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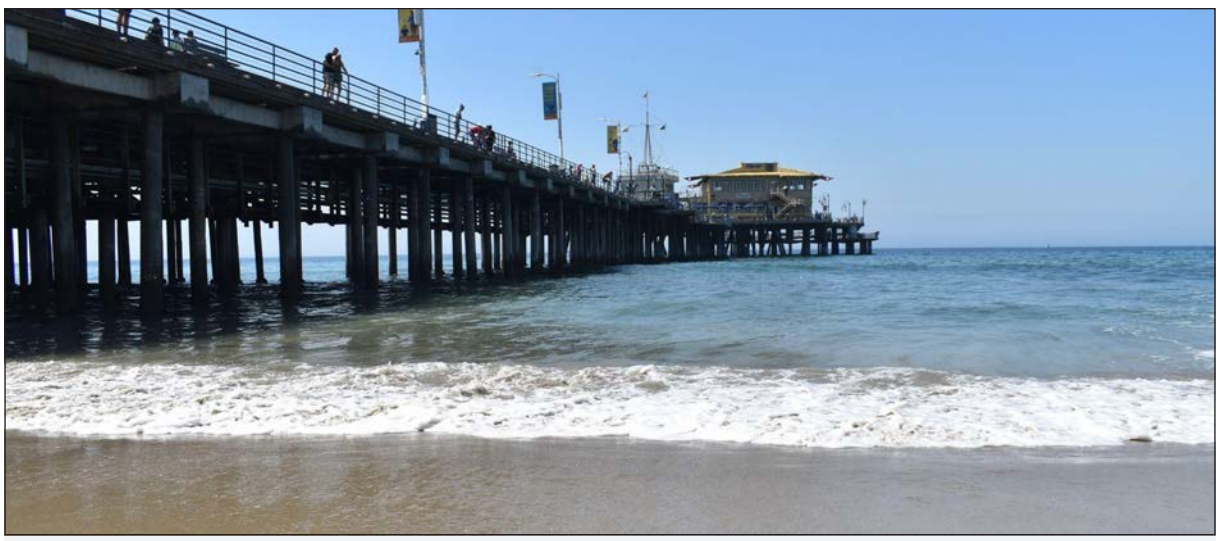
Santa Monica Pier again ranks among state's most polluted beaches, report finds

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The beach adjacent to the Santa Monica Pier has again been named one of California's most polluted, landing in second place on Heal the Bay's annual 'Beach Bummer' list, part of the environmental nonprofit's 35th Beach Report Card released on Thursday.

The report, which assigns weekly water quality grades to more than 700 beaches along the Pacific Coast, found that the pier continues to suffer from persistently high levels of fecal-indicator bacteria, particularly during the dry summer season. The report is based on 2024 data and shows the pier receiving a failing grade, despite years of remediation efforts.

'Every day, families who visit Santa Monica for a day of fun in the sun may be unknowingly risking illness by splashing in polluted waters,' said Tracy Quinn, CEO of Heal the Bay. 'It's time for the City of Santa Monica to prioritize efforts to identify and reduce bacteria levels at the Santa Monica Pier.'



SMDP Photo

PIER: The area around the Santa Monica Pier is among the most polluted according to the annual Heal the Bay report on beach health.

Naomi Maurice, a water quality data analyst at Heal the Bay, said the pollution under the pier remains a chronic concern. 'We're seeing high levels of bacteria at this beach almost daily,' she said. 'Millions of people visit the pier each year and plenty of them are getting in the water, especially during the warmer season. We want to make sure that this area is safe for swimming, but unfortunately that's just not what the data is showing.'

SEE **HEAL THE BAY** PAGE 8

Santa Monica faces $60M budget shortfall

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica will need to tap into $60.5 million in reserves over the next five years to maintain current service levels as the city grapples with lingering economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and recent wildfires, according to a proposed budget to be discussed at Tuesday's Council meeting.

The city's proposed $789.9 million budget for fiscal year 2025-26 relies on working capital reserves to balance both years of the biennial budget, highlighting the ongoing financial strain facing the coastal community known for its tourism and retail sectors.

'The city of Santa Monica's Fiscal Year 2025-27 Proposed Biennial Budget is one focused on resiliency,' Finance Director Oscar Santiago wrote in a report to the mayor and City Council. The budget aims to withstand economic disruption while preserving city services and programs in the face of dim fiscal news.

The city's challenges stem largely from sluggish recovery in key revenue streams that together account for 46% of General Fund revenues. Transient occupancy tax revenue, a tax paid by tourists that is critical to the city's finances, is recovering more slowly than anticipated despite rate increases approved by voters in 2023.

Hotel occupancy citywide hovers around 70%, while international visits to the U.S. declined approximately 14% in March 2025 compared to the previous year, according to federal data. Each 1% drop in international visitor spending translates to about $1.8 billion in lost national export revenue annually.

Sales tax collections have also declined, impacted by reduced tourism and consumer spending shifts. Revenues through March 2025 are tracking $1.2 million, or 3%, lower than the previous fiscal year. Parking-related revenues show modest 1.75% annual growth, but remain well below pre-pandemic levels due to increased online shopping and remote work trends.

To address the budget gap, the city has implemented several cost-saving strategies while attempting to maintain service levels. The budget caps growth across all departments

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 11

Unification vote to split the school district rescheduled for May 29

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The May 29 rescheduled revote to determine the future of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District is rapidly approaching but both sides have already reengaged to hammer out a deal despite the vastly prolonged process.

The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization will revote on Malibu's 2017 petition to create an independent school district, following a procedural error that invalidated the committee's previous decision. The committee had voted 6-5 in April to deny Malibu's petition, citing staff reports that the proposed split failed to meet eight of nine required criteria.

The first scheduled revote did not occur and the Committee instead punted the decision to this week.

The upcoming revote comes as the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Malibu officials have resumed negotiations on three key agreements needed for a voluntary separation after talks had stalled in recent months.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board Member Jon Kean said the district has reengaged with Malibu officials in preparation for the county vote.

'I'll just say that as we stated we would do, we have reengaged with the Malibu subcommittee, the city

SEE **UNIFICATION** PAGE 11



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Westside Ballet Honors First Responders in 'Masters of Movement' Performances



Courtesy photo

WESTSIDE BALLET: Westside Ballet Honors First Responders in 'Masters of Movement' Performances.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Westside Ballet of Santa Monica will honor firefighters who risked their lives during recent devastating blazes as part of its spring 'Masters of Movement' performances featuring New York City Ballet principals Tiler Peck and Roman Mejia.

The historic ballet company announced three performances scheduled for May 31-June 1 at The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage in Santa Monica, including a Gala that will recognize the Santa Monica and Los Angeles Fire & Police Departments' first responders with the Huntley Santa Monica Beach Hotel Community Arts Award.

A portion of proceeds from the May 31 evening Gala will support Westside Ballet's Fire Relief Scholarship Fund, established following the Los Angeles fires of early 2025. The fires devastated communities in the Palisades and Altadena areas, affecting over 55 families within the Westside Ballet community, including students, faculty, directors and alumni who lost their homes.

'This year's Masters of Movement program offers audiences an extraordinary opportunity to experience ballet through the ages—from Bournonville's classical 19th-century techniques to Jerome Robbins' mid-century masterpieces and Justin Peck's contemporary innovations,' said Artistic Director Martine Harley.

The Gala will feature Westside alumna Peck, currently starring in Prime Video's ballet dramedy 'Étoile,' performing Jerome Robbins' 'Other Dances' with Mejia. Originally created for Natalia Makarova and Mikhail Baryshnikov, the duet will be performed to live piano music.

Additional Gala highlights include Robbins' 'Circus Polka,' set to Stravinsky's score, featuring Westside alumnus Zane Tahvildaran-Jesswein from Ballet San Antonio leading young dancers in what the company describes as 'a playful tribute to the joy of movement.'

The program also includes Justin Peck's 'Bloom,' a pas de deux featuring Los Angeles Ballet dancers Kate Inoue and Marcos Ramirez, performed to Caroline Shaw's music played by a live string quartet.

Rounding out the performances, August Bournonville's 'Le Conservatoire,' an 1849 one-act ballet recreating a Vestris dance class, will showcase Westside Ballet's pre-professional and advanced students. The piece was staged by Westside Ballet alumnus Adrian Blake Mitchell, who returned to Santa Monica in 2022 after performing with the Mikhailovsky Theatre Ballet Company in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Nilas Martins, a Danish-born dancer who performed with the Royal Danish Ballet, provided authentic coaching for the Bournonville piece. Martins has had a distinguished ballet career since the 1980s and serves as a Repetiteur for the George Balanchine Trust.

The Spring Showcase, with performances on May 31 at 1 p.m. and June 1 at 1 p.m., will include additional works demonstrating the company's range, including excerpts from 'Coppélia' by Arthur Saint-Léon and contemporary choreography by Mark Tomasic, Dance Department Chair at Santa Monica College.

Both the Gala and Spring Showcase will feature 11-year-old Westside Ballet prodigy Spencer Collins, who recently won the prestigious Hope Award at the 2025 Youth America Grand Prix Finals—ranking him as the top dancer in his age group worldwide. Collins will perform a solo in 'Le Conservatoire.'

SEE **BALLET** PAGE 8

DTSM Board approves budget amendment for parking, events and lighting cuts

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) board members voted Tuesday to amend their fiscal year 2025–26 budget, reallocating funds to support parking structure maintenance and large-scale entertainment zone events while cutting costs for lighting and winter decorations.

The revised plan shifts $400,000 originally set aside for enhanced maintenance in zones one through three back into parking structure custodial services, after city officials clarified they would not be able to fully absorb those responsibilities. DTSM will also use $228,000 in carryover funds from the current fiscal year to help cover parking facility-related costs next year, bringing the total for parking structure maintenance to about $628,000.

'It represents a significant savings compared to what we spent last year and a step in the right direction as we transition services,' said Andrew Thomas, DTSM CEO. Last year's parking structure maintenance totaled roughly $1.2 million.

The board also approved a reallocation of $150,000 from the Promenade micro-activations line item to a broader events and activations fund. That money will be used to produce larger celebrations tied to the recently approved Downtown Entertainment Zone, such as an Oktoberfest or St. Patrick's Day festival.

Some smaller-scale activities, such as family-friendly zones and movie screenings, will continue under the remaining $100,000 allocated to micro-activations.

Lighting and decor line items were reduced based on updated vendor estimates and long-term equipment investments already made. Decorative lighting was cut from $100,000 to $50,000 and winter decor from $225,000 to $200,000. Staff emphasized that the visual appearance of the Promenade would remain consistent, as new lighting systems and programmable features installed this year will remain in place.

'We can do animations, we can do audio enhancements, we can do added colors [as well],' said DTSM staff member Jeremy Ferguson, adding, 'so cutting the budget means that rather than adding new things or more things to the electrical system ... we can actually do more with the creative programming of the overhead canopy.' He also said that the palm and jacaranda trees will still receive lighting treatments using funds from the current fiscal year.

Despite overall board support, the vote followed several pointed objections from board member Lucian Tudor, who criticized what he called a lack of transparency and disregard for committee feedback. Tudor, who sits on both the finance and marketing committees, said changes contradicted previous directives to eliminate underperforming events and focus on consistent, small-scale engagement.

'I'm donating my time and I don't feel that time is being respected,' he said. 'We had clear direction and everything has switched.'

Staff and fellow board members acknowledged his concerns but pointed to new developments since the original March budget approval, particularly the city's adoption of the entertainment zone ordinance and the partial handoff of parking maintenance duties.

Thomas emphasized that the revised budget reflects both a good-faith compromise with city departments and the board's long-term priorities.

'It's a real partnership,' added Deputy City Manager Susan Cline. 'This is how we need to be working together to revitalize DTSM.'

The budget amendment passed unanimously, with a separate request to discuss new events in more detail at a future marketing committee meeting.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit statements of qualifications for the:

SMDOT Charging Infrastructure Project Phases 2-4
SP2575

Statements of Qualifications shall be submitted via OpenGov, not later than 2:00PM on Monday, June 30, 2025.

Request for Qualification documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a General A and/or B license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Statements containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Qualifications.



Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 69.
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 68.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/05/27	Tue	04:29 AM	-1.78	L
2025/05/27	Tue	11:01 AM	3.71	H
2025/05/27	Tue	3:29 PM	1.97	L
2025/05/27	Tue	9:51 PM	6.92	H
2025/05/28	Wed	05:20 AM	-1.77	L
2025/05/28	Wed	12:00 PM	3.62	H
2025/05/28	Wed	4:16 PM	2.21	L
2025/05/28	Wed	10:37 PM	6.65	H
2025/05/29	Thu	06:11 AM	-1.54	L
2025/05/29	Thu	1:01 PM	3.56	H
2025/05/29	Thu	5:08 PM	2.43	L
2025/05/29	Thu	11:26 PM	6.20	H
2025/05/30	Fri	07:04 AM	-1.16	L
2025/05/30	Fri	2:04 PM	3.57	H
2025/05/30	Fri	6:09 PM	2.64	L
2025/05/31	Sat	12:20 AM	5.61	H
2025/05/31	Sat	07:58 AM	-0.70	L
2025/05/31	Sat	3:10 PM	3.68	H
2025/05/31	Sat	7:23 PM	2.79	L
2025/06/01	Sun	01:20 AM	4.96	H
2025/06/01	Sun	08:54 AM	-0.21	L
2025/06/01	Sun	4:12 PM	3.89	H
2025/06/01	Sun	9:00 PM	2.79	L
2025/06/02	Mon	02:29 AM	4.30	H
2025/06/02	Mon	09:51 AM	0.25	L
2025/06/02	Mon	5:03 PM	4.16	H
2025/06/02	Mon	10:46 PM	2.47	L
2025/06/03	Tue	03:51 AM	3.75	H
2025/06/03	Tue	10:43 AM	0.68	L
2025/06/03	Tue	5:44 PM	4.46	H
2025/06/04	Wed	12:04 AM	1.94	L
2025/06/04	Wed	05:16 AM	3.40	H
2025/06/04	Wed	11:26 AM	1.09	L
2025/06/04	Wed	6:17 PM	4.74	H
2025/06/05	Thu	01:01 AM	1.36	L
2025/06/05	Thu	06:34 AM	3.23	H
2025/06/05	Thu	12:03 PM	1.47	L

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/21
9 29 31 34 43
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 163 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/20
18 30 33 55 64
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 154 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 5/21
20 22 28 29 45
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 10 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 5/22
3 17 23 24 27

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 5/22
EVENING: 8 3 3
Draw Date: 5/22
MIDDAY: 9 7 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 5/22
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:45.44

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

Malibu Volunteer Leader Receives First Mike Treinen Public Safety Award

Mark Russo, leader of the Malibu Volunteers on Patrol, was named the first recipient of the Mike Treinen Public Safety Award at the May 7 Malibu Public Safety Commission Meeting.

'Mike Treinen was a friend and a true public servant whose impact on Malibu will never be forgotten,' said Mayor Marianne Riggins. 'Mark Russo, also a friend, embodies that same spirit of service, dedication, and leadership. It is only fitting that he is the first to receive this award honoring Mike's legacy.'

The award honors the late Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Mike Treinen and recognizes community members who demonstrate exceptional dedication to public safety. The Malibu City Council established the annual award based on a Public Safety Commission recommendation during its April 28 regular meeting. Russo will receive the award at the May 27 City Council meeting.

Treinen served more than 30 years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, spending most of that time at the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station. He was known as the local homeless outreach coordinator, working to provide dignity to people experiencing homelessness while enforcing the law and securing housing opportunities.

In 2012, Treinen and Lt. Jim Royal were commended for rescuing an 89-year-old woman from a burning building on Little Rock Way in Malibu. Treinen retired in 2020 and died April 6, 2021.

Following his death, community members described Treinen as a 'true hero' and the 'heart and soul of the Sheriff's Department.' Hundreds gathered at Zuma Beach on April 18, 2021, for a paddle-out in his honor, with an LASD helicopter and two LA County Lifeguard boats participating in the tribute.

Russo has lived in Malibu since 2010 and served as a Volunteer on Patrol for 13 years, including 12 years as team leader. VOPs volunteer a minimum of 16 hours monthly performing non-hazardous patrol duties, allowing sheriff's deputies to focus on more dangerous tasks.

The volunteers provide traffic control after vehicle collisions and supplement parking enforcement. During the 2023 incident involving four Pepperdine students, Russo and his team worked through the night securing the Pacific Coast Highway closure and crime scene.

As team leader, Russo handles operational and administrative duties, including recruiting, training and supervising volunteers.

For more information, visit the Malibu Public Safety Website.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica

Santa Monica College Debuts Free Music Showcase June 3

Santa Monica College's Music Department will present its inaugural SMC Collaboration Showcase featuring ensemble works from jazz, commercial and European art music traditions Tuesday, June 3, at 11:15 a.m.

The free concert will take place in The Edye Second Space at the SMC Performing Arts Center, located at 1310 11th Street at Santa Monica Boulevard. Free parking is available on-site, and seating will be first-come, first-served.

The showcase will feature arrangements and compositions created by SMC students enrolled in the college's new Music 49 (Combo and Chamber Ensemble) class. The course is led by SMC Music Professor Jimmy Cheesman and Music Department Chair Brian Driscoll.

Launched this spring, the class allows students to explore, prepare, rehearse and perform music across various styles for small ensembles, including jazz combos, chamber quartets, rock bands and commercial ensembles. Students also learn practical aspects of equipment, technology and rehearsal logistics.

'This new class takes us a step closer to closing a gap in our music department's course offerings for the performance of commercial music,' Driscoll said. 'Students get to create collaborative performances while freely shifting between styles and instrumentation from piece to piece.'

The innovative format allows students to participate in diverse musical experiences within a single class session. A student might perform in a four-part 16th-century madrigal, then switch to drums or guitar for a contemporary popular song.

'It's so much fun for Prof. Cheesman and me to see students' innovative ideas for ensembles, and it's rewarding to see their approaches to rehearsal and performance become more effective as the class moves along to culminate with the SMC Collaboration Showcase,' Driscoll said.

The showcase represents the culmination of the semester-long course, demonstrating students' collaborative abilities across multiple musical genres and performance styles.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323. All performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy photo

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT: The Santa Monica College Music Department presents the SMC Collaboration Showcase in a free concert featuring ensemble works from jazz, commercial, and European art music traditions on Tuesday, June 3, at 11:15 a.m. in The Edye Second Space at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard), Santa Monica..

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's high living costs and high poverty sharpen its economic divide



CalMatters

TENT: Poverty and homelessness continue to dominate the discussion for State priorities.

Forty years ago, I wrote a series of 14 articles for the Sacramento Bee describing major economic, social, cultural and political trends coursing through California as the 20th century was drawing to a close.

One theme of the series, which later became a book, was the transformation of California from a state with high economic and social mobility to one of relatively rigid classes defined by ethnicity, education, incomes and wealth.

I quoted two researchers, Leon Bouvier and Philip Martin, who had projected California's future as 'the possible emerging of a two-tier economy with Asians and non-Hispanic whites competing for high-status positions while Hispanics and blacks struggle to get the low-paying service jobs.'

Unfortunately their analysis turned out to be quite accurate.

California has the nation's highest rate of poverty as defined by the Census Bureau when it includes the cost of living in its calculations — 18.9% in 2023, or more than 7 million people.

Additional research by the Public Policy Institute of California revealed that 31.1% of Californians were living in or near poverty in 2023; more than half that group is Latino and another 13.6% is Black.

Furthermore, the poverty rate among undocumented immigrants was 29.6%. And, unsurprisingly, Californians without high school diplomas were almost four times more likely than college-educated Californians to be poor.

High poverty rates underscore the fact that Californians' costs for housing, utilities, fuel and other necessities of life are among the nation's highest. In some high-cost counties, California's housing department considers adults making more than $100,000 a year to be poor in terms of qualifying for housing assistance.

Being poor from an income standpoint has another aspect that hasn't gotten as much attention — the even starker stratification of Californians by wealth.

There's a logical connection between the two. Low family income and high living costs make it more difficult to buy a home, contribute to retirement accounts and otherwise acquire what's known as generational wealth — assets that can grow and be passed down to heirs.

The Public Policy Institute of California also has delved into that aspect of Californians' personal finances.

'Wealth creation is of particular concern in California, where high costs of living, high poverty rates, and a shortage of housing all exacerbate the challenges of building up assets,' PPIC researchers Tess Thorman and Shannon McConville write in their new study. 'But while Californians keenly feel the barriers to building wealth, many have only a broad sense that the experience is shared, and relatively little research has explored this important component of economic well-being in the state.'

While overall, Californians' net worths

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Increase of Water and Wastewater Service Rates

The public hearing will be conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Article XIIID of the California State Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act. This notice is being sent to all property owners, who may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. The City of Santa Monica is committed to keeping its customers well informed throughout the process. More information about the rates included in this notice and how to participate is available online at: **santamonica.gov/waterrates**.

How You Can Participate

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed rates, you may participate in the following ways:

Public Hearing Participation. Members of the public are welcome to attend the in-person public hearing on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90401. You will have an opportunity to speak, but verbal comments alone do not qualify as a formal protest.

Write. Any property owner that is a part of the City's water and wastewater service area or a customer of record, may submit a written protest to the proposed increases to the service rates. Only one protest will be counted per identified parcel or customer. Each protest must (1) be in writing on letter-sized paper; (2) state that the identified property owner or customer is in opposition to the proposed water and wastewater service rates; (3) provide the location of the identified parcels (by assessor's parcel number or street address or account number); and (4) include the signature of the property owner or customer submitting the protest.

Written protests for each proposed rate adjustment may be submitted by mail to the City Clerk, or at the Public Hearing, so long as received prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Please identify on the front of the envelope for any protest, whether mailed or submitted in-person to the City Clerk, that the enclosed protest is for the proposed Water and Wastewater Service Rates. Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

Prior to the Public Hearing, please mail or hand-deliver written protests to:

City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk
RE: Public Hearing On Proposed Water and Wastewater Service Rates
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

You may also hand-deliver written protests at the City Council Meeting to the City Clerk prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing held at the above address. The City Council will hear and consider all oral and written testimony concerning the proposed wastewater service rates.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 53759 there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging the rates in this notice from the date the City Council adopts the resolution approving these rates.

Objections. If, at the conclusion of the Public Hearing, written protests received regarding the proposed increases to the water and wastewater service rates are not presented by a majority (50% plus 1) of property owners of the identified parcels upon which they are proposed to be imposed, the City Council will be authorized to adopt the proposed rates.

A sample protest form, the protest tabulation procedures, and the Water and Wastewater Rate Study are available online at **santamonica.gov/waterrates**.

City of Santa Monica

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____(CCS)

(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, REVISING WATER RATES AND WATER SERVICES CHARGES

WHEREAS, the City Council may establish, amend or revise from time to time by resolution the rates and service charges for supplying water service to any customer pursuant to Government Code Section 54344 and Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 7.12.010; and

WHEREAS, the City is implementing a comprehensive long-range water system improvement program with the goal of maintaining a modern, reliable water network and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, water rate increases are needed to fund routine capital improvement projects, invest in rehabilitating and replacing aging infrastructure such as the City's four potable water storage reservoirs, and adequately fund ongoing cost of providing water services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Monica is proposing water rate increases ("Water Rate Increases") to the City's tiered water structure over a five-year period beginning July 1, 2025, and the proposed maximum percentage increases, on a systemwide basis, are:

FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
20%	16%	9%	9%	6%

; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 54354, delinquent charges and penalties for water services when recorded in accordance with Government Code Section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing ("Hearing") to consider the proposed Water Rate Increases on June 10, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk gave notice of the proposed Water Rate Increases, which notice contained a copy of the proposed resolution to adopt the Water Rate Increases and a declaration that delinquent charges and penalties when recorded as provided in Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served, and which notice was published at least once each week for two weeks prior to the Hearing in the Santa Monica Daily Press, in accordance with Government Code section 54354.5; and

WHEREAS, a separate notice of the proposed Water Rate Increases was also given in accordance with Article XIII D Section 6 of the California Constitution, by mailing such notice to the owner of record of each parcel in Santa Monica's service area and parcels in the City of Los Angeles who receive water service from the City of Santa Monica; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered all written and oral testimony presented at the Hearing and considered whether the proposed Water Rate Increases: are not discriminatory or excessive; will be sufficient under Government Code section 54515; will comply with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 5, Division 2, Part 1 of the Government Code; will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City, if any, payable from the water rate revenues; and will be in compliance with law;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby determines that the proposed Water Rate Increases are not discriminatory or excessive; will be sufficient under Government Code section 54515; will comply with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 5, Division 2, Part 1 of the Government Code; will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City, if any, payable from the water rate revenues; and will be in compliance with law.

SECTION 2. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, all customers will be charged both a bi-monthly fixed water service rate (based on meter size as specified in Section 3 below) and a water commodity rate (based on usage as specified in Sections 4 through 8 below).

SECTION 3. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the fixed water service rate structure for all customers shall be as follows for the following years: Any unauthorized metered water usage for fire service lines shall result in doubling of the fixed service charge for those fire service lines.

Water Rate Schedule	Bi-Monthly Fixed Water Service Rates				
	FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
Single Family Residential (meter size)					
3/4 inch	$50.06	$58.07	$63.30	$69.00	$73.14
1 inch	$50.06	$58.07	$63.30	$69.00	$73.14
1.5 inch	$84.00	$97.45	$106.22	$115.78	$122.72
2 inch	$124.74	$144.69	$157.72	$171.91	$182.22
Multi-family Residential and Non-Residential (meter size)					
3/4 inch	$70.58	$81.88	$89.25	$97.28	$103.12
1 inch	$70.58	$81.88	$89.25	$97.28	$103.12
1.5 inch	$125.05	$145.06	$158.11	$172.34	$182.68
2 inch	$190.41	$220.87	$240.75	$262.42	$278.16
3 inch	$364.69	$423.04	$461.12	$502.62	$532.78
4 inch	$560.76	$650.49	$709.03	$772.84	$819.21
6 inch	$1,105.41	$1,282.27	$1,397.68	$1,523.47	$1,614.88
8 inch	$3,066.13	$3,556.71	$3,876.81	$4,225.73	$4,479.27
Fire Service Lines (meter size)					
1.5 inch	$80.32	$93.18	$101.56	$110.70	$117.35
2 inch	$118.85	$137.86	$150.27	$163.80	$173.62
3 inch	$240.84	$279.37	$304.51	$331.92	$351.83
4 inch	$465.55	$540.04	$588.64	$641.62	$680.12
6 inch	$1,043.39	$1,210.33	$1,319.27	$1,438.00	$1,524.28
8 inch	$1,813.85	$2,104.06	$2,293.43	$2,499.84	$2,649.83
10 inch	$2,712.71	$3,146.74	$3,429.95	$3,738.64	$3,962.96

SECTION 4. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the three-tier water commodity rate structure for all customers (subject to adjustment to a drought rate structure pursuant to Section 6 below as directed by the City Council when water conservation is mandated and subject to adjustment pursuant to Section 7 below for residential low income customers with individual water meters) shall be as follows for the following years:

Water Rate Schedule	Commodity Charges – Bi-Monthly Volumetric Charges ($/HCF) (All Customers)				
	FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
Tier 1	$6.78	$7.86	$8.57	$9.34	$9.90
Tier 2	$7.89	$9.15	$9.98	$10.87	$11.53
Tier 3	$12.36	$14.34	$15.63	$17.03	$18.06

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 5. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the bimonthly tier breakpoint for water usage shall be as follows:

Bi-Monthly Tier Breakpoint Table in HCF			
Customer Class and Meter Size	Tier 1 Breakpoint	Tier 2 Breakpoint	Tier 3 Breakpoint
Single Family Residential Per Unit (all meter sizes)	0 - 10 HCF	11 - 18 HCF	19+ HCF
Multi-Family Residential Per Unit (all meter sizes)	0 - 7 HCF	8 - 13 HCF	14+ HCF
Non-Residential Per Meter Size:			
3/4 inch	0 - 10 HCF	11 - 18 HCF	19+ HCF
1 inch	0 - 10 HCF	11 - 18 HCF	19+ HCF
1.5 inch	0 - 20 HCF	21 - 36 HCF	37+ HCF
2 inch	0 - 32 HCF	33 - 58 HCF	59+ HCF
3 inch	0 - 64 HCF	65 - 115 HCF	116+ HCF
4 inch	0 - 100 HCF	101 - 180 HCF	181+ HCF
6 inch	0 - 200 HCF	201 - 360 HCF	361+ HCF
8 inch	0 - 560 HCF	561 - 1,008 HCF	1,009+ HCF

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 6. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, a drought rate structure will be in place and be in effect as directed by City Council when water conservation is mandated. The level of conservation mandated will determine the adjusted three-tier water commodity rate structure, which for all customers shall be as follows for the following years:

Mandated Level of Conservation		Drought Commodity Charges – Bi-Monthly Volumetric Charges ($/HCF) (All Customers)				
		FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
10%	Tier 1	$6.81	$7.90	$8.62	$9.39	$9.96
	Tier 2	$9.17	$10.64	$11.59	$12.64	$13.40
	Tier 3	$13.78	$15.98	$17.42	$18.99	$20.13
20%	Tier 1	$7.65	$8.87	$9.67	$10.54	$11.17
	Tier 2	$10.29	$11.94	$13.01	$14.18	$15.03
	Tier 3	$15.46	$17.94	$19.55	$21.31	$22.59
30%	Tier 1	$8.72	$10.11	$11.02	$12.02	$12.74
	Tier 2	$11.73	$13.61	$14.83	$16.17	$17.14
	Tier 3	$17.63	$20.45	$22.29	$24.30	$25.75
40%	Tier 1	$10.15	$11.77	$12.83	$13.98	$14.82
	Tier 2	$13.65	$15.84	$17.26	$18.82	$19.95
	Tier 3	$20.52	$23.80	$25.94	$28.28	$29.97
50%	Tier 1	$12.15	$14.09	$15.36	$16.74	$17.74
	Tier 2	$16.35	$18.96	$20.67	$22.53	$23.88
	Tier 3	$24.56	$28.49	$31.05	$33.85	$35.88
60%	Tier 1	$15.15	$17.57	$19.15	$20.87	$22.13
	Tier 2	$20.38	$23.64	$25.77	$28.09	$29.78
	Tier 3	$30.62	$35.52	$38.72	$42.21	$44.74

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 7. A low-income allowance for the Tier 1 commodity charge will be offered to residential water customers with individual water meters who qualify for the City's Utilities User Tax Exemption Program or the Southern California Gas Co. or Southern California Edison low-income assistance programs. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the residential low-income water commodity charge for residential customers with individual water meters shall be as follows for the following years:

Low-Income Commodity Charges – Bi-Monthly Volumetric Charges ($/HCF) (Residential Customers with Individual Water Meters Only)					
	FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
Tier 1	$5.78	$6.86	$7.57	$8.34	$8.90
Tier 2	$7.89	$9.15	$9.98	$10.87	$11.53
Tier 3	$12.36	$14.34	$15.63	$17.03	$18.06

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 8. As of July 1, 2025, or soon thereafter as practical, the uniform recycled water rate shall be as follows:

Recycled Water Volumetric Charges ($/HCF)					
	FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
Uniform Rate	$5.21	$6.04	$6.59	$7.18	$7.61

SECTION 9. In accordance with Government Code section 54354, delinquent charges and penalties for water services recorded in accordance with Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served.

SECTION 10. Resolution Number 11225 (CCS) is hereby repealed in its entirety, effective July 1, 2025.

SECTION 11. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

DOUGLAS SLOAN
CITY ATTORNEY

City of Santa Monica

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____(CCS)

(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, REVISING WASTEWATER RATES AND WASTEWATER SERVICES CHARGES

WHEREAS, the City Council may establish, amend or revise from time to time by resolution the rates and service charges for supplying wastewater service to any customer pursuant to Government Code Section 54344 and Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 7.04.540 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City is implementing a comprehensive long-range wastewater system improvement program with the goal of maintaining a modern, reliable wastewater network and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, wastewater rate increases are needed to maintain a modern and reliable wastewater infrastructure, invest in resiliency and emergency preparedness, and adequately fund ongoing cost of providing wastewater services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Monica is proposing wastewater rate increases ("Wastewater Rate Increases") over a five-year period beginning July 1, 2025, and the proposed maximum percentage increases, on a systemwide basis, are:

FY2025/2026 July 1, 2025	FY2026/2027 July 1, 2026	FY2027/2028 July 1, 2027	FY2028/2029 July 1, 2028	FY2029/2030 July 1, 2029
7%	7%	7%	6%	6%

; and
WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 54354, delinquent charges and penalties for wastewater services when recorded in accordance with Government Code Section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing ("Hearing") to consider the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases on January 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk gave notice of the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases, which notice contained a copy of the proposed resolution to adopt the Wastewater Rate Increases and a declaration that delinquent charges and penalties when recorded as provided in Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served, and which notice was published at least once each week for two weeks prior to the Hearing in the Santa Monica Daily Press, in accordance with Government Code section 54354.5; and

WHEREAS, a separate notice of the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases was also given in accordance with Article XIII D Section 6 of the California Constitution, by mailing such notice to the owner of record of each parcel in Santa Monica's service area and parcels in the City of Los Angeles who receive wastewater service from the City of Santa Monica; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered all written and oral testimony presented at the Hearing and considered whether the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases: are not discriminatory or excessive; will be sufficient under Government Code section 54515; will comply with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 5, Division 2, Part 1 of the Government Code; will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City, if any, payable from the wastewater rate revenues; and will be in compliance with law; NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA DOES RESOLVE AS

FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. The City Council hereby determines that the proposed Wastewater Rate Increases are not discriminatory or excessive; will be sufficient under Government Code section 54515; will comply with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 5, Division 2, Part 1 of the Government Code; will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City, if any, payable from the wastewater rate revenues; and will be in compliance with law.

SECTION 2. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the wastewater service charge will consist of a fixed charge and a commodity charge.

SECTION 3. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the wastewater service fixed charge for the following property classifications shall be as follows for the following years::

BI-MONTHLY FIXED CHARGES					
Property Classification	Proposed Wastewater Rates				
	FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30
Residential ($/Dwelling Unit)					
Single Family	$22.20	$23.76	$25.42	$26.94	$28.56
MFR: Duplex + Triplex	$8.88	$9.51	$10.17	$10.78	$11.43
MFR: Fourplex + Larger	$6.72	$7.19	$7.69	$8.15	$8.64
MFR: Individually metered	$11.03	$11.80	$12.63	$13.39	$14.19
Non-Residential ($/Account)					
MFR: Mixed Use	$217.04	$232.24	$248.49	$263.40	$279.21
Commercial - Low	$62.14	$66.49	$71.14	$75.41	$79.93
Commercial – Med.	$139.39	$149.14	$159.58	$169.16	$179.31
Commercial - High	$360.09	$385.30	$412.27	$437.00	$463.22
Institutional	$100.45	$107.48	$115.00	$121.90	$129.22
Church/Schools	$63.82	$68.29	$73.07	$77.45	$82.10
Misc. Industrial	$129.27	$138.32	$148.00	$156.88	$166.29
Wastewater Only	$135.91	$145.43	$155.61	$164.94	$174.84

SECTION 4. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the wastewater service commodity charge and the discharge factor applied to metered water usage to calculate wastewater output for the following property classifications shall be as follows for the following years:

BI-MONTHLY COMMODITY CHARGES						
Property Classification	Discharge Factor	Proposed Wastewater Rates				
		FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30
Residential ($/HCF)						
Single Family	85%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Duplex + Triplex	90%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Fourplex + Larger	97%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
MFR: Indiv. metered	99%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
Non-Residential ($/HCF)						
MFR: Mixed Use	95%	$4.92	$5.27	$5.63	$5.97	$6.33
Commercial – Low	93%	$4.43	$4.74	$5.07	$5.38	$5.70
Commercial – Medium	94%	$6.27	$6.71	$7.18	$7.61	$8.07
Commercial – High	95%	$7.73	$8.27	$8.85	$9.38	$9.95
Institutional	82%	$4.29	$4.59	$4.91	$5.20	$5.52
Church/Schools	81%	$4.90	$5.24	$5.61	$5.94	$6.30
Misc. Industrial	88%	$5.68	$6.07	$6.50	$6.89	$7.30
Wastewater Only[3]	NA	--	--	--	--	--

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

The Water Resources Manager shall have the authority to make adjustments in discharge factors for individual users where it is determined that the actual quantity of wastewater discharge is substantially different from that established in the above table.

The wastewater rates above are based on wastewater volume (determined based on water usage and the listed discharge factors) and the property classification, which is determined based in part on the expected concentration (or strength) of pollutants in the wastewater discharge ("wastewater strength"). Wastewater strength values for individual users or various types of users may either be estimated or determined by laboratory analysis, at the direction of the Water Resources Manager. Where wastewater strength values are estimated, they shall be consistent with the current City of Los Angeles Amalgamated System Sewage Generation Factors. No wastewater strength values for non-residential users shall be less than the wastewater strength values established for residential users. The City may revise wastewater strength values from time to time as deemed necessary to reflect current conditions.

In the event any user believes that, based on the wastewater strength value established by the City for its wastewater discharge, its property classification is incorrect, that user shall have the option of having its wastewater sampled and analyzed at its own expense by a laboratory approved by the City. The manner, frequency, and duration of sampling and analysis shall be approved by the City to ensure that the resultant wastewater strength value is representative of all conditions of discharges. During the same time period when wastewater is being analyzed, the user shall pay all wastewater service charges based on the previously established property classification. In the event analyses show the actual strength value to be less than or greater than the previously established value, the City shall adjust the property classification and either refund or bill the user, per Santa Monica Municipal Code Sections 7.04.560 and 7.12.112, for the difference in charges, as appropriate.

SECTION 5. On July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, wastewater customers who do not receive water service from the City of Santa Monica will pay only the fixed charge established in Section 3 above.

SECTION 6. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the recycled water service commodity charge shall be as follows for the following years:

BI-MONTHLY RECYCLED WATER COMMODITY CHARGES					
	Proposed Recycled Water Rates				
	FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30
Uniform Rate ($/HCF)	$5.21	$6.04	$6.59	$7.18	$7.61

SECTION 7. A low-income allowance will be offered to residential water customers with individual water meters who qualify for the City's Utilities User Tax Exemption Program or the Southern California Gas Co. or Southern California Edison low-income assistance programs. As of July 1, 2025, or as soon thereafter as practical, the residential low-income wastewater commodity charge for residential water customers with individual meters shall be as follows for the following years:

BI-MONTHLY LOW-INCOME COMMODITY CHARGES					
	Proposed Wastewater Rates				
	FY 2025/26	FY 2026/27	FY 2027/28	FY 2028/29	FY 2029/30
Residential ($/HCF)	$3.92	$4.27	$4.63	$4.97	$5.33

Note: HCF = hundred cubic feet

SECTION 8. In accordance with Government Code section 54354, delinquent charges and penalties for wastewater services recorded in accordance with Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien upon the real property served.

SECTION 9. Resolution Number 11224 (CCS) is hereby repealed in its entirety, effective July 1, 2025.

SECTION 10. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

DOUGLAS SLOAN
CITY ATTORNEY

Santa Monica hires Oliver Chi as City Manager

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica has selected Oliver Chi as its next city manager following a nationwide search, the City Council announced Friday.

Chi, who has served as Irvine's city manager since 2021, will earn an annual salary of $410,604 when he officially joins Santa Monica on July 14. The City Council is scheduled to formally approve his contract at its May 27 meeting.

As Santa Monica's city manager, Chi will oversee a total city budget of $789.9 million and a workforce of more than 2,000 employees.

Chi replaces Interim City Manager Elaine Polachek, who has led the city since former City Manager David White resigned in February.

Santa Monica has had a rotation of City Managers, both interim and permanent, in recent years. Before White, Former City Manager Rick Cole resigned in March 2020, citing an inability to preside over budget and staffing cuts the City was facing. City Attorney Lane Dilg took over the position until leaving in June 2021, when John Jalili took over as Interim City Manager.

'We are thrilled to welcome Oliver Chi to Santa Monica,' Mayor Lana Negrete said. 'He has the talent, skills and vision to address the city's most pressing needs and lead us into the future.'

During his tenure in Irvine, Chi established the $1.2 billion, 300-acre Great Park expansion project, implemented housing initiatives under the Irvine Cares program, and created a city-led land development process for the $600 million Gateway Village project.

Chi previously held leadership roles in Huntington Beach, Monrovia, Rosemead and Barstow. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree in political science from UCLA.

Chi is married to Bobbie Jo and has two children, Ian, 12, and Avery, 8.



Courtesy photo
MANAGER: Oliver Chi has been hired.

editor@smdp.com

BALLET

FROM PAGE 2

During the Gala, Westside Ballet will honor alumnus Andrew Veyette with its Bravo! Award. Veyette studied at Westside Ballet under Yvonne Mounsey and Nader Hamed before joining New York City Ballet, where he rose to principal dancer in 2007. This season marks the end of his 25-year career with the company.

The performances highlight Westside Ballet's community commitment, which includes an education partnership with Santa Monica College offering college credits to high school dancers, approximately $100,000 in annual scholarships prior to the pandemic, and the Dance to Dreams program providing free workshops to underserved students interested in ballet.

The Westside Ballet productions are supported by grants from Los Angeles County, the City of Santa Monica, and various local organizations and businesses.

Showcase tickets are priced at $50, while Gala performance tickets cost $195. All performances take place at The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage, 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica. Tickets can be purchased online at westsideballet.com/SpringTix or by phone at (800) 595-4849.

maaz@smdp.com

HEAL THE BAY

FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monica city officials responded Thursday by noting that the report's failing grade applies only to the ocean water within 100 yards north and south of the pier. 'Santa Monica's beaches are wide and expansive,' a spokesperson from City Hall said. 'The majority of our three miles of coastline is highly rated by Heal the Bay.'

Heal the Bay emphasized that nearby beaches, including those near Wilshire and Pico boulevards, received A+ and B grades, respectively. Officials also pointed to stormwater diversion systems and bird-deterrent netting as evidence of ongoing efforts to address the problem.

But Maurice suggested that past mitigation efforts have not gone far enough. 'Despite all of these actions, the water quality continues to persist as being poor,' she said. 'What we'd really like to see is a source identification project to determine where exactly this bacteria is coming from.'

Maurice said modern technology can be used to trace the origin of fecal contamination, whether it stems from birds, urban runoff or other sources. 'That would be really helpful,' she said. 'If we did a source identification study and it showed that 95 percent of the bacteria is coming from birds, then we know we need to focus on bird netting. But if only 5 percent is coming from birds, then we should not be putting all our energy into that. It would help make smarter, data-backed choices.'

She said the organization lacks the necessary materials and funding to undertake such a study on its own. 'We're happy to work in collaboration with other groups,' she added, 'and we're hoping the City of Santa Monica is willing to invest in that.'

The City has said it is working with researchers to map surface and underwater currents around the pier and has partnered with Heal the Bay on educational initiatives and community cleanups. City Hall stated that piers pose unique challenges due to limited ocean water circulation and the presence of large bird populations, which can contribute to bacteria levels.

Still, Heal the Bay's report makes clear that the pier's persistent contamination stands out. The rest of Santa Monica's coastline, including more open stretches of beach, generally performs well. The discrepancy underscores the highly localized nature of ocean pollution and the limitations of one-size-fits-all mitigation strategies.

Maurice also addressed the potential role of recent wildfires in water quality concerns. While the report focuses solely on bacterial contamination, she said wildfires can lead to increased sediment and nutrient runoff that may worsen pollution in coastal waters.

'It's definitely possible that wildfire runoff affected water quality,' she said. 'Some research shows that fires can increase the amount of sediment that flows into waterways, and that sediment can lead to higher bacteria levels. But all available beach report card data since the fires shows grades have remained pretty consistent with historical trends. So we're not seeing any major spikes in bacteria right now.'

She noted that harmful algal blooms, which thrive on nutrient-rich runoff, had already begun forming in Southern California prior to the January wildfires. 'We saw the first bloom of the season in December,' Maurice said. 'That was before the fires started, so we can't directly link them. But nutrients from wildfire runoff, especially when rain follows a burn, can act like fertilizer in the ocean and contribute to those blooms.'

In addition to wildfire runoff, Maurice pointed to ongoing discharges from local wastewater treatment plants as a more consistent contributor to excess nutrients in the water.

The Santa Monica Pier's second-place finish on the 'Beach Bummer' list placed it just behind Playa Blanca in Baja California, which suffers from sewage-contaminated runoff related to failing infrastructure near the Tijuana River. Four beaches in San Diego County made the bottom 10, and three beaches in San Mateo County also appeared on the list.

At the other end of the spectrum, 62 beaches across the state earned perfect water quality grades in 2024, a sharp increase from only 12 the year before. Orange County led the state with 34 beaches on the Honor Roll, followed by San Diego County with 12 and Los Angeles County with seven.

Heal the Bay attributed the overall improvement in part to lower rainfall totals, which reduced the volume of polluted runoff entering the ocean. Still, the Santa Monica Pier has remained stubbornly resistant to improvement, with little year-over-year progress.

Maurice said Heal the Bay has been in conversations with the city about forming a new task force to review past efforts and analyze available data, but those plans have yet to materialize. 'We're hoping that they take the lead on that and really make sure it gets done,' she said. 'We're all working toward the same goal. We all want people to be safe when they're entering the water.'

But with major events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2028 Summer Olympics set to bring global attention to the region, she said Santa Monica could be doing more.

'This should be a priority,' Maurice said. 'I know the city has done some good work, but clearly what's been done so far isn't working. We need to invest in understanding the problem so we can fix it. Otherwise we'll be back here next year saying the same thing.'

Beachgoers are encouraged to visit beachreportcard.org to check current water quality grades and avoid swimming within 100 yards of piers or storm drains. Officials also advise staying out of the water for at least 72 hours after rainfall.

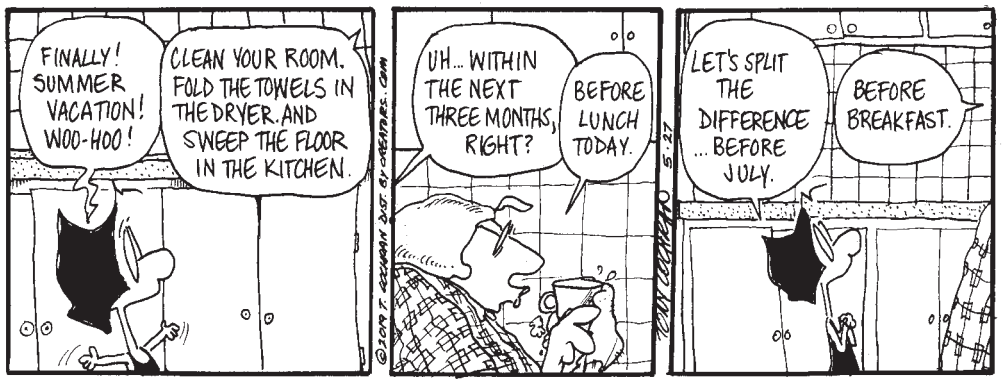
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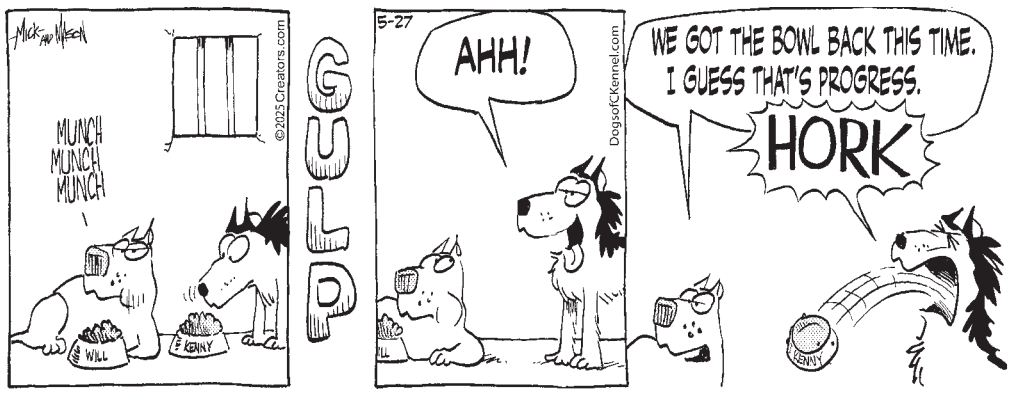
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



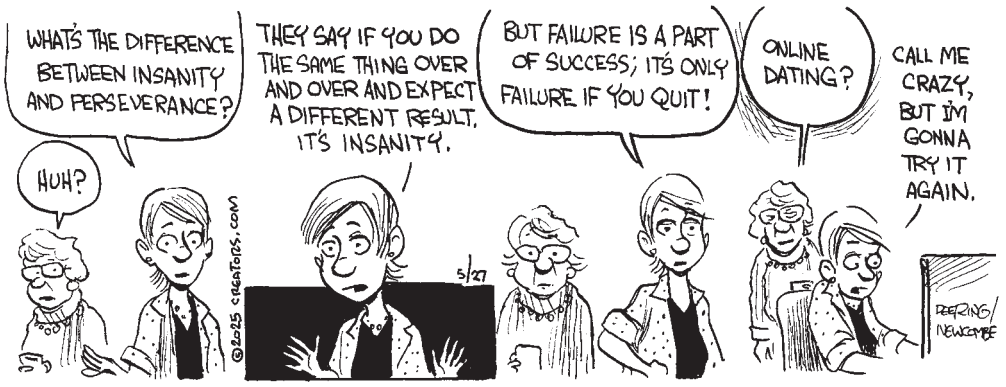
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THAT'S HIS CHIHUAHUA WAND."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6588

Nature's fury

W	B	A	C	U	M	U	L	O	N	I	M	B	U	S
E	R	L	M	S	N	I	L	U	A	P	R	A	T	A
N	I	A	R	Y	D	D	U	M	C	M	L	A	C	N
A	E	R	I	C	I	R	R	U	S	G	A	L	E	D
T	F	M	V	G	D	E	T	A	L	O	S	I	L	B
U	I	C	E	R	U	S	S	E	R	P	W	O	L	A
R	N	A	R	X	I	T	E	I	G	D	L	O	C	G
A	G	T	H	L	H	H	T	G	R	O	U	N	D	S
L	S	T	T	B	O	A	T	E	U	L	N	T	A	B
A	E	L	C	R	E	W	U	I	R	L	A	H	N	T
G	T	E	S	B	E	M	A	S	W	A	E	K	G	S
O	A	E	A	W	O	M	N	F	T	L	L	D	E	I
O	S	N	O	U	I	R	O	A	P	W	C	I	R	S
N	K	L	L	D	R	N	S	T	O	R	M	I	D	S
S	A	D	V	I	C	E	D	E	E	P	M	A	D	A

Advice	Clean	Gutter	Remote
Alarm	Cold	Help	River
Assist	Crew	Horses	Sandbags
ASWA	Cumulonimbus	Isolated	Silt
Banks	Cuts	Lagoon	Storm
Boat	Damp	Lakes	Tarpaulins
Briefings	Danger	Low pressure	Task
Calm	Deluge	Mould	Wind
Cattle	Exhaust	Muddy	
Cell	Gale	Natural	
Cirrus	Ground	Rain	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 27)

This year puts you back in touch with the wildest parts of your imagination - and your most powerful ability to shape reality. More highlights: You'll walk away from something draining and walk into an unexpected opportunity that feels like it was waiting just for you, and gather rewards both spiritual and financial. You'll make beauty where others gave up and be the hero someone needs. Pisces and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 4, 38, 19 and 11.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your attention is a valuable commodity, and you're not inclined to give it to the things you've already seen. You're only engaged in what's truly impressive. It will take the form of a complex relationship, novelty or a newcomer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You just know what people need - you pick it up before they even say a word. Sure, it's a little risky. What if you're off? But today you won't be. Your accuracy comes from reading the room with real heart, not ego.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Oh, the magnetism of being fully immersed in your passion! To be deeply engaged in what you love or do best - it naturally makes you more compelling and beautiful to others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Beauty, success, 'rightness' - it's all just people making stuff up. But how it hits you deep down? That's real. Trust your gut. Let it drive the car today. In the end, emotional truth will resonate with facts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even when people are being totally confusing or unreasonable, you stay patient and curious. You're not about fighting. You're about figuring it out. Understanding where people are coming from is kindness, and kindness is just how you roll.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll trade your fixed ideas about how things should go for a softer, more open approach. The atmosphere you cultivate will help people relax and do their best work. It inspires creativity and loyalty.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Notice how you feel after spending time with someone. Energized? Inspired? Or drained, anxious, resentful? Let that guide your plans. The company you keep often matters more than the activity, as it colors the whole experience.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). From infancy, we seek eye contact, attention and acknowledgment. It's not vanity - it's a survival mechanism built into our nervous systems. Being witnessed affirms existence. It's part of the reason you give such quality attention to others, and you'll get it right back today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Most worthwhile projects unfold on their own timeline, often slower than you'd like but better for it. Amateurs rush or get frustrated when things take longer than planned. Pros accept delays as part of the process and plan accordingly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The combination of knowing your worth without showing off is a sign of both intellectual and emotional intelligence. You trust yourself enough not to chase approval, and the right people see your value clearly and treasure it without being asked.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're hitting your groove, and it shows. You'll get more done without even adding extra hours, just because you're figuring out what really works. Your eye for what matters is sharper than ever. You'll know exactly what to lean into and what to skip.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Breakthroughs don't belong to the chosen - they belong to the stubborn. What you see as overnight success is someone else's relentless grind. You've got the tenacity. Keep showing up and the results will take care of themselves.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

I	N	C	A	■	J	A	R	S	■	S	M	O	C	K
M	O	O	T	■	A	M	A	T	■	L	O	R	N	E
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	A	■	I	R	O	N	Y
R	E	D	I	N	K	■	G	R	A	N	D	■	■	■
I	N	S	U	M	■	B	E	E	F	K	E	B	A	B
■	■	■	M	I	K	A	■	■	C	Y	C	L	E	R
A	N	S	■	N	O	N	U	S	E	■	A	U	R	A
C	A	N	A	D	I	A	N	P	A	C	I	F	I	C
R	O	A	R	■	C	L	E	E	S	E	■	F	E	E
I	M	P	A	L	A	■	■	E	T	A	T	■	■	■
D	I	S	C	A	R	D	E	D	■	S	I	S	A	L
■	■	■	H	Y	P	E	D	■	G	E	N	T	L	E
P	L	A	N	O	■	F	I	N	I	S	H	O	F	F
S	E	R	I	F	■	O	F	U	S	■	A	L	I	T
A	B	C	D	F	■	G	Y	N	T	■	T	I	E	S

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

2	5	1	9	7	6	8	3	4
4	8	7	2	5	3	9	1	6
3	9	6	4	1	8	2	7	5
9	7	5	3	4	1	6	2	8
1	4	8	7	6	2	5	9	3
6	2	3	8	9	5	1	4	7
5	1	2	6	3	7	4	8	9
8	3	4	5	2	9	7	6	1
7	6	9	1	8	4	3	5	2

		7			6		8	
5	2			4			9	
					5	3		1
3		1		2				
	6	9	3		8	5	1	
				1		2		3
4		6	1					
	9			5			3	8
	5		9			1		

Newsday Crossword

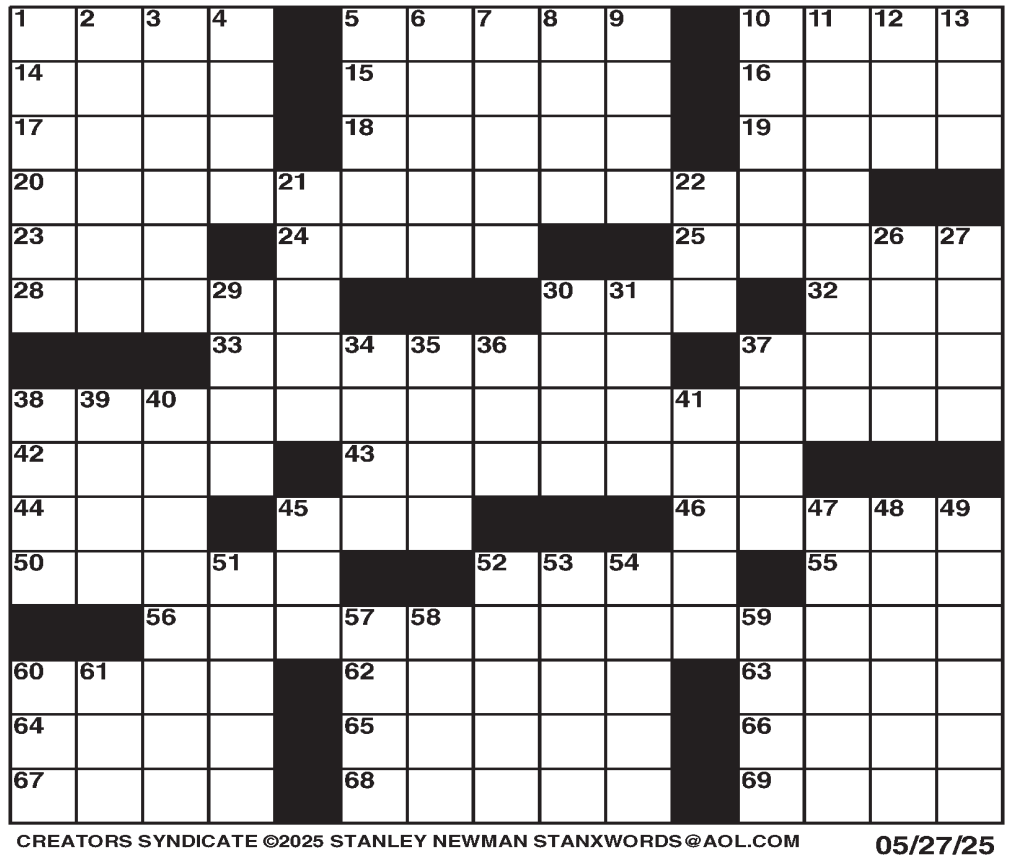
FELINE PHRASES by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Male siblings, for short
5 Deck of 52
10 Resign a job
14 Decisive victory
15 Approximately
16 Remove, as a knot
17 Caesar's rebuke
18 Stop doing
19 Cain's father
20 Unofficial employee work stoppage
23 Compass point opposite WSW
24 Party giver
25 Vice __ (with the order flipped)
28 "Me too"
30 By the __ (incidentally)
32 Caught a glimpse of
33 All-natural, as foods
37 Flying-related prefix
38 Something difficult to cope with
42 Disguising military garb, for short
43 Most wealthy
44 Shirtsleeve insert
45 Display on museum walls
46 Nosh between meals
50 Sir __ Newton
52 Intuitive feeling
55 Went for a jog
56 Largest portion
60 Whodunit hint
62 "Who's there?" reply
63 Woodwind instrument
64 Prefix for chute or medic
65 Got lighter in color
66 Is sure to
67 Extremely impressed
68 List of candidates
69 Young girl

DOWN

1 Prepared, as tea
2 Spiral pasta
3 Place to plug in a radio
4 Basic earring
5 Bean used for chocolate
6 Helps in a crime
7 Cook in the oven
8 Wipe specks off furniture
9 Suffix for prank or young
10 Earth tremor
11 Below the surface, as submarines
12 Potato state: Abbr.
13 Actor Hanks or Cruise
21 Any household task
22 "Poison" climbing plant
26 Dress of India
27 Truant GI
29 Takeout meal order
30 HANDLE __ CARE
31 Muscle soreness
34 Watchdog's warning
35 Just somewhat
36 Initials for the Big Apple
37 Letter-routing abbr.
38 "Superfruit" berry
39 Road surfaces
40 Acting childish
41 Four letters in "Mississippi"
45 Expert pilot
47 Saudi __ (Mideast nation)
48 Christmas songs
49 Prepares to propose
51 In the lead
52 "And here it is!"
53 Map within a map
54 Lesser part of a 45 record
57 "My __ are sealed!"
58 Emphatic typeface: Abbr.
59 Coyote call
60 Tax pro: Abbr.
61 Attorney's expertise



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05/27/25

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

and continues to defer needed maintenance of streets, parks and public facilities.

The proposed budget includes 11.5 new full-time equivalent permanent positions citywide, though the city remains 162.6 positions, or 7%, below pre-pandemic staffing levels from fiscal year 2019-20.

Capital improvement funding remains severely constrained, with the General Fund allocating just $15.1 million annually for infrastructure projects—far below the $21 million allocated before the pandemic. This underfunding has created a growing maintenance backlog for city infrastructure.

Adding to the financial pressure, potential federal policy changes threaten funding for major projects including the Pier Bridge Replacement Project and federal grants supporting the Big Blue Bus system, affordable housing programs and public safety initiatives.

The city has compiled an inventory of federally funded projects and is working with lobbyists to assess impacts, though staff have not yet halted any projects. However, opportunities for new federal funding are not expected.

The city's financial position has been further weakened by significant legal settlements. Santa Monica has paid over $230 million in settlements related to former employee Eric Uller, with $159.6 million covered from reserves. Additional claims remain pending.

The California Voting Rights Act case has been referred back to trial court with a potential trial date in late 2025, creating additional uncertainty.

The five-year financial forecast paints a challenging picture, with limited growth expected in key revenue streams as global tourism and retail sales recovery remains slow. The city estimates it will need to use approximately $60.5 million in General Fund reserves through fiscal year 2029-30 to maintain existing services.

Finance officials warn that additional budget measures would be required if the regional economic downturn persists, if the city must assume debt through bond issuance to cover legal liabilities, or if federal funding for public safety, transportation and affordable housing disappears.

Despite the constraints, the budget focuses on three council priorities: affordable housing for all, clean streets and safe neighborhoods, and economic opportunity and growth. Limited enhancements are funded through new revenue sources including voter-approved Measure K, which raised parking facility taxes and is expected to generate $6.7 million annually.

Tuesday's hearing is an update on the budget but its final adoption is scheduled for June.

Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

editor@smdp.com

UNIFICATION

FROM PAGE 1

of Malibu subcommittee, we've made sure that we're both we're all hearing the same things at the same time,' Kean said. 'The hope is that we'll be able to work towards a mediated outcome. It's what we've been trying to do for years. And we're happy to report that the city of Malibu has returned to the table as invited.'

The City of Malibu released a statement expressing confidence that agreements between the two sides were ready for approval.

'The parties agree on all three agreements and, in the last few weeks, have done the additional work of meeting with concerned stakeholders in the District,' the city said in its statement. 'The only thing left is for the District to approve the agreements, and the City hopes the Board does that before the County Committee votes on the City's petition on May 29, 2025.'

After the initial, and now void, vote to reject Malibu's separation petition, the Board asked staff for several actions: reengaging with Malibu consultants, reaching out to the Malibu subcommittee for new mediation sessions, consulting with the Financial Oversight Committee on risk exposure, holding information sessions with employee unions, and fine-tuning the agreements.

The two sides had previously worked on three key elements: a Revenue Sharing Agreement, an Operational Transfer Agreement and a Joint Powers Agreement. Last year they had announced plans for these agreements, but they were never formalized, prompting Malibu to pursue a county-mandated split instead.

Specific sticking points in the agreements were largely financial in nature but the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association had raised concerns about educator protections in both communities, including job security provisions and compensation planning for both districts.

Superintendent Antonio Shelton confirmed that meetings with the teachers union were also scheduled as part of the ongoing discussions.

editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

(assets minus debts) are about 50% higher than those of other states, thanks in part to California's high housing values, low wealth is concentrated in Latino and Black households, corresponding to lower levels of education.

'Homeownership rates and equity are low among Latino households, driven largely by their younger age profile and lower education levels,' the study found. 'In contrast, Black/other homeownership rates are low even after we account for factors like age, income, and education levels.

'While three in four households owe some money on unsecured debts (those without collateral), like credit cards, student loans, and/or medical bills,' the report continues, 'older households are less likely than others to hold any unsecured debt, as are white, Asian, and immigrant households. Latino households are more likely to carry credit card debt and Black/other and Latino households are more likely to carry education-related debt than white and Asian households.'

So there it is, another confirmation that California has, indeed, become a highly stratified society — the perhaps unchangeable reality of a state whose political leadership still insists that it is a model for the world.

By Dan Walters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



TUESDAY | MAY 27

GELSON'S WEST LA TO HOST TACO TUESDAYS WITH TACOS, MARGARITAS, AND MEZCALS

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-05-27T16

WEDNESDAY | MAY 28

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-05-28T08

THURSDAY | MAY 29

LUNCHTIME LINE DANCE

12:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard Venice. Get fit and meet new friends learning line dances on your lunch break. We will learn new and old dances to various styles, including country, disco, Latin, soul, and more. All levels are welcome. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/lunchtime-line-dance/12342961/2025-05-29T12

FRIDAY | MAY 30

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-night-sky-show/14165546/2025-05-30T19

SATURDAY | MAY 31

FREE SATURDAY MORNING FITNESS; WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS FOR 2025 SEASON

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Start your weekend with movement, mindfulness, and ocean views as Wellness & Waves returns to the Santa Monica Pier beginning Saturday, April 5 through October 11, 2025, from 8 to 10 a.m. every week. This popular Free fitness series invites the community to embrace self-care and coastal vibes with group runs, yoga, and fusion fitness—all in the most iconic outdoor setting in Los Angeles. Held beneath the famed Santa Monica Yacht Harbor sign, Wellness & Waves kicks off with a breezy group run from 8 to 9 a.m., perfect for runners of all levels. From 9 to 10 a.m., the energy shifts to the west end of the Pier for Yoga and Yoga-Pilates Fusion classes, led by a rotating lineup of celebrated instructors from some of the Westside's top wellness studios. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/free-saturday-morning-fitness-wellness-waves-returns-for-2025-season/15484766/2025-05-31T08

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