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## LCCN INVESTIGATION

### Emails Show Possible Collusion in Illegal Hiring of Central Basin GM

An April 6 document shows General Counsel knew of a boardmember's resignation. The GC did not object two months later when the boardmember tried to come back.

By Brian Hews

The General Manager hiring fiasco stepped up to another level at Central Basin Water. Recall that two weeks ago, CB Board members Martha Camacho-Rodriguez and appointed Director Juan Garza forced an illegal Government Code-breaking vote at a CB special meeting to hire interim General Manager Elaine Jeng for the Commerce-based water agency.

The two denied that the hiring

was illegal and later commissioned a letter, at taxpayer expense, from Central Basin Attorney and Interim GM Victor Ponto (conflict?) to justify their choice.

Turns out Ponto already knew about his choice.

First, the following are the violations that Ponto attempted to explain away in the questionable letter:

Government Code 54956 states, "any action to approve the contract of a local agency executive [Ms. Jeng] must be taken at a regular board meeting and cannot be approved at a special meeting of the board."

In addition, GC 54956(b) states, "A legislative body shall not call a special meeting regarding the salary of a local agency

[ See WATER, page 4 ]

### Valley Christian's Football Stadium to Undergo Complete Renovation



IMPACT STADIUM PROJECT: rendering of Valley Christian's stadium which broke ground on May 28.

By

Over the past decade or so, more high schools have converted the playing surfaces of their football and soccer fields from grass to field turf. Now, you can add Valley Christian High to that list as it broke ground on May 28, replacing the grass with what will

be the more popular field turf.

On May 13, the school had a farewell celebration at the stadium with a plethora of former coaches, players and other personnel who competed on the field in cross country, football, soccer, track and field and cheer.

[ See VALLEY, page 10 ]



### ICONIC CERRITOS PARK IN MAJOR DISREPAIR

AREA CLOSED signs dot Play Island at Heritage Park in Cerritos. The Park is suffering from 22 years of neglect, the city says they are aware of the problems. Photo by Brian Hews.

By Brian Hews

Cerritos' Heritage Park was initially developed as part of a series of efforts by Cerritos to create unique and educational recreational spaces for its residents. The park was designed with a colonial American theme, reflecting a small New England village from the 1700s.

The park features replicas of colonial-era buildings, including a town hall, a church, and various shops. The buildings are not just facades; some house exhibits and interactive displays that provide insights into life during the colonial period.

Heritage Park offers not only educational and historical value, but also a beautiful and peaceful environment for recreation. The park features open spaces, playgrounds, and picnic areas, making it a favored destination for families and individuals seeking to enjoy the outdoors.

The park's history includes an October 1988 visit by George H. W. Bush, the then-presidential candidate, who held a rally there for his 1988 United States presidential

[ See PARK, page 9 ]

### Bellflower Quilts of Valor One of the Top Quilting Branches in the Nation

By Laurie Hanson

19 years ago, 77-year-old Barbara Winkler of Bellflower found herself in a silly situation

that was, I looked into it."

Winkler found a pattern made by a woman that was to be used for Quilts of Valor. After finding out it was a foun-



THE LATE U.S. SENATOR John McCain receives a Quilt of Valor, Bellflower is one of the top quilt-making branches in the nation.

without realizing it.

"I was looking for something online and saw a 'Mystery Quilt,'" she said.

"Since I didn't know what

dation that awarded quilts to Veterans and service members touched by war, she decided to join the great cause.

[ See VALLEY, page 13 ]

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## Da' Hawaii Seniors Club Holds Potluck Picnic



**PICTURED AT** Da' Hawaii Seniors Club's Potluck Picnic on June 8, 2024, at Liberty Park in Cerritos are some members of the Picnic Committee who prepared for the Picnic. **Photo by Edna Ethington.**

**By Edna Ethington**

Approximately 65 members and guests of Da' Hawaii Seniors Club gathered at Liberty Park in Cerritos for a Potluck Picnic and Entertainment on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

President and M.C. Carmelita Tionson welcomed members and guests to the event; there were two June birthday celebrants, Gloria Kunimoto and Anne Ohara.

Ann Kho directed the Angklung Group of Cerritos who played their Indonesian bamboo instruments for two songs. Ann then sang a solo of the song Memory, from the movie Cats. David and Edna Ethington then sang as a duet, two songs, Ku'u Ipo, Hawaiian for Sweetheart, and Johnny Cash's I walk the Line.

Everyone was invited by tables to go to the three tables that were full of a variety of appetizers, snacks, salads, and main dishes.

After lunch, the Elvis Elias Laberinto performed for Elvis' songs; Liberty Santiago joined in singing when Elias stopped and sang to her.

Frances McCormick introduced four remaining performing groups. Irina Soleymani and Cesar Franco played their guitars as instrumentalists for the songs. Larry and Hedy Anduha then sang two songs, The final group that performed was Na' Kupunawahine O'Cerritos, who danced two hulas to Blue Hawaii and Ku'u Papale Lauhala.

The Annual Potluck Picnic came to an end with members and guests holding hands and forming a circle as they sang Hawai'i Aloha and Aloha O'e.

Persons interested in joining Da' Hawaii Seniors Club, and experiencing the Aloha Spirit at meetings, can contact Membership VP Myrna Matsuno at 310-538-2148 for more information.

## ABCUSD Awarded Nearly \$6 Million for College and Career Programs

**Staff Report**

The State of California has announced the distribution of \$470 million to 392 local educational agencies through the Golden State Pathways Program, with the ABC Unified School District receiving \$5.96 million.

This funding aims to expand the District's already robust college and career readiness programs, including work-based learning and Career Technical Education (CTE) courses.

"These funds will help us continue to expand our CTE programs across the District," said Superintendent Dr. Gina Zietlow.

"We are committed to ensuring that every ABCUSD student graduates high school with career interests and in a position of choice to attend college or other post secondary experiences to have a well-paying career."

The Golden State Pathways Program promotes college and career pathways that lead to high-wage, high-skill, and high-growth employment opportunities.

The program's objectives include expanding college and career education opportunities and workforce training in growth industries, providing students with clear career paths.

Governor Gavin Newsom expressed his support for the program, stating, "Every student in California deserves the opportunity to build real-life skills and pursue the careers they want. This funding will be a game-changer

for thousands of students as the state invests in pathways to good-paying, high-need careers—including those that don't require college degrees."

ABCUSD plans to use the funds to expand its Health Science and Medical Technology pathways, Information and Communications Technology pathways, and Teacher Preparation pathways.

The Golden State Pathways funding will benefit all four of ABCUSD's comprehensive high schools: Artesia, Cerritos, Gahr, and Whitney. Pathway students will also benefit from earning at least 12 units of college credit.

The Teacher Preparation Pathway supports students pursuing early childhood, elementary, or secondary education careers.

The Information and Communications Technology pathway caters to students interested in computer science, networking, cybersecurity, or cloud computing careers.

The Health Science and Medical Technology pathway is designed for students aiming for careers in biotechnology, sports medicine, pharmacy, mental health, and medical assisting. These Career Pathways are part of the 18 offered at ABCUSD, with over 90 affiliated courses offered. Over a quarter of all ABCUSD students have completed at least one pathway.



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**WATER** from page 1

executive.”

Despite the Code violations, Camacho and Garza forced the item on the agenda and voted to hire Jeng.

But President Chacon, who voted no along with Director Vasquez-Wilson, vowed he would not sign Jeng’s contract.

Undeterred, Camacho and Garza hatched another illicit Code-breaking scheme to get around Chacon and hire Jeng.

Under Central Basin Code, a special meeting can only be called by a majority of board members, which currently is three.

Sources are telling LCCN that Chacon, Vasquez-Wilson and Crawford are fed up with Camacho and Garza’s unethical behavior and have formed a solid majority.

So, Camacho and Garza called for a special meeting on June 6 [violating Code] and placed Jeng on the agenda. However, they only had two votes, so in another illegal move [that’s five now], they claimed that former Director Thomas Bekele had also called for the meeting and would be attending.

But Bekele resigned in an email to attorney Victor Ponto on April 23 and confirmed his resignation on video at a May 20 regular board meeting. Ballots were sent out May 21 by the CB Board Secretary to replace Bekele.

Camacho and Garza persisted, but the CB Board Secretary, who had indicated Bekele had resigned in a memo of her own obtained by LCCN, did not post the agenda due to lack of a majority.

That brave move stopped Camacho and Garza’s scheme in its tracks, but Jeng remains and is already stirring things up to help the two including talking to the press.

Now, LCCN has obtained email communications between Bekele, Victor Ponto, Juan Garza, and Sharon Kumar related to the resignation. The email exchanges clear-

ly show Ponto knew and agreed that Bekele had resigned as of April 23, yet Ponto wrote the letter to defend the hiring.

The emails also show possible collusion between Ponto and Garza; Garza was the only CB Director in the emails.

**1) Initial April 23 email from Bekele to Ponto**

**Subject:** Thomas Bekele - Stepping Down from Director (At-Large) Position

**Text:** Hi Victor, I am writing to inform you of my decision to step down from my role as a Director (At-Large) at CBMWD. The demands of my current position as Public Works Director at the City of Signal Hill have significantly increased, necessitating my full attention and commitment. It has been a pleasure to work with you, and I am grateful for the experiences and insights gained during my tenure. I am confident in the board’s continued success and look forward to witnessing the District’s future achievements. We can make a formal notice of some kind during the next board meeting. However, please initiate any applicable proceedings that will expedite my replacement. I will try my best to assist as much as I can during this transition. Thanks, Thomas Bekele Public Works Director Signal Hill Public Works

**2) April 24 email from Ponto, Ponto only includes Garza, but Ponto does CC his fellow attorneys.**

**From:** Ponto, Victor M.

**To:** mike@lhchwd.com ; Juan Garza ; Sharon Kumar ; Elizabeth Brizuela ; Naja Braddock

**Cc:** Lopes, Zachery A. Gutierrez, Stephanie

**Subject:** FW: Thomas Bekele - Stepping Down from Director (At-Large) Position

**Text:** All, See the email [above] from Director Bekele. What do we need to do as staff to assist with this process? Regards, Victor Victor M. Ponto

**3) April 24 email from Kumar**

**From:** Sharon Kumar

**NAYS:** Garza, Thomas Bekele, Jim Crawford  
None

**ABSTAINS:** None

**ABSENT:** Leticia Vasquez, Michael Gualtieri

7. GENERAL MANAGER AND BOARD COMMENTS

7.A General Manager’s Comments

The AGM brought to the attention of the board that new committee representatives would be needed with the resignation of Director Gualtieri.

**The election process is to begin for both Bekele and Gualtieri replacements.**

7.B Directors’ Comments

Comments were heard from members of the Board.

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.A Adjourn Special Board Meeting of April 6, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

**DOCUMENT SHOWING** Ponto, as GM, acknowledged that Bekele had resigned, and the agency needs to “look for replacements.” This was two weeks prior to Bekele sending his email to Ponto.

**To:** Ponto, Victor M. mike@lhchwd.com; Juan Garza, Elizabeth Brizuela ; Naja Braddock

**Cc:** Lopes, Zachery A.; Gutierrez, Stephanie

**Subject:** Re: Thomas Bekele - Stepping Down from Director (At-Large) Position

**Text:** Victor, we need to start the election process to get a replacement. What is the effective date of his resignation?

Best, Sharon Kumar

**4) April 24 email from Ponto, Ponto once again only includes Garza.**

**From:** Ponto, Victor M.

**To:** Sharon Kumar; mike@lhchwd.com; Juan Garza; Elizabeth Brizuela ; Naja Braddock

**Cc:** Lopes, Zachery A.; Gutierrez, Stephanie

**Subject:** RE: Thomas Bekele - Stepping Down from Director (At-Large) Position

**Text:** My assumption is that it would be

at the next regular meeting as his email suggests but we can get clarification.

Ponto was not including President Chacon, VP Camacho, or Directors Leticia Vasquez Wilson and Jim Crawford, thus keeping the fact that Ponto knew Bekele had resigned April 23, and so did Garza.

Yet Garza, with Ponto’s blessing, attempted to include Bekele as a CB Board Member so he could call a special meeting and hire Jeng even though the two knew Bekele had resigned.

Even more incriminating, LCCN found an April 6 agenda document showing that Ponto was aware of Bekele’s resignation two weeks prior to Bekele’s April 23 resignation email to him.

Under GM comments in the April 6 document, Ponto wrote, “The election process is to begin for both Bekele and Gualtieri replacements.”

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## La Mirada Soccer Association Boys Football Club South State Cup Mayors Division Champs



THE LA MIRADA SOCCER ASSOCIATION'S Boys Football Club Team was recognized by La Mirada City Council for their achievements at the 2024 Cal South State Cup Mayors Division 13U Championship. They were a defensive machine giving up only two goals the entire tournament, no goals past the round of 16.

### Staff Report

The La Mirada City Council recognized the La Mirada Soccer Association signature team La Mirada Football Club (FC) at its May 28 City Council meeting.

The team was recognized for their achievements at the 2024 Cal South State Cup Mayors Division 13U Championship.

This season, the La Mirada FC had great success with tournament play.

La Mirada FC entered the annual Cal South State Cup and based on its ranking was placed in the Mayors Division.

The tournament consisted of 54 teams from five major counties in Southern California and was held over the course of three weekends in February.

La Mirada FC started the tournament with a tie, then played dominantly over its subsequent matches.

Over the course of the tournament only two goals were scored against the team.

In the round of 16, La Mirada FC beat its opponent 6-0. In the quarter final, La Mirada FC won 4-0.

In the semi-final, La Mirada FC managed to secure its place in the final match with a 2-0 victory. In the final match, La Mirada FC defeated Santa Ynez FC 1-0.

At the conclusion of the tournament, La Mirada FC was crowned 2024 Cal South State Cup Mayors Division 13U champions.

*The La Mirada FC team was led by Team Manager Ramon Jauregui, Team Parent Heidi Jauregui, and Coaches Mario Diaz and Matthew Wight. The team includes the following players: Miles Diaz, Ryan Duchene, Elijah Estrella, Noah Figueroa, Noah Jauregui, James Lagman, Christopher Lee, Cooper Lee, Michael Marshall, Eric McMartin, Abel Ortega, Elliot Perea, Angel Rigsby, Avi Smolinsy, Jordan Suarez, Edwin Tapia, Nikolai Vega, and Matthew Wight Jr.*

## California's Gun Show Ban Wins in Court

Earlier this week, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the constitutionality of California's statewide gun show ban, which was enacted with the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 915, authored by Senator Dave Min (D-Irvine) in 2022. The ruling reverses a controversial decision by a Trump-appointed judge to enjoin SB 915 and SB 264, a 2021 bill authored by Senator Min which banned gun shows at the Orange County Fairgrounds.

"Today's decision is a win for Orange County and California families who are sick and tired of senseless gun violence. The restoration of my ban on gun shows on state properties—including most of the county fairgrounds sites that are owned by the state—will make us all safer.

I hope that in my lifetime, we will return to being a society where people's lives are valued more than guns, and where gun violence incidents are rare and shocking rather than commonplace as they are today. Today's ruling is a step in the right direction."

### No Fireworks in Cerritos

As Independence Day approaches, residents are reminded that fireworks – including the "safe and sane" varieties sold in neighboring cities – are not allowed in Cerritos.

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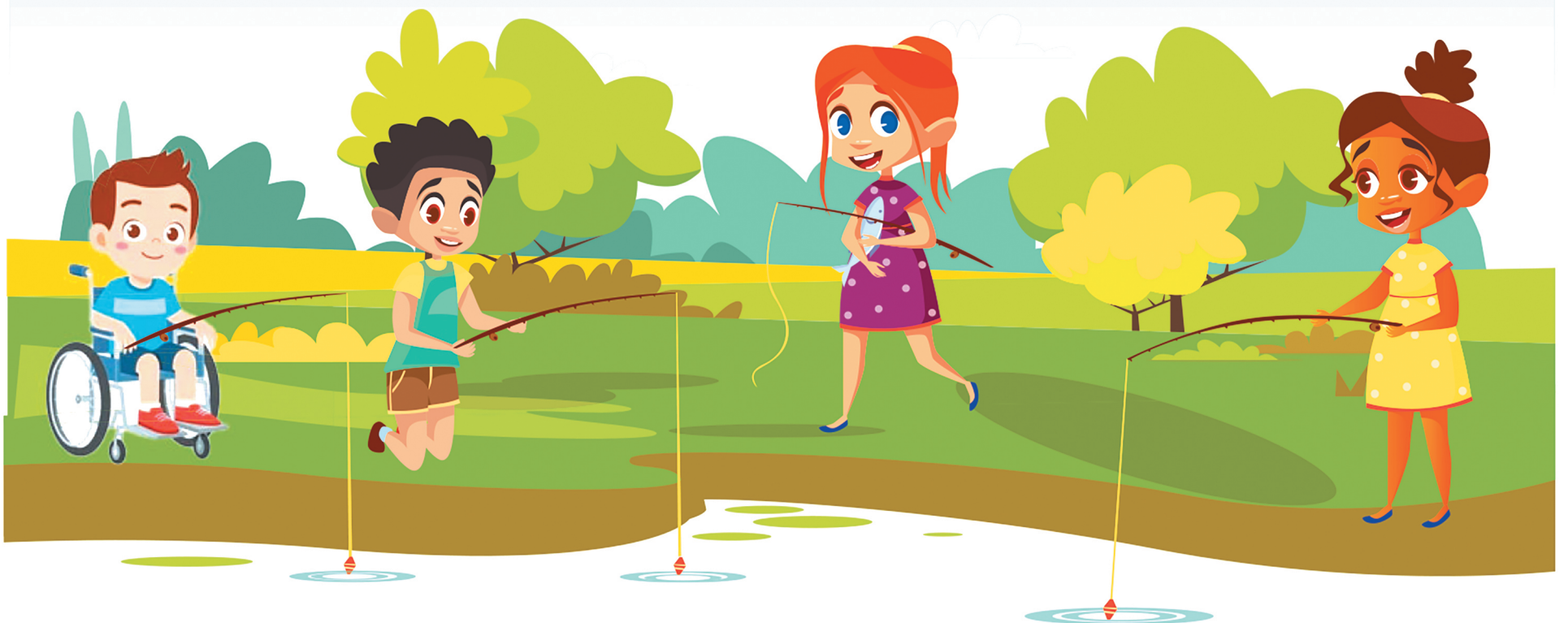
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Registration closes on Thursday, June 13, at midnight.

<https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/losangelescounty/activity/search/detail/30542>

Children, ages 5 to 15 years, are invited to participate in this free fishing and angler safety lessons sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Each child will receive a free T-shirt while supplies last.

Children will also be eligible to compete for prizes in various categories.

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## Lakewood Rotary Holds BBQ, Awards Service Above Self Award



**THE ROTARY CLUB** of Lakewood gave the Service Above Self Awards at the inaugural BBQ & Brews, held June 6 at Roxanne's in Long Beach. Others receiving the award included Joe Ung and Macerich, Lakewood Education Foundation. Presenting the award is from (l-r) BBQ & Brews Chair Tania Whiteleather; Rotary Club of Lakewood President Curt Kurtz, Assemblyman Anthony Rendon, and former Lakewood Councilman Ariel Pe, who emceed the event.

## Hawaiian Gardens' Free Lunch Program Returns

Hawaiian Gardens, CA – Hawaiian Gardens announced the return of its Free Lunch Summer Program, running from June 3 to August 9, Monday through Friday.

Sponsored by the California Department of Education, this program will provide free summer lunches to children ages 3-18 at three city facilities from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm.

This initiative aims to ensure children have access to essential nutrition during school closures and summer break periods.

### Locations and Schedule:

Clarkdale Park –  
22008 Clarkdale Avenue

Lee Ware Game Room –  
22310 Wardham Avenue

Teen Center –  
22325 Norwalk Blvd

All students can participate in school

nutrition programs; however, students with family incomes under 130 percent of the federal poverty line are eligible for free meals, and those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty line are eligible for low-cost or "reduced-price" meals.

Lunch is served on a first-come, first-serve basis. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Summer meal sites are located in communities where at least 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. All meals must meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition requirements. Please note that lunch will not be served on June 17, June 19, and July 4.

Hawaiian Gardens Mayor Victor Farfan expressed his support for the program, stating, "The Free Lunch Summer Program is a crucial initiative for our community. It ensures that our children receive the nutrition they need during the summer months when school is not in session. We are committed to supporting the well-being of our young residents and providing resources that help them thrive."

*For additional information about the Free Lunch Summer Program, please call (562) 420-2641 ext. 229.*



@cerritosnews

## PFAS Treatment Projects Cleaning Up Pico Rivera's Water

### Staff Report

PFAS, or Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, are a toxic group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings, also known as the "forever chemicals."

Pico Rivera is one of many cities across Southern California serviced by wells with heightened levels of PFAS, according to statewide testing in 2021.

As of Spring 2024, construction of two PFAS Filtration Systems is complete and another is on-going with start-up anticipated in early Summer 2024.

In the coming months the systems that are completed will be filled with ion-exchange media prior to testing, start-up and commissioning for the delivery of filter water to Pico Rivera consumers.

A separate project for the future construction of PFAS filtration is planned for construction in 2025.

## CARMAGEDDON: 55-hour Weekend Closure from WB 91 to SB 710 Connector

LONG BEACH — The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces a 55-hour extended weekend closure of the westbound SR-91 to southbound I-710 connector in Long Beach. The closure will allow crews to safely repair concrete on portions of the bridge deck.

The closure will be from Friday, June 14 starting at 10:00 p.m. to Monday, June 17 at 5:00 a.m.

Closures are weather-permitting and subject to change. Motorists should expect delays and are advised to use alternate routes during construction hours. Additionally, motorists can view current traffic closures before they leave for their destination by visiting the Caltrans Quickmap. Residents and businesses located near the freeway are advised to anticipate noise, vibrations, and dust associated with construction activities.

The work is part of a \$4.5 million partial bridge deck replacement project in Long Beach. The project is funded by State Highway Funds and the prime contractor is Myers and Sons Construction, LLC. Work on the project is anticipated to be complete in fall 2024.

**Catherine Grant Wieder**

**Attorney & Mediator**

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## Winning Perennial Plant Adds Color and Fragrance

By Melinda Myers

Add long-lasting beauty and pollinator appeal to your garden with this year's Perennial Plant of the Year, Jeana garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana').

Selected for its tall sturdy habit and fragrant dense flower heads it is a welcome addition to perennial, meadow, and pollinator gardens as well as mixed borders.

Grow this perennial phlox in full sun with a bit of afternoon shade in hotter climates. It is hardy in USDA zones three to eight, growing and flowering best in moist, fertile, and well-drained soil.

The Perennial Plant of the Year (PPOY) is selected by members of the Perennial Plant Association for its suitability to a wide range of climatic conditions, low maintenance, relative pest and disease resistance, availability, and multiple seasons of beauty.

The program began in 1990 and you can find out more about past winners on the Perennial Plant Association website.

This cultivar of the North American native *Phlox paniculata* was discovered growing along the Harpeth River near Nashville, Tennessee.

It was named for the woman, Jeana Prewitt, who discovered this plant.

It was a standout with its mildew-resistant foliage. Jeana is the head gardener at Bedside Manor in Brentwood, Tennessee.

She took cuttings of the plant and began propagating it. In time, it was declared to be a new cultivar and has been available for several years.

Mt. Cuba Center, a botanical garden in Delaware, found it to be the best-performing phlox in their trials and it attracted more butterflies than the other garden phlox in the two-year study. Fifteen volunteers from the Pollinator Watch Team conducted weekly observations of 94 different phlox over two years. Jeana had 539 butterfly visits – way more than any other phlox in the study – and is especially attractive to eastern tiger swallowtails.

Enjoy the lavender-pink flowers with wine-colored eyes that cover the plant from mid-summer to fall. Although each flower is smaller than other garden phlox, the dense cone-shaped flower head is made up of hundreds of individual petals providing a beautiful show. Removing faded flowers, also known as deadheading, promotes continued bloom and prevents the self-seeding of inferior seedlings.

Combine this three-to-five-inch-tall plant with other perennials like Amsonia, Shasta daisies (*Leucanthemum x superbum*), Iron Butterfly ironweed (*Vernonia lettermanii* 'Iron Butterfly'), coneflowers (*Echinacea*), and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*). Or use it as a backdrop for shorter plants like alliums and woodland



JEANA GARDEN PHLOX is the 2024 Perennial Plant of the Year.



COMBINE the three-to-five-inch-tall Phlox plant with grass like Pink Muhly, left.

sage (*Salvia nemorosa*).

Look for places to add this late-season bloomer to your gardens and landscapes. You'll enjoy the flowers and butterflies that stop by for a visit.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small*

*Space Gardening*. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



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**PARK** from page 1



election.

The highlight of Heritage Park is the Play Island, designed to resemble a 1770s Bostonian village complete with Old North Church model cannons, town buildings, maps, and other markers detailing such history as Paul Revere's midnight ride in 1775.

A moat surrounds Play Island and



has small streams running through it, which adds to the adventure and fun. The shallow water features make them safe for children to play around. The various bridges, tunnels, and elevated walkways connect different play areas and encourage exploration and adventure.

In the moat, there is a tall ship "docked" at Play Island. It is a great spot to sit and feed the ducks and turtles, but be cautious of splinters and termite damage.

The last time the park was refurbished was in 2002, "to meet new standards set in place for the safety of playgrounds," after 22 years of neglect, parts of the acclaimed park are in major disrepair, belying Cerritos' image and massive amount of monies in reserve.

Several area residents who frequent the park have complained to Los Cerritos Community News that the park is in decline and has been in terrible shape for several years. They told LCCN that there is "termite damage, graffiti and trash all over the island."

LCCN ventured out to the park a few weeks ago and found most of the park in great shape, if you don't mind stepping around goose crap everywhere; in great shape except for the park's highlight area, Play Island.

You can't really call it Play Island, many of the interactive attractions are fenced off with plastic barriers and large "Area Closed" signs including the large Colonial Building.

Sticking your head through the closed play area windows, visitors will see trash, graffiti and rusted equipment.

Walking around the Island you can

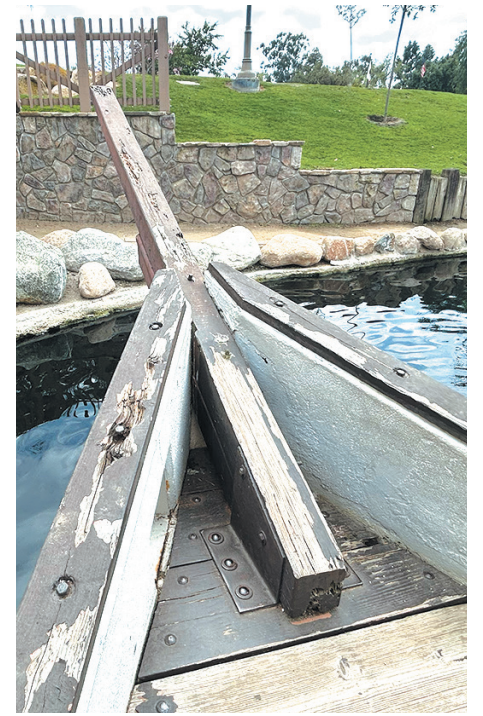
**TERMITE DAMAGE** is evident on many fences at Heritage Park.

**TALL SHIP DAMAGE** in the moat, the play cannons don't move either.

see some of the slides are open, but the attractions are surrounded by fences, most of which have major visible termite damage.

Visitors can board the Tall Ship but once again need to watch out for splinters from the termite damage while the interactive cannons do not move.

One resident wrote on Cerritos Neighborhood Group's Facebook page, "So sad to see the decline of Heritage Park. It was once one of the most beautiful and unique parks for everyone to enjoy. Does anyone know if it will be refurbished or is the city planning on tearing it down? The city has money to try to change the name of the already



well known, iconic Cerritos Park East, but no money for Heritage Park?

LCCN emailed Cerritos City Manager Robert Lopez pointing out the disrepair and asking if there is a timeline for repair. Lopez responded, "Thank you, we are working on plans to refurbish portions of the Heritage Park play island, which was last renovated in 2002. We don't currently have a completion date, but updates will be shared with the community in the future."

When LCCN pointed out the disrepair to current Cerritos Mayor Naresh Solanki he said, "I will definitely look into this and give you an update when I can."

**DRY ROT DAMAGE** at Play Island. Inside the building was trash and graffiti.

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## Baseball

# Gahr's Gonzalez Helps Suburban Valley's Top Players Defeat Moore League's Best

By Loren Kopff  
@LorenKopff on X

LONG BEACH-Gahr High sophomore shortstop Andres Gonzalez remembered attending last season's inaugural all-star game between the best of the Gateway League and the top players from the Moore League. He thought about what it would be like just to play in such an event.

As it turned out, it was probably better than what he expected as he was the most valuable player of last Saturday's game, going two for three and diving in a pair of runs in the leadoff spot as the revamped Suburban Valley Conference rallied for a 6-4 victory against the Moore League at Long Beach City College.

This time around, at least one player from eight of the 11 schools that comprise of the Suburban Valley Conference was invited to the all-star game.

Not everyone attended the game, but that didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the ones who were there. Two of seven La Mirada High players invited showed up and Gahr was represented by five players. La Mirada senior Walker Calvo, juniors Aiden Aguayo, Travis Friend, Kevin Jeon and Maverick Russell opted not to play, as well as Norwalk High senior Ruben Ramirez and junior Angel Martinez.

"It was really fun; I was just excited to come out," said Gonzalez. "I remember watching our seniors last year come play at Gahr and I [was thinking] I wanted to be there [this] year. I was glad to come out and play with some of the guys I've been playing with and against. It was a lot of fun."

"It's awesome," said La Mirada sophomore first baseman and pitcher Jacob Oropeza. "There are very, very talented people out here. I got to compete out here with some of the best in the league and meeting new people from our league; getting to know more about them."

Oropeza, who found out from L.M. head coach Jimmy Zurn following the team's quarterfinal loss to Orange Lutheran High that he had been invited to play in the game, knew right away he wanted to play in the contest.

The Moore League, with 22 all-stars from all seven schools of that circuit, grabbed a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning as Long Beach Wilson High's Taylor Kirk singled, moved to second on an error, stole third and came home on a groundout from Ben Keisler of Millikan High. The Suburban Valley Conference would tie the game in the top



**WINNERS:** From left to right, La Mirada High's Kaden Corns and Jacob Oropeza and Gahr High's JoJo Eljaik, Jake Ourique, Andres Gonzalez, Oscar Grijalva and Jose Perez represented the Suburban Valley Conference last Saturday in an all-star game against the Moore League. The Suburban Valley Conference came back for a 6-4 victory. **PHOTO BY LOREN KOPFF.**

of the third when Gahr senior right fielder JoJo Eljaik singled to the left field gap and scored on a two-out base hit from Gonzalez.

However, Kirk led off the bottom half of the frame with a double to the left field gap and made it 2-1 when he scored on a sacrifice fly from Keisler. Kirk would be named the MVP from the Moore League in the game.

"My first at-bat didn't go too well, so I was definitely trying to redeem myself in my second and third [at-bats]," said Gonzalez. "In my second at-bat, I was really just trying to put some bat on the ball and try to find a hole. So, I did that and, my third at-bat, I was just trying to drive something. I definitely felt a lot more loose, more comfortable at the plate. It was a lot more easier to get some barrel on the ball."

Unlike last year's 16-5 Gateway League victory in a seven-inning game, runs would be hard to come by in the early innings last Saturday. With two outs in the top of the fifth, Mayfair High's Michael Corrales doubled to the left field corner and scored two batters later on the second hit from Gonzalez.

But the Moore League would regain the lead in the bottom of the fifth when La Mirada sophomore Kaden Corns walked Drake Merrill of Lakewood High and later scored on a bases loaded sacrifice fly from Aaron Mingo of Wilson.

Mikey Reyes of Downey High led off the seventh by reaching on an error and tied the game at 3-3 when Bellflower High's Isaac Lacy grounded into a double play with the bases loaded.

But the pendulum shifted again in the bottom of the seventh when Julian Arellano of Downey walked Merrill with one out, who advanced on a wild pitch and came home on a dingle from Enrique Lopez of Millikan.

The score remained 4-3 until the top of the ninth when Mayfair's Ryan Diggle reached on an infield single, and Reyes was safe on the fourth error by the Moore League. Eljaik, who played the entire game, flew out to left field, scoring Diggle, and Sebastian Cortez of Downey was walked to put runners at the corner.

Lacy would then ground out with Cortez coming home to give the Suburban Valley Conference the lead.

Three batters later, Warren High's Fabien Ochoa doubled to single bringing in Cortez for the final run of the contest.

Oropeza, who also played the entire game, went two for four while Arellano and Angel Cervantes of Warren also collected a pair of hits each. Gahr junior catcher Oscar Grijalva went one for two while Gahr sophomore third baseman Jose Perez, who went one for two and drove in a pair of runs in last year's game, went hitless in two at-bats.

"In my first at-bat, he threw me a change-up in the dirt and I [was thinking] he was going to throw me a fastball," said Oropeza. "I was sitting on it and got a good one to hit. In my last at-bat, he was throwing me off-speed, so I was just going to throw my bat out there and try to hit something. I was lucky enough to hit a ground ball down the third base line for a double."

On the mound, Oropeza pitched the third inning, throwing 11 pitches to four batters and giving up a run.

He was followed by Corns, who threw 19 pitches over the next two innings, Gahr sophomore

Jake Ourique pitched the eighth inning, facing four batters, giving up two hits while striking out one.

**THE SUBURBAN VALLEY** Conference All-Stars defeated the Moore League All-Stars 6-4 last Saturday. **PHOTO BY LOREN KOPFF.**

**VALLEY** from page 1

Called the Impact Stadium Project, renovating the stadium and other athletic facilities has been in the works for quite some time. V.C. got the approval on a 4-0 vote with one commissioner absent at the May 1 Planning Commission meeting and had to wait for a final vote from the city council at its May 23 meeting.

"The best I can tell is about 10-12 years ago, we had renderings made of everything, mostly for the field," said Troy Stahl, Superintendent of Valley Christian Schools. "We expanded it to include the bleachers, the press box and a stadium entry off Dumont Ave instead of coming through a couple of different spots on campus. We have not changed the field design much from then, but definitely the stadium entrance, which will allow us to enclose this part of the facility, is a new feature to the plan.

"The timing wasn't right [10 years ago] because we have a master site plan and this was down the road," he later said. "As things developed and we got other projects completed, we could finally turn our attention to the stadium. We had some significant interest from our major donors, which allowed us to kick it off, and that's how we're here tonight."

"We're leaving a lot of history on this field," said girls athletic director and former girls soccer head coach Kim Looney. "For football, for soccer, for track and field, a lot of memories for these families out here. I think it's a great and unique opportunity that we can say goodbye to this field. But you have to keep up with the times. As much as we have kept our grass and been like, 'this is what we're going to do', it was time to raise the money and get this stadium up to par a little bit. It's sad to see it go, but it will be exciting for what the future holds for all our teams."

The project is divided into four phases with Phase I underway, which includes digging up the current field and installing the new field turf. Stahl says the bulk of the funds have been raised to the point where Phase I can get started. The field will be widened a little to accommodate soccer better and the all-weather track surface will have four lanes.

Stahl says one of the goals they had was to make sure what lanes they currently have were of proper length, and right now, it's a little bit short of the proper distance. So, expansion of the field was needed to make sure the length is correct and to do that, only four lanes can only be put in.

"We're kind of landlocked right now with our field, and if we expand our track at all, we'll lose our tennis courts and potentially some baseball centerfield impact," said Stahl. "We just don't have room to make center field any shorter than it is."

The reason the project is divided into four phases is because the bleachers are on back order, according to Stahl. The goal is to get the field ready by August 1 with a two-week buffer so the football team can practice on it ahead of its Aug. 23 season opener at Gahr High. The first home game will be on Sept. 6 against Baldwin Park High a week later, V.C. will host Cerritos High on Homecoming night. Along with the new field turf surface, new Musco lighting, called DarkSky lighting, will be installed.

He added that in all likelihood, the asphalt will be laid and poured, but probably won't have the track surface installed until late winter or early spring. Phase II won't begin until the soccer season has been completed, which will be in March and will involve the entire bleacher and press box system coming out and a new one coming in.

The capacity won't increase much, but the bleachers will be higher up and

[ See **VALLEY**, page 11 ]





**VALLEY** from page 10

the press box will be more horizontal than vertical. It will have a viewing deck on top so the V.C. coaches can coach from outside. Historically, V.C. coaches have chosen to be outside instead of using the traditional coaches room inside most high school press boxes.

Stahl says Phase II should be 8-10 weeks, and the school even considered that the soccer season would be played without bleachers so that they could continue with the project. But the school doesn't want to shortchange the soccer athletes just because it wants to hurry in the completion of the stadium project.

"There's no real difference in doing it in March versus November," said Stahl. "It doesn't gain us anything for the spring. So we thought, why disrupt soccer? The bleachers are back ordered anyway. They'll be on the new field, but the fans will still be sitting in the old stands one more season. It also allows us to do a little more fundraising."

The concrete underneath the existing bleachers will be dug out and the brick portion from the end of the bleachers on the north side to the current opening walkway to the field will either stay intact or it will be recreated, according to Stahl. The wall will continue to have "Crusader Field" as it's a testament to the athletes who played on the field before the school changed its nickname to Defenders. The wall will be a little shorter than it currently is because the opening to the field has to be wider.

The existing canteen will stay where it is and for now, the small building near the canteen where V.C. merchandise is sold will also stay where it is. Stahl says somewhere down the road, one phase would be a new building to house a new weightroom, possibly a locker room and a training room. But he says he's not sure what will be torn up as it relates to the area near the canteen and he's quick to add that it's going to be expensive.

What stays will be the light poles and the scoreboard, which was bought a few years ago, and the flagpole at the south end of the stadium, which was brought over from the Los Angeles Coliseum following the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, or one of the Special Olympic Games.

"We just hope to have a positive impact on our community by providing our student athletes and coaches and the community with a new, updated facility," said Stahl. "It's several years past due and we're really hopeful that our community can step up and bridge the gap financially to help us complete the project, and we're excited to kick it off."

After the installation of the all-weather track surface and the new bleachers and press box, the final stage will be construction of a new entry gateway off Dumont Ave. with new walkways. Currently, spectators enter through one entrance by the tennis courts and another one by the middle school. Part of that phase includes a new turf area behind the bleachers for physical education classes during the week and for children to play during the football and soccer events.

Since V.C. is an entirely donor-based community, funds were raised without tuition dollars. While an exact cost wasn't known Phases I and II were expected to cost approximately \$1.5 million each with the other two phases expected to cost approximately \$750,000 each.

"We don't want this to impact the family's ability to send their children to Valley Christian," said Stahl. "So, our donors, both people who have kids here currently, but also people whose kids have been through here and now their grandkids are here, have stepped up. We probably have 90 percent of the funds, and we hope to raise more in the next year."

Among the dignitaries on hand at the farewell celebration was the legendary



**THE FOOTBALL FIELD** entrance will be off Dumont Ave. Phase I has started which includes digging up the current field and installing the new field turf.

Mike Wunderly, who spent 38 years at the school as the head football coach, teacher and principal.

"The celebration is great," he said. "I've always said one of the things that maybe they should concentrate a little bit more on is celebrating themselves. And this is great. These people coming out here and renewing old acquaintances...I think it's great. I'm glad they're able to do it. Personally, and [former soccer coach] Fred [Wind] might echo this, we like the grass. We played on it a few times [when we were coaching] and to me, it was no different. Kids, I think, notice a difference.

They used to tell me they like running on the turf, but they'll rather fall on the grass."

Despite his differences between grass and field turf, Wunderly said it will still be great for V.C. because the field will be lined all the time and there will be a 'V.C.' logo at midfield with 'Valley' in the north end zone and 'Christian' in the south end zone.

Wunderly was also quick to point out that in his 24 years as the school's football coach, V.C. never played a home game in the rain. He also said his teams never practiced on the grass field. They always practiced in the area between the baseball

and softball fields because they didn't want to tear up the football field for soccer.

"Our kids back in that day really took a lot of pride in that field," said Wunderly. "They took a lot of pride in it, and when they got out there on a Friday night, they hadn't been there all week. So, that added to the excitement."

"I don't think I did," said Wind when asked if he envisioned playing on a field turf surface. "When I was a soccer player myself, I played on turf a few times, but I hated it because it was perfectly smooth and with no bumps. I never had an excuse for a bad hop or a bad pass.

"The jury is a little bit out on turf," he continued. "I've been reading that some schools have been getting rid of it again because of the injury factor. But it's going to look beautiful and will photograph really nice."

Looney has coached V.C. in three CIF-Southern Section divisional championship games, all played on field turf. But in other games played on field turf, she remembered having to tell her players that the speed of the game was going to be faster. Her teams would have to change the way they fed balls to other players.

"It's a different game for football; it's a different game for soccer," said Looney. "For our track kids, I think it's going to be great for them to have something other than dirt and not have to worry about all the foot holes after it rains and all that stuff."

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**QUILT** from page 1

“I had lots of fabric and other patterns that I hadn’t used,” said Winkler, a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother who has many military members in her family.

Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) started 20 years ago, and Winkler has been a prolific quilt-maker and group leader for 19 years. There are chapters throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia. Their mission is to cover recipients with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

So far 393,702 Quilts of Valor have been awarded nationwide.

“My group has made 7,815 quilts so far,” she said. “Nationally, about 30,000 quilts are awarded annually, and our group does more than the average state. We average 500 to 700 quilts a year.”

“All our quilts are stitched with a lot

of love,” she explained. “This is a small token of appreciation for what they have done for us. And we wrap them in the quilt surrounded by our love.”

As the most prolific quilt-maker in her the group, Winkler has done up to 80 quilts in a single year. Last year alone she made 70 quilts, and this year she has already done 41 quilts.

How long it takes to make a quilt depends on whether it is a new pattern that they are not familiar with or one that is tried and true, according to Winkler. It also depends on the size of the pieces.

“I recently did a quilt with 1,200 2.5” squares--that takes longer than one with a few big squares,” she explained. “We did a chart that basically says it can take about 50 hours per quilt as there are a lot of steps.”

“Most of the quilters make the entire top and back while someone else does the quilting with the batting between, and maybe does the binding,” Winkler

said. “Sometimes, we do a block drive where several people make blocks of a certain pattern and then someone volunteers to assemble them into a quilt.”

She went on to explain that they have volunteer quilters who stitch the layers together, and then add the binding, label, and wash them in preparation for the award. The volunteers are also always making generic quilts, and sometimes fit them as requested. Many times, the quilts are made to order.

Winkler said that making quilts for WWII Veterans is the most fascinating, due to their age and what they went through. They have also done several quilts for 100th birthdays with a few recipients being older than that.

Several recipients were awarded to Vietnam War Veterans, something Winkler feels is important due to the “raw deal” they got when they returned home.

“We have awarded a lot of [quilts] to Purple Heart recipients and a couple of Medal of Honor Veterans, as well as some POW’s,” she said. “They each have a story to tell.”

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is always looking for volunteers to sew, to help award quilts, or to help host a table at community events. They also welcome monetary donations to assist in their endeavors.

“Fabric costs about \$15 a yard, and each quilt with back takes 10 yards,” Winkler explained. “We need thread, batting, special QOV labels and permanent pens to put the Veteran’s name on each quilt. It is a labor of love.”

The public is invited to show their appreciation for those who have served by visiting a QOVF awards twice a

month at 1 p.m. at Bell One Church at 17603 Ardmore in Bellflower.

Those interested in becoming quilters can attend one of their sew days held each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church.

Also locally, the Meritorious Marine award by Friends of the 1st CEB is given every month at the Cerritos Sheraton and has started to include giving a quilt to the Marine.

If you are interested in helping the Quilts of Valor Foundation, prospective donors or volunteers can email Barbara Winkler at [socalqov@aol.com](mailto:socalqov@aol.com), call her at 562-925-7673 or 562-682-9873 (cell) or visit [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org). They can also be followed on Instagram or Facebook. Monetary donations can be sent in checks or using VISA, MasterCard and Venmo.



NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: AVERILL PERRY AKA AVERILL DEAN PERRY AKA AVERILL D. PERRY CASE NO. 24STPB04764 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of AVERILL PERRY AKA AVERILL DEAN PERRY AKA AVERILL D. PERRY. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ESPERANZA ELENA PERRY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ESPERANZA ELENA PERRY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 07/30/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner RICHARD T. LEBHERZ - SBN 316037 KAMINSKI LAW GROUP, APC 140 DIAMOND CREEK PLACE, STE. 165 ROSEVILLE CA 95747 Telephone (916) 540-7618 6/14, 6/21, 6/28/24 CNS-3820515# LA MIRADA LAMPLIGHTER

**CITY OF PICO RIVERA CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ZONE CODE AMENDMENT NO. 195 AMENDING TITLE 5 BUSINESS LICENSE AND REGULATIONS AND TITLE 18 ZONING OF THE PICO RIVERA MUNICIPAL CODE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the City of Pico Rivera City Council to consider approval of Zone Code Amendment No. 195 amending Title 5, Business License and Regulations, Chapter 5.75, Tobacco Retail License and Title 18, Zoning, Chapter 18.40, Land Use Regulations, Chapter 18.42, Property Development Regulations and Chapter 18.62, Amendments and Zone Reclassification of the Pico Rivera Municipal Code.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024  
**TIME:** 6:00 P.M.  
**WHERE:** City Hall Council Chambers  
6615 Passons Boulevard  
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

The proposed ordinance is not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3) and 15061 (b)(3). An activity is not subject to CEQA if: The activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378. The activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Here it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment, therefore the proposed ordinance is not subject to CEQA.

**PERSONS INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER** wishing to observe or comment may do so in the following ways:

- (1) Turn your TV to Channel 3
- (2) City’s website at <https://bit.ly/picorivera-ctv3live>
- (3) Email public comments to [publiccomments@pico-rivera.org](mailto:publiccomments@pico-rivera.org) prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting
- (4) Attend the Public Hearing in person

Copies of all relevant material and project specifications are available for public review at City Hall in the Community & Economic Development Department, 6615 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera, California. For additional information please contact Estefany Franco, Planner at 562-801-4026.

If you challenge the consideration or adoption of the proposed applications in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or written correspondence delivered to the City of Pico Rivera City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

\*\*\*\*\*  
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Pico Rivera is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please contact Cynthia Ayala at (562) 801-4389 if special program accommodations are necessary and/or if program information is needed in an alternative format. Special requests must be made in a reasonable amount of time in order that accommodations can be arranged.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/14/24

**CITY OF ARTESIA  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO PLACE 2024-25  
DELINQUENT SOLID WASTE SERVICE CHARGES ON THE  
PROPERTY TAX ROLL**

The City of Artesia intends to collect delinquent solid waste service charges on the tax roll at the same time as the general taxes of the City.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City Council of the City of Artesia has caused a written report to be prepared and filed with the City Clerk regarding the City’s delinquent solid waste service charges for fiscal year 2024-2025. Such report contains a description of each parcel of real property receiving solid waste services furnished by the City and the amount of the delinquent charges for each parcel for fiscal year 2024-2025.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that on July 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. the Artesia City Council will conduct a public hearing on the above described report and the placement of the delinquent solid waste charges on the property tax roll. At the public hearing, the City Council will hear and consider all objections or protests to the reports and the placement of the charges on the property tax roll. The hearing will be located at the Artesia City Hall Council Chambers, 18747 Clarkdale Ave., Artesia, CA 90701. The report is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 18747 Clarkdale Ave., Artesia, CA 90701 and available upon request.

If you wish to provide written comments, please deliver them to the Artesia City Clerk’s Office at 18747 Clarkdale Avenue, Artesia, CA, or by email: [publiccomments@cityofartesia.us](mailto:publiccomments@cityofartesia.us), by 12:00 pm on the date of the public hearing. If you have questions about this notice, please contact the Artesia City Clerk’s Office at (562) 865-6262 or by email above.

Jennifer Alderete  
PUBLISHED: June 14, 2024 and June 21, 2024

City Clerk

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/14 and 6/21/24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GLORIA VEGAS CASE NO. 24STPB05838 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of GLORIA VEGAS. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by OLIBERTO VEGA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that OLIBERTO VEGA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/25/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner LISA F. COLLINS-WILLIAMS, ESQ. - SBN 176655 LAW OFFICE OF LISA F. COLLINS-WILLIAMS 13658 HAWTHORNE BLVD., STE. #306 HAWTHORNE CA 90250 Telephone (323) 290-6650 6/7, 6/14, 6/21/24 CNS-3819897# HAWAIIAN GARDENS COMMUNITY NEWS



**SUMMONS  
CASE NUMBER  
24NWCP00165**

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – NORWALK COURTHOUSE  
CITY OF PICO RIVERA, a California Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff and Petitioner vs.  
PICO WATER DISTRICT, a public agency/special district; and ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN  
THE MATTER CONCERNING PICO WATER DISTRICT’S ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 65  
INCREASING WATER RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2024; and  
DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants and Respondents.

**TO ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a civil complaint has been filed by the CITY OF PICO RIVERA, a Municipal corporation, in the above-referenced matter for the purposes of invalidating Ordinance No. 65 adopted by PICO WATER DISTRICT on February 15, 2024, increasing water rates by 110% over the next five years. Persons who contest the legality or validity of this matter will not be subject to punitive action, such as wage garnishment or seizure of their real or personal property.

**RESPONSE DATE**

Publication of the required Summons under CCP § 861.1. is expected to commence on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, and expected to be completed by Wednesday, July 3, 2024. You may contest the legality or validity of this matter by appearing before the judge assigned to this matter and filing a written answer to the complaint no later than ten (10) days after the completion of publication. As such, pursuant to CCP § 861.1, a response is due no later than, **Monday, July 15, 2024.**

**CASE SUMMARY**

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 861.1, CITY OF PICO RIVERA (“Plaintiff”) hereby provides a detailed summary of the matter that the Plaintiff seeks to invalidate (or “reverse validation”) pursuant to Section 53759 of the Government Code. On February 15, 2024, the Board of Directors (“Board”) for Pico Water District (“District”) approved Ordinance No. 65, Ordinance of Pico Water District Adopting Increased Rates and Charges ushering in a 110% water rate increase over the span of the next five years. Approved by the majority of the Board, Ordinance No. 65 was adopted in violation of Article XIII C and Article XIII D of the California Constitution, also known as Proposition 218, which requires (among other things), proof that the revenues derived from the fee or charge not exceed the funds required to provide the property related services, and that revenues derived from the fee or charge will not be used for any purpose other than that for which the fee or charge was imposed. The District has failed to prove that the fee increase does not exceed the funds required to provide the service. Rather, the main purpose behind Ordinance No. 65 is the District’s desire to increase its reserve targets as recommend by a 2023 water rate study conducted by the consulting firm, Water Resources Economics, LLC. The District disputes the City’s position and contends that it did not violate Proposition 218.

Attorneys for Plaintiff and Petitioner,  
CITY OF PICO RIVERA  
Arnold M. Alvarez-Glasman (SBN 80095)  
Gloria V. Ramirez (SBN 316993)  
ALVAREZ-GLASMAN & COLVIN  
13181 Crossroads Parkway North, Suite 400  
City of Industry, CA 91746  
Telephone: (562) 699-5500  
Facsimile: (562) 692-2244  
aglasman@agclawfirm.com  
gramirez@agclawfirm.com

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/13, 6/20 and 6/27/24

**CITY OF BELLFLOWER**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER DIRECTING SUBMITTAL OF DELINQUENT SOLID WASTE BILLINGS TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR COLLECTION WITH THE ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a Public Hearing will be held by the Bellflower City Council to consider directing submittal of all solid waste billings delinquent for 30 days or more to the County of Los Angeles for collection with the annual property tax assessment. The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 7 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California.

Testimony will be heard for and against directing submittal of delinquent solid waste billings to the County of Los Angeles for collection with the annual property tax assessment. Also, any person interested may make written protest or objection. Such written protest or objection shall be signed by the person protesting or objecting and delivered to the City Clerk before the end of the subject public hearing. Timely received written testimony will be submitted as evidence for the Public Hearing. Oral testimony may be presented at the appropriate time during the Public Hearing.

Copies of the staff report, the proposed resolution, and attachments may be inspected by the public in the Public Works Department, City Maintenance Yard, 9944 Flora Vista Street, Bellflower, California. Questions should be directed to Melanie Paz, Management Analyst II, at (562) 804-1424, ext. 2283.

If you wish to challenge this matter in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence timely delivered to the City Clerk for submission at the Public Hearing.  
By order of the City Council of the City of Bellflower, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

**MAYRA OCHIQUI, CITY CLERK**

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/14 and 6/28/24

**Notice Inviting Proposals  
City of Santa Fe Springs  
Request for Proposals No. 3  
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The City of Santa Fe Springs invites proposals from qualified consultants/firms to assist with preparing a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the terms and conditions of Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 24-3.

To view the complete proposal package and associated documents, visit: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/65093/portal-home> and click “Bid Opportunities” or <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/65093/bo/bo-detail/118742> to access the project directly. You can also visit the City’s website and find the aforementioned link on the “Bids & Proposals” webpage.

Questions/inquiries regarding this opportunity must be submitted via the PlanetBids Portal by no later than **Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 2:00 pm PDT**. The City will not respond to any questions/inquires submitted after this deadline.

Please review all related documents in their entirety prior to submit a response. Responses must be submitted electronically via the City’s PlanetBids Portal by **Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 2:00 pm PDT**. Any proposals received after this deadline will be deemed non-responsive and the City reserves the right to reject the proposal.

Responses to this request will be evaluated to determine the most qualified and responsive vendors. Responses must adhere to the format and content described in the RFP. Responses will not be evaluated unless all parts requested are submitted in a complete package.

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/14/24

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **Cerritos City Council** will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on **Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** on the following matter: **Review and consideration to waive full reading of and adopt A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS AND THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE CERRITOS REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL COMBINED FINANCIAL PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025, APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO MEET THE EXPENDITURES SET FORTH THEREIN, AND APPROVING THE PAY SCHEDULES FOR PERSONNEL EXPENSES AS SET FORTH IN THE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION TABLES AND CLASSIFICATION STEPS. Review and consideration to waive full reading of and adopt A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CERRITOS AND THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE CERRITOS REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT POLICY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.** This public hearing will be conducted in person in the **Cerritos City Council Chamber, 18125 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, California, 90703**. The public hearing will also air live on Cerritos TV3 and will be streamed over the City of Cerritos website at [www.cerritos.us](http://www.cerritos.us). A copy of the related agenda report will be available for download from the website on the Friday prior to the public hearing. Public comments can be provided during the meeting or via email to [city\\_clerk@cerritos.us](mailto:city_clerk@cerritos.us) or by hard copy to the Office of the City Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email or hard copy document. All written correspondence received by the 3:00 p.m. deadline will be distributed to the legislative body prior to the meeting and the document(s) will be retained with the public record of the meeting. If you challenge the above-mentioned item and related actions in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence received in the Office of the City Clerk by the submission deadline, prior to the public hearing. Any person interested in this matter may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (562) 916-1248 for additional information and/or appear at the hearing in person or by agent and be heard. /s/ Vida Barone, City Clerk/Treasurer

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/14/24

**NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS  
FOR THE THOMPSON PARK IMPROVEMENTS –  
INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR FITNESS CENTER**

**IN THE CITY OF BELLFLOWER  
SPECIFICATIONS NO. 23/24-04**

The City of Bellflower is accepting sealed bids in the City Clerk’s office, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, CA 90706, until 11:00 a.m. on:

**TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024**

at which time they will be publicly opened. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier’s check or bidder’s bond payable to the order of the City of Bellflower or cash for an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price submitted, and the check, bond, or cash deposit of the successful bidder shall be forfeited to the City if such bidder fails to enter into the contract to perform the work within ten (10) days after written notice of award. Bids will not be accepted after that time.

As described in the Bidding Documents, the bids are for a public works project (“Project”) which consists of an installation of an outdoor fitness center and related work as shown on the plans on file with the City’s Public Works Department. will be publicly opened on July 2, 2024. At the time of contract award, the contractor shall possess a Class A or B Contractor’s License or a combination of Class C-8, C-32 and C 61/D34 Contractor’s License. No bid will be accepted from a contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the Provisions of Chapter 9, Division III, of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California at the time the bid is submitted. Following the issuance of the Notice to Proceed, the contractor shall have thirty (30) working days to complete the work.

Work on the Project must be performed in strict conformity with Specification No. 23/24-04 as adopted by the City’s City Council on June 10, 2024 which is filed with the City’s Public Works Department. Copies of these plans and specifications may be obtained by prospective bidders from the Public Works Department, via email at no cost. Email project manager at [sho@bellflower.org](mailto:sho@bellflower.org) to obtain the plans and specification.

Mandatory jobsite walk will be held on **Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at 11:00 AM** at 14001 Bellflower Blvd, Bellflower, CA 90706. Prospective bidders will have opportunity to examine the project site and are encouraged to raise any questions associated with the project and site. Attendance of the jobsite walk is mandatory for parties wishing to submit a bid as the Prime Contractor.

The terms and conditions for bidding on the Project are described in the Bidding Instructions which can be found at [www.bellflower.org](http://www.bellflower.org).

This project requires payment of State prevailing rates of wages for Los Angeles County. The contractor must post copies of the prevailing schedule at each job site. Copies of these rates of wages are available from the State of California Department of Industrial Relations Prevailing Wage Unit, Telephone No. (415) 703-4774. The website for this agency is currently located at [www.dir.ca.gov](http://www.dir.ca.gov).

Note that the Project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations. Pursuant to California law, the City must find bids failing to comply with all applicable Labor Code requirements including, without limitation, Labor Code §§ 1725.5 and 1771.4, to be nonresponsive.

Five percent (5%) will be deducted from each progress payment and retained by the City. The remainder less the amount of all previous payments will be paid to the Contractor. Pursuant to Public Contracts Code (“PCC”) § 22300, the Contractor may substitute securities for retention monies held by the City or request that the City place such monies into an escrow account. The Contractor is notified, pursuant to PCC § 22300, any such election will be at the Contractor own expense and will include costs incurred by the City to accommodate the Contractor’s request.

DATED this 10th day of June, 2024.

**CITY OF BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA**

Published at Los Cerritos Community Newspaper 6/14/24

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## ATTORNEY

**Catherine Grant Wieder**  
 Probate, Wills, Living Trusts, Special Needs Trusts, Powers of Attorney & Advance Directives.



**562-404-4039**

## ATTORNEY

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