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RANDOM LENGTHS NEWS

Driven by the Wind

Ukrainian sailor Alina Shapovalova competed in the ILCA 6 Youth World Championships in 2025. Her participation in the Olympic qualifying race last month was sponsored by Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club.

It takes a lot to be an individual representing a country. All countries require dedication to get to an international level. In the summer of 2019, the White House delayed roughly \$400 million in military assistance to Ukraine, which was approved by Congress to assist in resisting the Russian attack on Ukraine. This was followed by a freeze of funds in January and March of last year.

In July 2022, the Mykolaiv and Kharkiv regional central yacht clubs of Ukraine were struck and heavily damaged, followed by the Odessa Yacht Club in October of 2023. In a world where yacht clubs are about promoting

the sport of sailing and a world where the White House seems to have more heart for Russia, Ukraine was hit with what may have seemed an end.

Out of the rubble, the inspirational Ukrainian Olympic hopeful, Alina Shapovalova, has continued to rise. This is despite the displacement of her family from Ukraine to Switzerland in her early teens because of the attack in 2022. Alina is currently well on track to be the first Ukrainian woman to compete in the International Laser Class Association (ILCA)/Laser class, a boat with a long history made in numbers that outweigh all other boat lines. Olympians have to qualify in races

Displaced Ukrainian Sailor Finds Her Course in San Pedro

By Cris Miller, *Columnist*

hosted all over the world to secure a spot in the Olympics. Two recent events hosted in July, the ILCA North American Championships - Los Angeles and the Olympic Class Regatta, both took place in San Pedro's Hurricane Gulch with more than of 300 boats participating from all around the globe.

One of the local clubs, the Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club (CBYC), hosted and sponsored Alina and allowed her to post her link to fundraising on their page. It is a testament to CBYC's pursuit and the undeniable effort that Alina makes. Fundraising in this sport is relentless. In America, tier one athletes receive \$30,000, and tier two

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"One Mass Shooting A Day"—Port's New Agreement Doesn't Change the Daily Cost of Port Pollution p. 8

Dodson Alum Alyssa Grace Rises on Charts with *bloodstream* p.9

Iced, Hot or Mushroom-Infused, Smart Drip Wants Coffee Your Way p. 10

Defending California's Coast

A Diverse Alliance of Leaders Speaks Out

By Paul Rosenberg, *Senior Editor*

On Aug. 10, 44th District Rep. Nanette Barragán joined other California leaders to rally opposition to Trump's latest and most sweeping attack on the state — the first ever federal challenge to a state's right to protect its own coastline via its Coastal Management Program.

Thirty-four states have CMPs, established under the 1972 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), a law passed in response to the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, which affected 300 miles of coastline, from Pismo Beach to northern Mexico, and still haunts California's memory to this day.

In more than 50 years, neither California nor any other state has had its CMP challenged, as the Trump administration is now doing. Significantly, California's 2019 CMP went unchallenged during Trump's first term. The challenge threatens to open up the coast to reckless offshore oil drilling, deep-sea min-

ing, and who knows what other corrupt backroom deals Trump comes up with.

"Trump's attempts to regulate our coast are for his own corrupt reasons," Barragán said. "It's to look out for his billionaire friends, big oil, and for his bottom line. That's going to devastate our economy and our communities."

California's program had undergone a regular review in 2024, and a draft report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that California had successfully implemented and enforced its federally approved program. But a final report was never issued.

Instead, on May 10, Trump's Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick — best known for lying about his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein — lied about California's model environmental stewardship. He ordered NOAA to ignore its previous evaluation and "conduct

a full, formal review of California's Coastal Management Program," falsely claiming that California had a "long record of obstructing technological innovation, economic development, and related Federal efforts in the name of environmental extremism" — a claim glaringly at odds with Trump's approval of its 2019 plan.

Setting that aside, the charge of extremism was "a sham," said Natural Resources Defense Council senior attorney Joel Reynolds, speaking along with Barragán in advance of a public hearing NOAA held in Santa Monica on Aug. 10.

"If it's extremism they're after, clearly they should take a look closer to home," Reynolds said. "Because what we're seeing at the highest levels of our federal government — denial of climate change, deregulation of environmental safeguards, disdain for the rule of law and disregard for science and even for basic facts — what

[See *Coastal*, p. 4]



Community Announcements: Harbor Area

Get that Guggenheim Virtual Workshop The Guggenheim Fellowship is one of the most prestigious grants for U.S.-based visual artists. Elana Mann and Virginia Broersma will walk attendees through the components, share examples of successful applicants, and give tips for applying. Time: 12 to 1:15 p.m., Aug. 25 Details: https://tinyurl.com/Guggenheim-grant-workshop Venue: Online

Building a San Pedro for All HACLA and One San Pedro are applying for The Transformative Climate Communities Grant, a grant up to \$27.5 million dollars also known as TCC, to help build the next phase of the One San Pedro plan. It gives money to neighborhoods to build affordable homes, parks, safer streets, cleaner air and community spaces. One San Pedro needs community members to decide what your community needs most. Join a community meeting to share your ideas and vote in person. HACLA and One San Pedro are applying for The Transformative. Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m. Aug. 20 and 10 to 11:30 a.m., Aug. 22 Details: 213-474-0874; www.onesanpedro.org Venue: Rancho San Pedro social hall, 275 W 1st St, San Pedro

ISBLA Summer Picnic with Ted Lieu Join the annual Indivisible South Bay LA picnic. Hear from Rep. Ted Lieu. Get inspired, and get fired up to take back our democracy this November. Food and drinks will be provided. All activities are planned indoors, in McTaggart Hall. You are welcome to bring blankets or chairs to enjoy the park while you eat. Seating outside of the hall area will be limited to 60 attendees. Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sept. 5 Details: https://tinyurl.com/Summer-picnic-with-Rep-Lieu Venue: Fred Hesse Community Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd, McTaggart Hall, Rancho Palos Verdes

Free Workshops Offer Guidance on International Trade The Port of Long Beach is launching a new series of trade workshops at no charge to educate small- and medium-sized companies interested in getting into the business of importing and exporting. Each monthly workshop will be in person at the port administration building and will feature a different trade-related topic. Participants may attend the workshops that interest them most. Registration is required; use the links below to register for each workshop. Topics include

- Thursday, Sept. 10: Exporting 101 - https://tinyurl.com/exporting-101 (registration deadline Sept. 3)
- Thursday, Oct. 8: Port Operations https://tinyurl.com/port-operations (registration deadline Oct. 1)
- Thursday, Nov. 5: Foreign Trade Zone 50 and Bonded Warehouses https://tinyurl.com/bonded-warehouses (registration deadline Oct. 29)

The workshops will end with a complimentary lunch at noon. Parking is also included. Time: 9:30 a.m. Details: Mechelle.Ngin@polb.com. Venue: Port of Long Beach Administration Building, 415 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach

Free Air Purifiers Available for Eligible Wilmington and San Pedro Households During Vincent Thomas Bridge Closure Caltrans is offering free portable air purifiers to eligible households in Wilmington and San Pedro to help mitigate temporary air quality impacts associated with the upcoming Vincent Thomas Bridge closure. Eligible households may receive one (1) Medify Air MA-40 portable air purifier and three (3) replacement filters, subject to availability. Caltrans is mailing postcards to households within the program area. Each postcard

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Committed to Independent Journalism in the Greater LA/LB Harbor Area for More Than 45 Years

Service Reductions, Layoffs Considered to Close Long Beach’s \$58M Budget Shortfall

By Gregory Moore, Columnist

“This is certainly a tough day,” City Manager Tom Modica said as he stepped to the podium at Thursday’s press conference regarding the City of Long Beach’s proposed \$4 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2027, a budget that attempts to contend with a \$58.2 million structural shortfall.

But the next three minutes were like something out of Mayor Rex Richardson’s annual State of the City address, with Modica touting a long list of what’s going well in Long Beach, all the way down to minutiae such as the fact that the Clean Team collected over 1,100 tons of litter last year.

Finally, though, Modica and Richardson got down to business, tag-teaming the assembled media and interested viewers online with a dizzying array of numbers that supposedly add up to two years of lean times before everything is hunky dory.

Whether it will all work out the way they say is another matter. After all, they’ve been wrong before.

An example of that “before” came in October 2025, when the city projected that the structural shortfall for FY2027 would be \$39.3 million — 48% lower than the actual figure. When asked why the projection was so far off the mark, Modica cited “some of the hardest revenue drops we’ve seen since COVID, fluctuations of funding on the federal level, [...] reductions in utility taxes, property taxes not coming in as projected,” and unexpected interest rates. Whether such a projection should have better accounted for at least some of this was left unsaid.

FUN FACT: *Noting that revenue came in at \$21 million below forecast while expenses were roughly \$20.8 million above forecast, an NBC4 reporter asked, “What did the city get wrong here, and why should residents trust the forecast you’re providing now?”*

In fact, almost completely lacking from the 100-minute press conference was acknowledgement that at any point the city might have better managed its finances to prepare for the rainy day that’s come due to a perfect storm of post-COVID realities and a mingy federal regime. When pressed on the question of whether the city has made mistakes from which decision-makers can learn — such as relying too heavily on one-time revenue sources (in lieu of structural shifts), a hallmark of Long Beach financial planning for at least the last two decades — Modica defended the tactic: “We could have just been cutting [i.e., making structural changes] during the recovery. [But] we were trying to get our businesses back on their feet. [...] We could have been making cuts every single year. We chose not to do that, because we had resources that were specifically dedicated from the federal government to do exactly that: to help us recover. So we made those choices. [...] But now there are some of those costs that you didn’t address for a year or two.”

For his part, Richardson admitted that the city relied on oil revenue for far too long; and

he at least suggested that, in terms of relying on one-time funds, things may be different going forward — if only because they have to be: “We strategically leveraged the one-time reserves instead of cutting. [...] Our [city] charter says we have to pass a balanced budget every year — so you either balance it by leveraging one-time reserves or by making cuts or by finding revenue. This year, there’s no more federal one-time reserves, so we don’t want to pass on a one-time solution; we want to address it structurally, so next year and in subsequent years we have that stability that, frankly, we haven’t had for many years since COVID.”

But things won’t be stable next year, as — if things go to plan — the city will have to address a projected \$27.3 million shortfall for FY2028. But first things first.

Not surprisingly, with employee-related costs making up 79% of General Fund expenditures (i.e., the only completely discretionary fund in the annual budget), the city proposes to balance the FY2027 budget largely through staff-

ing cuts, saving \$33 million by laying off “probably [...] about 200 employees currently in filled spots” (Modica), along with eliminating roughly 200 vacant positions — all in all, approximately a 4% reduction in city staff.

The effects this will have on the general public are widespread, including reducing all public libraries to a five-day service week, reduced program hours at all Be S.A.F.E. sites, eliminating teen programming at Chavez Park, reduced code enforcement, staffing reductions at the Health Department (a major victim of federal funding cuts), and eliminating between 13 and 17 police patrol positions.

Another area that will take a big hit is homeless services — this coming on the heels of a 10% increase in the homeless population over the last two years — including reduced capacity for homeless outreach (and eliminating weekend outreach); reduced capacity for Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program; reducing both homeless shuttle service and Mobile Access Cen-

[See **LB Budget**, p. 8]

Battle of LA Fishing Tournament Brings Families Together at Legg Lake



Photos courtesy of Reel Hope Inc.

The fourth annual Battle of Los Angeles Fishing Tournament and Family Festival brought together youth, families, anglers, volunteers, sponsors and community partners for a day of fishing, education and community building at Whittier Narrows Legg Lake. Hosted by Reel Hope Inc., the event continues the organization’s mission of empowering youth and strengthening families through fishing, outdoor education, conservation and mentorship.

Young anglers reeled in impressive bluegill and catfish, while adult competitors landed standout catches, including a large carp and a trophy-sized crappie. The day emphasized teamwork, mentorship and community spirit.

“This event isn’t just about catching fish,” said Eldridge Hardley, founder and director of Reel Hope Inc. “It’s about bringing people together, mentoring young people, creating opportunities and showing families that the outdoors can change lives. We are incredibly grateful to every volunteer, sponsor and com-

munity partner who made this event possible.”

Hardley also serves as a Fishing 101 instructor through Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation at Magic Johnson Lake. Classes are held every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. through September and offer hands-on instruction in safety, casting, knot tying, fish identification, conservation and practical fishing skills. Registration is required through Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation.

For more information or to register for Fishing 101, visit RealHopeInc.org or call Hardley at 323-572-9103.

[Driven, from p. 1]

Driven by Wind

athletes receive \$15,000, to which Alina replied, “Yes, but it’s not nearly enough; usually you spend \$150,000 to \$250,000” in order to represent their country and go on to qualify for a race series where they receive no prize money.

Alina noted that athletes raise all that money for no monetary return in the end.

“It is a labor of love no doubt,” Alina said. “Imagine trying to sustain that.”

Alina does, despite the many challenges. For the generation that grew up with Caitlyn (formerly Bruce) Jenner on a Wheaties box, Alina is a throwback who walks farther... faster... with an



Alina Shapovalova in her element.

otherworldly drive that we all tend to admire.

Imagine Russia bombing your home country, you and your whole family being displaced, America saying but not delivering, and continuing to be competitive in a single-person boat.

Alina can. And she has. She has won gold, silver and bronze in international competition. When asked if she felt special or like she had an advantage compared to countries that have many competitors, she says, “It gives me a bit less stress compared to U.S.A. or Italy, but to look at it on the other hand, when you don’t have strong sailors in your country, in your class, you always have to search for training partners outside.”

Alina has sailed since she was 9-years old. Her experience since she first sailed in the Gulch last year in 2025, when the wind was steady, lead her to this double series. In this double series, out of a dozen races, the first series was in conditions of low wind and the second series was high wind. So three races were inside and the rest were outside of the breakwater, past the lighthouse, where the ocean claims its persona as the current and wind strengthen.

“Now all of us know each racing area because there are definitely different things you can highlight. Outside of the breakwater turning right going up to the wind, or outside of the breakwater going to port, or inside. Having all three routes made a huge impact in preparation for the Olympics because we still don’t know where we will race,” Alina said.

It depends on the day. “When I was here last year we had one type of condition, but this year we had all conditions, which gave me a lot of information about how the wind works and how current influenced what tactics would be.”

I asked if she felt like racing inside took her height advantage and played it against her, and she said it was an eye-opener to sail in “light and patchy winds.” And I know by racing in the Cal 20 fleet hosted by CBYC’s Richard Welch that there are places where a sailor can go ‘inside to die.’ It can turn off, and any sailor can become a bathtub on the water if they make the wrong decision.

Alina’s talent is rare; she has a hard time finding competition, yet competes at a high level. She goes worldwide to find it. Her family was displaced, but it did not disrupt her for long. She has competed in steady wind here in San Pedro and has experienced low wind. She has learned how the current works. She faces teams that have multiple sailors, and she has succeeded even when she is alone.

Alina is a true competitor who embodies what all competitors want. Maybe the cancellation of U.S. funding while her country was bombed drove her. Maybe the destruction of her Yacht Club could have stopped her. Perhaps having little competition made her attitude right. It may be that her relationship with her sisters means she keeps perspective on the race course.

When asked what drives her the most, there were a couple of things she mentioned, but the main one of them was competition.

“I was surprised in a good way when we went racing outside with a lot of current and chop. Two top tens out of three races.” She explained that teams with larger networks work the rule-book to their advantage. “That makes me want to beat them,” she said.

When asked if she felt lucky or special, she replied, “Of course.” Then she pointed to her support.

“I have the best parents in the world. It’s all about family. My parents were always striving to show us the world.” Her family is her lighthouse.

At 19 years old, Alina has faced adversity beyond her years. Perhaps the ocean is the current and the country is the wind, and the sailor is where the wind and the ocean shake hands.

Community Announcements: Harbor Area

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includes a unique Address Reference Code required to verify eligibility and complete the online reservation process.

Approved residents will receive a confirmation email containing their pickup location, appointment time, and confirmation number. Residents must present their confirmation and proof of residency during pick-up.

To check eligibility and reserve an air purifier: https://virtualeventroom.com/caltrans/vtb-purifier/ Details: 213-897-3656 or vtbproject@dot.ca.gov.

Register for Long Beach’s Free After School Program

The City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) is offering its free after school program at park sites throughout Long Beach. After school programs engage children ages 5 to 12 in fun activities such as sports, games, arts and crafts, special events and homework assistance during the after-school hours. Online registration began Aug. 10.

Programs will run weekdays, Aug. 24, through June 11, 2027, from either 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. or 3 to 6 p.m. at participating parks. After school programs are non-custodial programs where participants may come and go at their own discretion. Staff will be onsite to provide a variety of activities in a welcoming environment.

Pre-registration is required and available at LB RecConnect at: https://tinyurl.com/LB-reconnect. Details: lbcity.info/afterschoolprograms.

Transitional Subsidized Employment Program Launched for CalWORKs and GAIN Participants

DPSS and the L.A. County Department of Economic Opportunity or DEO launched the TSE Plus pilot program to connect CalWORKs and GAIN participants to paid employment, job training, and career pathways in high-growth industries. The program is now open for enrollment. Details: https://tinyurl.com/DEO-TSE-Plus or email GAINTSE@opportunity.lacounty.gov.



HAS YOUR CHILD BEEN HARMED BY SOCIAL MEDIA?

RECENT VERDICTS AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS PAVE THE WAY FOR FUTURE RECOVERIES

\$6 MILLION awarded by a Los Angeles jury on March 25, 2026, against Meta/Instagram and Google/YouTube for addictive platform design that caused psychological harm to a young female user (Snapchat and TikTok also sued and agreed to pre-trial settlements).

\$375 MILLION awarded by a New Mexico jury on March 24, 2026, against Meta/Facebook/Instagram for platform design that endangered children and violated consumer protection laws.

These juries were the first to examine how social media companies maximize profits by designing platforms to addict users, without regard for the harm they cause.

Their verdicts send an unmistakable message: these companies can be held accountable—and families affected now have a clear path to pursue justice.

LAWSUITS ARE NOW BEING FILED NATIONWIDE AGAINST:

- Facebook & Instagram (Meta)
- YouTube (Google)
- TikTok
- Snapchat
- Roblox

The cases allege that intentionally addictive platforms contribute to:

- Depression & anxiety
- Eating disorders & body-image harm
- Self-harm or suicidal ideation
- Compulsive social-media use

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Defending State’s Coastal Autonomy

we’re seeing since January 2025 isn’t normal policy disagreement. It’s chaos. An attack on democracy driven by resentment, incompetence, corruption and a contempt for the United States Constitution.”

The only limit, Barragán noted, was “when Florida Republicans stood up and said, ‘Not our coast,’” and when that happened, “they said, ‘We’ll go after California.’ Talk about the corruption,” she said. “Talk about singling out California.”

Speakers Focus On Coast’s Value More Than Threats

While the attack was clearly bogus, speakers focused more on what was being threatened — California’s coast as central to the state’s shared identity, as well as a thriving, diversified economy. Tina Calderon, culture bearer of Gabriolino Tongva, Chumash and Yoeme descent, set the tone in her opening remarks. “We are community, and it doesn’t matter how you connect to the ocean, where your passions lie. The point is that we all love our beautiful salt waters,” Calderon said. “These are sacred waters and it’s up to us to be the voice. It’s up to us to cause no more human harm. We’ve done enough.”

Instead, she said, “We need to wake up. We need to protect our waters and our lands and we need to do this together.”

“This is a critical unprecedented moment,” said Wade Crowfoot, California secretary of natural resources. “Never before in the five decade history of this federal act has this sudden baseless review taken place on any state’s coastal management program. And never before in the history of this act has a coastal management program ever been revoked.”

And as for justifications, there were none, he added. “Make no mistake, there is no science involved. There is no established policy involved with this sudden review. It is politics.”

In his official written comments, Crowfoot refuted every accusation that California was stifling the activities that Lutnick cited in his letter — “spaceport infrastructure, offshore oil production, pipeline maintenance, desalination projects, and undersea cables” — with a mix of historical information and cold hard facts.

Regarding spaceport infrastructure, for example, he pointed to Vandenberg Space Force Base, “an essential installation to our national security and an important launch site for space-bound travel,” and noted that California’s Coastal Commission has reviewed over 135 space launch projects, and only objected to two of them, which nonetheless “did not prevent these projects from moving forward.”

In short, Crowfoot concluded, “California has a clear and verifiable track record of responsibly exercising its authority under the CZMA to enable balanced coastal development. There is no legal basis to decertify California’s CMP.”

Other speakers spoke to the importance of the coast to California’s identity, culture and economy, and how the state’s stewardship of the coast had protected these.

“Reckless proposals to sell out our coastline threaten what we all know is so important: our thriving coastal economy, our unparalleled biodiversity, and the natural beauty that we treasure,” said County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath. “Los Angeles County rejects any and all efforts to allow oil and gas



Oil platform that blew out in the Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969.

drilling or deep seabed mining off the California coast.”

Coastal Economy Threatened

Grant Bixby, with the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast, spoke to the general economic importance of protecting the coast,

while two other speakers — Vipe Desai and Anupa Asokan — spoke on behalf of the specific coastal economies which their organizations represented: Surf Industry Members Association and Fish On.

Bixby spoke first, giving a sense of the

sweep of businesses involved. “We are chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, realtors associations, fishing groups, outdoor retailers, major national and international brands, mom and pop shops, hotel ears, restaurant tours, businesses of all stripes and sizes, and we are the engine that drives the California coastal economy,” he said.

From a business perspective, he explained, the choice was clear.

“What businesses want is a clear understanding of the rules, predictability in governance, and the ability to plan,” he said, which is what they have had for 50 years, building a coastal economy worth \$50 billion a year.

On the other hand, “The federal government, if they take unilateral action here to weaken the CCMA or to decertify California outright, the new regulatory landscape that will result will be one of chaos and unpredictability,” Bixby warned. “This is not what we want.”

“Surfing is so deeply woven into the identity of this state that it is officially recognized as the state sport of California,” said Desai. “On behalf of the California surf industry, our message is clear. Protecting our coast is protecting our businesses, our communities, our way of life, and an incredibly valuable piece of the California economy. We have far too much riding on this coastline to put it at unnecessary risk.”

While fishing is only a small part of the coastal economy, “For many people, it’s also a way to put food on the table, to connect with family, create community, and experience the ocean firsthand,” said Asokan. “We cannot be

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sacrificing an economy that supports millions of Californians and a coast that belongs to all of us in order to make it easier for a handful of polluting industries to develop here. ... The coast belongs to all of us, and we should be the ones deciding what happens to it.”

“The brand of California is not offshore oil and gas. Nor should it be. Offshore mineral resources make up 1%,” Bixby noted. “Should we put 99% of the other employment at risk for the benefit of one dirty industry that can close and devastate all other businesses? I don’t think so,” he said. “It’s pretty simple math, right? 1%. 99%.”

A Broader, Deeper View

Tony Cordero, an Indigenous representative on the board of Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples, shifted focus to a broader perspective: “The perspective of those of us who have called this coast our home since time immemorial.”

While it’s true the coast is “a source of sustenance and livelihoods ... a place to recreate and to find respite from our hectic and stressful lives,” she said. “To us, it is much more than that. It is a vital part of our homelands, and all of its inhabitants are our relatives. They are part of our family. They make us whole. Our circle is not complete without them. And the ocean provides for us as a mother provides for her children.”

And Marcela Gutierrez Groudin, a board member at the State Coastal Conservancy, spoke to the history of how Californians have protected the coast.

“Our governance programs in California that have been around for 50 years take beautiful intentions and beautiful words into everyday reality,” she said. “We do this while burgeoning and

supporting one of the most important economies in the world, a \$50 billion economy. This is the California that we know. This is what we need to expand and grow further,” she said. “California’s coast is for the people, not for crony capitalism.”

The coast is “an essential part of what it means to be a Californian,” Orange County Rep. David Min noted, and not just for those who live on it. “When I talk to folks from all over California, including in the Inland Empire in places like Corona and Riverside, they all have a beach

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Hands Off

The organization Azul pointed to a national poll of Latino voters that found 80% were more likely to vote for candidates they viewed as ocean champions. Seventy-eight percent supported bans on new offshore oil and gas drilling.

Leah Yananton, representing Codepink, asked NOAA to reject plans to weaken the Coastal Management Program and respect the 10th Amendment (in laymen’s terms, the federal government cannot take power not expressly granted by the U.S. Constitution. Those powers are expressly reserved to the states, or the people).

Yananton called what the Trump administration is trying to do beyond “politically motivated” but an example of corporate tyranny like the corporate-driven militarization of space that this administration has taken up.

“Corporations with federal contracts are given more rights than we the people,” Yananton said.

This columnist, who is also an educator with the LA Maritime Institute and member of

that they identify as their own. That’s part of what we are as Californians. It’s why access to the coastline and to our beaches is part of our constitution.”

In the end, he said, “It’s not lost on me that Republicans like to talk about states’ rights and local control, until it comes to California and our coastline here. So, I’m asking the folks in NOAA, please respect the will of California’s voters. Protect states’ rights. Let local control govern. Stop this rigged review.”



The California coast. Photo by Natalie E.J. Roberts, NOAA Office for Coastal Management.

the American Association for the Advancement of Science, likened the administration’s anti-science, climate-change-denial attack on the California Coastal Commission to the ongoing dismantling of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, our unions and progressive environmental legislation.

The Sierra Club distributed a set of talking points noting that the Trump administration is putting private industry interests, fossil fuels and corporate projects ahead of federal and state laws to protect our coastlines, marine ecosystems and the communities and commerce that depend on them.

“As the crook in the White House continues to bribe energy companies with taxpayer dollars to terminate offshore wind projects, including one off the central coast to reinvest those funds into fossil fuels, we’re going to continue to stand up and we’re going to continue to fight back,” Barragán said. And she promised that when Democrats get power back in November, “We’re gonna hold those crooks accountable. And we’ll continue to fight.”

‘Keep Your Hands Off’ Californians Rally to Defend Coastal Commission

By Mark Friedman, Columnist

When the Trump administration’s Department of Commerce ordered a review of California’s oversight of coastal resources involving industrial uses such as offshore oil production, rocket testing and desalination, more than 300 people turned out Aug. 10 to tell the administration to keep its hands off.

Since 1972, California has preserved, protected, developed and, where possible, restored or enhanced its coastal zone through the California Coastal Commission. The special hearing, organized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was the Trump administration’s first step toward taking that authority away. Since taking office, the administration has slashed funding for the federal agency and curtailed its regulatory authority while shifting decision-making power from scientists to political appointees.

The administration is seeking to open the state’s waters and shoreline to offshore drilling, new underwater pipelines and other environmentally damaging changes, potentially rolling back environmental protections established over the past 50 years.

Even before the hearing began, California state officials, tribal leaders and environmental groups organized a raucous rally of 100. Another 15,000 people added their voices by submitting online statements opposing the review. While several elected officials spoke, most speakers represented environmental organizations, ranging from the Natural Resources Defense Council to the LA Maritime Institute. Approximately 150 people from dozens of organizations up and down the

coast signed up to make statements.

Before NOAA hearing officers, Pete Stauffer, senior ocean protection manager for the Surfrider Foundation, described the organization as a grassroots environmental group dedicated to protecting and enjoying oceans, waves and beaches for all people.

“I want to express Surfrider’s strongest objection to the federal administration’s reopened and targeted review of California’s Coastal Management Program,” Stauffer said.

Stauffer and representatives of other environmental organizations called the review “politically motivated,” arguing that the administration was targeting California’s ability to protect its coastline and posing an existential threat to the state’s ability to protect ocean health, beach access and coastal communities. They said California’s program is a national model with a proven record of protecting the state’s coastal and ocean resources.

Irene Cook, representing the Society of Fearless Grandmothers in Santa Barbara, said the review was “not a process that’s a legitimate part of our democracy.”

“Like so many other vital underpinnings of our society in 2026, this review is just another tool of an authoritarian regime corrupted by extreme wealth, intent on serving only their corporate donors to the sole purpose of profit at the expense of public health and safety,” Cook said.

Kevin Schmidt, a scientist with the Wichita Chumash Foundation, said he opposed NOAA’s review of the California Coastal Management Program.

Schmidt argued that the projects under consideration would “strip-mine California’s coast” at an incalculable cost to cultural resources, In-

digenous lifeways, local economies, commercial and recreational fisheries, tourism and the state’s aesthetic beauty.

“California state regulatory bodies have long managed coastal developments carefully, balancing conservation efforts with economic development,” he said.

Justin Cummings, a Ph.D. biologist and co-chair and founder of Save My Coast Coalition, who served on the Coastal Commission for several years, spoke in support of maintaining the program. He said that between 2010 and 2022, more than 7,300 oil spills occurred in federal waters, averaging more than one spill per day for 12 years.

“By expanding offshore drilling off our coast, it’s not a question of if an oil spill will happen but when,” Cummings said.

Others pointed out that for 57 years, California has rejected new offshore oil leasing in state waters and for more than four decades has consistently opposed new federal leasing.

Lisa Gillfilan of Oceana, an international advocacy organization dedicated to ocean conservation, said, “Everyone in this room knows the federal government is considering new offshore oil and gas.”

Grant Bixby of the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast said the organization represents more than 65,000 businesses, hundreds of thousands of employees and millions of customers who believe offshore oil and gas development is bad for business.

Kate Huckleberry, former head of the California Coastal Commission, said 90.7% of projects were approved through what she described as a rigorous process.

[continued on following page]



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Is LA History Repeating Itself?

Progressive socialism of the early 1900s returns

By James Preston Allen, *Publisher*

The second decade of the 20th Century was a cauldron of reform and social upheaval. President Teddy Roosevelt initiated many reforms that are still with the nation today — like the Food and Drug Administration that he created after reading Upton Sinclair’s book *The Jungle* about the sordid conditions in the meatpacking industry. He then created the National Park Service, creating the first national parks. These are just a few of his accomplishments — but he was the last Republican president to stand with the working class.

The progressive movement emerged in Los Angeles for some of the very same reasons it did elsewhere: workers’ rights, government reform (ending corruption in office), child labor laws, creating a “livable city,” and the creation of the municipal water and power system (the Department of Water and Power). It was also the time when LA annexed the cities of Wilmington and San Pedro to create the Port of Los Angeles as a publicly owned harbor.

These were the days of radical ideas clashing with capital private enterprise — a struggle that has lasted for more than a century but one the city still struggles with today.

In the 1911 LA mayoral race, there was a runoff between incumbent George Alexander and Job Harriman — an ordained minister and socialist. Harriman led in the primary 44.32 to 36.87 for Alexander.

At the same time, Harriman was involved with defending the case of the McNamara brothers, who were being prosecuted for bombing the *LA Times* building, then owned by one of the most anti-union publishers, Harrison Grey Otis. Harriman, along with famous attorney Clarence Darrow, argued that the *LA Times* explosion was caused by a gas leak. But in the end, the McNamara boys pleaded guilty, fearing a death penalty verdict.

This cast a shadow over the Harriman campaign and he lost 62 to 38. The real cause of the Times explosion is still disputed to this very day.

It would be another decade before socialists were to rise again after World War I, when radicals were jailed for speaking out against the war, as Eugene Debs did, as he ran for president from inside a penitentiary, receiving nearly 4 million votes. After the war the “red scare” was started with the Palmer raids on radicals and union members.

And it was in 1923 that the International Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies as they were called) went on strike in San Pedro Bay.

They idled hundreds of ships, and the then Mayor Cryer intended to break the strike when a rally was held at Liberty Hill and the famous au-



thor Upton Sinclair, who was a socialist) came to speak. Mayor Cryer threatened him with arrest and the LAPD was dispatched to San Pedro. Sinclair being the erudite man that he was, accepted the challenge and stood up in front of thousands of striking dock workers and read the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. You know the part about free speech. Well before he could finish he was arrested and thrown

in jail along with hundreds of striking Wobblies.

Sinclair was held incommunicado for days as the police wanted to quickly bring him to trial before he could be represented by a lawyer. Well that plan failed, Sinclair was released and Los Angeles became the center of this controversy. The case was eventually dropped and the following year the Wobbly Hall was busted up by the Ku Klux Klan, the police chief was fired and the city started to reform the city charter.

This incident also started the Southern California branch of the ACLU. It was not fully reported until 1993, when this paper researched the event with the help of Art Alameda and was involved in placing a monument at the site of Liberty Hill on 5th Street.

Ten years after the Liberty Hill incident, the Longshoremen went on strike again and, under the leadership of Harry Bridges, a former IWW member and accused commie, won the 1933 strike and the ILWU was born.

This may seem like the long way around saying that the City of Los Angeles is once again in the struggle between progressives and conservative capital except that this time it’s an internal struggle within the Democratic Party. The rise of the Democratic Socialists of America against traditional liberal Dems. And the DSA seems to be gaining ground, perhaps more because of the cruelty, failures, and corruption of the Republican Party and the Orange Felon, but also because the economics are leaning towards universal health care, free college education, all of the ideals of what President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called the “second Bill of Rights.” Rights that focused on economic freedoms.

And the thing is that these rights are massively popular with the American people polling



as high as 73% on some issues. And it is only now, when the current administration has surged the national debt to \$39 trillion (One trillion a year on interest payments alone), that people say, “And why exactly can’t we afford national health care”? Yes, if we can spend \$40 billion on an illegal war that few believe in, wouldn’t it make America Great again if that money was spent at

home as opposed to some insane crusade?

Again this progressive battle ground is now playing out in this coming November election. It will once again come down to which way the LA electorate will choose to vote: progressive change or stasis. If you are unhappy with the state of the city now, this will be the time to speak up and be heard.

COMMUNITYVoices

What Does it Take for Voters to Support Progressive Candidates?

By Lyn Jensen, *Columnist*

For a long time we’ve heard how, if only people had the information about progressive left-of-center candidates, then the majority of voters would support progressive, left-of-center candidates. Now, though, everybody has an iPhone and everybody surfs the internet.

You can no longer blame people getting inadequate information about candidates for why more than 77 million people voted for Trump in 2024. To get a sufficient number of anti-Trump voters to the polls this upcoming election, we need to understand exactly what Trump voters were voting for.

You 77 million trump voters, you knew that Trump told more than 30,000 lies during his first term as president. That’s not even counting all the lies he’s told in his lifetime, or the ones he told between 2020 and 2025. You *knew* that, no excuses. You voted for him anyway.

You knew that he was convicted of 34 felonies. You *knew* that, no excuses. You voted for

him anyway.

You knew he encouraged an armed lynch mob to “fight like Hell” at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, where that mob voiced its intention to murder the vice president and house speaker. You *knew* that. You had no excuse not to. You voted for him anyway.

You knew he was impeached for encouraging that armed angry lynch mob. You *knew* that, no excuses. You voted for him anyway.

You knew he was caught with rooms full of classified government documents hoarded at his Mar-a-Lago country club, many of which were not supposed to be removed from a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). (If you don’t know what a SCIF is, Google it). You *knew* that, no excuses. You voted for him anyway.

You knew he ran his businesses into bankruptcy six times, so much for “business acumen.”

[continued on following page]

RANDOMLetters

Re: Port of LA Pipe Dream, Aug. 6 Edition of RLn

Good article, but there is an error in the fourth paragraph referencing Reagan’s policies as the cause of job losses. The start of US job losses began with the Trilateral Commission, council on foreign relations, and the Bilderberg Group, which both Democratic and Republican presidents were active participants in American Job losses.

President Jimmy Carter sent autos and electronics to Japan; Nixon sent manufacturing (as a footnote, most unions were silent initially except for the ILWU and U.E.) textile and steel, garment production, and more, with the assistance of Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Bratjinsky. Then Reagan had a meeting in Acapulco, Mexico, and invited 2,000 U.S. corporate executives to bring their companies to Mexico and open assembly plants below the U.S.-Mexico border, which are referred to as “maquiladoras,” which still exist. Then President Bill Clinton passed NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) because Republican President George Bush couldn’t pull it off politically. We’ve been downhill since. They had to kill off unions. Now that organized labor is under 5%, down from 40% under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. After this was done, what’s left for American workers is homelessness, technology, robotics, and automation — AI, Data Centers, and equity control on an international basis, as you stated in your article.

Luisa Gratz
President ILWU Local 26

Re: Long Beach Health Dept. to Host Back-to-School Vaccination & Resource Fair

Regarding your article “Long Beach Health Dept. to Host Back-to-School Vaccination & Resource Fair,” California is home to nearly 40 million people, some of the best hospitals in the world, and a mostly incredible public health system. So it’s easy to assume that when it comes to something as basic as vaccines, we’re covered. Mostly, we are. A flu shot is a quick stop at the pharmacy. Kids’ immunizations happen at routine checkups. The system has worked in the past.

But a system that works can still be undone, and lately the undoing is coming from the top. When national figures with real megaphones start casting doubt on vaccines that have protected Americans for generations, fewer people roll up their sleeves. A parent decides to wait. A busy adult skips the booster. Public confidence is the quiet ingredient that makes the whole thing work, and confidence is far easier to erode than to rebuild.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and it happens to be when members of Congress come home to their districts. That makes it a good moment for Californians to send a clear message to the people who represent them: whatever the debates in Washington, don’t let access slip.

With election season around the corner, I want the people who represent us to defend what already works: keep vaccines recommended by the experts qualified to make that call, and keep them covered and available in every community. California built something worth

protecting. Protecting it is the easy part.

Anthony Jernigan
Long Beach

Enshittification Relies on Broken Economic Math

Maybe you can work this into some of the “tyranny” that RLN addresses.

For instance: Will West Harbor truly become a public-space of “participation,” or another privatized (yes, it is!) Enshittified “extraction” attraction trap for Jerico’s targeted demographic (gotta hook ‘em while young!)? And which affordable part of WH, since the corporate, high-end Fish Market restaurant, corporate high-end hotel chain, and corporate (and public too?) high-end tenants will “anchor” it, and hog the waterfront? I say high-end since can’t imagine Jerico’s leases will be cheap.

Just sounds like a higher-end, privatized ‘renovation’ of the POC, subsidized by, and brought to you by the public’s POLA!

BTW: I love the disingenuous (to paraphrase) “just so happens that the first person I ran into just so coincidentally happened to be the president of Jerico” line. If it wasn’t a pre-arranged meet-up for the story, then he must of stood-out wearing a Brooks Bros. suit amongst the crowd of Espan(y)a Jerseys!

Now, about that non-profit (and very private, corporately involved) Pathway to Podium, and it’s sweet, ‘profitable’ deal with the people’s money, er, POLA. A few whom happened to have current and/or previously-held POLA positions.

Sean Doyle
Corvallis, OR

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Anthony Jernigan
Long Beach

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Sean Doyle
Corvallis, OR



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‘One Mass Shooting a Day’ Port’s New Agreement Doesn’t Change the Daily Cost of Port Pollution

By Paul Rosenberg, Senior Editor

The Port of LA was proud of approving a new addendum to its cooperative agreement with the Air Quality Management District [AQMD] on Aug. 14. Its press release featured Mayor Karen Bass calling it “another bold, historic step toward putting sustainability at the forefront of everything we do at the Port of Los Angeles.”

But on the ground, Theral Golden, president of the West Long Beach Neighborhood Association, has a very different view. The cooperative agreement itself “is not a rule, what the community wanted and pushed for from AQMD,” Golden says. “It’s not a rule that you can enforce, that’s the most important thing to me.” As a result, “The missing piece to me that no one actually looks at” is that “it’s going to be 80 to 100 years from now” before port communities get full relief from port pollution. “It won’t be today.”

As things stand, “We lose over 1,200 people a year directly related to the ports... every year, that’s the number of deaths they cause,” Golden says. “They refuse to recognize that as important. That’s more than one mass shooting a day.”

Dozens of organizations worked for more than a decade to get AQMD to adopt an indirect source rule for the ports, like the one that was adopted for warehouses, but a last-minute back-room deal last August resulted in the “cooperative agreement” between AQMD and the ports instead.



Whitney Amaya of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice.

“Our communities have been advocating for a port indirect source rule for more than a decade,” said Whitney Amaya, T.H.E. (Trade, Health and Environment) Impact Project Coordinator, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice. “The process for the cooperative agreement was not collaborative — AQMD and the ports had their own meetings that excluded community and they had the ultimate say as to what would be included.”

“The District rushed through a toothless voluntary agreement that dodged its requirements to maximize environmental protection and ensure public safety and proper oversight,” said Maya



Maya Golden-Krasner of the Law Institute at the Center for Biological Diversity.

Golden-Krasner, deputy director of the Climate Law Institute at the Center for Biological Diversity. “Angelenos deserve better from their air pollution agency.” CBD is suing to challenge AQMD’s final approval of the agreement as violations of both state and federal environmental law.

Among other things, the suit argues, “The Voluntary Agreement constitutes an unlawful abrogation of AQMD’s police powers...AQMD, which

[Budget, from p. 2]

LB Budget

ters from two vehicles apiece to one; cutting the number of motel voucher shelter rooms from 40 to 15; and reduced specialized mental health services for Multi-Service Center participants. Also, 45 fewer households will receive Rapid Rehousing assistance.

FUN FACT: *Ironically, the proposed drop in the city’s net expenditure on homeless services from this year to next is exactly the same amount — \$790,000 — that was spent on installing permanent fencing around the Billie Jean King Main Library to deter homeless persons from resting there — an expenditure that members of the city’s Homeless Services Advisory Committee complained “makes no sense.”*

Another budget casualty is Fire Engine 14, which will be eliminated even though Fire Station 14 reopened in March 2025 after a \$5.8 million “comprehensive renovation and upgrade.” The station will not close, with its ambulance continuing to serve the immediate area. (The city notes that 87% of calls to Fire Station 14 are for paramedics only.)

Amid all the cuts outlined in the proposed budget are several new expenditures. One is putting \$9.8–\$10 million back into the city’s emergency reserves. Primarily intended for crises such as natural disasters, the city dipped into these funds to make ends meet for both 2025 and 2026.

NOT-SO-FUN FACT: *The city says that “Emergency reserves will be maintained at 8% minimum (of General Fund ongoing expenditures, including transfers) and 10% target.” However, even adding \$10 million to emergency reserves will bring them to only 6% — in other words, 25% less than minimum, 40% less than the target amount.*

One new expenditure that may raise eye-

has the statutory power and duty to regulate air quality, may not contract away that power.”

The rationale for avoiding direct regulation is questionable at best, Amaya stressed.

“It’s been proven that regulations have helped to drive down emissions, but unfortunately there’s a lot of misinformation that regulations will somehow lead to the economy collapsing,” she said. “Regulations have been implemented and it hasn’t negatively impacted the economy. Warehouses keep expanding, and the ports keep growing. But at the end of the day, our communities continue to experience public health impacts because the pace of growth severely exceeds the action to reduce emissions.”

And without regulation, “The cooperative agreement has no actual goals for emission reductions,” Amaya said. “There are measures that will hopefully facilitate emission reductions, but it’s all aspirational without any goals and benchmarks. There’s no transparency.”

While none of the organizations are happy with it, their perspectives vary, in part reflecting how close to the ground they are, and how many other battles they’re fighting.

The ports, of course, are quite pleased with themselves.

[See **Agreement**, p. 16]

brows in a city contending with such harsh economic realities is the creation of a new Traffic Safety Division, which will run an Automated Speed Enforcement Program that Modica says is necessary to combat “a dramatic change in people’s behavior coming out of COVID on how they’re interacting with our streets, the amount of speeding, the amount of pedestrian death [...]” The program calls for the installation of 18 “automated speed safety cameras,” plus salaries for 12 employees. When asked how much the cameras will cost to install, Modica said that “the projections show that [the cameras] will pay for themselves; the fines that come back will pay for the system — I think it’s two-and-a-half or three million dollars.” (According to earlier reporting by the *Long Beach Post*, “The program will cost \$835,000 in the first year, with an annual operating cost of about \$1.6 million.”)

Richardson emphasized that even while “navigating significant financial headwinds,” it is important for the city to keep an eye toward the future and not stop funding long-term initiatives such as Elevate ‘28, a “five-year infrastructure program made of projects dedicated to serving Long Beach parks, community and public facilities, access to mobility and street improvements.”

“We have a lot of work to do over the next weeks,” he said. “Every budget tells a story about a city’s values. It reflects what we choose to protect, what we choose to invest in, and how honestly we confront the challenges before us. [...] This budget is not simply about responding to today’s challenges — it’s [also] about protecting the progress that we’ve made together, making responsible choices in the difficult moment, and positioning Long Beach to emerge stronger and more financially secure.”

To take as deep a dive as you want into the proposed budget, go to the city’s Budget Information page to view presentations ranging from 23 to 705 pages, as well as the entire July 30 press conference (excluding media Q&A). If you want to give your input before the proposed budget is finalized in mid-September, the public is invited to attend any or all of five community meetings to be held over the next two weeks.

DODSON ALUM ALYSSA GRACE PROFFITT RISES ON CHARTS WITH *BLOODSTREAM*

Alyssa Grace’s song bloodstream hits 64M streams

By Hannah G. Morris, Columnist

Alyssa Grace Proffitt, a 19-year-old singer-songwriter and former Dodson Middle School student, is rising in the music charts with her hit song *bloodstream*.

The young folk-pop artist has a sizable and quickly growing fan-base, with nearly 6.4 million monthly listeners on popular music streaming platform Spotify. However, her fame began on TikTok, where she sports more than 890,000 followers.

A song that her early TikTok fans once begged her to release, *bloodstream* currently has more than 64 million streams on Spotify. An ode to putting yourself first even when you love who’s hurting you, vivid emotion surges through the song with each voice crack and passionate refrain.

Capturing the desperation of a failing relationship, Alyssa sings, “I’m crying on my mama’s floor, why don’t you want this anymore? / And I’m craving you to change for me / You’re saying, ‘I hear you, and I love you, but my heart, it hurts for you / And I just cannot give you what you need.”

As the raw emotion in her voice rings out alongside her acoustic guitar, Alyssa captures the intertwined passion, frustration and deep sadness characteristic of a toxic relationship.

Yet, her lyrics find strength in the pain as she cries out, “And

something deep inside of me tells me that you’re not better now / And I’m sorry that I couldn’t help, but I’m so glad I made it out.”

Throughout *bloodstream*, auditory surges and declines carry the listener through the powerful highs and lows of a strained romance. But still, the highest high comes as the singer finds the strength to stop begging for love and answers.

In a recent interview with Genius about *bloodstream*, Alyssa said, “The only way that I was going to get better, in that sense, was by kind of focusing on myself and following my own journey. It’s helped validate a lot of my feelings and in a lot of different ways.” She added that “it’s just kind of cool that I get to go through that journey with the people that listen to my music, too.”

As Alyssa’s emotionally honest style resonates with more and more listeners, she has not only released her debut EP *spilling my guts* on July 24 with music label Artist House but also signed with Warner Records — one of the “big three” of record labels.

She will also be opening for singer and TikTok star Alex Warren this fall in Australia and New Zealand during his world tour Finding Family on the Road.



Singer-songwriter and Dodson Middle School alum Alyssa Grace’s new song, *bloodstream* has more than 64 million streams on Spotify.

MUSIC

Music at the Sardine
Check out the most cutting-edge punk bands in San Pedro.
Details: https://www.thesardinedepedro.com
Venue: The Sardine, 1101 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Aug. 20 - The Strags / Wake Up, Claudia / Prune / The Daisy Revue, \$10, 8 p.m.

Aug. 21 - Michael Motorcycle / Friends in Real Life / Suzy True \$15, 7 p.m.

Aug. 22 - Golden Ram / Hex Code / Sonnyskies, \$5, 8 p.m.

Aug. 23 - Soft Jaw / Panel / Shepards \$12 advance / \$15 day of show, 2 p.m.

Aug. 24 - Karaoke, free, 8 p.m.

Aug. 27 - Club Blob Tub, free, 8 p.m.

Aug. 29 - Amor Y Powers, free, 8 p.m.

Aug. 31 - Karaoke Free, 8 p.m.

Sept. 1 - Mega X (Japan), free, 8 p.m.

Sept. 3 - Grievous Angels, free, 5 p.m.

Collage
Collage builds relationships with artistic and cultural communities and provides a space where they may come together to teach, learn and entertain.
Details: https://www.collageart-culture.org
Venue: Collage, 731 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Aug. 22 - The Infernal Jazz Racket & 6 Cents, \$20 to \$25, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 23 - Music of Inspiration with the South Bay Guitar Quartet, \$15 to \$20, 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 26 - Acoustic Roots Session with Rebecca Lynn, Free, 7 p.m.

Sept. 2 - Harbor Rhythms Percussion Session with Jon Poli, Free, 7 p.m.

Alvas Showroom Lineup
You won't find a greater music listening experience than Alvas Showroom.
Details: alvasshowroom.com

Venue: Alvas Showroom, 1417 W. 8th St., San Pedro

Aug. 22 - Trio Electric, \$20, 8 p.m.

Aug. 29 - Michael Grange, \$20, 8 p.m.

Sept. 11, 12 - Mike Keneally & Beer For Dolphins w/ opener Travis Larson, \$35, 8 p.m.

Aug. 21
Betty's Mustache & DJ Serj
Betty's Mustache's traditional Latin grooves and punk rock attitude are inspired by their lost loved ones and incorporate hints of '80s funk band Zapp and Roger.
Time: 8:30 p.m., Aug. 21
Cost: \$13 and up
Details: https://tinyurl.com/cumbia-nights-Bettys-Mustache
Venue: Grand Annex, 434 W. 6th St., San Pedro

Motown Magic Times Two
The genre's biggest names – The Miracles and The Spinners – dominate the stage at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts with their greatest hits in a night that spotlights the Motor City's signature sound.
Time: 8 p.m., Aug. 21
Cost: \$54 and up
Details: cerritoscenter.com.
Venue: Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Drive, Cerritos

Aug. 29

Place Is The Space
CAP UCLA presents *Place Is The Space* by artist Edgar Arceneaux and co-creator Frank Lawson, a four-hour immersive performance experience combining live jazz improvisation, theatrical storytelling and multimedia design inspired by Sun Ra's philosophy and his film *Space Is The Place*.
Time: 1 to 5 p.m., Aug. 29
Cost: \$38.08 - \$48.67
Details: cap.ucla.edu/placeis-the-space
Venue: UCLA Nimoy Theater 1262 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles

THEATER
Aug. 29

Hangmen
In *Hangmen*, a corrosively funny black comedy by Martin McDonagh opens with a 1963 prologue showing British executioner Harry Wade at work, hanging a man who dies proclaiming his innocence and cursing Harry.
Time: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday., Aug. 29 to Sept. 26
Cost: \$20 to \$32
Details: www.lbplayhouse.org.
Venue: Long Beach Playhouse, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach

A Murder Mystery Musical
Shag with a Twist serves up an evocative cocktail of vibrant music and performers that brings to life the art of Shag when pupu platters and bouffants were all the rage.
Time: 8 p.m., Aug. 29
Cost: \$55.20
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Shag-with-a-Twist
Venue: The Grand Annex, 434 W. 6th St., San Pedro

ART
Aug. 20

Evelyn Schmitt: Tides & Traditions
Palos Verdes Art Center presents *Evelyn Schmitt: Tides & Traditions*, a solo photography exhibition celebrating the artist's distinctive vision of coastal life and global cultures.
Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday to Aug. 22
Cost: Free
Details: https://pvartcenter.org
Venue: Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes

Aug. 21

Positive Fragmentation
Positive Fragmentation includes over 180 prints by contemporary artists who use fragmentation both stylistically and conceptually to challenge the status quo and suggest alternative perspectives. The show runs to Sept. 27.
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday to Sunday
Cost: \$0 to \$15
Details: https://lbma.org
Venue: LBMA, 2300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach
Shine: Summer Exhibition
In this exhibition, artists shine in ways that exemplify their strengths as they seek to promote beauty, goodness and truth.
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday to Sunday, on view through Aug. 30
Cost: Free
Details: trinitysanpedro.org/kipos-galleryandstudios
Venue: Kipos Gallery, 1428b W. 7th St., San Pedro

The Summer Show
The Summer Show is a juried all-media exhibition hosted by and open for submission only to members of PVAC's seven active artists groups.



Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday to Aug. 22
Cost: Free
Details: https://pvartcenter.org
Venue: Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes

Aug. 22

Four Cities of Music with Photographer Dani Crum
Cities with a vibrant musical culture develop a visual signature too, as explored in these cityscapes by photographer Dani Crum.
Time: 6:30 p.m., Aug. 22
Cost: Free
Details: https://www.collageart-culture.org
Venue: Collage, 731 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Built On Water Closing Reception
Facilitated by curator Cecelia Caro, artists Flora Kao, Kaya & Blank, Jennifer Gunlock, Hilary Norcliffe and Katie E. Stubblefield will discuss past, present and future visions of the port within their works and creative practice.
Time: 1 p.m., Aug. 22
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/closing-and-artist-talk-AGCC
Venue: Angels Gate Cultural Center, 3601 S. Gaffey St., San Pedro

California Rising: Beauty by Hand

The California Rising: Beauty By Hand craft fair is an important, local voice in this year's semicentennial celebration, *Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026*. It was organized by a small but dedicated group of Southern Californian craft professionals and artists, to include Californian craftspeople from all corners of the state.
Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Aug. 22, 23
Cost: Free
Details: https://pvartcenter.org
Venue: Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes

Aug. 30

Book Launch for Art in the Anthropocene
Join in the gallery to welcome local artist Michael Davis for a talk and to sign his freshly released book *Art in the Anthropocene*.
Time: 3 to 5 p.m., Aug. 30
Cost: Free
Details: solosanpedro.com
Venue: solo. Gallery, 366 W. 7th St., San Pedro

Sept. 3

First Thursday
Join the unveiling of the new artist-designed crosswalk at the intersection at 6th and Mesa. Hear the artist speak about her inspiration behind the design and see some of the painting process. Enjoy a performance by the Improv Taiko drummers, then walk over to the afterparty at Port Town Brewery (285 W. 7th St.) for an artist pop-up, oysters by Holdfast Aquacul-

ture, and more.
Time: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sept. 3
Cost: Free
Details: zeffy.com/en-us/ticketing/crosswalk-unveiling-ceremony
Venue: Between Pacific Avenue, Harbor Boulevard, and 4th & 9th streets

FILM
Aug. 20

The Gospel of Revolution Film Screening
The film is a recent documentary that covers Liberation Theology in social movements across four different Latin American countries; El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico and Brazil. A panel discussion with organizers and community members will follow the screening.
Time: 6 p.m., Aug. 20
Cost: Free, donations accepted.
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Gospel-of-Revolution
Venue: San Pedro United Methodist Church, 580 W. 6th St., San Pedro

LITERATURE
Aug. 23

Artists in Conversation
The Den San Pedro is hosting a conversation with two prominent Los Angeles artists, Mr. Wash and Maria Maea, who will delve into their creative processes both inside and outside the studio, followed by a Q&A.
Time: 3 to 5 p.m., Aug. 23
Cost: Free
Details: https://www.theden-sanpedro.com
Venue: The Den San Pedro, 1126 W. 37th St., San Pedro

ENTERTAINMENT

Harvelle's at Long Beach
The best live shows south of the 405 — comedy, burlesque, music and pre-show drinks.
Details: https://longbeach.harvelles.com

Venue: Harvelle's Long Beach, 201 E. Broadway, Long Beach
Aug. 22 - Circus Of Sin, \$24.20, 8 p.m.

Aug. 23 - '90s Trivia Night w/ CJ The Host, \$5.50, 7 p.m

Aug. 24 - Crimson: a Darker Standard Goth Night, \$14.30, 9 p.m.

Aug. 28 - Fuego: Mamiii a Karol G Burlesque Tribute, \$22 and up, 8 p.m.

Aug. 30 - A Tribute to Marvin Gaye, \$16.50, 5 p.m.

Sept. 4, 5 - The Winehouse Experience, \$23.10, 8 p.m.

Sept. 12

Anthony Brown
A rare Los Angeles appearance from one of comedy's most beloved entertainers. Join for an evening of nonstop comedy featuring special guest Courtney Black.
Time: 7 p.m., Sept. 12
Cost: \$35 to \$55
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Anthony-Brown-comedy

Venue: The Miracle Theater, 226 S. Market St., Inglewood

FOOD
Aug. 22

Taste of Downtown with KCRW Summer Nights
Taste of Downtown, now in its 17th year, is a signature culinary and cultural celebration presented by the Downtown Long Beach Alliance, bringing together top local restaurants, live music and DJs, and a vibrant street-festival atmosphere in the heart of Downtown Long Beach.
Time: 2 to 10 p.m. Aug 22
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Summer-nights-LB
Venue: 200 Pine Ave., Long Beach

NATURE
Aug. 20

Native Plant Nursery Outdoor Volunteer Day
Join an outdoor volunteer day at a native plant nursery in north San Pedro to help nurture and grow native plants that will be planted to restore the local coastal sage scrub habitat at preserves across the peninsula. Pre-registration is required. Location will be sent via email the day before the event to registered participants.
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Aug. 20
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/nature-journaling-CMA
Venue: Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 3720 Stephen M. White Drive, San Pedro

Aug. 22

Lead the Way for Nature
Discover how to create wildlife habitat with volunteers as a team leader for PVPLC's outdoor volunteer days. As a team leader, you will gain experience and share it with restoration teams of volunteers on Saturday or Sunday mornings across preserved natural lands on the Peninsula. For ages 16 and older.
Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Aug. 22
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Team-leader-training
Venue: White Point Nature Center, 1600 W. Paseo del Mar, San Pedro.

Native Plant Wonders: Guided Garden Tour

Step into the beauty of the White Point native plant garden and discover the wonders of California's native flora. Learn expert tips on growing and caring for native plants and explore the vibrant garden habitats. Perfect for gardeners, nature lovers, and anyone curious about sustainable landscaping. Meet at the White Point Nature Education Center and take home ideas to make your own garden a native plant paradise.
Time: 11 to 11:30 a.m., Aug. 22
Cost: Free
Details: pvplc.org/calendar
Venue: White Point Nature Preserve, 1600 W. Paseo del Mar, San Pedro

Aug. 29

Introduction to Printmaking
Learn monoprinting, intaglio, collagraphy, and image transfer with printmaker Nguyen Ly.
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 20 to Oct. 17
Cost: \$275
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Print-making-Intro-at-AGCC
Venue: Angels Gate Cultural Center, 3601 S. Gaffey St., San Pedro

Basic Guitar Lessons with Rebecca Lynn
Always wanted to play the guitar, or played a long time ago and forgot most of what you learned? Rebecca Lynn will conduct a series of six small-group sessions to build your confidence.
Time: 7 p.m., Aug. 20
Cost: \$60 for the series, \$15 per class
Details: https://tinyurl.com/basic-guitar
Venue: Collage, 731 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Where Sea Meets Sky: Coastal Birdlife Walk
Meet in front of White Point Nature Education Center for a free bird walk with an experienced naturalist, binoculars provided.
Time: 9 a.m., Sept. 2

Sept. 2

Cost: Free
Details: pvplc.org/calendar
Venue: White Point Nature Education Center, 1600 W. Paseo del Mar, San Pedro

Sept. 5

George F Canyon Exploration Guided Walk
Naturalists will guide you along a trail through the preserve to discover unique wildlife in their canyon habitat with amazing views of the LA Basin. Park in the dirt lot on the west side of Palos Verdes Drive East about 400 feet south of Palos Verdes Drive North. Meet at the Stein Hale trailhead. Rain cancels the walk.
Time: 10:30 a.m., Sept. 5
Cost: Free
Details: pvplc.org/calendar
Venue: George F Canyon, 27305 Palos Verdes Drive E., Rancho Palos Verdes

Native Plant Nursery Outdoor Volunteer Day

Join an outdoor volunteer day at a native plant nursery in north San Pedro to help nurture and grow native plants that will be planted to restore the local coastal sage scrub habitat at preserves across the peninsula. Pre-registration is required. Location will be sent via email the day before the event to registered participants.
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sept 5
Cost: Free
Details: pvplc.volunteerhub.com
Venue: Northwest San Pedro

COMMUNITY
Aug. 21

Night Dive
Groove to the tunes of a live band, grab a drink at one of the cash bars, and explore a child-free aquarium with DJs spinning in the galleries.
Time: 7:30 to 11 p.m., Aug. 21
Cost: \$44.96 to \$49.95
Details: https://tinyurl.com/47uvj3z
Venue: Long Beach Aquarium, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach

Aug. 22

LA World Cup Free Soccer Clinic: Sign Up Now
The Los Angeles World Cup 2026 host committee is inviting boys and girls ages 6 to14 to enjoy a fun, free soccer experience designed for players of all skill levels. The clinic is an opportunity for young players to build their skill-set and enjoy the game in an encouraging environment.
Time: 8:30 a.m. check-in, 9 to 11 a.m. clinic, Aug. 23
Cost: Free
Detail: https://tinyurl.com/Grow-the-game-soccer-clinic
Venue: 22nd Street Park, 140 W. 22nd St., San Pedro

Aug. 29

Basic Guitar Lessons with Rebecca Lynn
Always wanted to play the guitar, or played a long time ago and forgot most of what you learned? Rebecca Lynn will conduct a series of six small-group sessions to build your confidence.
Time: 7 p.m., Aug. 20
Cost: \$60 for the series, \$15 per class
Details: https://tinyurl.com/basic-guitar
Venue: Collage, 731 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Older Adults Should Go ‘Back-to-School’ Too

Psychologists Say Continued Learning Can Help Prevent Cognitive Decline

By Hannah G. Morris, *Columnist*

As many children and young adults head back to school, scholars of psychology say that adults should keep learning too. Continued learning opportunities, whether academic or creative, offer a significant mental fitness advantage as people age. And in the Los Angeles Harbor Area, such opportunities are plenty, ranging from art classes at Angel's Gate Cultural Center and Crafted to non-credit classes at the nearby community colleges.

Local adults can enroll in free non-credit classes at Los Angeles Harbor College or fee-based non-credit classes at El Camino College. At Harbor College, class offerings include instruction in basic computer skills, culinary arts, Spanish and marketing. At El Camino, craft classes such as soap and candle making are available, as well as classes to develop financial literacy and research skills.

At Angel's Gate Cultural Center or AGCC, instructors offer classes including ceramics, wood carving, dance, print-making and ukulele, with either a drop-in or class package price. Down towards the waterfront, Crafted offers classes with a host of local vendors, with focuses such as fused glass artistry and candle-making, with prices depending on the item made.

"As people get older, it can be easy to fall into the same routines and habits where learning becomes less common," said Dr. Masha Vodyanyk, a postdoctoral research associate at the Brain Game Center for Mental Fitness and Wellbeing at Northeastern University, in an email. "When we learn, however, our brain is very engaged. It involves a coordination of different cognitive processes, depending on what the task is. Researchers now know that the brain is plastic throughout the lifespan, and it is that late-life engagement that is particularly beneficial for healthy aging and preventing cognitive decline, including both typical cognitive decline and atypical cognitive decline like dementia."

According to Anna Erneholm, an artist and wood-carving class instructor at AGCC, the mindful creative practice offered in her class can help one enter an "amazing flow." Dr. Vodyanyk described this flow as "a state where we optimize feeling skilled and challenged, and where we become so immersed in the present moment that time starts to lose its meaning." She noted that "creative arts are really good at getting us into this flow state, all the while engaging different cognitive processes."

Participants in Erneholm's 10-session workshop engage in hands-on learning as they go through the steps of the wood-carving process: from inspiration to design choices to using new tools as they create. And on Saturday mornings, with an ocean view and refreshing breeze, she says the class has become a space to build community as well.

"Older adults report feeling better about themselves and their life when they choose learning opportunities that are in social settings, such as taking group classes to learn a new language, computer skill, or art technique," said Dr. Ilana Bennett, an associate professor in the University of California, Riverside's psychology department.

At Crafted, classes have a similar group-learning structure. April Adewole, a fused-glass class instructor and business owner, said her classes are open to both individuals and large groups, such as parties or coworkers. She noted that her classes are very beginner friendly and offer a variety of project options, such as dishes,



Learning new skills and disciplines later in life can help maintain cognitive function. Pictured is Roy Kunisaki's wheel throwing ceramics class at Angels Gate Cultural Center in San Pedro.

ornaments and plant stands.

Dr. Alan Castel, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles, noted that learning new skills can help to improve other areas of cognitive function such as memory. He emphasized the role of curiosity as a driver for this lifelong learning.

"(The class) gives people an opportunity to kind of tap out of everything else and go into the quietness of themselves or tap into their creativity, do something fun," Adewole said. "Plus learning something new just always opens up new pathways. It makes your brain work better. It makes everything feel better and more alive."

Roy Kunisaki offers pottery classes multiple times per week at AGCC in which students can learn to make one or multiple ceramic pieces. He emphasized his focus on step-by-step demonstrations to help make pottery accessible to his students. He added that students can develop a personal connection to ceramics, with some having noted a deeper appreciation for the ceramic art pieces seen during their travels.

Kunisaki said some of his students have attended classes for several years and have become "more friends than students." He explained that the general energy between students in the classes is supportive, motivational and uplifting.

"Learning new skills is a necessity to remain independently living as an older adult," said Rachel Wu, a psychology professor at the UC Riverside, in an email. "However, it is also a luxury not afforded equally to everyone, because it requires a lot of resources (time, money, energy, growth mindset/motivation, etc.). Therefore, we should make sure to provide resources to help learners of all ages, not just infants and children, to achieve more than we think is possible."

In AGCC's print-making classes, instructor and studio manager Nguyen Ly exposes students to various forms of printmaking, which he said involve elements of the major art forms: painting, drawing and sculpture. He noted that his classes draw both beginners and explorative artists who typically work in another medium, with many students being middle-aged or older adults.

Ly added that print-making serves not only as an artistic outlet, but also as an exercise in

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Fictitious Business Name Statement

File No. 2026169905

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: EL Padrino Coffee Co., 975 W. 5th St., San Pedro, CA 90731. County of LOS ANGELES. Registered owner(s): PADRINO HOLDINGS LLC, 975 W. 5th St., San Pedro, CA 90731. CRENSHAW COFFEE CO., 975 W. 5th St., San Pedro, CA 90731. This business is conducted by a JOINT VENTURE. The registrant(s) started doing business 7/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). S/ ADRIAN VELIZ, GENERAL PARTNER, EL PADRINOS COFFEE CO., This statement was filed with the County

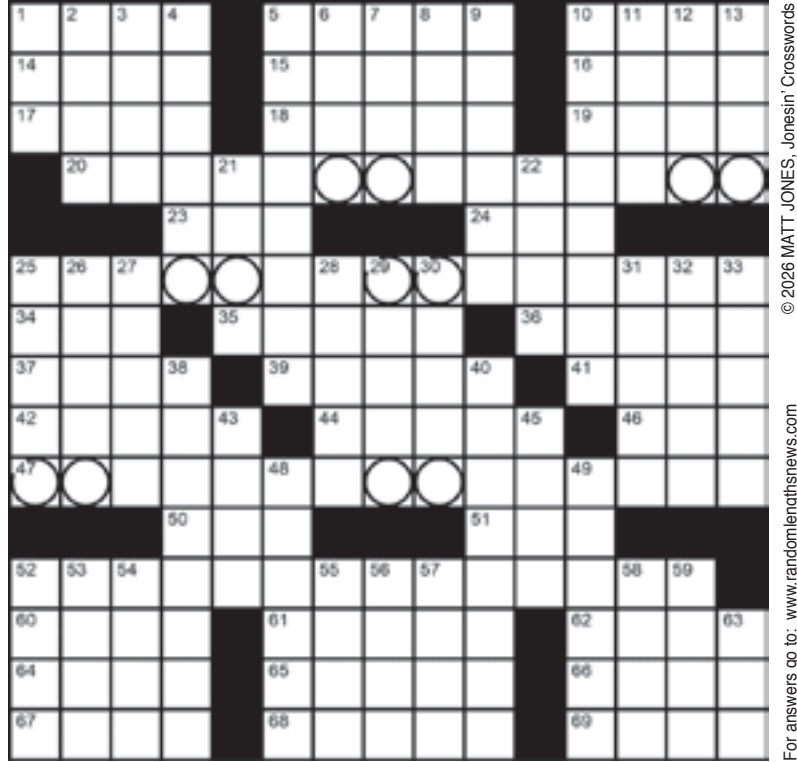
Clerk of Los Angeles County on 4/02/2026. NOTICE in accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 8/6/26, 8/20/26, 9/3/26, 9/17/26.



"Peddle Pieces" — some vend diagrams.

Across

- Haydn's nickname
- "White Christmas" record label
- Big bikes
- Faucet issue
- Eyed lewdly
- LGBT rights activist Windsor
- Twain protagonist
- Black, in Bordeaux
- Regal title
- Marvel series from 2013-2020
- Conical cooker
- "Boy king" of Egypt
- Info that often gets encrypted
- Geller who claims paranormal ability
- Memo taker
- Like failed goals
- Speakers between woofers and tweeters, for short
- Like some baskets
- Domesticated
- To have, in Le Havre
- Neared, with "to"
- Former Portuguese colony in India
- It only has 60 feet between bases
- Part of RSVP
- Winnipeg-to-Memphis dir.
- How additional items are described in toy ads (and a hint to the circled letters)
- ___ gobi (Indian potato dish)
- "Lady Bird" actress Saoirse
- Still-life fruit
- Tabby noise
- Bar mixer
- Pie crust ingredient
- X Games airer
- Refuge from the sun
- "Where the Sidewalk ___" (Shel Silverstein book)



Down

- Adobe export
- Operatic solo
- Send an e-notification to
- Nonprofit journalism org.
- "Ya got me"
- They may easily bruise
- Ad agency award
- "What's My Line?" panelist
- Bennett
- ___ Fideles" (Christmas carol)
- Unsure
- "Garfield" canine
- St. Pauli ___ (beer brand)
- Pomegranate bit
- Halfway through the day
- "Hotel Rwanda" group
- Alternative to Nikes
- "Wicked" star Cynthia
- Free from
- Maldives landform
- Video game stage
- "Judge ___" (1995 Stallone movie)
- Adult insect
- ___ chiffon (pale yellow color)
- Position
- Can't stand anymore?
- Bother
- Sluggish's stats
- Over and done with
- Push notices
- Small human-shaped board game piece
- Unaltered
- Soccer cheers
- Curved path
- Friend of Piglet
- "The King and I" character
- Viking's mission
- Rest (against)
- Short gridiron gain
- Map lines, for short

For answers go to: www.randomlengthsnews.com

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Under the update, POLA “will enhance incentives for the cleanest ocean-going vessels, establish new incentives to increase the use of zero-emission trucks, and invest \$20 million to-

ward regional charging and fueling infrastructure for zero-emission drayage trucks,” according to its press release.

It may sound like a lot, but \$20 million is less than 1% of POLA’s 2025-2026 budget.

“It’s a drop in the bucket,” said Amaya. “It’s clear that they are more motivated by economics, than protecting public health. The ports can invest a lot more to ensure that they are reducing and eliminating the harm to communities, but instead they choose to focus on increasing the amount of cargo that’s coming

through the ports.”

“Our South Bay/San Pedro & Wilmington most impacted neighborhoods need more guarantees for our children & elderly who are at risk if the Twin PORTS/LA/LB don’t live up to its said expectations,” said Ricardo Pulido, with Coalition For A Safe Environment. “We must keep the POLA/LB feet to the fire and make sure industry keeps its commitment for now and forever more!”

Others took a softer tone, while still stressing the need to do more.

“We’re glad to see the San Pedro Bay Ports and South Coast AQMD commit to enhancing incentives that’ll attract the world’s cleanest vessels,” said Cristhian Tapia-Delgado, climate

campaigner for Southern California at Pacific Environment. “The cancer-causing emissions from these diesel vessels and harbor craft are felt deeply by those living near the port. The Cooperative Agreement must be a start, not an end, to strategies by the state agency and ports to clean up our air.”

“The community still wants real and quantifiable emissions reductions. Without the state and federal regulatory frameworks which were responsible for historical port emissions reductions, the ports must now prove that their words speak truth and their actions demonstrate it,” said Dori Chandler, policy advocate with the Coalition for Clean Air. “Profits should be put back to protecting people — let’s follow the money on where POLA’s actual priorities lie.”

“While encouraging to see the ports coordinating with SCAQMD to clean the air and reduce emissions, it is problematic that on-dock rail is missing from the cooperative agreement,” said Alison Hahm, a staff attorney at NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) “This is a missed opportunity and step back from SCAQMD’s initial [ISR] rule concept. Port communities should not be forced to choose between good health and economic activity. We can have both. I hope the Ports and SCAQMD quickly shift from planning to achieving emission reductions. Everyone has the right to live and breathe with dignity.”

Amaya drilled down into specific concerns.

“There are no measures that are addressing the emissions coming from on dock rail. There’s also nothing to address the emissions coming from cargo handling equipment or from harbor craft,” she said. “We were hoping to see an expansion of the clean truck fund rate and have a Clean Freight Fee in order to collect incentive funding going towards electric zero-emission harbor craft, locomotives, cargo handling equipment, ships, and for supporting infrastructure. Currently, incentives are only for trucks, which is great, but we need action on more than just trucks.”

In addition, “Having electric on-dock rail and also funding for electrification of the Alameda corridor were some of our other asks,” she said. “It was designed to be electric, but unfortunately there hasn’t been any investment into the actual electrification of the Alameda corridor.”

And of course, “We also wanted to see periodic public health impact assessments so that there is transparency into the health impacts our communities are experiencing and how that’s changing over time.”

Summing up, Amaya said, “It’s hard to see how this will lead to emission reductions when there are so many different development and expansion projects going on at the ports where we’re expected to see bigger ships, more cargo, which in turn leads to more trucks, more trains, more warehouses in our communities.... The ports at a certain point stop factoring emissions into their emissions inventory, but that pollution doesn’t disappear — we’re still left to breathe polluted air in our communities.”

Golden put it more bluntly. “It’s not a smart move when it comes to protecting the health and welfare of this community,” he said. “We should not have to give up our lives.”

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