous traffic and air pollution, which recently earned the region an "F" from the American Lung Association.

Those environmental and health concerns will get much worse, advocates say, if the city of Moreno Valley—a town of 200,000 located in the heart of the Inland Empire—builds the largest warehouse project anywhere in the country.

Tom Thornsley is a 60-year-old urban planner who moved to Moreno Valley in 1998, just as the rural-to-warehouse transformation was beginning. He thought he had chosen wisely, settling in a gray, ranch-style home that sat near a wide-open space zoned for more homes, not warehouses. “I know better than to look at dirt and not check what it would be,” he says.

But after a developer proposed a project in 2012, city officials rezoned that dirt patch next to Thornsley’s house to make it home to one of the world’s largest warehouse complexes.

The World Logistics Center, planned by a company called Highland Fairview, would be the largest such facility in the country, covering 2,610 acres—the size of 700 football fields. It would be more than 25 times bigger than the largest warehouse in the United States, a 98-acre hangar operated in Washington by the airplane manufacturer Boeing.

As a planner, Thornsley doesn’t have a problem with industrial development. He’s worked on commercial buildings since 1989. But the environmental costs of the World Logistics Center are too much for his community, he says, so he’s become a leader in the effort to stop it—an effort that might hinge on next month’s special city council election.

The World Logistics Center, which is now known locally by the acronym “WLC,” has turned Moreno Valley politics into a bloodsport. Community organizers and environmental groups have fought—in both city hall and the courtroom—to protect residents from the pollution it would cause and save protected species like peregrine falcons and California golden eagles that live in the nearby San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

Once built, warehouses don’t pollute the way that factories and power plants do. But a project the size of the WLC would be a magnet for truck traffic, spewing exhaust on 69,000 estimated daily trips in and out of the complex. In a struggling region, though, the lure of jobs has proven difficult to overcome, despite the public health and quality of life concerns.

“That’s why people are pressing so hard now,” Thornsley says, “to get somebody elected who’s not going to be, in essence, another developer’s puppet.”

Southern California's two ports are among the deepest on the West Coast, allowing massive ships to dock at Los Angeles and Long Beach. More than \$360 billion worth of goods from production centers in the Asian Pacific were offloaded there in 2014. Warehouses originally crowded around the ports, until Los Angeles could no longer contain the growth.

Demand for more space at cheaper rates pushed development farther east, and the Inland Empire became the hidden purgatory between production and consumption. Only the Philadelphia area currently has more warehouse space, but projects like the WLC would leave that East Coast hub in the dust. Over the past five years, the logistics industry has delivered a quarter of the new jobs in the region.

But the economic boom carries a heavy environmental toll: Diesel trucks zip along the Inland Empire's roads, carrying cargo to customers and piping particulates into the air. Winds rushing in from the ocean blow added pollution from LA and Orange County, which accumulates in the basin bounded to the north and east by mountains.

That makes the Inland Empire one of the unhealthiest places to live in the country. Air pollution leads to higher risk of heart disease, asthma, bronchitis, cancer, and more. The South Coast Air Basin—which encompasses parts of Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, and Los Angeles counties—exceeds federal and state requirements for lead and small particulate matter, which can lodge in the lungs. San Bernardino and Riverside counties, which make up the Inland Empire, ranked first and second, respectively, among the top 25 most ozone-polluted counties in the American Lung Association's 2016 air quality report.

Low-income neighborhoods and communities of color bear the brunt of this pollution, because they're often situated near freeways or become sites for warehouses. Moreno Valley's population is 18 percent African-American and about 54 percent Latino.

In a community where nearly 20 percent of people live in poverty, it's easy for a big developer to gain support for a project like the World Logistics Center—especially with the promise of 20,000 permanent jobs and \$2.5 billion a year added to the local economy. But the downside includes 14,000 added diesel truck trips per day and a 44 percent increase in the city's yearly greenhouse gas emissions.

Many warehouse jobs are also low wage, temporary, and unsafe. The facilities rack up a plethora of safety violations, according to California health and safety inspectors, and workers report high levels of injury and illness.

Many residents believe “this is the best I can get,” explains Sheheryar Kaaosji, coexecutive director of the Warehouse Workers Resource Center, which advocates for employee rights. “That’s what it comes down to.”

Tom Thornsley, who has decades of experience in urban planning, says development decisions are all about weighing the pros and cons. When a project is proposed, environmental risk assessments let you know how harmful the development could be, which tells you whether it’s worth it and if you can do anything to mitigate the harm.

Ultimately, he says, if a project’s benefits outweigh its problems, “You just decide you can live with it.” In the case of the World Logistics Center, he can’t. An analysis of health impacts prepared for the developer acknowledges the potential for increased incidences of asthma, heart disease, and premature deaths.

Thornsley’s dismay over another warehouse project—for the shoe brand Skechers, which opened in 2011 and brought a net job loss—pushed him to join up with Residents for a Livable Moreno Valley, a community group created to combat rampant warehouse development.

The group has found itself battling a formidable nemesis in the person of Highland Fairview’s charismatic CEO, Iddo Benzeevi. During the protracted WLC fight, Benzeevi has become a folk hero to some Moreno Valley residents. When the city council narrowly approved the project in August 2015, residents swayed by the promise of jobs chanted “Iddo, Iddo, Iddo.”

“They think he walks on water,” Thornsley says. “I honestly couldn’t tell you why they find him to be so adorable.”

In public council meetings ahead of the vote, many residents lauded the project as a game changer for the city. “These are not jobs that are just back and hands, they’re technical jobs, they’re jobs that are going to be able to support a family,” said one woman who has lived in Moreno Valley for more than 30 years.

“Most people recognize Moreno Valley as one of three things: crime, corruption, or unemployment,” says resident Leo Gonzalez in a series of 2015 YouTube videos supporting the WLC. “I believe we have the ability to change all that.”

In addition to currying favor with residents, Benzeevi skillfully navigated California’s arcane political and environmental laws. Thanks to a 2014 California Supreme Court decision involving Walmart, ballot initiatives that garner enough residents’

signatures can escape the state's Environmental Quality Act review process. Benzeevi took full advantage of that for the WLC.

Meanwhile, Thornsley's group pushed back. Residents for a Livable Moreno Valley filed lawsuits against the project, which has also faced separate legal challenges from the regional South Coast Air Quality Management District, Riverside County and its transportation commission, and a roster of environmental groups including EarthJustice, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Coalition for Clean Air.

"We already have among the dirtiest air in the nation," says George Hague, a volunteer for the local Sierra Club chapter. "We keep trying to clean it up, but projects like this put us back."

Benzeevi disputes this, arguing that the benefits of job creation would outweigh the environmental impacts. "There is no better solution to reducing impacts to the environment than creating jobs where people live while utilizing the best available and viable clean technologies," Benzeevi told Grist via an email from his public relations department. "This is precisely what the WLC does."

Benzeevi notes that Moreno Valley is requiring Highland Fairview to ensure that diesel trucks servicing the WLC meet a 2010 federal government standard for clean diesel. To which Hague counters: "They're *cleaner*, but they're not clean."

With options running out for WLC opponents, the special June 6 city council election to replace a single vacated seat represents a longshot chance to block the megawarehouse project, by putting an opponent on the board who can help overturn previous approvals. The council is now deadlocked 2-2.

The open seat was previously held by Moreno Valley's new mayor, Yxstian Gutierrez. A supporter of the World Logistics Center, Gutierrez won just under a third of the mayoral vote, but that was enough in a multi-candidate race. Benzeevi spent more than \$160,000 to help his campaign.

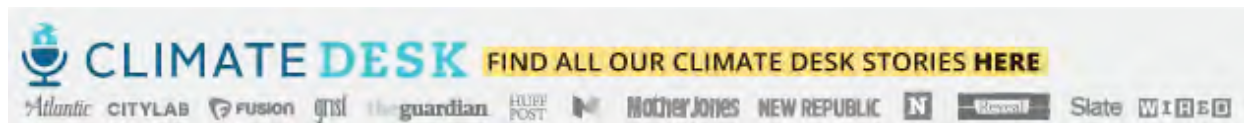
Highland Fairview is now backing a preferred candidate for Gutierrez's open council seat, pouring tens of thousands into canvassing for his campaign through the Benzeevi-sponsored Committee for Ethics and Accountability in Government. WLC opponents are pinning their hopes on the three remaining candidates—one in particular has been an outspoken WLC opponent—who face long odds of winning.

Whatever the election outcome, development in the Inland Empire shows no signs of slowing in the short term. But the environmental and health impacts of the logistics

industry are starting to spur more awareness of the costs of warehouse growth.

The California Air Resources Board voted in March to relocate its research facility to the Inland Empire's Riverside County, which could potentially offer a more comprehensive understanding of the region's poor environmental quality. And a bill in the state assembly is challenging the lack of environmental review in the initiative process—the very rule that allowed Benzeevi to push his megawarehouse project through local government.

“We have such a disengaged citizenry—most of the people don't understand the connection of the trucks to city hall,” says Kathleen Dale, a retired urban planner with the Residents for a Livable Moreno Valley group. “When you talk to people, this is a concern of theirs, but they're not expressing it by going to the polls.”



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Dessert And Dialogue: Why Do They Call It That? San Bernardino County Place Names

The interactive local history lesson will help identify the significance behind the names of cities, streets and other familiar places.

By Renee Schiavone (Patch Staff) - (https://patch.com/users/renee-schiavone) June 1, 2017 2:26 pm ET

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After School Funding Bill Clears Senate

Press Release

By ECT - Jun 2, 2017



SACRAMENTO – With bipartisan support, the California State Senate on Wednesday approved legislation authored by Senator Connie M. Leyva (D-Chino) that finally increases funding for California’s statewide after school program, which has not received an augmentation for over a decade.

Sponsored by the California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance and supported by dozens of community organizations, school districts, educational advocacy groups and local municipalities, SB 78 would state the intent of the Legislature to increase funding for the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program—the main after school funding mechanism in California—to cover the cost of minimum wage increases. Beginning in the 2018-19 fiscal year and each fiscal year after that, funding would increase simultaneously with minimum wage increases to ensure that programs remain solvent.

“After not receiving an increase for over a decade, SB 78 will finally offer California’s main after school funding mechanism a long overdue jolt of financial support so that these successful after school programs can continue to serve students for many years to come,” Senator Leyva said. “We cannot risk these important after school programs closing their doors on thousands of students across California that rely on these services to succeed in school and stay out of trouble. California must continue to invest in our future generations by supporting programs like ASES that serve our communities and working families. I thank my Senate colleagues for supporting SB 78 today so that 120,000 students are not at risk of losing access to after school programs in counties up and down the state.”

Research shows that after school programs provide a variety of benefits to students including: improved school attendance, English fluency, academic success, crime prevention, and social-emotional skill development. These programs are cost effective and provide a return of \$2 to \$9 dollars for every \$1 invested.

The San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office has previously offered strong support for California’s after school programs.

“After school programs are essential to public safety, because they keep kids supervised and off the streets in the short term and on track to graduate from high school in the long run,” said San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael A. Ramos. “On behalf of 400 law enforcement and crime survivor members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids / California, I applaud Senator Leyva’s commitment to sustaining high-quality after school programs and proudly support SB 78.”

Approved by voters in 2002, Proposition 49 established the ASES program and provided ongoing funding of \$550 million per year for before and after school programs. Funding for ASES programs has not increased in over ten years, while minimum wage increases and state mandated paid sick leave have raised operating costs. Meanwhile, the Average Daily Attendance rate for ASES of \$7.50 per child has not increased since 2006. After school programs have reduced their hours and cut academic activities in order to adjust to these cost pressures.

As SB 78 passed from the State Senate, it will next proceed to the State Assembly for consideration.

☺



LOCAL GOVERNMENT



AB 1250: Still Bad News For County Services

POSTED BY : CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES JUNE 1, 2017

By Dorothy Johnson.

With literally hundreds of bills moving through the California Legislature, there are bound to be a few that don't pass the smell test. One of those is AB 1250 — a recently amended bill that claims to increase “transparency” in local government contracting, but would in reality increase costs and do nothing to improve many of the basic services local governments provide to our communities. It's important to note that the bill was significantly amended just last week, but the changes do not ease its most onerous provisions and the adage that “misery loves company” rings true. The current version now applies to all counties – not just general law counties.

There are many reasons local governments contract for services. In some cases they do not have the financial resources to hire full-time employees. Particularly in rural and remote areas it can be very difficult to attract qualified candidates for employment. For many local governments, contracting for service, whether it be for legal representation or janitorial services, is the only viable option.

While the bill's proponents claim AB 1250 is about making local government contracting more transparent, the actual impact would be to make the process more difficult and complex without adding benefit for service recipients. AB 1250 inserts a series of complex and costly information gathering and reporting requirements in the contracting process. As the [San Jose Mercury News](#) puts it, AB 1250 would impose “a labyrinth of disclosure rules and vague auditing and performance standards.”

6/2/2017

AB 1250: Still Bad News For County Services | PublicCEO

Originally, the bill required the local government agency to jump these hurdles. The more recent version places that burden on contractors instead, but that doesn't really change the impact. Many service providers will simply choose not to do business with public agencies if they know they are going to be required to comply with a new, complex and costly process. Even in its new form, AB 1250 would still effectively remove contracting for services as an option for cities and counties statewide, resulting in either higher costs or reduced services.

Moreover, AB 1250 is just bad public policy. We have local governments for a reason — to make decisions that reflect local budgets, priorities and situations. AB 1250 effectively negates local governing boards' decision-making authority in how they provide services to their constituents. City Councils and Boards of Supervisors would effectively lose contracting for service as an option. That serves no one well. There are much easier ways to improve accountability that do not effectively eliminate an important tool local governments use to contain costs, as seen with other successful legislative efforts in recent years. Basic decisions about how to serve local needs should remain at the local level.



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SLO County's soaring six-figure pension club

June 1, 2017



By JOSH FRIEDMAN

As unfunded pension liabilities wreak havoc with some local government budgets, the number of San Luis Obispo County retirees receiving six-figure pensions is soaring. More than 100 retirees from just the city and county of San Luis Obispo are receiving pensions of greater than \$100,000 a year.

This year, the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) member agencies are grappling with a decision made in late 2016 by the pension fund's board to lower its investment forecast. The move caused unfunded liabilities to spike, and in the case of the city of SLO, resulted in projections of multi-million shortfalls in upcoming budgets.

All seven cities in SLO County, Cal Poly and the California Men's Colony are members of CalPERS.

While the county of SLO has its own retirement system, it is certainly not immune to rising pension costs. One county government retiree is now receiving a yearly pension that exceeds \$200,000, according to Transparent California, a database of public employee salaries and pensions.

While a \$200,000 pension may seem unimaginable for many retirees, it is not uncommon among retired public workers in the state of California. For instance, former Los Angeles County sheriff Lee Baca received a \$334,978 pension in 2016.

Baca recently made headlines after he was convicted in federal court of overseeing a scheme to obstruct a civil rights investigation relating to abuses at county jail facilities. A judge sentenced Baca to a three-year prison sentence, and he is due to begin serving time in July.

Still, Baca is expected to keep the majority, if not all, of his pension. Under California pension rules, public employees convicted of felonies related to their jobs only forfeit retirement benefits that they earned after the crimes occurred. Baca amassed decades of service before he ran afoul of federal investigators.

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Ian Parkinson, who has also faced criticism over his handling of a county jail, is also a member of the six-figure pension club. Though Parkinson is currently on the SLO County payroll, he retired from the San Luis Obispo police force in 2014 and became eligible to receive a pension.

In 2015, Parkinson received a \$124,350 pension from CalPERS, and he earned \$285,075 in salary and benefits from the county. In all, Parkinson received \$409,425 in work and retirement pay.

Though Parkinson's retirement pay easily eclipses \$100,000 a year, it is not even half the amount of the largest government pension in SLO County. Warren Baker, the former president of Cal Poly, received a \$259,104 pension in 2015.

Baker's annual pension increased by more than \$13,000 between 2012 and 2015. At that rate of increase, Baker could be receiving a \$300,000 pension by 2023.

Baker is one of 36 Cal Poly retirees who received six-figure pensions in 2015. Four of those retirees earned pensions larger than \$150,000.



Sheriff Ian Parkinson

In San Luis Obispo County's boutique pension system, there were 71 retirees who received six-figure pensions in 2015. A total of 17 county pensioners earned more than \$150,000 a year in retirement pay in 2015.



Frank
Freitas

The county of SLO's leading pensioner is former treasurer-tax collector Frank Freitas. In 2015, Freitas received a pension of \$200,525, as well as \$1,668 in other retirement benefits, for a total of \$202,193.

Four other county pensioners received more than \$175,000 in retirement pay in 2015. Former county administrative officer James Grant grossed \$182,567, followed by former assistant district attorney Daniel Hilford (\$178,962), former district attorney Gerald Shea (\$178,459) and former sheriff Pat Hedges (\$177,956).

The city of SLO had 31 retirees with six-figure pensions in 2015, three of whom received more than \$150,000 in retirement pay. San Luis Obispo's top pensioner is former city manager Ken Hampian, who received a \$168,286 pension in 2015.



Ken Hampian

A combined total of 19 retirees from the other six cities in SLO County received pensions larger than \$100,000 in 2015. Paso Robles had seven members in the six-figure pension club, Morro Bay had four, Pismo Beach and Arroyo Grande had three each and Atascadero had two.

Morro Bay, Arroyo Grande and Paso Robles each had one pensioner who eclipsed \$139,000 in 2015. John De Rohan, the former police chief of Morro Bay, received \$139,817; Michael Hubert, the former Arroyo Grande fire chief received \$139,120; and Dennis Cassidy, the former Paso Robles police chief received \$139,089.



Jim Copsey

Only one local city, Grover Beach, did not have six-figure pensioner in 2015. However, former Grover Beach police chief Jim Copsey received a \$99,307 pension. Additionally, Copsey was double-dipping, meaning he was receiving a Grover beach salary and pension simultaneously.

Copsey served as interim police chief following his retirement. Shortly after his stint as interim chief, Copsey served as Grover Beach's interim city manager, double-dipping for a second time.

Among SLO County's community services districts, only the Cambria CSD had six-figure pensioners in 2015. Led by former General manager Vernon Hamilton, who received a \$119,924 pension, the Cambria CSD had three members of the six-figure pension club in 2015.

Several school districts in SLO County have six-figure pensioners. The top pensioner among local school districts is former San Luis Coastal superintendent Ed Valentine, who received a \$183,322 pension in 2015. Valentine and most other top pensioners from local school districts are members of the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS).

Several state agency retirees who live in SLO County are also receiving yearly pensions in excess of \$200,000. Donald Ellis, a dentist who retired from the California Men's Colony in 2010, received a \$205,293 pension in 2015. Roger Wunderlich, a former Atascadero State Hospital psychiatrist who retired in 2011, earned a \$204,915 pension in 2015.

The Men's Colony had 39 six-figure pensioners in 2015, while ASH had 16. Five of the 16 ASH retirees in the six-figure pension club receive yearly retirement payments of more than \$150,000.

Meanwhile, throughout California many cities and counties are facing financial difficulties because of high unfunded pension liabilities which continue to soar as more retirees join the six-figure pension club.

Top pensioners by agency (2015):

Cal Poly: Warren Baker – \$259,104

California Men's Colony: Donald Ellis – \$205,293

Atascadero State Hospital: Roger Wunderlich – \$204,915

SLO County: Frank Freitas – \$202,193

San Luis Coastal School District: Ed Valentine – \$183,322

6/2/2017

SLO County's soaring six-figur

San Luis Obispo: Ken Hampian – \$168,286

Morro Bay: John De Rohan – \$139,817

Arroyo Grande: Michael Hubert – \$139,120

Paso Robles: Dennis Cassidy – \$139,089

Lucia Mar: Sidney Richison – \$137,610

Atascadero Unified School District: James Stecher – \$136,390

Pismo Beach: Jeffrey Norton – \$130,973

Atascadero: John Couch – \$120,241

Cambria CSD: Vernon Hamilton – \$119,924

Coast Unified School District: Denis Declercq – \$116,559

Templeton Unified: Richard Duke – \$106,873

Grover Beach: *Jim Copsey – \$99,307

*Copsey also received pay for serving as Grover Beach's interim police chief.

L.A. leaders promised to spend \$138 million on homelessness this year. Then reality hit

The city of L.A. got serious about battling homelessness in 2015, before reality hit. (June 2, 2017)

By [Gale Holland](#) and [Dakota Smith](#)

JUNE 2, 2017, 5:00 AM

Confronted with surging homelessness, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and several City Council members gathered at City Hall's steps in September 2015 to declare that the situation had [turned into a crisis](#).

They pledged to spend \$100 million to aid those living in encampments and shelters, despite uncertainty over where the funds would come from.

Homeless advocates praised the announcement, which drew national headlines and put pressure on political leaders to find the money.

Months later, Garcetti went even further, unveiling a [budget for 2016-17](#) that promised an unprecedented \$138 million for homelessness.

As the fiscal year enters its final month, the city has spent about half that figure — roughly \$65 million — on services and programs for homeless people, including housing, shelter beds and outreach workers.

The rest of the budgeted amount, Garcetti and aides say, comes from city property that has been set aside for sale or development of homeless and low-income housing. But none of the land has been sold, nor have any final development agreements been reached to build housing.

The 2016-17 spending plan marked the beginning of an aggressive new approach by city leaders to tackle homelessness — one that will see more money directed toward the problem in coming years, thanks to a voter-approved bond measure.

But the rollout was bumpy: Community opposition thwarted some planned homeless programs, while Garcetti's plan to raise millions from a development tax was never approved.

These setbacks reflect the political and bureaucratic challenges inherent in tackling entrenched homelessness, which has worsened over the last year. L.A.'s homeless population grew 20% this year, to more than 34,000, according to survey results released Wednesday.

The mayor expressed frustration this week at how long it is taking for budgeted funds to make a dent in the problem.

“Am I happy about the pace?” Garcetti said at a news conference outlining the new homelessness numbers. “How can we look outside and anybody be happy with the pace?”

The mayor's office said in a statement that more than 9,000 people were housed last year. As for the \$138-million budget, mayoral spokesman Alex Comisar said the “city has already spent or implemented a majority of those funds, and we are putting the rest into action as quickly as possible.”

A significant portion of Garcetti's budget for homelessness involves real estate. The budget anticipated the sale or development of eight city-owned parcels, which had an appraised value of \$47 million. The mayor included that amount in the \$138 million because homeless and low-income people will live in the units.

Garcetti on Wednesday defended that budgeting maneuver and said new appraisals showed the land was worth even more than previously estimated. City budget officials say just five of the parcels — those deemed most likely to be developed — are now valued at \$72 million.

The city has exclusive negotiating agreements with developers on four sites and is seeking proposals on the fifth.

The mayor is taking the same approach in next year's budget for homelessness, including 17 city properties valued at \$46 million that will be reviewed for development.

Mark Ryavec, president of the Venice Stakeholders Assn., criticized Garcetti for including unsold, undeveloped land in his spending plans, calling it “smoke and mirrors.”

Ryavec called for more immediate relief for his community, where encampments line the beaches and residents see homeless people sleeping in their driveways.

One major revenue source in Garcetti’s budget never panned out. The mayor counted on \$20 million from a so-called linkage fee — a popular financing tool that cities such as San Diego and San Francisco have used to develop affordable housing.

Laura Guglielmo, executive officer at the city’s Housing and Community Investment Department, estimates that \$20 million, combined with existing funds, could have helped finance 160 to 200 units of new, affordable housing.

“It would have been super helpful,” Guglielmo said. “The bigger pot of money, the more housing we can develop.”

While Garcetti’s appointees on the Planning Commission approved the fee proposal in February, the City Council has yet to take it up.

Some council members are concerned the fee will drive up housing costs, said Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson, who chairs the Homeless and Poverty Committee.

In another setback to the plans laid out in the budget a year ago, community opposition derailed new storage facilities for homeless people. San Pedro residents fought a facility proposed near an elementary school, while another planned for Venice also faced resistance. Plans to provide mobile showers have been delayed as well.

Though those proposals represented a relatively small expenditure — about \$2 million — the facilities would have given Los Angeles police more license to break up sprawling encampments, according to a February report on the city’s homelessness strategy.

Those shantytowns have incensed city residents from Wilmington to Tujunga, fueling much of the support for Proposition HHH, the \$1.2-billion bond measure that voters approved in November.

City Councilman Mike Bonin supports the storage center program and is leading efforts to place one in his Venice district. He also supports the city’s push for more housing.

“I’ve had plenty of outreach in my district,” Bonin said. “There are only so many times you can give somebody a McDonalds gift card. Where can we give folks a place to put their head down that night?”

Of the \$65 million that has been spent, the largest share — more than \$50 million — went to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

But that windfall had a delaying effect of its own: The agency had to spend months gearing up its operations as it expanded its reach, slowing the distribution of rent vouchers and other more immediate homelessness relief.

City Councilman Jose Huizar said he had issues with the budget approved a year ago, saying in a recent interview that it was “premature” to count on the \$20 million from the stalled linkage fee. He also questioned whether a subsidy of city land can be counted as a budget expenditure.

But in the end he voted to approve the plan because it pushed the issue of homelessness — a flashpoint in his district, which includes skid row — to the forefront.

“I wasn’t wholly satisfied that it was new money, but I loved the fact that they made a commitment,” Huizar said. “I was elated that the political leadership had done more.”

gholland@latimes.com

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

dakota.smith@latimes.com

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

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

Here's why California officials want \$450 million to upgrade elections technology

By Jeff Horseman, The Press-Enterprise

Thursday, June 1, 2017



Imagine using a dial-up modem for internet and VHS for entertainment in 2017.

California elections officials say they face a similar situation with the technology used for a bedrock function of democracy. It's why Secretary of State Alex Padilla supports a bill to raise \$450 million through bonds to upgrade elections technology in California's 58 counties.

The bill, AB 668, passed the Assembly 56-19 on Wednesday.

If it passes the Senate and is signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, California voters will decide whether to authorize the bonds in June 2018. Republicans argue the bill, known as the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018, is a costly and wrongheaded approach to upgrading elections systems.

"The right to vote is our most important right," said the bill's sponsor, Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, D-San Diego. "But local election officials have to rely on equipment that is rapidly becoming outdated or obsolete."

"We have a responsibility and a duty to modernize our voting equipment for future elections," said Padilla, an elected Democrat. "An investment in modern voting systems will help protect the integrity of our elections and better serve voters."

Dean Logan, Los Angeles County registrar-recorder/county clerk, supports the bill.

"We are on the threshold of delivering a more secure, transparent and accessible voting experience in California — one that positions us as leaders in the country," Logan said.

"But we need the infrastructure in place to fully realize the benefits of election policies passed in recent years. AB 668 provides the support needed to ensure that happens," he said.

The last major upgrade of election systems was in 2002, according to Padilla's office.

California's counties oversee elections within their boundaries — in many cases, with aging and outdated computer systems, according to a March report from the nonpartisan state Legislative Analyst's Office.

"In one example, a county's system had a failed part that no longer is supported by the manufacturer or easy to replace," the report read. "The county purchased a replacement part through eBay."

Another county's system hasn't changed since the 1990s, the report found.

"Although this county's system has been updated periodically, it currently relies on computers that operate on Microsoft Windows XP — an operating system that was released in 2001 and no longer receives free security

upgrades or other support from the manufacturer.”

Older technology

Registrars of voters in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties said there's a need to modernize.

“Our system is at the end of its life,” Orange County Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley said. “In 2014 we conducted an extensive analysis of the system ... and concluded that we could not utilize the system effectively past 2018.”

Most of the problems are on machines that voters don't encounter, Kelley said, although he added that screens and printers have failed on voting machines.

Orange County will be moving ahead with an upgrade regardless of what happens with AB 668, Kelley said.

Michael Scarpello, San Bernardino County's registrar, said his office hopes to replace its technology in 2019 or 2021. A number of vote-counting machines are 14 years old and getting replacement parts is difficult, he said.

“The technology works perfectly fine. It's just getting older,” he said. “It's like driving an old car. You put a lot of maintenance into it.”

All of Riverside County's election technology is more than 10 years old, said county Registrar of Voters Rebecca Spencer.

While she supports an upgrade, she said, “There are a few items to consider before moving forward.” The state has certified only two voting systems for use, Spencer said, adding she would like to choose from among at least three.

Another variable is a state bill, SB 450, passed in 2016 that could change how elections take place. That bill allows counties to send every voter a mail-in ballot that could be dropped off starting 28 days before Election Day, with voting centers opening 10 days before an election.

“If we were to buy new voting equipment right now, we would be purchasing equipment for 600 polling places,” Spencer said. “If Riverside County adopts SB 450, we would be buying equipment for 100 vote centers. The quantity and type of equipment needed will depend upon the type of election.”

Too costly?

If approved, AB 668 would make bond money available to counties if they provide matching funds. It would cost \$13 million to repay the bonds in the first year, with payments growing to \$55 million a year after a decade.

The 19 assembly members who voted against AB 668 are all Republicans. In a statement, Assemblyman Matt Harper, R-Huntington Beach, said the bill “is based on outdated assumptions about the cost of new voting equipment, made before California decided to switch to all-mail voting.”

“Simply put, it's more money than we need,” said Harper, the vice chairman of the Assembly elections committee.

“On top of that, voting equipment turns obsolete quickly,” Harper added. “Because Democrats lack the political courage to pay upfront, interest will nearly double the total cost of this measure, and taxpayers will be paying off this purchase long after it's outdated.”

ELECTIONs technology

AB 668, the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018, would sell up to \$450 million in bonds to pay for upgrades to elections technology in California counties.

What happened: The Assembly passed the bill 54-19 on Wednesday.

What's next: It goes to the Senate. If it passes there and gets signed by the governor, the bond measure would go before voters for approval in June 2018.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20170601/heres-why-california-officials-want-450-million-to-upgrade-elections-technology>

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Experts: Lack of warning at California dam raises alarms

Thursday

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By Ellen Knickmeyer / Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The sudden collapse of spillways at the nation's highest dam has raised alarm among those building, running and regulating big dams around the world because it seemed to come with little warning the spillways were on the verge of failing, dam experts investigating the crisis at California's Oroville Dam said Thursday.

February's breakup of the main spillway and then the backup spillway at the 770-foot-high (230 meters) Oroville Dam stands as an "extremely significant" event among dam disasters and near-disasters in modern U.S. history, said John France, an engineer leading the investigation by two national trade associations representing dam-safety and dam-engineering professionals.

The significance was only partly due to the size of the Northern California dam, France said.

Unlike most dam failures, which happen in flooding and after signs that a structure is being overwhelmed by water, "what happened was a surprise," France said.

"I'm sure there are lessons to be learned," he said. "I'm confident they're going to be significant and change the practice of dam safety engineering in the country and perhaps in the world."

The national Association of State Dam Safety Officials and the United States Society on Dams created the independent panel to try to identify the operational and physical failures that made the two spillways at Oroville Dam give way.

Authorities ordered the evacuation of nearly 200,000 people below the dam on Feb. 12 with an hour's notice, fearing the disintegration of the spillways and the hillside around them could lead to massive, uncontrolled releases of water. Residents were allowed to return home in two days.

The dam holds back the state's second-largest reservoir and is an anchor of the state's complex north-south water delivery.

Federal and state agencies that manage and oversee Oroville Dam also are conducting separate investigations into the spillway failures.

State officials with the Department of Water Resources, which runs the half-century-old dam, at times have pointed to the torrents of runoff pouring into the dam at the time of the crisis. But the amount of water streaming down the two flood-release spillways when they began to collapse was relatively small.

The state water agency and others involved are cooperating with the independent probe by the dam groups.

The independent probe will cover everything from the preliminary work leading up to Oroville's construction in the 1960s to this winter's spillways failures, members of the investigation team said.

"We recognize how significant this incident is," said Dan Wade, another member of the investigating team and a program director for the San Francisco Public Utility Commission.

Dam professionals around the country, many of them working with dams as old or older than Oroville, want independent and thorough answers on the Oroville crisis, he said.