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# Hotel room shortage may have led to diversion of coronavirus evacuees from Ontario to Riverside County

Rep. Norma Torres wants a federal investigation of the airlift from Wuhan, China



A team in white biohazard suits watch as some of the approximately 200 passengers walk to waiting buses upon arriving on a charter flight from Wuhan, China, after landing at March Air Reserve Base near Riverside Wednesday morning Jan. 29, 2020. The flight originated from the area where the coronavirus outbreak started. All the passengers will be held in quarantine for an unknown duration. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

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By **STEVE SCAUZILLO** | [sscauzillo@scng.com](mailto:sscauzillo@scng.com) | San Gabriel Valley Tribune

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Why did the federal government divert a plane full of evacuees leaving the epicenter of the deadly coronavirus in Wuhan, China, away from landing at Ontario International Airport as originally planned?

A San Bernardino County official suggests it may have been the airport's inability to provide comfortable accommodations for the 195 American passengers — most of them employees of the U.S. State Department — at temporary facilities it had set and the fact that March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County, where the plane landed Wednesday morning, Jan. 29, had access to more than 400 hotel rooms on the base.

In fact, the [passengers are under temporary isolation in two buildings](#) that are part of The March Inn near the base's parade field, said Linda E. Welz, a spokeswoman for the base. The area has been cordoned off and is being monitored by security and medical personnel, she said.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Curt Hagman, who was in communication with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the lead agency, prior to the Wuhan flight's arrival, said he was asked to scour hotels in the Ontario-Rancho Cucamonga area to house the evacuees about 24 hours before the plane was to land at Ontario.

“Before [the plane was diverted](#), the feds asked us to try to find hotels but there wasn't anything practical or open,” he said in an interview Thursday, Jan. 30. He said he simply couldn't find rooms for more than 200 people. The hotels were at 90% capacity. “There were no facilities available (near Ontario airport),” he said.

Perhaps ONT was originally chosen to receive the plane because it is a repatriation site, where Americans from abroad come back to U.S. soil, Hagman said. Also, ONT often sees flights with military personnel and has an active USO center that receives members of the armed services and reunites them with their families.

Perhaps federal officials found the airbase more secure, Hagman said. For their part, officials with the State Department and CDC have made no public statements about why they diverted the plane. On Thursday, the State Department said in an email “that information was not available.”

In fact, Riverside County was the third location chosen for the airlift, with the landing site changing several times in two days.

On Sunday, the State Department had announced the plane would land at San Francisco International Airport. On Monday, the airport held a news conference, and officials said the plane was diverted to Ontario. Later that day, the State Department confirmed in an email that the flight was leaving Wuhan Tianhe International Airport for “Ontario, California on the morning of Wednesday, January 29, 2020 China Standard Time.”

March ARB officials learned 12 hours ahead of its arrival that the flight, which had landed in Anchorage, Alaska for refueling, was coming to Riverside County, according to interviews and emails from officials.

The decision to announce Ontario as the final destination and then change to March ARB was called “ill-conceived” by Rep. Norma Torres, D-Pomona, on Thursday. In a statement, she said the State Department, the Health and Human Services Department and the CDC alarmed Ontario-area residents unnecessarily.

She called for an investigation by the inspector generals for the HHS and the State Department, saying the feds did not coordinate with state and local officials, nor announce screening and quarantine protocols and “the last minute destination change” to the public.

“For two days, the Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services left Inland Empire residents alarmed about the risks posed by potential coronavirus patients being flown in a public space at the heart of our community, and confused by the utter lack of a coherent plan to keep anyone safe,” Torres said in a prepared statement.

Mike Lee, interim city manager of Moreno Valley, near where the airbase is located, said his city was never contacted by federal authorities. He said he learned the evacuees would land at March ARB and be housed there for up to two weeks from Riverside County Sheriff’s Department only a few hours before their arrival.

“We are disappointed by the federal government from not notifying us,” Lee said in an interview Thursday. The city of Moreno Valley has a population of 207,000 but the base is far from residential areas. Anyone who wants more information about the novel virus or the evacuees being kept at March ARB should contact the Riverside County Emergency Management Department at 951-358-5134.

## **HEALTH TIPS**

Though the U.S. has confirmed only a handful of coronavirus cases, local and federal health officials say there are a number of steps one can take to protect one's health, as with any virus, especially during flu season:

- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. • Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.
- Anyone exhibiting respiratory symptoms like fever and cough should stay away from work and school, and other people in general, to avoid spreading illness.

*Staff Writer Sandra Emerson contributed to this article.*

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## American under coronavirus quarantine after trying to leave California base



A plane carrying U.S. citizens evacuated from China's Wuhan province amid the deadly coronavirus outbreak lands at March Air Force Reserve Base in Riverside on Wednesday. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times )

By ALEX WIGGLESWORTH  
STAFF WRITER

JAN. 30, 2020  
12:09 PM



Riverside County health officials have issued a quarantine order for one of the passengers from Wuhan, China, who was evacuated to March Air Reserve Base after fleeing the coronavirus outbreak overseas.

[After the passengers were asked to remain at the base under observation](#), the traveler tried to leave the facility, prompting Dr. Cameron Kaiser with the Riverside County Public Health Department to issue the quarantine order Thursday. The passenger now must stay at the base for the entire 14-day incubation period of the virus, or until the person is otherwise cleared, authorities say.

The [State Department chartered a private plane to evacuate diplomats](#) stationed at the Wuhan consulate, along with their families. On Wednesday, 201 Americans, including a month-old baby and several teenagers, arrived in California after fleeing the outbreak in China.

There is nothing to indicate that the passenger, or any of the others who arrived in California on Wednesday, has contracted the coronavirus, health officials said. All of the passengers are continuing to undergo health evaluations.

There have been only a handful of coronavirus cases diagnosed in the U.S., with [one each in Los Angeles and Orange counties](#), as well as in Chicago, Arizona and Washington state. But on Thursday, the World Health Organization declared a [public health emergency](#) over the outbreak.

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NEWS

## Coronavirus evacuee quarantined at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County

The order was given after the patient tried to leave the base, officials said





A team in white biohazard suits watch as some of the approximately 200 passengers walk to waiting buses upon arriving on a charter flight from Wuhan, China, after landing at March Air Reserve Base near Riverside Wednesday morning Jan. 29, 2020. The flight originated from the area where the coronavirus outbreak started. All the passengers will be held in quarantine for an unknown duration. (File photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

By **SANDRA EMERSON** | semerson@scng.com |

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MOST POPULAR

Mourners leave pu

A Wuhan evacuee who was on the flight that landed this week at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County has been quarantined after attempting to leave the base, the same day the World Health Organization declared a “global emergency.”

County Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser issued the order requiring the passenger to stay for the entire incubation period, up to 14 days, or until otherwise cleared, officials said in a news release Thursday, Jan. 30. The order was made because of the unknown risk the person could have on the public if they left before being fully evaluated, officials said.

The passenger will remain on the base until their health status is confirmed. All other passengers from the flight are still on the base and continue to be evaluated for symptoms, including fever, cough and other respiratory symptoms, officials said.

The World Health Organization declared the outbreak as a global emergency Thursday and several airlines are suspending flights between the U.S. and China.

TOP ARTICLES 1/5



**MAP:** Track the coronavirus in real time

China has reported more than 7,800 cases, including 170 deaths from the respiratory illness — which belongs to the same family as the virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. In the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, 5,327 people were diagnosed with the virus.

Since the new virus surfaced in December, there have been no deaths outside of China, but cases of infection have been reported in 18 other countries, including six in the U.S., with one each in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

The declaration came after Chinese authorities moved to lock down three cities Thursday and canceled major events in the capital, Beijing, during the Lunar New Year holiday period to try to contain the new virus.

The United Nations health agency announced the decision after two days assessing information about the spread of the newly

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Flight leaving center of coronavirus outbreak in China bound for Ontario

identified coronavirus. WHO defines a global emergency as an “extraordinary event” that constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated international response. Previous global emergencies have been declared for the emergence of Zika virus in the Americas, the swine flu pandemic, and polio.

International Airport

Flight from epicenter of coronavirus outbreak redirected to March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County

U.S. reports 1st case of person-to-person spread of new coronavirus

Flight leaving center of coronavirus outbreak in China bound for Ontario International Airport

Case of coronavirus confirmed in Orange County; officials call risk of transmission ‘low’

The passengers on the U.S. government-chartered flight, originally bound for Ontario International Airport but was redirected late Tuesday. touched down in Riverside County Wednesday morning are still going through an evaluation. There is no indication that any of the passengers are sick, according to Yaoska Machado, a Riverside County spokesperson. The quarantined passenger has been cooperating, Machado said.

The 195 passengers remain in voluntary isolation for 72 hours before they can move on to their next destination, officials have said.

Passengers, including children whose ages range from 1 month to teens, went through two screenings in China and were monitored during the flight, officials said. They were screened again in Alaska during a fueling stop and were approved to continue to March ARB.

Officials in Alaska said all passengers passed health screenings. One person with a fever in Wuhan did not board the plane for the U.S., officials said.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention team will continue to check the group for symptoms every 12 hours over the 72-hour period, officials said.

The arrival of the passengers have not impacted operations at the base, said Linda E. Welz, March ARB spokeswoman.

“All the stores are open, people can come get their ID cards, tickets for Disneyland — nothing has been affected,” Welz said.

The passengers are staying in two buildings that are part of The March Inn near the base’s parade field, Welz said. The area has been cordoned off and is being monitored by security and medical personnel, she said.

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A town hall was held Thursday morning for the passengers and more meetings are planned for the people who work on the base, Welz said.

UN agency declares global emergency over new coronavirus from China

Experts say there is significant evidence the virus is spreading among people in China and have noted with concern several instances in other countries — including the United States, France, Japan, Germany, Canada and Vietnam – where there have also been isolated cases of human-to-human transmission.

U.S. reports 1st case of person-to-person spread of new coronavirus

Health officials reported the first U.S. case of person-to-person spread of the virus. The man is married to a Chicago woman who got sick from the virus after she returned from a trip to Wuhan.

Complete coverage of coronavirus in California

The other five were travelers who developed the illness after returning to the U.S. from China. The latest patient had not been in China.

Coronavirus evacuees will spend at least 3 days at Riverside County air base

The virus is believed to have come from a wholesale market where vendors legally sold live animals from stalls in close quarters with hundreds of others. Nearly two decades ago, SARS had a similar origin story, jumping from bats to Asian palm civets, and then to humans involved in the wildlife trade.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that circulate mostly among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Common

symptoms in an infected human include a fever, cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Common symptoms in an infected person include a fever, cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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## Sandra Emerson

Sandra Emerson covers San Bernardino County government and politics for the Southern California News Group.

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VIEW COMMENTS

## Inside a Coronavirus Evacuation: How 195 Americans Got Out of Wuhan

The group flew on a “surreal” plane flight to California, only to begin a waiting process. They must clear medical tests that could take 72 hours or many days.



By Miriam Jordan

Published Jan. 30, 2020 Updated Jan. 31, 2020, 9:43 a.m. ET

LOS ANGELES — This week, a group of strangers came together under a warm Southern California sun. They played ball with their children. They took jogs down tree-lined paths. They watched movies in the afternoon.

They also had their temperatures taken several times a day by medical personnel. And they are not allowed to leave the premises.

This makeshift community on a military base in Riverside, Calif., is made up of evacuees from Wuhan, the city in China that is the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak. The 195 people, including diplomats, infants, a football player and a theme-park designer, are among Americans who have managed to leave Wuhan since a quarantine was imposed.

The group arrived in the United States on Wednesday aboard the only chartered plane the State Department has flown to carry evacuees from China. As they passed time on the California base, waiting days until they can be cleared to leave by medical officials, some recalled unsettling, eerie final days in Wuhan and a jarring scene as the plane finally carried them away.

“It was surreal,” said Matthew McCoy, a theme-park designer, recalling the airplane crew members in hazardous material suits tending to passengers in masks. “They were trying to keep us calm, but they had these guys covered from head to toe taking your temperature. It felt like a C.I.A. cargo plane.”

To contain the spread of the virus, which has killed more than 200 people and infected thousands, people have been quarantined on a cruise ship, in hospital wards and on an island.

The group of Americans taken to the March Air Reserve Base in California were not officially quarantined, according to officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, though they were expected to wait on the base until medical testing could be completed. That process could take 72 hours or days longer.

Still, the C.D.C. said the authorities had the right to issue individual quarantines if necessary. Late Wednesday, hours after the plane arrived in California, a passenger tried to leave the base and was intercepted, local officials in Riverside County said. A quarantine order was issued to that passenger, a spokeswoman for the county said, because of “the unknown risks to the public should someone leave the base without undergoing a full health evaluation.”

With ample time on their hands, the passengers performed mundane tasks.

“I’m working out, watching movies, eating well,” said Jarred Evans, 27, a football player from New York City who has been living in Wuhan for two years, where he plays for the Chinese National Football League champions, the Wuhan Berserkers. He has also been through numerous checks. “I’ve never had my temperature taken so many times in my life,” he said.

From his room at an inn on the military base, Mr. McCoy said, “It’s not Club Med, but we’re fortunate to be here. I try to stay busy with my work, social media and my hotel workout regimen.” The Spanish-style hotel, which boasts stucco archways and a large courtyard, faces a verdant lawn.

After a stopover in Anchorage for refueling and medical screening, the passengers were greeted in California by experts from the C.D.C. who conducted medical tests and offered psychological counseling. Noses and throats were swabbed. Blood was drawn. Temperatures were taken, again.

Some recalled bleak, sometimes terrifying, last days in Wuhan.

Mr. Evans, a former quarterback at the University of Cincinnati, moved to Wuhan when he was recruited to play for the city’s American football team.

It had been a good season: His team had won the national championship in Shanghai on Jan. 8.

“I fell in love with Chinese culture,” he said, “and I got to be the face of American football in China.”

But when the coronavirus began spreading through Wuhan, Mr. Evans shut himself inside his apartment, stocked up with rice, noodles, eggs and disinfectant.

“I did exactly what every Chinese person did,” he said.

“I locked myself in. The city turned into a ghost town,” Mr. Evans said. But he felt isolated, he said, and his mother, back in the United States, was worried for his safety.

When he heard of a flight out of the country, he quickly filled out the online forms. An email from the United States Embassy in Beijing arrived, which read: “Space on this flight is extremely limited and we respectfully request that you not share details regarding the flight, including on social media.”

Mr. Evans learned that he was No. 171 on a flight that could accommodate about 200, he said. “I felt very lucky to be chosen out of all U.S. residents in Wuhan,” he said. Some Americans reported that they had tried to get a seat on the flight but were told there was no room.

Mr. McCoy, who lives in Shanghai, was in Wuhan working on a mall he is refashioning into a theme park when he got caught in the lockdown.

The atmosphere in the city was “just short of panic,” he recalled.

A former Marine who has run 12 marathons and stays in good shape, Mr. McCoy said he was convinced he had not contracted the virus. But he still took the outbreak seriously. He decided it was worth plunking down \$1,100 for a one-way ticket to the United States.

When the American group left Wuhan, it had been made aware it would have to remain in an isolated location for at least 72 hours.

“This quarantine will occur for a minimum of 72 hours and may extend through 14 days or may be followed by conditional release with health monitoring,” said an email that he received before the flight. Mr. McCoy said that had not troubled most people. “Everyone was cool with that. We are trying to be patriots, trying to help,” he said. “We’re a captive audience here.”

On Thursday morning, their first full day back in the United States, the group downed breakfast burritos, juice and coffee. For lunch, they received a hearty taco salad with chicken.

An invitation slipped under the doors of the hotel rooms promised a “town hall discussion.” Federal health officials urged the group to remain on the base until receiving full medical clearance.

Now it was a matter of waiting.

Outside, there were refreshments, chips, cookies and toys. Scooters, footballs, soccer balls and Frisbees were available.

“People here have been really nice,” Mr. Evans said. “Everybody is in great spirits. Nobody is panicking or freaking out.”

There is no shaking hands or hugging, though, and most people were keeping on their masks.

Susan C. Beachy contributed research from New York.

# Passengers From Infected City Land In Riverside

By Nick Kipley, Reporter | Posted: Thursday, January 30, 2020 11:54 am

A plane carrying 201 passengers from Wuhan, China, landed shortly after 8:00 a.m. on Jan. 28, at March Air Reserve Base having been diverted from Ontario Airport last night. Jose Arballo, Senior Public Information Specialist for Riverside County said that the passengers are currently being screened by federal health officials and local public health nurses and other members of staff for symptoms of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) a.k.a. ‘Wuhan Coronavirus.’ Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that circulate mostly among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Common symptoms in an infected human include a fever, cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Since December 2019, Chinese authorities have identified hundreds of cases associated with this novel coronavirus in an outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.

CDPH has been informed that one individual in Los Angeles County and one individual in Orange County have tested positive for novel coronavirus, which has been confirmed by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH), the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA), and CDC.

The CDC confirmed the first case in the U.S. on Jan. 21, a Washington State man who had returned to the U.S from Wuhan on Jan. 15. On Jan. 24, the CDC confirmed a second U.S. case in a traveler who returned to Chicago from Wuhan on Jan. 13.

Arballo described the screening process at March ARB as “very thorough” and said that it involves a physical examination portion which includes the taking of people’s temperatures, collecting tissue and blood samples and a salivary swab. Arballo said that there is also a very thorough medical questionnaire and portion and passengers are required to give their full medical history, in depth. The specimen samples will be shipped to CDC for analysis. Following the check-up, passengers who are able to will be asked to stay under voluntary quarantine at March ARB until their results return from the CDC. If a passenger cannot stay then their contact information will be forward to local health agencies who will monitoring them from that point onward. At the time of press, the CDC nor any other public health agency have issued a mandatory quarantine for March ARB. All of the passengers passed the first health check which took place in China before the plane departed, and then a secondary health check which took place in Alaska on a refueling stop for the flight.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (DPH) is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to respond to recent reports of Wuhan Coronavirus. At the time of press no cases of Wuhan Coronavirus have been reported in San Bernardino County.



Map of global cases of the Wuhan Coronavirus

“There have been no confirmed coronavirus cases in San Bernardino County to date,” states Dr. Erin Gustafson, San Bernardino County Assistant Health Officer. “DPH will keep citizens informed as more information about the coronavirus is made available. At this time, we urge the public to remain calm, as it is very unlikely to be at risk of contracting the virus.”

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the agency estimates that from Oct. 2019 to Jan. 2020 15 million to 21 million people contracted seasonal viral influenza, a far more common infectious disease than the Wuhan Coronavirus. 7 million to 10 million people made a medical visit for symptoms of the flu during that same period and, 140,000 to 250,000 were hospitalized. 8,200 - 20,000 people have died from the flu since October. There have been no deaths related to Wuhan Coronavirus in the United States. At the time of press, all 133 deaths related to Wuhan Coronavirus have taken place in China.

As with any virus, especially during the flu season, there are a number of steps you can take to protect your health and those around you:

Washing hands with soap and water.

Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoiding close contact with people who are sick are all ways to reduce the risk of infection with a number of different viruses.

If someone does become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough, they should stay away from work, school or other people to avoid spreading illness.

While there is no cure for this virus, our hospital partners and clinical providers will be able to test and care for ill travelers effectively to minimize transmission and severe illness. DPH will continue to provide updates and work with local healthcare providers as the situation evolves.

DPH urges individuals who have recently traveled to Wuhan City and who develop fever or respiratory symptoms, to contact their healthcare provider by phone. DPH requests that healthcare providers treating patients with respiratory symptoms ask these patients about their travel history to Wuhan, China and to report suspected novel coronavirus infections to DPH.

Additional questions about the screening process should be directed to the CDC.

Additional information can be found through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or California Department of Public Health (CDPH) pages. Information is available in English and Chinese.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_a4d6b4f4-438d-11ea-9480-eb6884c772fc.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_a4d6b4f4-438d-11ea-9480-eb6884c772fc.html)

TOP STORY

## U.S. citizens evacuated from China land in California

By Jené Estrada, Hi-Desert Star

Jan 30, 2020

ONTARIO — A flight from Wuhan, China evacuating about 200 U.S. citizens, including nine children, landed at the March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County at 8 a.m. Wednesday. They evacuated China due to the novel coronavirus 2019 outbreak that killed 106 people in China as of Tuesday morning.

The flight was originally scheduled to land at Ontario International Airport in the U.S. State Department-chartered aircraft sometime Wednesday, said representatives of San Bernardino County in a news release, but the flight was redirected to the March Air Reserve Base Tuesday evening.

The incoming flight has sparked fears among some California residents but county and airport officials say the people coming from Wuhan were screened twice by medical officials before leaving Wuhan and again when they crossed into the United States at a lay-over in Anchorage, Alaska.

The occupants of the aircraft consist entirely of U.S. State Department employees, U.S. contractors who have been working in China and other U.S. citizens. They will continue to be monitored in temporary housing aboard the March Air Reserve Base.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause respiratory infections in humans. Some strains of the virus cause the common cold and others have evolved to cause severe illnesses, such as SARS and MERS. NCoV 2019 is a new kind of coronavirus that scientists have never observed in humans before. The Centers for Disease Control say coronavirus is a serious public health threat, but based on current information, the immediate health risk to the general American public is considered low at this time.

### Coronavirus in California

The California Department of Public Health issued a statement on Monday that two cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in California — one individual in Los Angeles County and another in Orange County have tested positive for nCoV-2019.

The diagnoses were confirmed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Orange County Health Care Agency and the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“The California Department of Public Health has been preparing for this situation by working closely with local health departments and health care providers,” said Dr. Sonia Angell, director of the state health department.

“We are supporting ongoing efforts by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Orange County Health Care Agency to respond to these cases, and will continue working with our partners to monitor for any additional cases that may occur in California, to ensure that persons can be safely and effectively evaluated for this novel virus, and to protect the health of the people of California.”

Currently, the immediate health risk from nCoV 2019 to the general public in California is low, said the CDHP in a press release, but they urge anyone who has recently traveled to China to notify their health care provider of their travel history if they begin to feel ill.

“Persons who have recently traveled to Wuhan, China, or who have had contact with a person with possible novel coronavirus infection should contact their local health department or health care provider,” they said in a press release.

For more information about nCov-2019, please visit the CDPH website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>.

# Outbreak declared a global health crisis

The World Health Organization raises the alarm on deadly coronavirus, urges aid for poorer nations.

BY MELISSA HEALY

The World Health Organization declared Thursday that the deadly outbreak fueled by a new coronavirus from China has [become a global health emergency](#), citing fears that the microbe will soon reach smaller, poorer countries incapable of stemming its spread.

The decision will probably make new resources available to health officials around the world who are battling a virus that has [sickened more than 9,000 people](#) on four continents and claimed at least 213 lives. It will also establish WHO's authority to lead the international response and strengthen the organization's hand in shaping the domestic decisions of its 194 member nations.

WHO Director-General [Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#) said the organization is not recommending any measures that would limit travel or international trade. Those are some of the most potent tools at his agency's disposal, but they are not necessary at this time, he told reporters in Geneva.

Health experts who have been tracking the virus' spread said WHO's declaration was more than justified.

"Declaring an emergency gives WHO the authority to make recommendations that are very influential," said [Lawrence Gostin](#), an expert on public health law at Georgetown University. "It signals to the world this is a global crisis and we all need to come together to address it."

But experts also acknowledged that WHO has no way to enforce its recommendations or to constrain the actions of members. Even with the new declaration, the agency will be able to do little more than cajole and exhort the international community to cooperate, and to guide the efforts of philanthropies active in public health efforts.

Tedros took pains to reassure China that WHO's declaration implied no criticism of the country's actions, including the "extraordinary measures" it has taken to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus, known officially as [2019-nCoV](#). Among other things, the government ordered an [unprecedented quarantine](#) affecting 50 million people in 17 cities.

“China is setting a new standard for outbreak response, and it’s not an exaggeration,” he said.

Yet with the virus now present in 22 countries and territories, and with person-to-person transmission confirmed to have taken place in five countries besides China, the potential for it to cause mayhem in countries “with weaker public health systems” was Tedros’ chief concern.

“We must all act together now to limit further spread,” he said.

Researchers from China’s leading public health agency calculated that the epidemic established itself by doubling in size every 7.4 days, according to a report published Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. They also estimated that each person infected with the coronavirus passed it along to 2.2 others — on par with the 1918 Spanish flu.

An expert advisory committee debated for almost eight hours before recommending that WHO formally declare the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. In doing so, the members recognized that the never-before-seen virus is spreading internationally, poses serious health threats, and could affect travel and trade.

China first informed WHO about cases of the new virus in late December. Experts say there is significant evidence the virus is being transmitted among people in China and have noted with concern several instances in other countries — including Japan, Germany, Canada, Vietnam, South Korea, France and [most recently the U.S.](#) — where there have also been isolated cases of human-to-human spread.

The spread of 2019-nCoV in Vietnam, a country with a rudimentary system in place to detect, track and isolate new infections, is particularly alarming to infectious disease experts.

Tedros made clear that the declaration must galvanize the international community’s efforts to help vulnerable countries fight the spread of coronavirus.

“We must support countries with weaker health systems” by providing them with tests that can quickly identify and treat those infected, he said. And when a vaccine to prevent infection becomes available, those countries must gain access to them, he added.

Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, praised WHO for being realistic about the threat the outbreak presents. Thursday’s action “matches the situation on the ground,” he said.

The decision is likely to help channel more money and manpower toward countries such as Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand, all of which have seen a small number of infections. Additional resources from nongovernmental organizations including Doctors Without Borders and charitable groups such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation could be extremely useful for governments struggling to bring in medical teams and identify infected persons, Gostin said.

But WHO's direct influence is limited. It can't force member countries to adopt trade or travel restrictions, nor can it prevent them from taking overly aggressive steps limiting the movement of people or goods.

"One sad truth about declaring an emergency is that it doesn't legally and technically grant WHO any enhanced powers or release any emergency funding," said Gostin, who added that such a crucial deficiency should be fixed.

In its deliberations leading to Thursday's declaration, the WHO advisory committee relied on regulations adopted by the United Nations after the [2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome](#), which sickened more than 8,000 people and caused 774 deaths. To declare an "emergency of international concern," the agency must find that an outbreak "constitutes a public health risk to other states through the international spread of disease," or that it poses a "significant risk of international travel or trade restrictions."

A burgeoning Ebola epidemic in West Africa was designated a public health emergency of international concern in 2014 after the virus spread beyond its epicenter of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia to seven other countries, including the United States.

In 2016, the international agency did the same for the rapidly spreading Zika virus as the mosquito-borne pathogen marched across the Americas, causing miscarriages and birth defects when pregnant women were infected.

Most recently, WHO declared a public health emergency in July as cases of Ebola mushroomed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and spilled over into neighboring Uganda.

But the agency [declined on multiple occasions](#) to give that status to an outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome, which is caused by a coronavirus that jumped from camels to humans. Though it sickened nearly 2,500 people in 27 countries and caused 858 deaths, WHO said travel and trade restrictions would not serve a public health purpose.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

# How Bad Will the Coronavirus Outbreak Get?

## Here Are 6 Key Factors

By Knvul Sheikh, Derek Watkins, Jin Wu and Mika Gröndahl Jan. 31, 2020

As the coronavirus outbreak continues to spread across China, a flurry of early research is drawing a clearer picture of how the pathogen behaves and the key factors that will determine whether it can be contained.

### 1. How contagious is the virus?

It seems moderately infectious, similar to SARS.

### 2. How deadly is the virus?

It's hard to know yet. But the mortality rate is probably less than 3 percent, much less than SARS.

### 3. How long does it take to show symptoms?

Possibly between 2 to 14 days, allowing the illness to go undetected.

### 4. How much have infected people traveled?

The virus spread quickly because it started in a transportation hub.

### 5. How effective will the response be?

The W.H.O. has praised China's efforts, but critics fear lockdown measures may not be enough.

### 6. How long will it take to develop a vaccine?

A vaccine is still a year away — at minimum.

While the virus is a serious public health concern, the risk to most people outside China remains very low, and seasonal flu is a more immediate threat. To avoid any viral illness, experts advise washing your hands frequently and avoiding your office or school when you're sick. Most healthy people don't need masks, and hoarding them may contribute to shortages for health workers who do need them, experts say.

### 1. How contagious is the virus?

It seems moderately infectious, similar to SARS.

The scale of an outbreak depends on how quickly and easily a virus is transmitted from person to person. While research has just begun, scientists have estimated that each person with the Wuhan coronavirus could infect somewhere between 1.5 and 3.5 people without effective containment measures.

That would make the new virus roughly as contagious as SARS, another coronavirus that circulated in China in 2003 and was contained after it sickened 8,098 people and killed 774. Respiratory viruses like these can travel through the air, enveloped in tiny droplets that are produced when a sick person breathes, talks, coughs or sneezes.

These droplets fall to the ground within a few feet. That makes the virus harder to get than pathogens like measles, chickenpox and tuberculosis, which can travel a hundred feet through the air. But it is easier to catch than H.I.V. or hepatitis, which spread only through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person.

### How far viruses travel

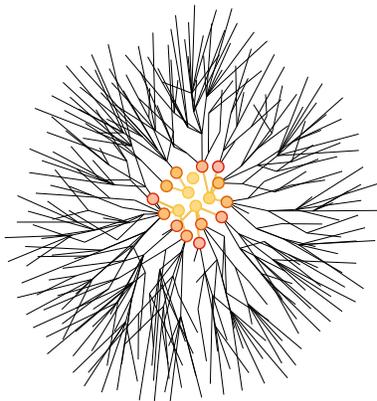
Coronaviruses like the **Wuhan virus** can travel only about six feet from the infected person. It's unknown how long they live on surfaces.

Some other viruses, like **measles**, can travel up to 100 feet and stay alive on surfaces for hours.

If each person infected with the Wuhan coronavirus infects two to three others, that may be enough to sustain and accelerate an outbreak, if nothing is done to reduce it.

Here's how that works. In the animation below, a group of five infected people could spread the virus to about 368 people over just five cycles of infection.

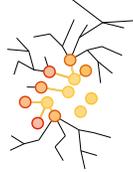
If 5 people with Wuhan coronavirus each infected 2.6 others ...



... there could be **18 people sick after 2 cycles.**

Compare that with a less contagious virus, like the seasonal flu. People with the flu tend to infect 1.3 other individuals, on average. The difference may seem small, but the result is a striking contrast: Only about 45 people might be infected in the same scenario.

If 5 people with seasonal flu each infected 1.3 others ...

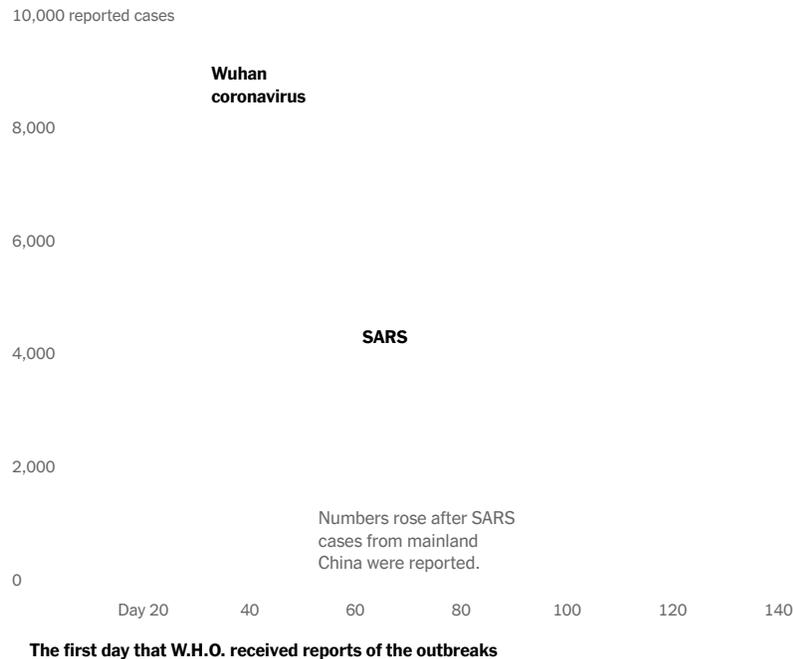


... there could be **12 people sick** after **2 cycles**.

But the transmission numbers of any disease aren't set in stone. They can be reduced by effective public health measures, such as isolating sick people and tracking individuals they've had contact with. When global health authorities methodically tracked and isolated people infected with SARS in 2003, they were able to bring the average number each sick person infected down to 0.4, enough to stop the outbreak.

Health authorities around the world are expending enormous effort trying to repeat that.

So far, the number of cases outside China has been small. But in recent days, cases have turned up in several countries, including the United States, with people who have not visited China. And the number of cases within China has accelerated, far surpassing the rate of new SARS cases in 2003:



Notes: The official World Health Organization case count for SARS was delayed at the beginning of the outbreak. Some cases were suspected but not confirmed; SARS is a diagnosis of exclusion, so previously reported cases may have been discarded after further investigation. Wuhan coronavirus data as of 11:30 p.m. E.T., Jan. 30.

## 2. How deadly is the virus?

It's hard to know yet. But the mortality rate is probably less than 3 percent, much less than SARS.

This is one of the most important factors in how damaging the outbreak will be, and one of the least understood.

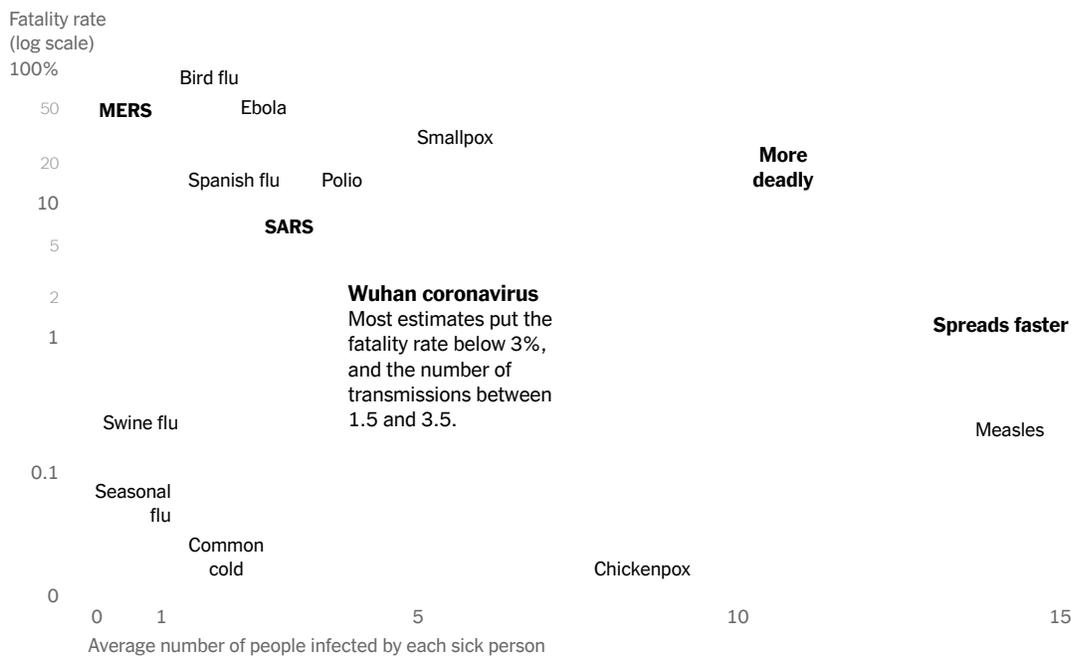
It's tough to assess the lethality of a new virus. The worst cases are usually detected first, which can skew our understanding of how likely patients are to die. About a third of the first 41 patients reported in Wuhan had to be treated in an I.C.U., many with symptoms of fever, severe cough, shortness of breath and pneumonia. But people with mild cases may never visit a doctor. So there may be more cases than we know, and the death rate may be lower than we initially thought.

At the same time, deaths from the virus may be underreported. The Chinese cities at the center of the outbreak face a shortage of testing kits and hospital beds, and many sick people have not been able to see a doctor.

“There’s still a lot of uncertainty about what this virus is like and what it is doing,” said Dr. Allison McGeer, an infectious disease specialist at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, who was at the frontlines of the Canadian response to SARS.

Early indications suggest the mortality rate for this virus is considerably less than another coronavirus, MERS, which kills about one in three people who become infected, and SARS, which kills about one in 10. All of the diseases appear to latch on to proteins on the surface of lung cells, but MERS and SARS seem to be more destructive to lung tissue. As of Jan. 31, fewer than one in 40 of the people with confirmed infections had died. Many of those who died were older men with underlying health problems.

Here’s how the new coronavirus compares with other infectious diseases:



Note: Average fatality rates and number of transmission are shown. Numbers for the Wuhan coronavirus are preliminary estimates.

Pathogens can still be very dangerous even if their fatality rate is low, Dr. McGeer said. For instance, even though influenza has a case fatality rate below one per 1,000, roughly 200,000 people end up hospitalized with the virus each year in the United States, and about 35,000 people die.

### 3. How long does it take to show symptoms?

Possibly between 2 to 14 days, allowing the illness to go undetected.

The time it takes for symptoms to appear after a person is infected can be vital for prevention and control. Known as the incubation period, this time can allow health officials to quarantine or observe people who may have been exposed to the virus. But if the incubation period is too long or too short, these measures may be difficult to implement.

Some illnesses, like influenza, have a short incubation period of two or three days. People may be shedding infectious virus particles before they exhibit flu symptoms, making it almost impossible to identify and isolate people who have the virus. SARS, however, had an incubation period of about five days. In addition, it took four or five days after symptoms started before sick people could transmit the virus. That gave officials time to stop the virus and effectively contain the outbreak, Dr. McGeer said.

Officials at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that the Wuhan coronavirus has an incubation period of 2 to 14 days. But it is still not clear whether a person can spread the virus before symptoms develop, or whether the severity of the illness affects how easily a patient can spread the virus.

“That concerns me because it means the infection could elude detection,” said Dr. Mark Denison, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

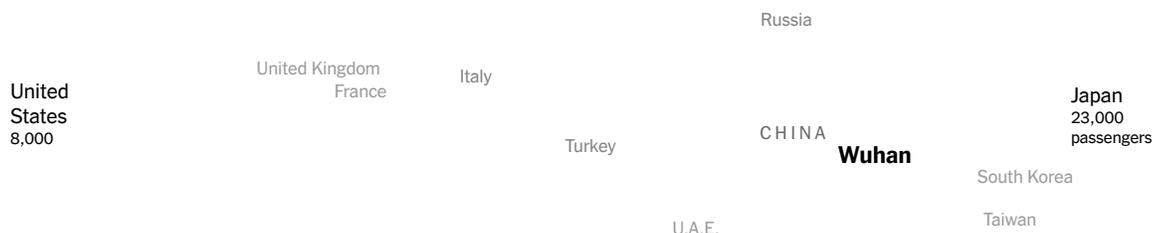
### 4. How much have infected people traveled?

The virus spread quickly because it started in a transportation hub.

Wuhan is a difficult place to contain an outbreak. It has 11 million people, more than New York City. On an average day, 3,500 passengers take direct flights from Wuhan to cities in other countries. These cities were among the first to report cases of the virus outside China.

#### Passengers flying from Wuhan to other countries

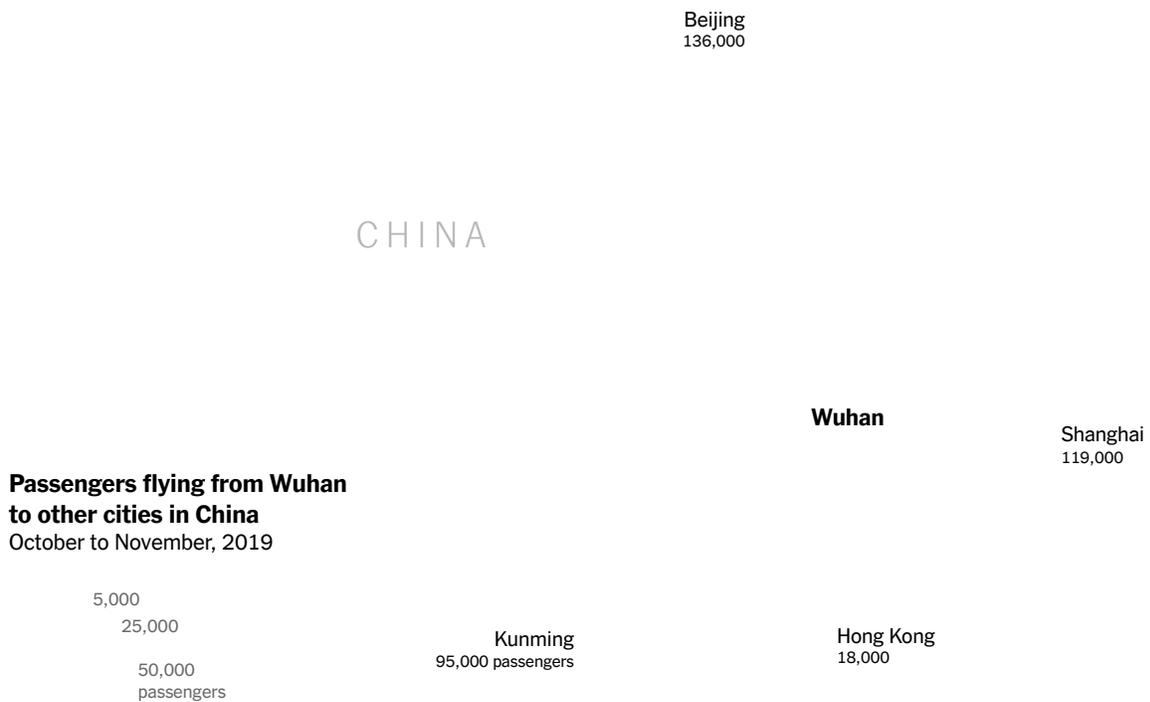
October to November 2019





Note: Map shows passenger volume from October to November 2019, the most recent data available.

Wuhan is also a major transportation hub within China, linked to Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities by high-speed railways and domestic airlines. In October and November of last year, close to two million people flew from Wuhan to other places within China.

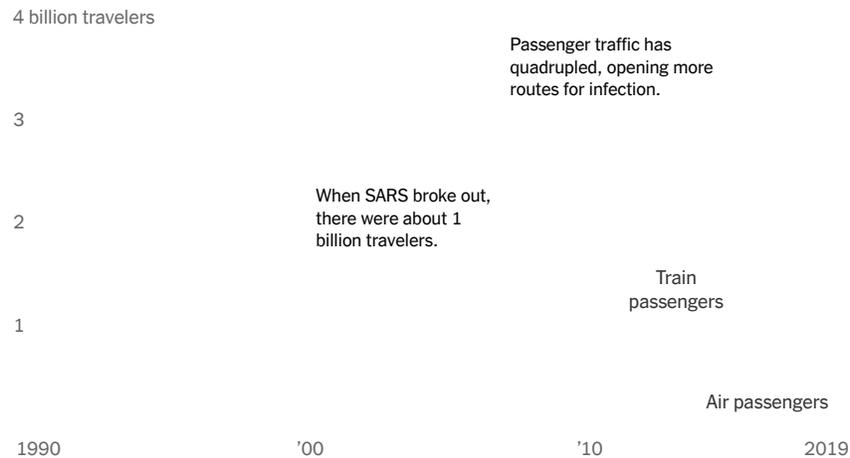


**Passengers flying from Wuhan to other cities in China**  
October to November, 2019

Note: Map shows passenger volume from October to November 2019, the most recent data available. Destinations with fewer than 1,000 passengers are not shown.

China was not nearly as well-connected in 2003 during the SARS outbreak. Large numbers of migrant workers now travel domestically and internationally — to Africa, other parts of Asia and Latin America, where China is making an enormous infrastructure push with its Belt and Road Initiative. This travel creates a high risk for outbreaks in countries with health systems that are not equipped to handle them, like Zimbabwe, which is facing a worsening hunger and economic crisis.

Over all, China has about four times as many train and air passengers as it did during SARS outbreak:



Note: Air travel data includes passengers only on Chinese airlines.

China has taken the unprecedented step of imposing travel restrictions on tens of millions of people living in Wuhan and nearby cities. But experts warned that the lockdown may have come too late and limited access to food and medicine. Wuhan's mayor acknowledged that five million people had left the city before the restrictions began, in the run-up to the Lunar New Year.

"You can't board up a germ. A novel infection will spread," said Lawrence O. Gostin, a law professor at Georgetown University and director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center on National and Global Health Law. "It will get out; it always does."

## 5. How effective will the response be?

The W.H.O. has praised China's efforts, but critics fear lockdown measures may not be enough.

In addition to closing off transportation, officials shut down a market in Wuhan selling live poultry, seafood and wild animals, which was thought to be the origin of the coronavirus, and later suspended the trade of wild animals nationwide. Schools have been closed, Beijing's Great Wall is off limits and tourist packages from China have been halted. World Health Organization officials have praised China's aggressive response to the virus.

But the measures have also had unintended effects. Residents in Wuhan who are unwell must walk or cycle for miles to get to hospitals. There, many complain that they are being turned away because of shortages of hospital beds, staff and supplies that have been made worse by the lockdown.

Until recently, researchers abroad were also concerned by the fact that China was not admitting experts who could help track the virus and prevent its spread.

On Thursday, the W.H.O. declared the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak a global health emergency, acknowledging that the disease represents a risk beyond China.

Health officials in the United States and other countries have started screening passengers arriving at airports and isolating those who appear to be ill. Several countries — including Kazakhstan, Russia and Vietnam — have temporarily restricted travel and visas to and from China. But critics fear that these measures will not be enough.

## 6. How long will it take to develop a vaccine?

A vaccine is still a year away — at minimum.

A coronavirus vaccine could prevent infections and stop the spread of the disease. But vaccines take time.

After the SARS outbreak in 2003, it took researchers about 20 months to get a vaccine ready for human trials. (The vaccine was never needed, because the disease was eventually contained.) By the Zika outbreak in 2015, researchers had brought the vaccine development timeline down to six months.

Now, they hope that work from past outbreaks will help cut the timeline even further. Researchers have already studied the genome of the new coronavirus and found the proteins that are crucial for infection. Scientists from the National Institutes of Health, in Australia and at least three companies are working on vaccine candidates.

“If we don’t run into any unforeseen obstacles, we’ll be able to get a Phase 1 trial going within the next three months,” said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Fauci cautioned that it could still take months, and even years, after initial trials to conduct extensive testing that can prove a vaccine is safe and effective. In the best case, a vaccine may become available to the public a year from now.

### Sources:

Data on daily reported cases from the Health Commission of Hubei Province, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and World Health Organization.

Data on mortality rates and number of transmissions per sick person from the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Johns Hopkins University, Global Health Data Exchange, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States, Global Mapping of Infectious Disease Risk, National Institutes of Health, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, University of Oxford, Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine, Inserm, Imperial College, Harvard University, Hong Kong University, Lancaster University and University of Bern.

Travel volume data from International Air Transport Association DDS and, via CEIC, China Railway Corporation, National Railway Administration and Civil Aviation Administration of China.

**TIME**

## 'There Are Sensible Voices That Are Emerging,' How Scientists Are Using Social Media to Counter Coronavirus Misinformation



A passenger wears latex gloves as he travels on a MTR underground metro train during a Lunar New Year of the Rat public holiday in Hong Kong on January 27, 2020, as a preventative measure following a coronavirus outbreak which began in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Photo by Anthony Wallace / AFP

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

7:04 PM EST

**A**s a new form of **coronavirus** continues to infect a growing number of people around the world, medical professionals, scientists and big tech giants are fighting the spread of another contagion — misinformation. Just like a virus, it can be difficult to contain and many working in medical and

scientific fields are using the very tools used to spread misinformation to counter it.

Though so much misinformation is spread on platforms like Twitter and Facebook, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, and hundreds of other scientists and medical professionals who are studying the **2019 Novel Coronavirus**, have been utilizing social media to disseminate accurate information in real time, countering conspiracy theories and collaborating for research.

“Today, in this outbreak, we are sharing information almost to the second of its release,” says **Crystal Watson**, senior researcher and assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. “That allows a lot more collective thinking and decision making.”

Watson says that social media had made it possible for scientific information to be shared much more quickly. “In prior outbreaks before social media, often we had to wait for a publication in a journal, for example, to learn about some of what was going on,” she says.

Many working in scientific and medical fields started to notice the spread of harmful misinformation at the beginning of the outbreak and experts started using their expertise to help counter it. “I think there’s some [misinformation] that is intentionally harmful, either disseminating information about a false cure, for example, or spreading information that stigmatizes specific groups of people,” Watson says. “So it’s really important that we get on top of that and provide correct information and push it out as best we can.”

Misinformation on social media platforms like **Facebook**, Twitter and YouTube range from **racially driven scapegoating** to supposed cures for the virus. One inaccurate Facebook post shared more than 500 times claimed that a vaccine exists for the new form coronavirus, which is false. In fact, there are no vaccines for any of the **seven types** of coronavirus that humans are susceptible to according to **PolitiFact**, quoting Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

Other false claims have involved inaccurate information about how to protect from the virus, including **claims** that a Chinese respiratory expert found that saline solution kills the virus, and that people should rinse their mouths out with it.

“That’s the risk that we run here when we deal with misinformation,” says **Tara Kirk Sell**, senior scholar and assistant professor at Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. “It’s not just ‘oh, who cares what people are saying?’ If it undermines trust, then that’s a big problem.”

Sell has studied misinformation that spread after the **2014 outbreak of Ebola** in West Africa. She says there are similarities in the misinformation spread during that outbreak and the outbreak of the new form of coronavirus known as **2019 Novel Coronavirus**, which started in the city of **Wuhan** in central China. There are now **8,236 total confirmed cases** as of Thursday evening, most of which are in China, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have confirmed **five cases in the U.S.** On Thursday, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a **public health emergency** of international concern.

“There’s always overlays of politics,” Sell tells TIME. “Even though you think of [outbreaks] as health events, they’re an opportunity for some people to create discord and to cause people to become fearful and also to criticize different government actions.”

A spokesperson for Facebook tells TIME in an emailed statement that the company has partnered with third-party fact-checkers around the world to add warning labels to posts that contain false information and promote articles that include fact checked information. The company is also sending notifications to those who have already shared false content.

“This situation is fast-evolving and we will continue our outreach to global and regional health organizations to provide support and assistance,” the spokesperson said.

Representatives for Twitter and Google did not immediately respond to TIME’s request for comment, but a spokesperson for Twitter told *The Washington Post* that users searching for coronavirus on its platform were met with information from the CDC. Similarly, Google, which owns YouTube, is promoting content that contains accurate and verified information, according to *The Post*.

“It’s challenging because this information is being churned out very, very quickly,” says *Antonia Ho*, an infectious diseases physician and clinical senior lecturer at the University of Glasgow. “No one is an expert right now... Obviously, this Novel Coronavirus is so new that with all this information coming out, it takes a lot to control, and certainly misinformation may not be noticed until later on just because it takes time to verify.”

Still, Ho tells TIME, social media — Twitter in particular — has been a significant tool for scientists who can counter misinformation with accuracies and research. The sharing of information and updates on Novel Coronavirus by members of the science and medical communities has grown organically, and many scientists, doctors and other experts have accumulated thousands of followers. For example, *Laurie Garrett*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and

expert on infectious diseases, tweets daily coronavirus updates and has a following of 44,000.

This sharing of information has also led to increased online interaction among those working on the virus. “There’s often months of delays when people do research... but now this is all coming out on Twitter, and in a way there is a self peer review,” Ho says.

“Scientists who work on this around the world are able to form collaborations and are having really interesting conversations. And there are sensible voices that are emerging. People that you would follow because you know that they’re the expert in so many things,” she adds.

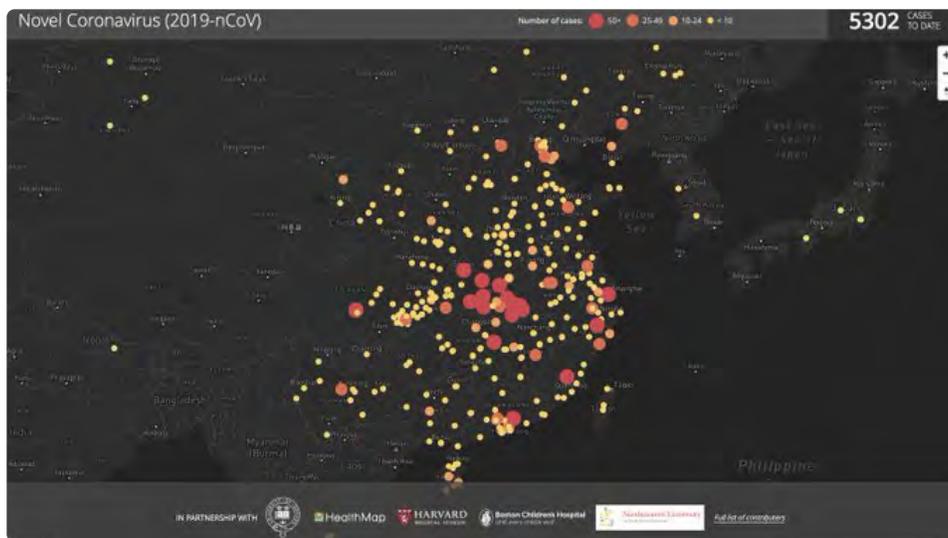


**John Brownstein**

@johnbrownstein

Our new real-time map of #nCov2019 is now up:[healthmap.org/ncov2019](http://healthmap.org/ncov2019)

features the amazingly detailed line list of cases produced partners at [@healthmap](#) [@UniofOxford](#) [@Tsinghua\\_Uni](#) [@IHME\\_UW](#) [@BostonChildrens](#) [@Northeastern](#) [@harvardmed](#)



152 6:36 AM - Jan 29, 2020

[130 people are talking about this](#)



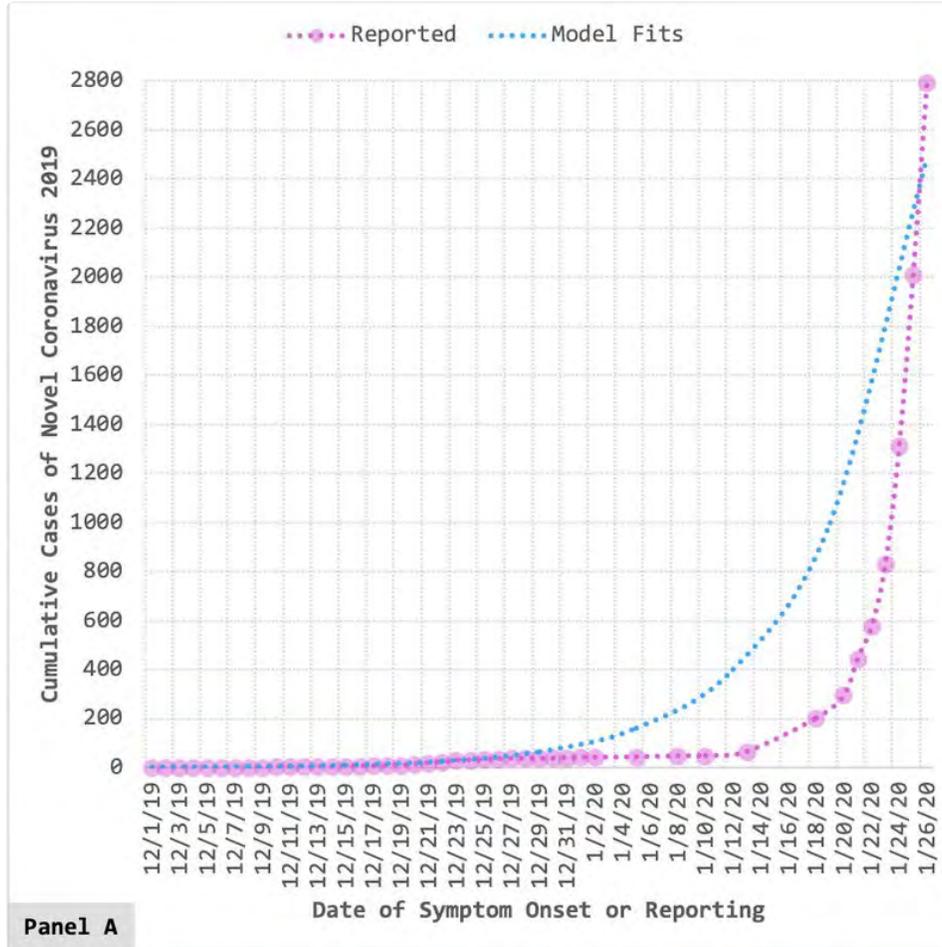
**Dr. Maia Majumder**

@maiamajumder

We've updated our transmissibility assessment for #nCoV2019! R\_0 estimates (based off of publicly reported confirmed cases through 1/26/20 & subject to change) remain ~stable, now ranging from 2.0 to 3.1.

Pre-print will be updated soon: [ssrn.com/abstract=35246...](https://ssrn.com/abstract=35246...)

See thread below. [twitter.com/maiamajumder/s...](https://twitter.com/maiamajumder/s...)

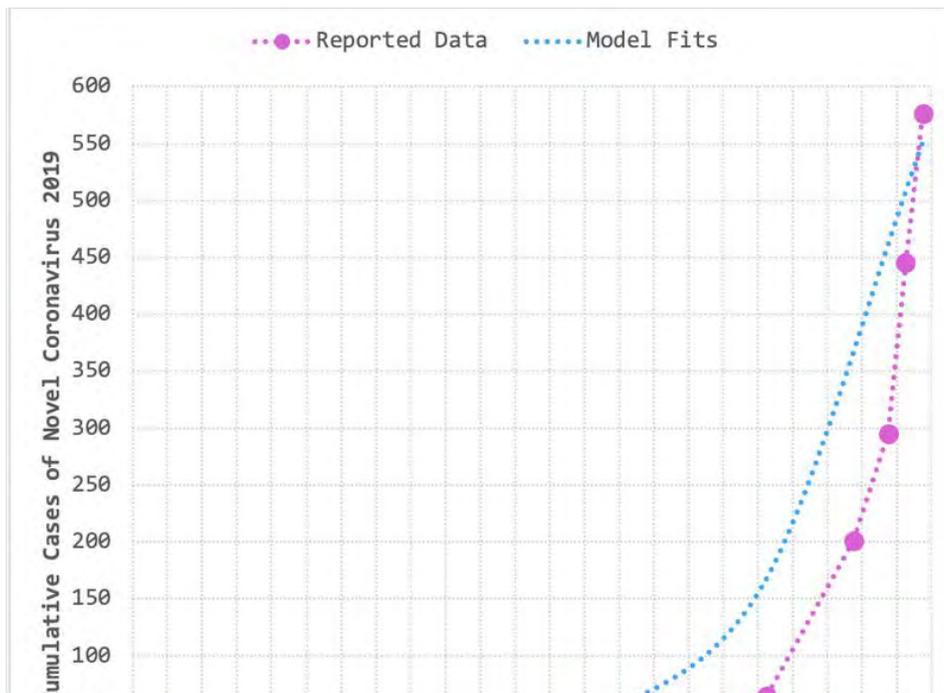


**Dr. Maia Majumder** @maiamajumder

New pre-print by myself & @mandl:

Early basic reproduction number estimates for #nCoV2019 range from 2.0 to 3.3 (based off of publicly reported confirmed cases through 1/22/20 & subject to change) [[ssrn.com/abstract=35246...](https://ssrn.com/abstract=35246...)].

Short explainer & several caveats in the thread below.



225 4:43 PM - Jan 26, 2020

185 people are talking about this



**Justin Lessler**

@JustinLessler

@JHIDDynamics folks have done some detailed analysis of case reports to get an estimate of the incubation period from public reports. Analysis at [github.com/HopkinsIDD/nco...](https://github.com/HopkinsIDD/nco) Nice work: @salauer\_biostat @khgrantz @qulu\_zheng @hanmered @QifangB @ForrestKJones (1/3)

34 10:16 PM - Jan 28, 2020

24 people are talking about this

WHO has also launched an initiative to counter misinformation known as the WHO Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN). The initiative shares accurate tailored information with targeted sectors impacted by the coronavirus, including healthcare, travel and tourism, business and food and agriculture.

“The spread of misinformation has been challenging but WHO is prepared for this. While the organization is known for fighting epidemics, it’s also fighting ‘infodemics,’” a WHO spokesperson said in an emailed statement to TIME. “[EPI-WIN] allows the organization to cut through the ‘noise’ by rapidly sending information through existing and trusted sources to the public. It’s like an injection of information.”

Sell says that tech companies have some responsibility to combat misinformation, but that alone is not enough to stop the spread of falsities.

“Being able to talk freely and post freely — those things are important,” Sell says. “An appropriate tech response to dealing with misinformation is critical, but I don’t think it’s sufficient... We would rather ourselves be able to determine what’s true or not true.”

# Global Media Juggernaut Eyes Lake Gregory

by Nick Kipley, Reporter | Posted: Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:39 am

On Thursday, Jan. 23, attendees of the joint-Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting held in the St. Moritz Lodge in Crestline were shown a presentation by Michael Krouse, Regional VP, Convention Centers West, of ASM Global.

Krouse's presentation promoted ASM Global as the solution to the current concessionaire vacancy at Lake Gregory. ASM Global recently put in a bid to be the concessionaire at Lake Gregory and won the bid process. The next step will be for San Bernardino County to award the company a contract that would make them responsible for maintaining the Lake Gregory recreational area and its facilities - including St. Moritz Lodge - in exchange for possessing tenancy of the large outdoor woodland venue.



Lake Gregory, Crestline at dusk

“ASM Global is in five continents. We serve 160 million guests annually. And we have about 23 million square feet of convention center space. We have 61,000 employees. We have 310 venues, and we have 2.7 million seats that we manage: meaning arenas, stadiums, parks that we serve, special event venues. Etcetera.” Krouse said.

And Krouse isn't exaggerating: ASM Global are a subsidiary of the Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG), the world's largest owner of sports teams and sports events and the world's second-largest presenter of live music and entertainment. AEG are headquartered at L.A. Live in Downtown Los Angeles adjacent to the Staples Center - which they own.

AEG also own the O2 Arena in London, the Los Angeles Kings hockey team, the Los Angeles Galaxy soccer team, the Colosseum at Caesar's Palace, the concert and festival promotional company Goldenvoice, the L.A. Convention Center, the Long Beach Convention Center, the Long Beach Aquarium, the Long Beach Grand Prix Racecourse, the Ontario Convention Center, the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles, and the Coachella Music Festival - among other interests.

AEG also own the company Xanterra, who are the concessionaire to Grand Canyon National Park, Glacier National Park, Mount Rushmore National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Zion National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park and The Oasis at Death Valley.

Following his introductory speech explaining how big the company is, Krouse played a short video promoting ASM's services. The video provided a glimpse into the sorts of projects the venue management company currently undertakes in the nearby Inland Empire city of Ontario's Greater Ontario Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

“We run the Ontario Convention Center. What was the Citizen’s Business Bank Arena - now the Toyota Arena, we got that naming rights deal by the way - and we also run premier food services, we run a little cafe for the city. And we run food services at the cultural center in Rancho Cucamonga - we’re partners with both cities.” Krouse said. “These folks are all local to us. We create an experience that is locally driven.”

Krouse went on to explain some of the locally-driven events he has helped facilitate for the City of Ontario.

“We run a little car show called the Route 66 Cruisin’ Reunion. Why is that important? It has 250,000 people that come to it every year. This one little show produces over a quarter-million people and over 2,000 automobiles. And did I mention it’s a free event?” Krouse said. “You have to keep in mind how these things can be created. Everything is customized for the area in which we’re doing things, so this example may not be for the Lake Gregory region, but it gives you an example of what we do.”

Krouse explained that the efforts of he and his team have generated more than \$459 million in economic impact for the region through events, conventions, signature hotels, restaurants, and shopping.

“This is what the tourism world does. The fifth-largest tourism economy is right here in California,” Krouse said. “Six-out-of-ten dollars are spent and attributed to visitors that come here. This is what drives jobs. This is what drives things for people to do. Both local and out-of-market folks.”

To further drive this point home and to conclude his presentation before the assembled MAC committee members, Krouse screened one more shot video showing off another event called “Christmas on Euclid,” held in Ontario’s ‘Town Square’ shopping area centered around Euclid Avenue between C and D streets. The video showed family-oriented activities, carnival-style games and concessions, and drone footage of pedestrianized streets turned into an outdoor event venue centered around the historic shopping district.

“This event could be modified and created for something experiential up here for example. And that one little event - and we also own, don’t forget - the historic Nativity Scenes on Euclid Avenue. So we also own all those, maintain all those, maintain them in their historic preservation, so we recondition them and created them back to their original. So it’s an example of something we would do here. We would take very good care of your assets and the things you have here and hopefully improve upon them and make them more valuable to the region.” Krouse said.

“So I’m not going to give away all my secrets,” Krouse added, “As soon as the contract is signed we will show you everything we have planned for Lake Gregory. I can tell you that the Supervisor (Janice Rutherford) has already seen what I mean. There are some things that are exciting that I’m not showing you. That’ll be at the big roll-out when we bring the confetti cannons and the whole big deal. Those are some examples of some things you have coming to this destination as they fit into the model, so you can see what I mean on the local side.”

Following Krouse’s speech, County Supervisor Janice Rutherford told the crowd that she would keep the community informed about next steps involved in bringing on ASM Global as the Lake Gregory concessionaire.

“When we find out that that matter is coming before the Board of Supervisors we will let you know so you can take part in that conversation.” Rutherford said, “We are excited to see the lake, and this property and

this park thrive so that the community can continue to thrive as well.”

# Church Campus on Highway 18 Receives Unanimous Approval

By Zev Blumenfeld, Reporter | Posted: Thursday, January 30, 2020 10:38 am

On Thursday, Jan. 23 the County of San Bernardino Planning Commission unanimously voted, 5 to 0, to approve the final environmental impact report (FEIR) for the Church of the Woods Project. The decision grants Church of the Woods a Conditional Use Permit, allowing them to develop the proposed church campus on 13.6 acres of the forested 27-acre parcel.



Church of the Woods final project site plan.

Since 2003, Church of the Woods has sought approval from the county to develop their Rimforest property along Highway 18 between Bear Springs Road and Daley Canyon. Opposition to the project cites numerous environmental dangers, including pollution in the runoff flowing into Little Bear Creek and continuing into Lake Arrowhead, destruction of habitat abutting the Strawberry Creek Corridor and soil erosion into Daley Canyon. According to the FEIR, up to seven traffic signals may be required to mitigate traffic flow.

Supporters of the project believe it will be beneficial for the community as it provides children with a safe hang out space, which ultimately, they predict will help alleviate the mountain communities of drug abuse, crime and suicide.

The hearing was held in the county chambers in San Bernardino. Additionally, a two-way, live video feed was implemented to create a remote site at the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station Community Room. Approximately 35 people, filled the room in Twin Peaks, watching the hearing on a monitor.

Commissioner of the Fourth District Gabriel Chavez introduced the format of the hearing. This was followed by a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Planner Tom Nieves read through general details about the project from the Planning Commission Staff Report. He showed maps of the proposed development area and spoke about the steps Church of the Woods has taken in reducing the size and scope of the project since 2003.

"The original project included a school and a large ball field facility..." Nieves said. "Over the years it has been scaled down to what we have before us today."

He continued, saying that adequate infrastructure and utilities exist to serve the proposed project. Nieves said that he and the planning staff recommended the planning commission approve the project as it will provide educational (and) recreational facilities for the Rimforest community.

Chavez thanked Nieves for the presentation and asked the commissioners if they had any questions.

Second District Planning Commissioner Raymond J. Allard inquired about the FEIR's mandated traffic signals.

“The correspondence this morning from transportation regarding the three traffic signals — it says install a signal prior to building permit but it is a little bit unclear to me, based on the previous paragraph. Are they designing a signal prior to (the issuance of the) building permit or are they installing the signal prior to (the issuance of the) building permit?” Allard asked.

“Ultimately there will be installation,” Nieves said. “The condition requires that the improvement plan proposed (and) developed by the applicant include the improvements necessary as spelled out there.”

Following the exchange, Church of the Woods pastor, Rod Akins, joined congregation member, advisor of the Church of the Woods project and President of Icon General Contractors, Patrick Hopkins, in addressing the commission. They played a video about the Church of the Woods and why they consider the project to be meaningful.

“Very good presentation,” Allard said, after the video had completed.

Allard voiced concerns about overflow parking from the site and instructed the planning department to include this in the final staff report. He also said that he hoped the church would consider natural landscaping.

“It would be nice if the landscaping blended in with the natural trees that are out there,” Allard said. “...I would certainly hope that you’d select a landscape architect that could blend it nicely.”

“Yes sir, absolutely,” Akins replied.

The majority of the five-hour hearing was dedicated to public comment. Those wanting to voice their opinion about the proposal were given three minutes each.

At the Twin Peaks site, participants were directed one-by-one to a computer desk where a webcam had been rigged. Those commenting spoke into the webcam and the feed was transmitted to San Bernardino.

Of the thirteen people to comment at the Twin Peaks site, two were in support of the project being built in the proposed location along Highway 18. However, Church of the Woods supporters were in the majority at the chambers.

Over forty people spoke about topics ranging from their love for Jesus to killing the natural plants and wildlife to saving the mountain communities from drugs and violence.

Ultimately, the Planning Commission voted unanimously, 5 to 0, to approve the final environmental impact report — granting the Church of the Woods a Conditional Use Permit. However, the decision may still be appealed by opponents of the project.

“If somebody files a formal appeal, then it would go before the Board of Supervisors,” said Second District Representative Lewis Murray. He continued saying that the Board of Supervisors will make the county’s final decision, but even after that, lawsuits could continue to stall any developing.

One of the two project supporters participating from the Twin Peaks site was Taylor Ramsey.

“I support Pastor Akins,” Ramsey said. “They need this facility for the children on this mountain.”

Many remain skeptical about just how open the church will be when it comes to allowing the general public use of the new facilities. Ramsey tried to address those concerns.

“I’m for the youth and the facilities. I know Pastor Akins — he doesn’t turn people away. He welcomes everybody.”

Trudie Blank, a Twin Peaks resident opposed to the project, also viewed the hearing from the remote site.

“I felt it ended up the way we all expected — that they would pass it,” Blank said. “They pass everything. They don’t seem to learn from their previous mistakes.”

She likened the Church of the Woods Project to the litany of failed developments that were approved by the county.

“They made a mistake Hawarden, (...) Eagle Ridge, (...) Mill Pond and they made a mistake with the Bridge to Nowhere. We will end up with a desecrated eyesore for the rest of our lives.”

# County Fire Welcomes New Chief

By Nick Kipley, Reporter | Posted: Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:37 am

On Thursday, Jan. 23, at the joint Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) Meeting held in the St. Moritz Lodge in Lake Gregory, San Bernardino County Supervisor Janice Rutherford introduced the new Fire Chief for the San Bernardino County, Daniel R. Munsey.

“How long have you been on the job Chief?” Rutherford asked.

“Sixty-two days and about, uh, eight hours?” Chief Munsey replied.

“Sixty-two days and eight hours!” Rutherford exclaimed, “That tells you something about the kind of guy that Dan is. And he has been trying to get out-and-about to the entire county, which as you know is about 25,000 square miles. How many fire stations?”

“I’d say about close to seventy right now.” Chief Munsey said.

The County interviewed people from all over the country who were interested in the job, and the applicants from other parts of the nation said that in their first 100 days they would visit every fire station in the county.

“And we looked at them and said: ‘I don’t think you’re gonna be able to do that, physically,’” Rutherford said. “So what was appealing to us about having Chief Munsey as someone who grew up in the San Bernardino County Fire Department was his knowledge of those existing stations, his relations with existing firefighters and his connection to the Board and our goals to modernize the fires service to figure out how we take advantage of technology in the modern era to better serve our constituents, and to help us solve some of the financial conundrums we are facing as a fire district.”

Following Supervisor Rutherford’s introduction, Munsey gave a speech introducing himself to the attendees at the MAC meeting which outlines his goals and aims as the new County Fire Chief in which he lauded Supervisor Rutherford’s outreach and communication efforts in conveying the needs of particular communities - especially the communities of the San Bernardino Mountains.

“I didn’t start in a big fire station. I was hired full-time with Lake Arrowhead - and that’s where I started.” Munsey said, “Lake Arrowhead at that time had three fire stations and since that time we’ve joined other fire districts and other fire departments have joined us and we have just become bigger and bigger and bigger.”



San Bernardino Fire Chief Daniel R. Munsey

“I dropped out of high school. Really. And I didn’t even have a GED. I went to Riverside Poly down in Riverside, and then moved to Joshua Tree to be a rock climber,” Munsey said. “And it was a great life. And I was climbing and my friend fell and broke his back, and I didn’t know what to do. So I went to EMT school. And in order to go to EMT school, I had to take my GED. And I struggled at EMT school, I think I barely made it with C’s - which doesn’t mean I was a terrible EMT but you don’t ever want a ‘C’ doctor or ‘C’ EMT working on you. But education started to become very important in my life and I started as a volunteer firefighter in Yucca Valley. And as you’re riding along, the firefighters started mentoring me and they convinced me that I needed to go to the fire academy. So I did. And then they convinced me that I needed to go to paramedic school. And I did a lot better in Paramedic school, I’m a great paramedic. And through time I’ve gone up and got my graduate degree and school became so important to me I got a 3.96 (GPA). So I tell this story to our youth, because if I can succeed - so can anybody. Trust me.”

Chief Munsey then outlined the three most important things he wishes to accomplish in his first 100 days on the job.

“First is communication,” Munsey said, “I mentioned that Supervisor Rutherford is communicating with me and it’s just as important that I’m communicating with her. Communicating with our local newspaper. Our local community. And communicating with our team and giving them information and coming up with a solid plan. I’m a planner. I don’t just show up to work and hope for the best and hope that everything is going to be all right. That’s not how I operate.”

“The second thing that’s really important to me is that we’re involved in our community,” Munsey said. “I don’t know if you heard but there’s this controversial parcel assessment that was passed? Anybody heard of that? I’m going to be approachable. And I want to answer questions. And I want to look into unique solutions to make sure our fire district is well-funded. I think everybody agrees, especially living up here in the mountains, that we want to keep our residences safe. It’s in the County’s vision. Public safety is very important. But just like you, I have to pay bills. I have four kids. Which means I have even less money than you. And all four of ‘em are working towards college. So I’m going to make sure we have great community connections, and I think our guys are doing a great job of that but I think that we really need to be part of the community and there are some problems we need to solve, and even though I’ve got a great team there are some problems we can’t solve without your help.”

“I’m talking in ‘C’s right now,” Munsey added. “First there was Communication, then there was Collaboration. The third thing I want to talk about is Cooperation with our partners. We’ve got Chief Jones up here from Cal Fire. We have the CHP. We have the US Forest Service. And of course, we have our Lieutenant (Lupear) over here from the Sheriff’s Department who are very important to the fire district and hopefully one day I’ll come up here and talk about some of the collaboration we do with the Sheriff because nobody else in the nation does what the Fire Department and the Sheriff does together. We need to solve our problems by working together. If the fire department is going to solve every problem then I’m going to need to ask you for even more money and I don’t think anybody will give me more money.”

“Will anybody give me more money?” Munsey joked.

“No.” Supervisor Rutherford said.

Chief Munsey moved on to explain the importance of what he called 'Community Risk Reduction.'

"So we ran 149,332 calls last year," Munsey said, "That's a lot. And I'm probably one of the few fire chiefs in the nation who will stand in front of you and say 'I'm sorry.' I look at that as 149,332 calls that are all failures. Because my job isn't to respond to calls. My job is to prevent calls from occurring. And you know this in the context of fire prevention: we have sprinklers and alarms and smoke detectors for early warnings. And over the years while we've done a good job of structure fires and preventing those from happening, we're not doing a really great job with some of the other things. Like the (Thanksgiving/Christmas) storm impacts."

"We've seen wildfires," Munsey continued, "How many of you were up here for the Grand Prix and Old Fires? Was it scary? Even from where you were (in Lake Gregory)? I was up here. We need to do everything we can to ever prevent these fires from starting."

"If you live in San Bernardino there are two or three fires we have every year and you can ask anybody that lives in San Bernardino who those fires are and they'll be able to tell you," Munsey said. "What are the locations of the fires that burn every year?"

Several audience members chimed in:

"Little Mountain."

"Waterman."

"40th (street)."

"Perris Hill."

"So what is predictable is preventable," Munsey said. "So if I know fires are gonna burn there am I just going to wait for our guys to respond? No."

Munsey then explained his strategy to prevent these sites from burning.

"So what would I do to keep Little Mountain from Burning?" Munsey asked.

"Put a fence around it!" an audience member replied.

"Keep people off of it, right. Well, we know that 67% of fires are caused by humans," Munsey said. "But I know there's also jurisdiction to put sheep on hills. There's jurisdiction that puts people and tools on those spaces. I know there's jurisdiction that uses retardant. And we actually have one of the nation's experts in here - Chief (Glenn) Barley who does that. Cal Fire does an excellent job. So we'll be very involved in community risk reduction."

"When you need us," Munsey concluded. "We're gonna be well-trained to respond. Your mountaintop firefighters have worked in some of the most extreme conditions known to man. These guys and gals are really great and I am just absolutely honored to lead them and absolutely honored to be your fire chief."



LOCAL NEWS

# Critics seek court's help to stop Eastgate project bound for San Bernardino airport

Three groups want an appellate court to take a second look at the logistics center's approval





Protesters said Wednesday, Jan. 22, including a Community Benefits Agreement with the Eastgate Air Cargo Logistics Center project would ensure surrounding neighborhoods are protected from air and noise pollution and additional truck traffic. (Photo by Brian Whitehead, The Sun/SCNG)

By **BRIAN WHITEHEAD** | [bwhitehead@scng.com](mailto:bwhitehead@scng.com) | San Bernardino Sun

PUBLISHED: January 30, 2020 at 1:11 pm | UPDATED: January 30, 2020 at 2:05 pm



The Federal Aviation Administration violated the National Environmental Policy Act last month in approving a massive air cargo logistics center at San Bernardino International Airport, environmentalists and a local labor union contend in a petition for review filed Wednesday, Jan. 29, with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The legal action, which asks the appellate court to take a second look at the FAA's approval of the Eastgate logistics center on Dec. 23, is the allied group's latest attempt to implore the federal agency to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the privately-funded project.

In the past two months, hundreds of members of the local San Bernardino Airport Communities Coalition have rallied outside an Amazon fulfillment center in town and inside the Ontario office of master developer Hillwood Enterprises.

The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Sierra Club and Teamsters Local 1932 name the FAA, San Bernardino International and Hillwood in the petition.

TOP ARTICLES 1/5



“The FAA has chosen to ignore the dirty impacts this new airport terminal will create for us, but by their own assessment it will pump one ton of toxic air pollution into San Bernardino every day,” Anthony Victoria, a spokesman for the Jurupa Valley-based Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, said in a news release. “Developers and corporations should be required to meet stringent standards if they’re trying to build in a community suffering from the nation’s worst air quality, not given free rein to deplete our quality of life in San Bernardino.”

Represented by Earthjustice and attorney Gideon Kracov, the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Sierra Club and Teamsters 1932 request the appellate court set aside the FAA’s approvals “because they are contrary to federal law and unsupported by a convincing

statement of reasons in the record.”

In his decision, released Dec. 23, Mark McClardy, FAA Western-Pacific Region Airports Division director, found the Eastgate project met federal requirements and would not significantly affect the environment.

This, despite state Attorney General Xavier Becerra noting in a letter to McClardy and Mark Gibbs, the airport's aviation director, that the Draft Environmental Assessment submitted to the FAA did not mention the significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality, climate change and noise identified by airport officials during a 2018 environmental review of the project.

Critics, similarly, argue that the FAA's own environmental assessment of the project reveals that, with Eastgate, future operations at San Bernardino International would pump one ton of air pollution into the community every day.

Airport officials did not immediately respond to requests for comments Thursday, Jan. 30.

Bound for a 101-acre lot west of Victoria Avenue and south of Third Street, the Eastgate logistics center, a nearly 660,000-square-foot sorting facility at the former Norton Air Force Base, is expected to provide about 4,000 jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue within five years.

Amazon, for whom Hillwood has built more than a dozen facilities nationwide, is a rumored tenant.

Late last month, after receiving the FAA's blessing, the San Bernardino International Airport Authority, a commission of regional leaders overseeing airport operations, unanimously approved a 35-year ground lease with Hillwood for the development of about 100 acres of land at the airport, including the space for Eastgate.

Opponents have asked the appellate court to vacate the

ground lease.

As they have since the plans were announced early last year, critics continue to fight for the inclusion of a Community Benefits Agreement in the project.

Such a pact, they say, could resemble the one reached in 2004 between the Los Angeles World Airports and LAX Coalition. That agreement includes funding of an aircraft noise mitigation program; scheduled noise mitigation work; restrictions on nighttime departures to reduce noise; job training for airport and aviation-related jobs; a local hire requirement; a living wage; an air quality study; and other mutually-beneficial conditions.

Last month, John Magness, senior vice president and West Coast market leader for Hillwood, said including such an agreement in the Eastgate project would violate FAA grant assurances and deed restrictions.

“While federal law restricts the use of airport revenues,” Deanna Kitamura, a senior staff attorney for Oakland-based Partnership for Working Families, writes in a letter to the San Bernardino coalition, “programs and requirements adopted by other airport authorities demonstrate that the federal restriction does not prevent the SBIAA from entering into a comprehensive community benefits agreement.

“Furthermore,” Kitamura adds, “nothing in the federal revenue restrictions limits Hillwood or the future tenants of Hillwood from entering into a community benefits agreement with the coalition.”

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# DAILY BULLETIN

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NEWS  CRIME + PUBLIC SAFETY

## Guilty pleas of aiding San Bernardino terror attack should be tossed, attorney says



Enrique Marquez Jr., of Riverside, shown in a courtroom sketch at a December 2015 hearing in U.S. District Court in Riverside, is now scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 6, 2017, after pleading guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists and making false statements in connection with the acquisition of a firearm. Sentencing had previously been scheduled for Aug. 21, 2017. (Bill Robles, The Associated Press) ORG XMIT: RIV1702141518102284

By **BRIAN ROKOS** | brokos@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: January 30, 2020 at 1:07 pm | UPDATED: January 30, 2020 at 3:45 pm



A Riverside man's guilty pleas that he bought AR-style rifles used by two terrorists to kill 14 people and wound 22 in the Dec. 2, 2015 terrorist attack in San Bernardino should be thrown out, because the government wrongly aligned the gun purchases with plans for two earlier, aborted attacks, his attorney said Thursday.

During the federal court hearing for Enrique Marquez Jr. Thursday, Jan. 30, in Riverside, a third abandoned attack was mentioned — apparently for the first time — on a Veteran's Administration hospital.

Marquez wants U.S. District Judge Jesus G. Bernal to withdraw his February 2017 pleas of conspiring to supply material — the rifles and explosive power — to terrorists, and for being a straw buyer of one of the guns.

In testimony Thursday, a psychiatrist who examined Marquez said the 28-year-old is under medication after being diagnosed with bipolar disorder 2, which is characterized by cyclical mood swings. He said immediately after the attack Marquez planned to drive off a pier, but a chain blocked his path.

TOP ARTICLES 1/5



Dr. Saul Faerstein also told defense attorney John Aquilina that Marquez has made conflicting statements about attacks planned — but not carried out — by him and Syed Rizwan Farook a few years before the San Bernardino massacre.

Marquez and Farook had once discussed the gun-and-homemade bomb attacks on the Riverside

City College campus and the 91 Freeway, a government affidavit filed early in the case said.

Prosecutors have said Marquez was unaware of plans by former Riverside neighbor Farook and Farook's wife, Tashfeen Malik, to commit the massacre at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

Thursday, Faerstein also testified that the two men also had talked about shooting up a Veterans Administration hospital. Their friendship had ended before the San Bernardino attack, and Faerstein said that came in late 2012, when Farook physically attacked Marquez.

There was no immediate additional information on the hospital attack plans. Both men lived in Riverside at the time they were discussing the unrealized attacks, and the nearest VA hospital to them would have been in Loma Linda.

The mention of the Veterans Hospital attack Thursday by Faerstein appears to be the first in the four-year-old case.

Documents from both sides of the case which might have those details are sealed. The prosecution has a motion before Bernal to release the contents of the withdrawal motion documents. The defense opposes that.

While Faerstein said Marquez was rational in his reasons for his plea — to spare victims and friends a trial and a sense of responsibility for the attack — the doctor also said Marquez had made contradictory statements to the FBI and to doctors.

Those included Marquez's accounts of chat room activity, whether there were firm plans to wage attacks on 91 Freeway motorists and RCC campus, and whether Marquez built an explosive device..

In court Thursday, Marquez was wearing a white jail jumpsuit. His black hair was closely cropped, with

a buzz cut in the back.

Some victims of the shooting, and surviving family members of those who were killed, also were in the courtroom.

The two rifles and black powder were purchased by Marquez in late 2011 and early 2012 as part of the aborted attack plots, according to an FBI affidavit filed in the case.

But Farook kept the rifles and gunpowder and used them in the 2015 attack on Farook's co-workers from the San Bernardino County Division of Environmental Health during a combined training session and holiday party. One of the victims who died worked at the IRC.

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This July 27, 2014 file photo shows Tashfeen Malik, left, and her husband, Syed Farook, at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. (U.S. Customs and Border Protection via AP)

The Redlands couple who carried out the attack died the same day in a shootout with law enforcement.

But Aquilina countered that the guns were not purchased in conjunction with planning the 91 Freeway and Riverside City College attacks. The guns were bought in November 2011 and February 2012, but discussions about the twin attacks were after that, in summer 2012, Aquilina said.

The attempt to disassociate the gun purchases with the terror planning seemed designed to

undermine the reason for the guilty plea to providing material support to a terrorist.

The hearing resumed at 1:30 p.m. Bernal also has scheduled Friday to hear the matter.

Marquez told FBI agents that Farook wanted him to buy the guns because he believed it would deflect suspicion that might be raised if a Middle Eastern-looking man bought them.

Farook bought both guns from Marquez, the affidavit said. Agents said Farook had radicalized Marquez, but Faerstein said Thursday that Marquez told him “Farook was getting too preachy, and that it was exhausting.”

The government recommended a sentence of 25 years for Marquez in the plea deal he now wants to end.

Marquez remains in federal custody.

*Staff writer Richard K. De Atley contributed to this report.*

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

RELATED ARTICLES



**BUSINESS**

# Inland Empire leads nation in major warehouse deals — by a lot

E-commerce made companies hungrier in 2019





This 1 million-square-foot fulfillment center in Riverside's Columbia Business Park, currently leased to Nordstrom, was sold for more than \$123 million. (Photo courtesy of Trammell Crow Co.)

By **JACK KATZANEK** | [jkatzanek@scng.com](mailto:jkatzanek@scng.com) |

PUBLISHED: January 30, 2020 at 2:16 pm | UPDATED: January 30, 2020 at 2:47 pm



Expanding online retailing has driven up the demand for warehouse space across the country, but nowhere as much as in the Inland Empire, according to new data from CBRE.

More than a fifth of the nation's largest lease deals in 2019 involved San Bernardino and Riverside county properties, the commercial brokerage reported Monday. Of the 100 biggest deals — based on the buildings' square footage — Inland Empire logistics operators signed 21 leases for 17.5 million square feet.

That list includes industrial buildings ranging in size from 598,000 to 1.4 million square feet. One of 2019's biggest new tenants is Nordstrom, which leased a 1 million-square-foot warehouse in Riverside's Hunter Park area.

The second-largest market, in central Pennsylvania, saw 7.5 million square feet of space leased last year for eight properties.

ADVERTISING

E-commerce-related logistics operators drove up lease demand for warehouses in 2019, along with a sharp uptick for food and beverage distribution sites as retailers beefed up their home-delivery operations.

The Inland area was at the top of a similar study a year ago and has been a leading market for longer than that, said Kurt Strasmann, executive managing director for CBRE's Southern California operations.

"It's amazing that the market continues to thrive after five years of just unbelievable development and absorption," Strasmann said. "It proves that the Inland Empire is the most dynamic region in the country."

The region's proximity to Southern California's ports and 20 million consumers within a 60-mile radius are key to the region's distribution dominance.

Strasmann said CBRE's research found that half of all the merchandise shipped from Asia to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach do not travel any farther than Phoenix before someone buys it.

Added to the mix is the economic infrastructure of the region, which includes a workforce of about 141,000 Inland Empire workers employed in logistics-related jobs in December, according to state data. With some 73,000 people as listed as unemployed, the workforce still has room to expand.

“The business infrastructure is mature and it’s deep,” Strasmann said. “It’s all of it, and a labor pool is a big part of that. The Inland Empire is basically five years ahead of the rest of the market.”

Most of the warehouses CBRE studied nationwide are newly built and are considered “big box” facilities, with at least 500,000 square feet of space. The runner-up corridor in Pennsylvania carries goods primarily between the New York City ports and the Midwest and mid-south locations such as Tennessee.

The other top markets for leased square footage among the top five were Memphis, Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta.

Locally the vacancy rate in the fourth quarter of 2019 was 4.1%, with very few large vacant warehouses in western communities such as Eastvale, Chino and Ontario.

More than 19 million square feet of new space was under construction as the year ended. Almost one-third of the owners of those warehouses have already arranged leases with users, and the average rent was 7% higher than it was a year ago.

The average rent of 61 cents per square foot means the operator of 500,000-square-foot building is paying a monthly rent of \$305,000.

CBRE reported that, among the 100 largest industrial property deals arranged in 2019, third-party operators signed leases for 40 of them and 22 were leased by e-commerce companies.

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# The Daily Independent

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## IWV groundwater plan approved

By Jack Barnwell

Staff Writer

Posted at 3:04 PM

With the bang of a gavel, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority board of directors passed its groundwater sustainability plan following years of planning and heavy debate.

“We have a GSP,” said Kern County Supervisor Mick Gleason, the board chair.

The plan establishes the start of a roadmap that will carry the IWV groundwater basin to sustainability by 2040. It targets a reduction in pumping to the current natural recharge of 7,650 acre-feet per year by that time in order to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

According to the GSP documents and various studies, the current estimated annual pumping of 26,800 to 28,000 acre-feet exceeds the natural recharge. Any needed water in excess of the natural recharge will eventually need to be imported, as outlined in one of two potential projects.

The plan passed 4-1, with Inyo County representative John Vallejo voting no. Vallejo explained his vote was due to the imported water component which contains an option to take water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Water is wheeled from Owens Valley to Los Angeles, something that has long been a contentious issue for Inyo County.

“Inyo County does support the concept of importing water into the basin, but Inyo County does not support fixing a self-inflicted crisis with a project that threatens the long-term health of its environment

and its economy,” Vallejo said.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires that all basins in critical overdraft, such as the IWV, manage the pumping and achieve a sustainable safe yield without negative impacts or damage to the aquifer. The GSP provides a local alternative in place of state control and regulations.

Its priority also emphasizes Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, which has federal reserve rights and is the basin’s largest employer, and domestic water users and agencies above others for planned allocations. Agriculture wouldn’t receive an allocation; instead, those stakeholders would be lumped into a “transient pool” of 46,000 acre-feet total.

With the plan approved by the IWVGA, it will be submitted to the Department of Water Resources by Jan. 31. It is expected to take up to two years for the state to approve it, but the GA can implement its policies during the waiting period.

Several people spoke during public comment on the plan, on top of the dozens of comments received from individuals or groups. According to Jeff Helsley of Stetson Engineers, the plan’s developer, submitted comments amounted to more than 800 individual items.

The public’s comments Thursday ranged from an appreciation for work done to the potential impact its policies and projects will have on the basin’s residents and businesses.

Attorney Elisabeth L. Esposito, representing Mojave Pistachios and Nugent Family Trust, claimed the GSP will have a negative impact on farms in the basin. Mojave Pistachios has invested \$25 million alone in developing its orchards, labor and other costs over nearly a decade, and has yet to harvest its first crop.

Esposito said denying water allocations to agriculture stakeholders without just compensation clashes with the California constitution. The plan would set aside a one-time 46,000 acre-foot “block” of water doled

out to farms; once that amount is gone, farmers who continue to pump would have to pay an “augmentation” fee, which has yet to be set.

“Although the plan does include a fallowing program, the payment under that program is inadequate to compensate participants for their investment,” Esposito said. Esposito noted the \$9 million cited in the GSP for the fallowing program won’t cut it given Mojave Pistachio’s investment alone.

Esposito also said excluding farmers from the allocation process means they will bear the brunt of augmentation fees, thus subsidizing the cost of importing water into the basin.

“This runs afoul of the constitutional requirement that fees must bear a reasonable relationship to payor’s burden on or benefits received from the governmental activity,” she said. She added the plan’s “draconian approach” would “essentially eviscerate agriculture in the Indian Wells Valley.”

She asked that allocations be granted to all users in the valley, proportional to the investments in the valley and allow for a reasonable ramp-down of pumping over 20 years.

Ridgecrest resident Sophia Merk said Kern County failed to do its due diligence because it continued to approve well-drilling permits during the GSP planning process. She added San Bernardino and Inyo Counties were more restrictive in their respective parts of the basin.

Merk also called the plan inequitable to farmers, “who all bought their own property” and failed to take into consideration the investment they made in their individual farms.

Resident Pat Farris said the plan’s inclusion of water table decline contrasts with estimates made by the county. She said the average drop averages a half-foot annually, while the plan claims a decline of foot to 18 inches.

“I can’t imagine why we would make things look worse than they are,” Farris said.

Don Decker, a member of the GA’s technical advisory committee, but speaking for himself, said the plan, for the most part, is a detailed outline.

“There is a huge amount of detail that isn’t there yet,” Decker said. “Whether or not the plan will work remains to be seen.”

He cited the number of legal challenges expected to come is of great concern. He added the plan remains saddled with conflict of interest issues among the individual GA member agencies.

“Various parties that are in the joint effort are now expected to solve an overdraft problem that has been largely ignored by those agencies for many decades,” Decker said.

He cited growth as a concern, especially as Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake tenants may look to expand programs and the IWV Water District projects a 1% annual growth for its own needs.

“Growth is something the [GA] board is going to have to address directly,” Decker said. “It cannot be ignored and in the mode we are in now, any growth that occurs must be identified as something important to this basin and the Navy.”

Resident Wes Katzenstein said the plan needs to eventually include an alternative should imported water proves to be a nonviable solution.

“I hope we are successful in importing water but eventually we need a branching point if we aren’t successful,” Katzenstein said.

Construction business owner Chuck Griffin, a former IWV Water District board member, said while he supports SGMA, the plan does an injustice to farmers and businesses due to the potential cost of imported

water. He said there are solutions available in the basin that isn't being pursued.

"Everything we do has a trickle-down effect and will affect business," Griffin said. "My business depends on growth, so are we going to end it? Without growth, we don't survive."

Griffin added the impact on Searles Valley Minerals in Trona could also be hard, as it requires water for its operations and for the residents of Trona, which is distributed through the Searles Domestic Water Company. SVM pipes its water from wells it owns in the IWV basin.

Camille Anderson, of Searles Valley Minerals, noted that the plan eschews critical details of main management actions, its project timetables optimistic and costs understated.

Resident Mike Neel drove home a point of what he said most residents care about the most: what it will cost them.

"Imagine how people react if people find out they will have to pay \$1,000 or more a year to get water through their tap," Neel said, giving his own estimate for potential future water costs. "It's not going to be pretty."

### **Board comment**

The board recessed briefly following public comment before coming back to vote

Ron Kicinski, representing IWV Water District, said while he agreed with many public comments, the basin needs to reach sustainability soon.

"This plan is a framework and adaptive, it will be amended and refined," Kicinski said. "I believe once the plan is in place, a lot of hard work will take place."

San Bernardino County representative Bob Page said the GA reached a critical step.

“We do have a lot of difficult work in front of us and welcome all stakeholders to continue to achieve the goals we’ve set out,” Page said. He noted the plan contains one critical element many others may lack: a sustainable goal.

“It establishes a number we believe it is what we need to live with ... there are basins out there that spend years debating and arguing over the number itself,” Page said. “Now that we have that number, we’ve got to figure out how we can live within it and supplement it and finance it.”

He agreed the hard truth is that the price of water will go up “but that’s the true cost of making sure we have water in the future.”

Ridgecrest Councilman Scott Hayman said he was optimistic about the plan.

“I’m optimistic that we are going to get to where we need to be,” Hayman said. “The future of our existence is pretty much based on this one issue.”

Gleason, in voting on the plan, said plenty remains to be done, from establishing fees to fund the GSP’s programs to restructuring the IWVGA as it moves forward.

“This is a big moment in the history of our valley,” Gleason said. “The primary reason for this GSP is about self-determination ... we need to shape our own future because it is unacceptable for the state to come in and define that future.”

Gleason said the plan has to be nimble to accommodate changes in climate, scales of economy and government.

“We have so much work ahead of us to do,” Gleason said. “We need to regulate water use in the Indian Wells Valley ... we have to come to grips with that. ”

The plan will be submitted to the state for review by Jan. 31, but will be in effect during that review process.

▀

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## Reassess properties, close loopholes

Allan Baker Morongo Valley

Jan 30, 2020

This letter is in response a letter by Jim Sammons published Jan. 23.

Mr. Sammons' comments are misleading.

Forty-plus years ago, I think neither commercial property owners nor the Howard Jarvis Tax Group realized that the property tax load would shift to homeowners under Prop. 13. The best proof of this is that neither the Democrats nor Jerry Brown are trying to protect the unjust taxation caused by increasing property taxes due to rapidly increasing property values, driving people with fixed incomes from their homes, used this argument.

It was only over time that people realize what was happening. Now we know. The solution is simple. Commercial properties, rental properties, and vacation properties should be reassessed periodically at the average time span that personal property changes hands.

Also, inherited, other than spousal property, should be reassessed. Also, the loophole the allows property changing hands with no new owner getting 50 percent or more of the title to escape reassessment should be eliminated.

It is interesting that falling house prices i.e. the Great Recession, have often aligned market prices with Prop. 13 prices.

For instance, San Bernardino County annually reassesses homes based on homes sales of similar value in the area. My notice for 2019-2020 shows my valuation is \$15,790 less than the Prop. 13 allowable valuation.

Has Mr. Sammons checked his Assessment Notice?

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LOCAL NEWS • News

# Snow play in mountains trashes Mt. Baldy, Wrightwood and forest

## Volunteer cleanup drafted 30 people





Volunteers pick up trash in Manker Flats and the Mt. Baldy area on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. The group nearly filled a large roll-off bin. (photo courtesy of Sean Khao).

By **STEVE SCAUZILLO** | [sscauzillo@scng.com](mailto:sscauzillo@scng.com) | San Gabriel Valley Tribune  
PUBLISHED: January 30, 2020 at 12:07 pm | UPDATED: January 30, 2020 at 12:07 pm



To the millions of valley dwellers, snow in the mountains means fun. But to the mountain residents, the winter wonderland means thousands of visitors who jam

roads, leaving trash and human waste along pristine mountain slopes.

For the past few weeks, residents of Mt. Baldy and Wrightwood in the Angeles National Forest simply couldn't stand it any longer. When they concluded the U.S. Forest Service, with one person assigned to handle the trash problem, couldn't keep up, they sprung into action.

Using Facebook and traditional media, a call for volunteers went out for mountain cleanups on the past two weekends. After only seven people showed up on Jan. 19, organizer Sean Khao expressed thanks but a reality check is evident from her Facebook message posted two days later:

"We barely made a dent," Khao, 41, wrote. "Every so often when I looked up, I would get hit with anger and despair. I had only heard of this happening every year, but seeing it with my own eyes rendered me speechless."

TOP ARTICLES 1/5

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For the following cleanup day that took place on Saturday, Jan. 25, more than 30 people showed up. They came from Pasadena, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga and Los Angeles, Khao said. “It was great to see families bring their kids,” she said.

The volunteers cleaned Ice House Canyon, Manker Flats campground and the hills nearby used by weekend sledders. They nearly filled a giant roll-off bin with trash.



Volunteers collected shards of plastic from broken sleds during a cleanup day near Mt. Baldy on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. (photo courtesy of Sean Khao).

recent cleanup:

They collected broken pieces of plastic sleds, beer and wine bottles, Capri Sun foil pouches, underwear, socks, pieces of boots, dirty diapers, Styrofoam cups, chips bags and food waste left behind by the streams of weekend visitors, Khao reported.

Volunteers filled bags with human waste from folks who defecated beneath trees or on the snow-covered slopes, she said. “The waste of thousands of people is going to get washed down to our streams, which supplies drinking water for the cities below,” Khao warned.

Khao expressed a dual message during an interview on Monday, Jan. 27, after the

“By the time we were done, there was a huge, huge difference.” However, in the long-term, the situation is not getting better.

“Unfortunately, the next time we get snow this will happen again,” she added.

Khao sought help in publicizing her cleanups from Graham Hendrickson, fire chief of the Mt. Baldy Fire Department, an all-volunteer organization, who posted the cleanup day on his Facebook page.

He alerted social media and traditional print and electronic news organizations, hoping to drum up support and also make a point.

“We are trying to raise awareness of how bad it gets and the lack of U.S. Forest Service employees available to help clean up,” he wrote in an emailed response.

The U.S. Forest Service says it employs recreational technicians to help with trash removal and keeping the restrooms clean, said Nathan Judy, spokesman.

“Unfortunately, you can clean it, and 10 minutes later up there the trash is back and the restrooms are dirty again. It is a continual job for the recreation technicians,” said Judy during an interview Monday.

Litter from snow-players is a problem in Wrightwood as well, Judy said. Since the line between the Angeles and the San Bernardino National Forest runs through that community, it creates a jurisdictional issue, he said.

People leave trash and broken pieces of plastic sleds off Highway 2 and Lone Pine Canyon Road in the Wrightwood area. Trash is strewn on people’s front lawns, residents said.

“Often people find it hard to get the refuse into the trash cans if there is a lot of stuff in them,” he said. Khao and Hendrickson said they are often filled to overflowing, so visitors leave trash *next* to the bins not in them.

“Trash receptacles and restrooms can’t accommodate the amount of visitors (during weekends),” Khao said. “The Forest Service must get more funding and staffing. This is my backyard.”

The lack of resources is nothing new for the USFS trying to maintain the 700,000-acre Angeles, which is an hour or less drive from more than 20 million Southern Californians and receives close to 4 million visitors a year.

The area in question is along the eastern edge of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, a part of the Angeles specially designated for recreation and resource protection by President Barack Obama in 2014.

Though the monument designation has enabled the Forest Service to receive millions in extra corporate donations, the USFS still relies on 20 different volunteer groups for everything from picking up trash to trail restoration, Judy said.

“Any help we get across the forest we really appreciate,” he said.

To contact the Angeles Volunteer Association, go to [angelesvolunteers.org](http://angelesvolunteers.org) or write them at P.O. Box 611, Glendora, CA 91740. Meetings are held 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Church of the Brethren, 151 S. Glendora Ave., Glendora, CA 91741.

[https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/volunteers-join-the-point-in-time-homeless-count/article\\_95b145b2-439b-11ea-8ce8-973f3dfefbc3.html](https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/volunteers-join-the-point-in-time-homeless-count/article_95b145b2-439b-11ea-8ce8-973f3dfefbc3.html)

EDITOR'S PICK

## Volunteers join the Point-in-Time homeless count

By ALEJANDRO CANO Reporter Redlands Community News  
Jan 30, 2020

An army of volunteers canvassed in the streets of San Bernardino County counting the homeless early Thursday, Jan. 23.

It was the 2020 Point-in-Time organized and supervised by the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership in collaboration with the Office of Homeless Services and consultation with the Institute for Urban Initiatives.

According to Point-in-Time Count coordinator in Redlands Judy Cannon, similar events count sheltered people and homeless youth. Cannon said that at least 65 volunteers canvassed the Redlands streets to interact with the homeless and document the numbers.

“We found that there were many people in shelters but we also found out many people sleeping in tents installed at local parks and other empty lots,” said Cannon.

The results of the count should be revealed in about two months, she said.

According to the 2019 count, Redlands had the third largest homeless population in the San Bernardino County, totaling 183 homeless people, of which 141 were unsheltered.

In 2018, volunteers counted 143 homeless people in Redlands, 136 unsheltered. The growing rate from 2018 to 2019 was experienced throughout the county. According to the 2019 count, there were 2,607 homeless people in the county, 489 more compared to 2018, an increase of 23.1 percent.

Cannon said Redlands is doing what it can but more is needed. She said the Liberty Lane project, an 80-unit apartment complex planned at Texas Street and Lugonia Avenue to combat homelessness, is a “step in the right direction.”

“Redlands needs to concentrate on more housing developments. There is not one single solution but more housing is definitely needed,” she said.

Cannon said that the community as a whole need to be more tolerant of the homeless population and those with negative thoughts about them should participate in future counts to get a sense of what they go through on a daily basis and to understand the struggles the face.

“The count is a positive experience and many more people should do it. It opens eyes. It is safe and at the dne of the day it makes you realize that homeless people are human beings,” she said.

The last official count in 2019 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development registered 151,278 homeless people in California.

The count was performed two days after the Redlands City Council approved forming an Ad Hoc Committee to assist city staff in the exploration of options to address the issue in the city. Mayor Paul Foster and Councilwoman Toni Momberger were appointed to the committee. They will work closely with Family Service Association to continue exploring solutions.

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James Folmer  
editor

LOCAL NEWS • News

# Bill would create agency to build Gold Line to Ontario International Airport



A Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension 2A train is seen Feb. 17, 2016. A new bill would create a new construction authority to build a line to Ontario International Airport. (Photo by Walt Mancini/SCNG)

By **STEVE SCAUZILLO** | [sscauzillo@scng.com](mailto:sscauzillo@scng.com) | San Gabriel Valley Tribune

PUBLISHED: January 30, 2020 at 6:04 pm | UPDATED: January 30, 2020 at 6:13 pm

A San Gabriel Valley assemblyman wants to form a separate construction agency to build the Gold Line light-rail train to Ontario International Airport.

Assemblyman Chris Holden, D-Pasadena, introduced a bill this week that would create the West San Bernardino County Rail Construction Authority to design and build a 6-mile extension of the popular passenger train from Montclair to Ontario airport.

The bill is patterned after one in 1999 by then-state Sen. Adam Schiff. Schiff's Senate Bill 1847 created the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, taking it out of the hands of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Rep. Adam Schiff is interviewed at the Gold Line Foothill Extension ground-breaking ceremony at Citrus College in Glendora on Dec. 2, 2017. (Photo by Steve Scauzillo, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG).

Now-Rep. Schiff, who recently led the House of Representatives in the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, is known in the San Gabriel Valley as the “Father of the Gold Line” for acting when the project was being delayed. Holden said he’s patterning his bill after Schiff’s. The authority finished the line to Pasadena in 2003, then to Azusa in 2016. A third leg is under construction by the authority that will extend the train to Pomona by 2025.

Plans ran into a snag last year when rising costs prevented construction of the line to Claremont and into Montclair in San Bernardino County. That final portion remain uncertain, as Metro, the authority and lawmakers search for gap funding of about \$550 million.

“This bill would be a carve out of the project from the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority,” Holden said Thursday, Jan. 30.

The San Bernardino County authority has moved away from building the Gold Line into San Bernardino County. Instead, it is pursuing an experimental project involving smaller, diesel trains along Metrolink tracks. Holden said those plans would move passengers on the new Metrolink service from Pomona to Rancho Cucamonga, and possibly to Ontario airport, leaving out Claremont and Montclair.

His bill would honor the longstanding commitment to bring the line to Claremont and Montclair.

“My concern is similar to what the concern was when Metro was downplaying the Gold Line, which was the Blue Line then,” Holden said. “It kept getting dropped down on the priority list.”

He said the San Bernardino County authority has many other priorities and his bill will place the project atop the list.

“This will give it focus to move beyond just talking and say at some point in the future there will be rail from Los Angeles County to Ontario International Airport,” Holden said.

The San Bernardino County authority and Holden have discussed the idea of a separate rail construction authority for the airport light-rail link since December. But the agency on Thursday said the proposal is a non-starter.

“I, along with a few select members of our Board, shared our opinion that the creation of a new construction authority is unnecessary to successfully plan and construct the desired passenger rail connection to Ontario International Airport in San Bernardino County,” wrote Darcy McNaboe, San Bernardino authority’s board president.

“From our perspective this new entity would make the desired transit project more costly and serve to increase the time for project delivery,” McNaboe said in an emailed response.

Holden said he would like to continue talking to the authority and could amend his legislation to allow the agency to take on the Ontario Airport project, but wanted to ensure that would include going through Claremont and Montclair.

“This is a start of a conversation around a rail project with tremendous regional value, both for San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County as well,” he said.

McNaboe disagreed, saying Holden’s bill is not beneficial to the Inland Empire.

“Instead of creating a new government entity focused on constructing a project that primarily benefits Los Angeles County at the expense of San Bernardino County, we encourage the Assembly member to collaborate with SBCTA to address the issue of airport connectivity in a more meaningful and realistic way.”

The bill and other transportation issues will be discussed at a hearing put on by Holden on Friday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ontario City Hall, 303 E. “B” St., Ontario.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/affordable-housing-units-for-families-will-be-built-in-fontana/article\\_18ead57a-42e2-11ea-99ff-6f62bad4a198.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/affordable-housing-units-for-families-will-be-built-in-fontana/article_18ead57a-42e2-11ea-99ff-6f62bad4a198.html)

## Affordable housing units for 60 families will be built in Fontana

By RUSSELL INGOLD

Jan 29, 2020



Members of the Fontana City Council and officials with Jamboree Housing Corporation participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Sierra Avenue Apartments on Jan. 29. (Herald News photo by Russell Ingold)

Affordable housing units for 60 families will be opening in Fontana next year, thanks to a collaboration between the City of Fontana and Jamboree Housing Corporation.

The city held a groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 29 for the Sierra Avenue Apartments, a \$23 million development that will be built at 16839 Ramona Avenue in the northern area of Fontana.



Officials said the project is significant not only because it helps further the city's goal to promote more affordable housing, but also because it will include a comprehensive health clinic for local residents.

"This is a testament to how we can do things in Fontana, and do them well," said City Councilmember Jesse Armendarez, who spoke during the ceremony while strong winds rattled the tent that had been set up on an empty lot for the occasion.

Jamboree has partnered with the Fontana Housing Authority for 15 years to create more than 350 units of affordable housing.

"The City of Fontana is dedicated to providing our residents with attainable homes of the highest quality," said Mayor Acquanetta Warren. "With amenities such as a computer lab, community garden, free resident services, and an onsite health and wellness clinic, Sierra Avenue is a true testament of our commitment to excellence."

When completed in the spring of 2021, the complex will offer one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments that border Juniper Elementary School to the west and Sierra Avenue to the east.

Residents will pay about \$400 to \$1,120 in monthly rent, depending on family size and income level, Jamboree officials said.

Armendarez said the complex will have "top-notch amenities," including an approximately 5,000-square-foot community building that will house flexible recreational space, onsite management offices, kitchen facilities, and a computer lab where free onsite resident services will be provided.

Sierra Avenue Apartments will feature a 3,000-square-foot health and wellness clinic onsite as part of Jamboree's new partnership with Cucamonga Valley Medical Group. The clinic will offer residents and community members access to health education classes, flu shots, immunization services, and sick childcare services, officials said.



# DAILY BULLETIN

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Sam Maloof furniture exhibit in Ontario fills 2 museums





This iconic rocking chair is part of a twin exhibit devoted to the work of the late woodworker Sam Maloof. (Photo by David Allen, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

By **DAVID ALLEN** | [dallen@scng.com](mailto:dallen@scng.com) | Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

PUBLISHED: January 30, 2020 at 3:25 pm | UPDATED: January 30, 2020 at 3:27 pm



Your humble correspondent is out sick. It appears to be only a cold, and as the Centers for Disease Control has yet to show up at my house in Claremont, it's probably not the coronavirus. In any event I'm taking it easy.

As I had a column half-written earlier this week, let me do my best to wrap it up from the confines of my sofa before taking a nap. I'll miss Sunday's column and try to be back for Wednesday's. That should give me time to recover from my illness.

## Maloof and friends

"Shaping Wood, Shaping Artists," a two-part exhibit about the late, celebrated woodworker Sam Maloof, is in downtown Ontario.

And that's fitting. Maloof, who was born in Chino in 1916, started making furniture in his Ontario

garage in 1949. Later he built his own home in an Alta Loma lemon grove and had such clients as President Jimmy Carter.

TOP ARTICLES 1/5



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Maloof declined to mass produce his designs, instead crafting rocking chairs and such by hand from his studio. A MacArthur “genius” grant recipient, Maloof, who died in 2009, has a rocking chair in the Smithsonian and in New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Now that you’re caught up, let’s return to Ontario. At the Museum of History and Art (225 S. Euclid Ave.), you can see Maloof chairs, tables and cradles, all made by Maloof in his Alta Loma workshop, plus production drawings, informative panels and photos.

## RELATED LINKS

Trevor’s Travels: Sam Maloof’s historic home remains an artistic treasure

The other Williams behind Ontario’s Paul R. Williams home

The other Williams behind Ontario’s Paul R. Williams home

One section is devoted to the disassembly, move and reassembly of the Maloof compound in 2000 to get it out of the way of the future 210 Freeway's path. That includes a tabletop model of the compound. (Museum officials would prefer that you not pick the model up and move it.)

Paces away at the Chaffey Community Museum of Art (217 S. Lemon Ave.), the exhibit focuses on the art of Maloof's studio assistants Mike Johnson and Larry White and on White's assistant, Lauren Verdugo. Some early work by Maloof is included, such as handbills from the 1930s for the Mexican Players troupe in Claremont.

I checked them out last week during the VIP opening reception. We were all mingling under an outdoor tent. As soon as the speeches started and people took their seats, I fled for the exhibits, which I contemplated in relative peace. As I left the second museum, the reception was breaking up and people were filing inside. Talk about perfect timing.

If you want more Maloof, his home (5131 Carnelian St., Rancho Cucamonga) is a museum itself, open noon to 4 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, with free admission. The two Ontario museums are open noon to 4 p.m. Thursday to Sunday, with free admission, and the exhibits are there through March 29.

Wood you go? (Sorry, must be the DayQuil talking.)

## Found socks

My Jan. 19 column on finding a missing sock behind my washer inspired two readers to share related stories.

"My stepdaughter has three daughters. We went to visit. My husband had to move the washer. Under the washer were 25 socks," Barbara Sorrells wrote. "I washed them, matched them and gave them to the girls."

“I know how you feel. My son tossed the house keys into one of my grocery bags. I put the groceries away and couldn’t find the keys,” Jo Ella Taylor wrote

“Days went by and I was ready to have the locks changed on the doors. I went to the freezer to get a frozen dinner and found the keys wedged between the round bowl and the packaging. It was a total fluke the keys landed inside,” Taylor continued. “It’s a good thing I got hungry before I had the locks changed.”

## More Tastee

The old Tastee Freez in La Verne has become a recurring and bedeviling subject. But history must be served, even if twist cones are not.

First I’d said, based on incomplete information, that the Tastee Freez closed “about 1978.”

Subsequent comments led to a new column in which I said it closed “circa 1987,” giving myself a bit of wiggle room by use of “circa.” By that point, the business was known as Tastee Burger.

On posterity’s behalf, Eric Scherer, La Verne’s community development director, looked through the city’s planning and building files for the property. In one submittal, the University of La Verne, after buying the property, said in late 1985 that the Tastee Burger lease would expire at the end of 1986.

The last days of 1986 can be encompassed by the phrase “circa 1987,” can they not? What a relief.

Concluded Scherer: “I now believe that Tastee Burger closed permanently at the end of 1986 when their lease was up and the university decided not to renew it.” He joked: “Hope this brings you some closure.”

It did bring me closure, although I’d rather have been brought a twist cone.

In a historical footnote, Scherer found that ULV won permission in December 1985 to demolish the A-frame Tastee building to gain six parking spaces. In January 1987, however, the university notified the city that it would instead remodel the building for short-term use as a music practice building.

## RELATED ARTICLES

More TV magic in '70s at Rancho Cucamonga winery

Movie theater CEO still ‘committed’ to

Short-term use, eh? More than 30 years later, it’s still a music practice building, the Music Annex. Well, practice makes perfect.

Valley Vignette

Pomona despite funding setback

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Norms is heading for Ontario Mills' 'restaurant row'

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Maniac Mike's Cafe in Upland bounces back after family death, fire, and 14-month closure

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Sock was missing for a year, but it all came out in the wash

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One of the more genteel events in the area is the annual Author Coffee at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona, with cookies, coffee and tea service. This year's is at 10 a.m. Feb. 7 with Larry Burns, who will read from and discuss his book "Secret Inland Empire: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure." The church is at 600 N. Garey Ave., books will be for sale and the event is free to attend. And now, as soon as I hit "send" on this column, it's naptime.

*David Allen, the region's illest columnist, writes Friday, Sunday and Wednesday. Email [dallen@scng.com](mailto:dallen@scng.com), phone 909-483-9339, visit [insidesocal.com/davidallen](http://insidesocal.com/davidallen), like [davidallencolumnist](#) on Facebook and follow [@davidallen909](#) on Twitter.*

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By Ranker



Hygiene in the American Wild West was probably about what you'd expect - unhygienic.

# Iconic Idle Spurs Steakhouse in Barstow closes after a nearly 50-year run

By Rene Ray De La Cruz

Staff Writer

Posted at 3:20 PM

Updated at 3:20 PM

BARSTOW — After nearly 50 years of serving residents and travelers, the owners of Idle Spurs Steakhouse have announced that the Western-themed restaurant has served its last meal.

“Morgan and Donna Ray had a dream of opening a restaurant that served great food and a place that the people of Barstow could be proud of,” the Ray’s son-in-law, Mark Zimmerman, told the Daily Press. “I think they accomplished that dream over the last 46 years.”

On Jan. 22, the family posted a message on the eatery’s social media accounts that announced the closure of the restaurant that opened in 1974 on Highway 58, north of Main Street in Barstow.

“After nearly five decades, we decided that it was the right time to close the restaurant,” said Zimmerman, 67, the plant manager/owner of the Morgan Meat Co. in Barstow, which was founded by the Rays in 1960.

Mark and Judy Zimmerman are currently the owners of Idle Spurs and the meat company located on Irwin Road, less than a mile from the restaurant.

In the early 1970s, the Rays purchased and remodeled a residential structure on Highway 58 that the previous owners had partially renovated into a small restaurant.

Idle Spurs quickly became a go-to gathering place for residents and visitors from around the world. The steakhouse was known for its food, historic Western decor, antiques, greenery and iconic Western wagon-themed road sign.

“The Idle Spurs was the place where everybody knew your name, and where the bartender had your drink ready before you got to the bar,” said longtime Barstow resident Louise Miller. “The steaks were the best and the atmosphere was perfect.”

Morgan Ray died in 2009 at 73. He was a 58-year Barstow resident, who graduated from Barstow High School in 1954.

“After Morgan died, the family rallied around Donna to keep Idle Spurs going,” said Charlie Douglas, 74, a former Barstow resident who lives in Victorville. “Morgan was a great businessman who did so much for the community.”

In an online interview with Bartow Chamber of Commerce Director Eugene Buttucci, Judy Zimmerman said Idle Spurs rolled out the red carpet for several annual events, including the Soroptimist Fashion Show, the annual Teen Bee Confident Conference and holiday parties.

Visitors to Idle Spurs through the years included movie stars, country-western singers, and groups from the Fort Irwin National Training Center and the U. S. National Guard.

The restaurant was also the place for birthday parties, date nights, baby showers and wedding receptions.

“Many people believe that Idle Spurs put Barstow on the map,” Douglas said. “I don’t know if that’s true, but I do know that everybody for miles around knew about the restaurant.”

Miller, who lamented the steakhouse’s closure, said she hopes someone will buy the restaurant and continue its Western tradition.

LoopNet, an online marketplace for commercial properties, has already listed a description of the 67-year-old, 9,000-square-foot building that sits on nearly 4 ½ acres.

“We appreciate all the support that we have received over the years,” Mark Zimmerman said. “It was a great run.”

**OPINION** • Editorial, Opinion

# In government, profligacy knows no bounds



Riverside County's negotiator, Ed Zappia, speaks during the Riverside County Board of Supervisors public hearing regarding the ongoing labor dispute with Service Employees International Union Local 721 at the County Administrative Center in Riverside on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

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Riverside County elected leaders are making some real progress in the great battle to get a handle on pouring taxpayer money into union pockets:

They're going to try hard to tackle this problem later.

Supervisors voted 4-1 Tuesday (with Jeff Hewitt opposed) on a new contract that the Service Employees International Union unsurprisingly voted overwhelmingly to approve. It gives those 7,400 people 4 percent raises on their anniversary dates, adds 60 hours of vacation for each employee through the life of the contract (through 2023), and eliminates three bottom-rung entry-level salaries so that newbies start with higher incomes.

The quaint throwaway provision is a joint committee to address workplace issues. This is stuff several bureaucracies at the state and federal levels – not to mention human resources departments such as the one run by Riverside County – routinely address. And if they fail to address them, no self-respecting union would be without a lusty lawyer to push a complaint in court. But sure, to make it sound like such issues get short shrift, naming a joint committee is some impressive posturing.

The bigger issue – the one the board will take up at some later time – is money. Riverside County government is a \$5.5 billion annual operation. The vast majority of its thousands of workers are unionized, and they'll be due a pension supplied by taxpayers.

The county is struggling to find the money and workers to open its grand new Indio jail. It is keeping a lid on costs for other services to the public. And it faces an unfunded pension obligation of more than \$3.5 billion. Somebody's going to need to pony up some serious cash to pay for all this and it's not going to be the Service Employees International Union. They got theirs Tuesday. Or the Laborers International Union. Or the Riverside sheriffs deputies union. They all got theirs, too.

No, the wallet in this case belongs to taxpayers and it's getting stretched pretty thin with state, county and local taxes and fees. Soon, the bleeding must stop.