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At the Olympics.

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Against LA Fire Chief.

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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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California cities lack unified response on homeless encampments



Photo by Matthew Hall

HOMELESS: The approach to homelessness differs among different cities despite efforts from the State to step up enforcement.

Clearing an encampment is one of the most complicated and fraught tasks any California city can take on when responding to homelessness.

How they handle that challenge varies widely.

CalMatters asked nearly three-dozen cities and counties throughout California for copies of their encampment management policies. Responses spanned a wide range, highlighting the lack of a unified strategy to address street homelessness across the state, even as Gov. Gavin Newsom is pushing for more cohesive rules.

San Diego, for example, has a 10-page policy that spells out everything from when removals can take place (during daylight hours and not if there is a 50% chance of rain) to how much advance warning the city must give camp residents (at least 24 hours) and how to handle personal belongings confiscated during the removal (items must be photographed, logged and stored for 90 days).

But some smaller cities

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 15

School District approves emergency power plan after losing 22 school days

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education has unanimously approved an emergency resolution to fast-track the installation of backup power systems after losing 22 school days last year.

The emergency measure allows the district to bypass normal procurement processes to meet a late September deadline

SEE **EMERGENCY POWER** PAGE 12

Santa Monica City Council approves parking rate increases with compromise on free period

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council unanimously has approved significant parking rate increases that are projected to generate an additional $8.2 to $8.9 million

SEE **PARKING RATE** PAGE 5



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GUEST COMMENTARY

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California's politicians overlook potential pitfalls in their zeal for new laws



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters
GOVERNMENT: Lawmakers on the Assembly floor on April 29, 2024.

Sociologist Robert Merton coined the term "unintended consequences" in a 1936 essay, exploring how people take actions they believe will have positive outcomes, but later learn they have negative impacts. Someone could — and should — write a book about the seemingly countless incidents of adverse consequences from the decrees issued by California legislators and governors.

Perhaps the most spectacular example is the ill-named "deregulation" of California's electrical power system 29 years ago, embraced by legislators of both parties and then-Gov. Pete Wilson. Advocates hailed the overhaul as a bold act that would assure ample power supplies while reducing consumers' utility bills.

However, it was an unmitigated disaster that invited manipulation of the electricity market and drove up costs. It plunged Pacific Gas and Electric Co. into bankruptcy and pushed Southern California Edison to the brink of insolvency.

Oddly, it did not curb the urge of California politicians to tamper with how their constituents obtain and pay for electricity. This year's example is Senate Bill 540, a controversial measure which would, if enacted, have California join a regional power consortium with unpredictable consequences.

There are other major examples of legislation that backfired and is worth noting.

> "When I authored AB 218 my priority was to protect kids from sex abuse & ensure victims could have some justice"
>
> - Lorena Gonzalez, Assemblymember

One is Assembly Bill 218, a 2019 bill that temporarily suspended the statute

SEE **LAWMAKERS** PAGE 4

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles now has to appease Trump's ego as prep for the Olympics continues

The 2028 Olympics will open in Los Angeles in exactly three years, and the planning for the Games is racing alongside their politics.

The planning is going better, but the politics are getting harder.

The executive board of the International Olympic Committee checked off on Los Angeles' sweeping venue plan in April, giving its stamp of approval to an effort that will unfold across the region: surfing in San Clemente, skateboarding and BMX racing in the San Fernando Valley, cricket in Pomona and baseball, of course, in Dodger Stadium. The host committee is clearly plowing forward, tackling a full range of planning issues, from venues to transportation and security.

Some pieces remain. The transportation challenge, for one, is formidable, and the plans as unveiled so far are incomplete, with early promises of a "car-free" games morphing into something less ambitious but more achievable — public transit options that will make the games accessible.

There is progress to note on this front, too: The long-missing connector between the region's rail system and its airport is at last coming to completion. Other L.A. Metro services are coming into play as well.

IOC officials visited Los Angeles this summer and complimented the work being done, especially after early concerns about a slow start. "We have seen significant progress," an IOC spokesperson said, adding that the "leadership was in place" and "detailed planning was advancing."

There is plenty left to do but also time to do it, with the city, state and organizing committee all taking on responsibilities. It helps that these will be the third Summer Olympics hosted by Los Angeles, so no major venues need to be built.

That's a challenge, but a rational one.

The politics? Not so much. President Donald Trump sees the Olympics less as a chance to telegraph unity and pride and more as one to flex his political muscle.

Earlier this month, Trump questioned the capability of local officials and positioned himself at the center of a rescue operation that no one asked for. He announced a federal task force and appointed himself as its chair.

The president even used the occasion to rehash his two-pronged falsehood that the devastation wrought by the January fires was the result of insufficient water flowing to the region from the "Pacific Northwest," which is not true, and that he had opened up the flow of water to Los Angeles, which also is not true.

So far, it's unclear what this task force can offer, aside from surfacing tired culture-war issues. Typical of his meandering public speeches, he took a moment to assure people that "the United States will not let men steal trophies from women at the 2028 Olympics."

Trump also vowed that the federal government would be there to ensure safety, a promise he could not make without needling L.A. Mayor Karen Bass.

"We'll do anything necessary to keep the Olympics safe, including using our National Guard or military," Trump said. "Obviously, you have a mayor that is not very competent."

We've seen this before, of course. In June, Trump unleashed federal forces in Los Angeles to round up noncitizens. That inflamed communities where masked federal agents started grabbing people off the street, and protests erupted Downtown. The protests were briefly violent but well within the capacity of the Los Angeles Police Department to control.

A night of clashes settled by morning, and then Trump called in the National Guard — and later the Marines — to "restore order" where there was no disorder. The effect was to stir up trouble, then claim credit when local authorities did their jobs.

The same gambit is now underway in Washington, D.C., where the president declared an emergency and dispatched the guard even though no objective measure suggests any such emergency exists or such a response is needed. In that sense, the president's ego-driven resort to force is animated more by a desire to change the channel from his refusal to release the Epstein files or his disappointing summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, rather than any real danger in Washington.

And so it will be with the Olympics, as Trump insists on turning every event into an opportunity to aggrandize himself. For L.A. officials, the task is to align the region's interests with the president's ego — no small feat. But you can feel them trying.

When confronted with Trump's criticisms of her, Bass, who only will get the chance to host the Olympics if she is reelected, gently deflected.

"There have been presidents that were very visible during the opening and closing ceremony," she told Fox LA reporter Elex Michaelson. "I am sure that he will be here, and I am sure that he will have a big presence. But is he going to run the Olympics? No."

By Jim Newton. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **70.7**

FRIDAY — ***FAIR*** | **SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh

Looking like Thursday with continued SSW pulse. Winds staying on the lighter side in morning. Waves hold in knee-waist high zone for most spots, as SSW pulse continues. Chest-high surf for better spots while standouts out west go shoulder high. Light winds in the morning along with a favorable tide push early. Afternoon W-WNW onshores look to stay manageable. Not much windswell in the mix, so spots with some structure offer best shape.

SATURDAY — ***FAIR*** | **SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh

SSW swell reinforcements keep fun surf rolling through, similar to earlier in the week. Knee-waist high waves continue to show for average spots, pushing chest-high for better breaks as standouts west of Dume could get the occasional shoulder-high wave. Early conditions look pretty clean, but we could see some westerly wind texture puff up quickly - summer points okay. Breezy afternoon westerlies are in the cards, but we could get a little cleanup by the end of the day. The evening tide is a little lower too, which ups the appeal of the sunset session.

Weather

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 79. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 67. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming southeast in the evening.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 79. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 69.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/08/22	Fri	03:48 AM	-0.73	L
2025/08/22	Fri	10:08 AM	4.62	H
2025/08/22	Fri	3:20 PM	1.75	L
2025/08/22	Fri	9:26 PM	6.44	H
2025/08/23	Sat	04:18 AM	-0.48	L
2025/08/23	Sat	10:35 AM	4.78	H
2025/08/23	Sat	4:00 PM	1.55	L
2025/08/23	Sat	10:03 PM	6.11	H
2025/08/24	Sun	04:46 AM	-0.12	L
2025/08/24	Sun	11:01 AM	4.91	H
2025/08/24	Sun	4:39 PM	1.43	L

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Powerball — Draw Date: 8/20 — 31 59 62 65 68 — Power#: 5 — Jackpot: 700 M

Mega Millions — Draw Date: 8/19 — 10 19 24 49 68 — Mega#: 10 — Jackpot: 234 M

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 8/20 — 5 20 26 30 47 — Mega#: 26 — Jackpot: 36 M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 8/20 — 6 20 33 34 35

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 8/20 — EVENING: 5 7 3 — MIDDAY: 2 3 7

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 8/20 — 1st: 11 - Money Bags — 2nd: 10 - Solid Gold — 3rd: 04 - Big Ben — Race Time: 1:48.45

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LAWMAKERS

FROM PAGE 2

of limitations on sexual abuse lawsuits. Proponents said it would allow victims to finally receive justice, brushing aside criticism that it would be a bonanza for lawyers. Hundreds of suits against local governments and school systems have been filed, resulting in multibillion-dollar settlements, including a $4 billion payout by Los Angeles County to settle 6,800 claims from former foster children and formerly incarcerated minors.

The spate of abuse suits has also distorted the ability of public entities to acquire liability insurance. The bill's author, former Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, has called for changes.

"When I authored AB 218 my priority was to protect kids from sex abuse & ensure victims could have some justice," Gonzalez, now head of the California Federation of Labor Unions, said in social media post. "Now, some unscrupulous attorneys are treating it like feeding frenzy. I support reforms to cap attorneys' fees or other measures to reel the costs in for public entities."

There also are many other current examples of potentially harmful consequences, including the late-blooming effort by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic legislators to alter — temporarily, they say — California's 52 congressional districts to produce more Democratic members and offset a Republican-sponsored gerrymander in Texas.

The electric power and gerrymandering measures are not the only pieces of pending litigation with potentially negative consequences. Two of them involve school operations.

One is Assembly Bill 1264, aimed at removing ultra-processed foods from the millions of meals public schools serve to their students.

Advocates say such foods adversely affect children's health, which is certainly a legitimate issue if proven. However, critics say that the legislation, which tasks defining such foods to a state agency, could ban foods that Californians commonly consume and result in a flood of lawsuits, not unlike what happened after Gonzalez's child abuse law was enacted.

The other is Assembly Bill 495, which would expand the list of people who could take charge of public school students in the absence of their parents or designated caregivers. It's aimed at protecting children of parents who have been swept up in the federal government's crackdown on undocumented immigrants. However, critics say just about anyone could claim to be a substitute caregiver under the legislation's loose definition, thereby potentially endangering children rather than protecting them.

As Merton pointed out in his essay, advocates of new policies or programs always stress their positive intentions, while downplaying or ignoring downside risks. It's a dangerous syndrome, as California politicians should have learned by now.

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

Legal claim by ex-Los Angeles fire chief alleges mayor orchestrated smear campaign after her ouster

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The former Los Angeles fire chief filed a legal claim Wednesday against the city, alleging that her ouster by Mayor Karen Bass was followed by an orchestrated effort to smear her conduct and decision-making during the most destructive wildfire in LA history.

Former Chief Kristin Crowley's dismissal a month after January's Palisades Fire was followed by finger-pointing between her and City Hall over the blaze's devastation and the fire department's funding. In March, Crowley lost an appeal to the City Council to win back her job.

Crowley's legal claim this week alleges that Bass led "a campaign of misinformation, defamation, and retaliation" to protect the mayor's political reputation following the fire.

The mayor's office said Wednesday that it would not comment on "an ongoing personnel claim." A message seeking comment was also sent to the LA City Attorney's office.

Crowley accuses the first-term Democrat of defaming her to distract from criticism of the mayor for being in Africa as part of a presidential delegation when the blaze started, even though weather reports had warned of dangerous wildfire conditions in the days before she left.

In the filing, the former chief demands "that Bass immediately cease and desist her defamatory and illegal public smear campaign of Crowley, retract her false statements about Crowley, and apologize for lying about Crowley."

Such legal claims are often precursors to lawsuits. Crowley's legal team wouldn't say if a lawsuit was imminent or what it might seek.

Bass fired Crowley on Feb. 21, six weeks after the LA fire started. She praised Crowley in the firefighting effort's early going, but she said she later learned that an additional 1,000 firefighters could have been deployed on the day the blaze ignited. Furthermore, she said Crowley rebuffed a request to prepare a report on the fires that is a critical part of investigations into what happened and why.

Crowley's legal filing disputes both those claims.

The Palisades Fire began Jan. 7 in heavy winds. It destroyed or damaged nearly 8,000 homes, businesses and other structures, and it killed at least 12 people in the Pacific Palisades, an affluent LA neighborhood. Another fire started that day in Altadena, a suburb east of LA, killing at least 17 people and destroying or damaging more than 10,000 homes or other buildings.

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Prosecutors link LA contract to Smartmatic 'slush fund' as voting tech firm battles Fox in court

Smartmatic, the elections-technology company suing Fox News for defamation, is now contending with a growing list of criminal allegations against some of its executives — including a new claim by federal prosecutors that a "slush fund" for bribing foreign officials was financed partly with proceeds from the sale of voting machines in Los Angeles.

The new details about the criminal case surfaced this month in court filings in Miami, where the company's co-founder, Roger Pinate, and two Venezuelan colleagues were charged last year with bribing officials in the Philippines in exchange for a contract to help run that country's 2016 presidential elections. Pinate, who no longer works for Smartmatic, has pleaded not guilty.

To buttress the case, federal prosecutors are seeking to introduce evidence they argue shows that some of the nearly $300 million the company was paid by Los Angeles County to help modernize its voting systems was diverted to a fund controlled by Pinate through the use of overseas shell companies, fake invoices and other means.

Smartmatic itself hasn't been charged with breaking any laws, nor have U.S. prosecutors accused Smartmatic or its executives of tampering with election results. Similarly, they haven't accused Los Angeles County officials of wrongdoing, or said whether they were even aware of the alleged bribery scheme. County officials say they weren't.

> "Let us be clear: Smartmatic wins business because we're the best at what we do"
> - Smartmatic

But the case against Pinate is unfolding as Smartmatic is pursuing a $2.7 billion lawsuit accusing Fox of defamation for airing false claims that the company helped rig the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Fox says it was legitimately reporting newsworthy allegations.

Smartmatic said the Justice Department's new filing was filled with "misrepresentations" and is "untethered from reality."

"Let us be clear: Smartmatic wins business because we're the best at what we do," the company said in a statement. "We operate ethically and abide by all laws always, both in Los Angeles County and every jurisdiction where we operate."

FOX QUESTIONS SMARTMATIC'S DEALINGS IN LA

Still, Fox has gone to court to try to get more information about L.A. County's dealings with Smartmatic. The network has long tried to leverage the bribery allegations to undermine Smartmatic's narrative about its business prospects – a key component in calculating any potential damages — and portray it as a scandal-plagued company brought low by its own legal problems, not Fox's broadcasts.

South Florida-based Smartmatic was founded more than two decades ago by a group of Venezuelans who found early success working for the government of the late Hugo Chavez, a devotee of electronic voting. The company later expanded globally, providing voting machines and other technology to help carry out elections in 25 countries, from Argentina to Zambia.

It was awarded its contract to help with Los Angeles County elections in 2018. The contract, which Smartmatic continues to service, gave the company an important foothold in what was then a fast-expanding U.S. voting-technology market.

But Smartmatic has said its business tanked after Fox News gave President Donald Trump's lawyers a platform to paint the company as part of a conspiracy to steal the 2020 election.

Fox itself eventually aired a piece refuting the allegations after Smartmatic's lawyers complained, but it has aggressively defended itself against the defamation lawsuit in New York.

"Facing imminent financial collapse and indictment, Smartmatic saw a litigation lottery ticket in Fox News's coverage of the 2020 election," the network's lawyers said in a court filing.

Smartmatic has disputed Fox's characterization in court filings as "lies" and "another attempt to divert attention from its long-standing campaign of falsehoods and defamation."

LA CLERK DEPOSED ABOUT TRIP, GIFTED MEAL

As part of its effort to investigate Smartmatic's work in Los Angeles, Fox has sued to force LA County Clerk Dean Logan to hand over public records about his dealings with Smartmatic's U.S. affiliate.

Fox's lawyers also questioned Logan in a deposition about a dinner a Smartmatic executive bought for him at the members-only Magic Castle club and restaurant in Los Angeles and a Smartmatic-paid trip that Logan made to Taiwan in 2019 to oversee the manufacturing of equipment by a Smartmatic vendor. U.S. prosecutors claim that vendor was deeply involved in the alleged kickback scheme in the Philippines. The five-day trip included business class airfare, hotel and numerous meals as well as time for sightseeing, Fox said.

"The trip's itinerary demonstrates that the trip was not a financial inspection or audit. It was a boondoggle," Fox said in court filings.

Logan, who did not report the gifts in his financial disclosures, said in his 2023 deposition that the meal at the Magic Castle was a "social occasion" unrelated to business

SEE **SMARTMATIC** PAGE 6

PARKING RATE

FROM PAGE 1

annually, while striking a compromise to retain 30 minutes of free parking in downtown structures instead of eliminating the grace period entirely.

The 7-0 vote came after extensive public input and debate over proposals that would raise rates across the city's parking facilities for the first time since 2018, despite 25% inflation over the past seven years.

"We're dependent upon this parking revenue," said Zach Pollard, the city's parking manager. "6.6% of the total revenue the city makes comes from parking and 7.7% of the general fund revenue comes from parking."

The approved plan reduces the current 90-minute free parking period in downtown structures to 30 minutes, then implements a simplified flat-rate structure designed to encourage longer stays. Under the new system, parking will cost $2 for the first three hours on weekdays and $3 on weekends, compared to the current escalating rates that reach $5-6 for three hours after the free period expires.

Council members chose the compromise after hearing concerns from businesses and parents who use downtown parking for quick trips.

Beach parking will see the steepest increases, with popular central beach lots rising from $15 to $20 on weekdays and maintaining $20 rates on weekends during peak season. Northern and southern beach zones will increase from $10-12 to $12-15 depending on the season and day of the week.

Street meter rates will rise modestly from $2.50 to $3 per hour downtown and from $1.25 to $1.50 citywide.

City staff argued the changes will ultimately benefit businesses by encouraging longer visits downtown.

Staff said the free period upfront and the rapidly escalating fees encourage shorter stays. The new flat-rate structure is designed to create a "sunk cost" that incentivizes visitors to remain downtown longer.

The changes reflect the city's strategy to revitalize downtown and the Third Street Promenade as an entertainment destination. Downtown parking structures currently operate at about half capacity, providing room to adjust pricing strategies.

Monthly employee parking permits will decrease 20% from $220 to $176, addressing affordability concerns for retail and hospitality workers. The city will also maintain employee validation programs at $6 for six hours and $9 for 12 hours.

While some businesses came to the meeting to protest the reduction in free parking time, Anuj Gupta, Director of Transportation, noted that "many of the businesses voiced through DTSM are very excited about the idea of these flat rates and simplified structure."

The council directed staff to work on discounted validation programs for fitness studios, personal services and small retailers, and to return in one year to assess the program's effectiveness.

Implementation faces a lengthy approval process. The city must obtain a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission, which could take up to a year. About 85% of Santa Monica's parking facilities lie within the coastal zone, requiring state approval for rate changes.

If approved by the Coastal Commission, new rates would take effect in October 2026. The revenue increase will help fund maintenance of aging parking structures, many built in the 1960s, and support other city services including public safety and infrastructure improvements.

The city conducted extensive community outreach before the vote, including surveys of 1,200 people and virtual input from 160 participants through QR codes at parking facilities.

maaz@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

PARKING RATES: Santa Monica's parking rates have been criticized as confusing.

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

SMARTMATIC

FROM PAGE 5

and that he was not required to report the trip to Taiwan because his visit was covered by the contract.

Mike Sanchez, a spokesman for Logan's office, said in a statement that the bribery allegations are unrelated to the company's work for L.A. County and that the county had no knowledge of how the proceeds from its contract would be used. All of Smartmatic's work has been evaluated for compliance with the contract's terms, Sanchez added, and as soon as Pinate was indicted he and the other defendants were banned from conducting business with the county.

As for the trip to Taiwan, Sanchez said another county official joined Logan for the trip and the two conducted several on-site visits and conducted detailed reviews of electoral technology products that were required prior the start of their manufacturing. Logan's spouse accompanied him on the trip, but at the couple's own expense, the spokesman added.

"Unfortunately, this is an attempt to use the County as a pawn in two serious legal actions to which the County is not a party," Sanchez said.

Smartmatic has settled two other defamation lawsuits it brought against conservative news outlets Newsmax and One America News Network over their 2020 U.S. election coverage. Settlement terms weren't disclosed.

PROSECUTORS CLAIM BRIBE PAID IN VENEZUELA

U.S. prosecutors in Miami have also accused Pinate of secretly bribing Venezuela's longtime election chief by giving her a luxury home with a pool in Caracas. Prosecutors say the home was transferred to the election chief in an attempt to repair relations following Smartmatic's abrupt exit from Venezuela in 2017 when it accused President Nicolas Maduro 's government of manipulating tallied results in elections for a rubber-stamping constituent assembly.

Smartmatic has denied the bribery allegations, saying it ceased all operations in Venezuela in 2017 after blowing the whistle on the government and has never sought to secure business there again.

"There are no slush funds, no gifted house," the company said. Instead, it accused Fox of engaging in "victim-blaming" and attempts to use "frivolous" court filings "to smear us further, twisting unproven Justice Department allegations."

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press. Peltz reported from New York.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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DBA

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Santa Monica

Artist Peter Lodato to Be Remembered at Memorial Service Sunday

A celebration of life honoring Peter Lodato, a prominent figure in the Los Angeles art community, will be held Sunday at William Turner Gallery in Santa Monica.

The memorial service runs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the gallery located at 2525 Michigan Ave. E-1. All are welcome to attend the tribute to the beloved artist and friend.

Lodato was described as having "quiet brilliance and unwavering commitment to his craft" that left a lasting impact on those who knew him. He maintained a nearly three-decade relationship with William Turner Gallery, where his absence is deeply felt by the community.

The artist's career spanned more than five decades, beginning with early Light and Space installations and evolving into luminous, meditative paintings that continue to resonate with viewers. Gallery organizers characterized him as "a generous spirit, a painter's painter, and a thoughtful presence whose work invited stillness, introspection, and connection."

Lodato's contributions to contemporary art established him as an enduring presence in the Los Angeles art scene. His work was known for its contemplative quality and ability to foster connection among viewers.

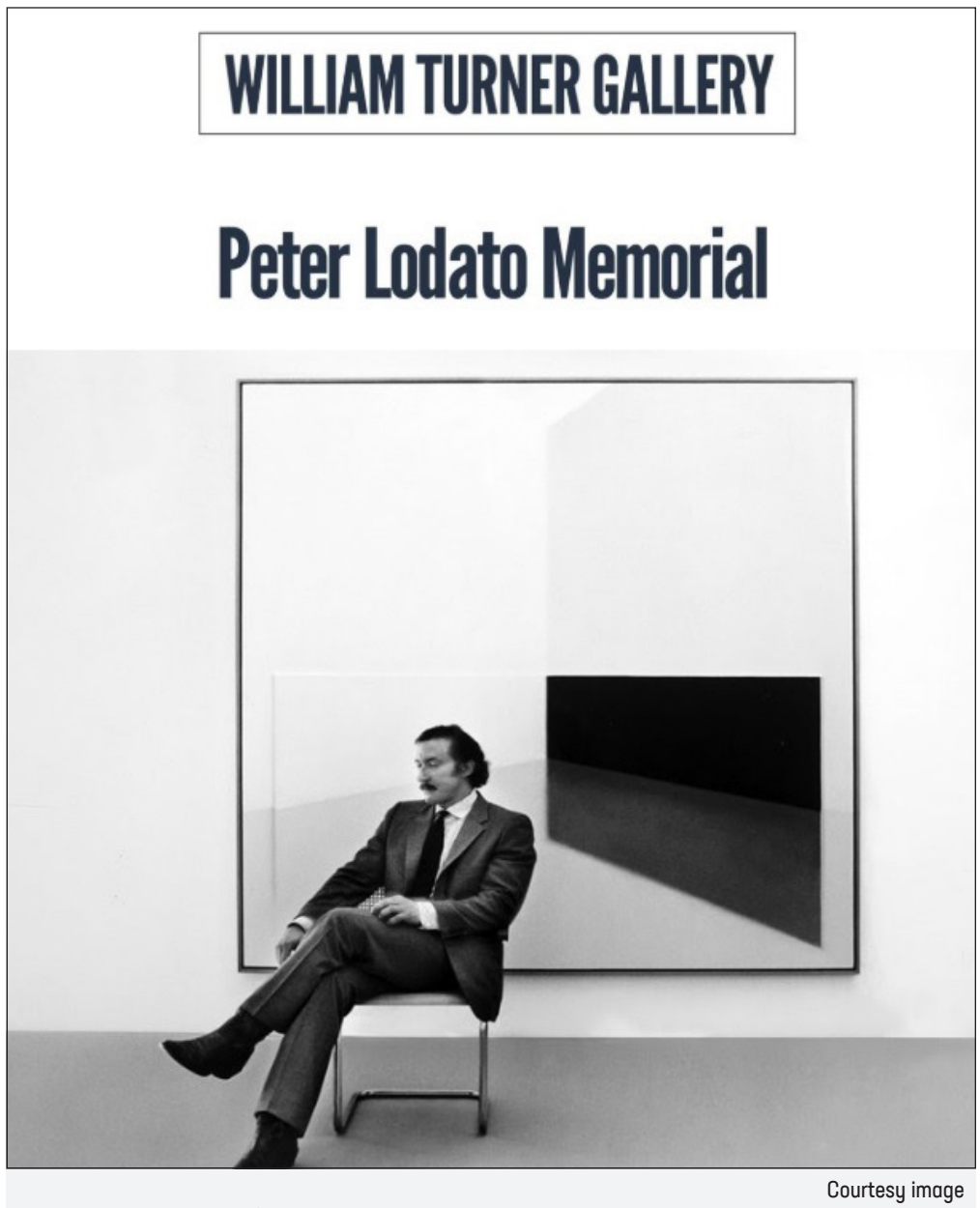
The Sunday gathering aims to celebrate both the life and artistic legacy of the artist, bringing together friends, fellow artists and community members who were touched by his work and presence.

William Turner Gallery, which has been central to Lodato's artistic journey, will host the memorial as a way to honor his significant contributions to the contemporary art world and his role in the local artistic community.

The celebration of life provides an opportunity for attendees to reflect on Lodato's artistic achievements and remember his impact on the Los Angeles art community over his lengthy career.

For more information, visit https://www.williamturnergallery.com/events.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy image

WILLIAM TURNER GALLERY: The memorial service runs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday August 24 at the gallery located at 2525 Michigan Ave. E-1..

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COMMUNITY NEWS

PCH

Caltrans Continues Highway Repairs Following Palisades Fire

Caltrans is continuing reconstruction work on Pacific Coast Highway and Topanga Canyon Boulevard following damage from the Palisades fire and winter rainstorms.

At least 10 active projects are underway between the two highways, spanning Pacific Coast Highway from Temescal Canyon Road in Pacific Palisades to Carbon Beach Terrace in Malibu, and Topanga Canyon Boulevard from PCH to Grand View Drive.

Work includes repairing fire-damaged roadways, signs, traffic signals and drainage systems, as well as replacing and repairing retaining walls and bridges. Southern California Edison is also trenching powerlines.

Speed limits have been reduced to 25 mph in certain work zones to ensure crew and traveler safety. While Caltrans will attempt to maintain open lanes for through traffic, some overnight lane closures may be necessary.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

On Pacific Coast Highway, the McClure Tunnel to Temescal Canyon Road section has returned to a 45 mph speed limit with no restrictions. From Temescal Canyon Road to Sunset Boulevard, speeds are reduced to 35 mph with cones and signage. The Sunset Boulevard to Carbon Beach Terrace stretch remains an active work zone with single-lane closures and 25 mph limits.

Topanga Canyon Boulevard remains closed to the public from midnight to 5 a.m. daily. The highway operates with one-way traffic control and pilot cars from 5 a.m. to midnight between postmiles 2.1-2.8 for emergency project work and postmiles 3.4-4.2 for Southern California Edison trenching.

LANE CLOSURES THIS WEEK

Various sections will experience closures from Aug. 18-22. The Ventura County Line to Temescal Canyon Road section will maintain two lanes in each direction from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with lane closures only as needed from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. for culvert repairs.

Other areas will see occasional closures for repairs to fire-damaged roadways, bridges, drainage and electrical systems. Weekend single-lane closures are planned south of Las Flores Canyon Road from 4 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Drivers are encouraged to remain alert, obey posted speed limits and plan for possible delays. Current road conditions are available on the Caltrans Quickmap.

Caltrans appreciates public patience as recovery projects progress.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy image

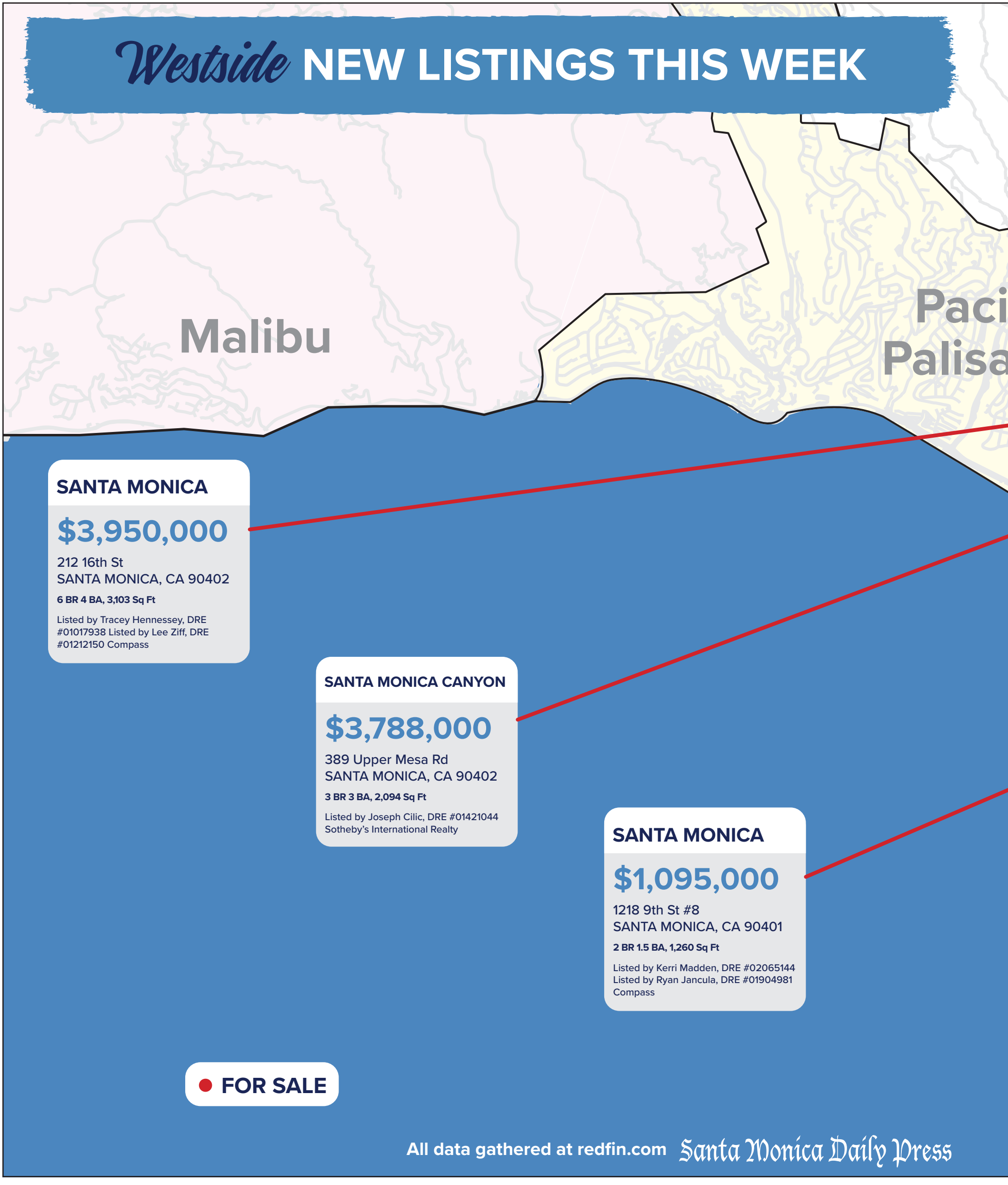
CURRENT ROAD AND LANE CLOSURES: At least 10 active projects are underway between the two highways.

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Westside NEW LISTINGS THIS WEEK



SANTA MONICA

$3,950,000

212 16th St
SANTA MONICA, CA 90402

6 BR 4 BA, 3,103 Sq Ft

Listed by Tracey Hennessey, DRE #01017938 Listed by Lee Ziff, DRE #01212150 Compass

SANTA MONICA CANYON

$3,788,000

389 Upper Mesa Rd
SANTA MONICA, CA 90402

3 BR 3 BA, 2,094 Sq Ft

Listed by Joseph Cilic, DRE #01421044 Sotheby's International Realty

SANTA MONICA

$1,095,000

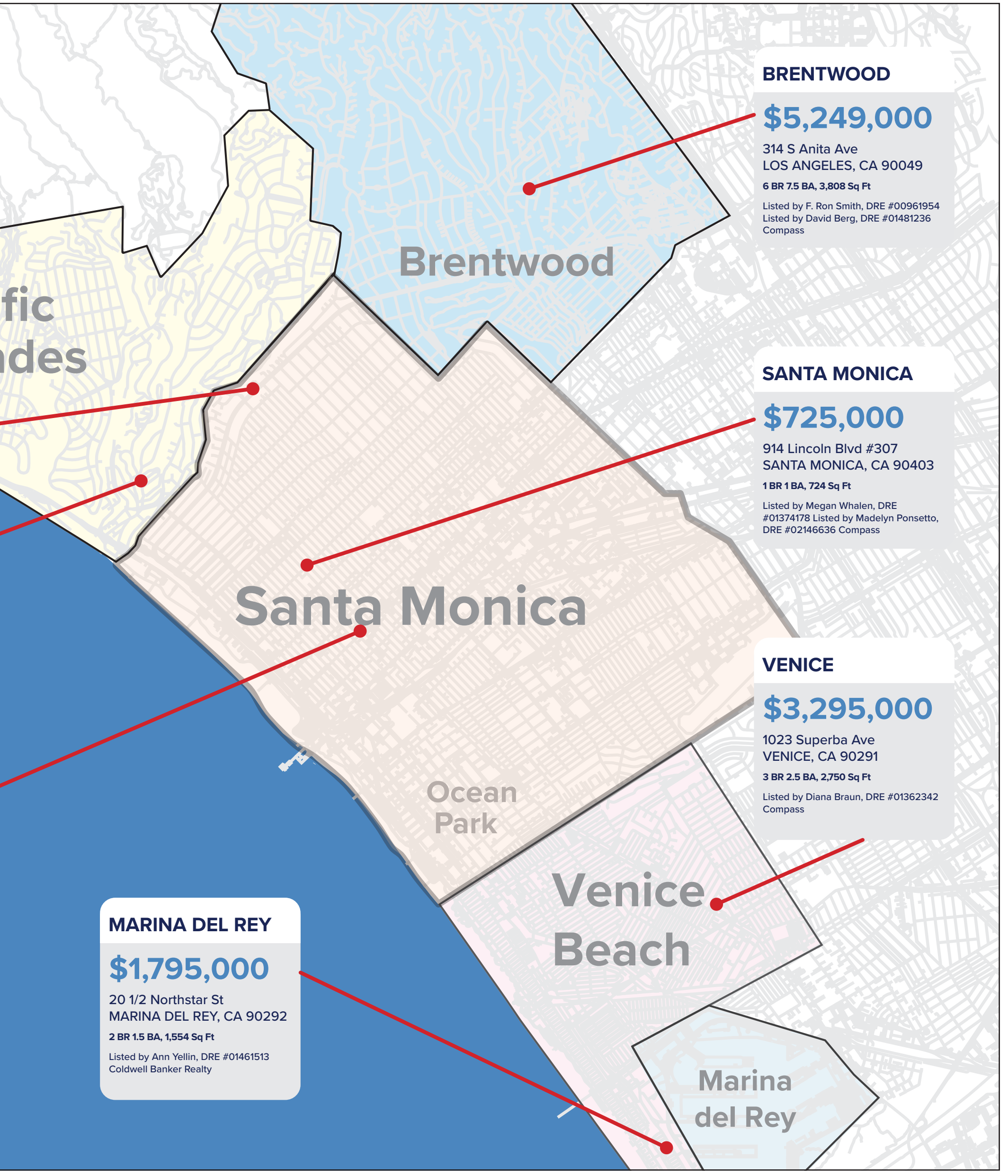
1218 9th St #8
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401

2 BR 1.5 BA, 1,260 Sq Ft

Listed by Kerri Madden, DRE #02065144 Listed by Ryan Jancula, DRE #01904981 Compass

● FOR SALE

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press



BRENTWOOD

$5,249,000

314 S Anita Ave
LOS ANGELES, CA 90049

6 BR 7.5 BA, 3,808 Sq Ft

Listed by F. Ron Smith, DRE #00961954
Listed by David Berg, DRE #01481236
Compass

SANTA MONICA

$725,000

914 Lincoln Blvd #307
SANTA MONICA, CA 90403

1 BR 1 BA, 724 Sq Ft

Listed by Megan Whalen, DRE #01374178 Listed by Madelyn Ponsetto, DRE #02146636 Compass

VENICE

$3,295,000

1023 Superba Ave
VENICE, CA 90291

3 BR 2.5 BA, 2,750 Sq Ft

Listed by Diana Braun, DRE #01362342
Compass

MARINA DEL REY

$1,795,000

20 1/2 Northstar St
MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292

2 BR 1.5 BA, 1,554 Sq Ft

Listed by Ann Yellin, DRE #01461513
Coldwell Banker Realty

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Mishkon Welcomes You
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FRIDAY | AUGUST 22

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-08-22T18

SATURDAY | AUGUST 23

POP UP PILATES & PLUNGE
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Crescent Bay Park 2000 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. Join us for a Saturday beachside burn with Pop Up Pilates + breath-work, plunges, live DJ, wellness experiences & more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pop-up-pilates-plunge/16456160/2025-08-23T09

BEGINNER REFORMER PILATES AT GOOD BODY PILATES STUDIO
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica Good Body Pilates Studio Santa Monica. Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, taught by expert instructor Kylie. This group class is perfect for those new to Pilates or anyone looking to reconnect with the fundamentals in a welcoming and supportive environment. No experience necessary! Located in the heart of Santa Monica on Pico Boulevard, right across from Trader Joe's, our boutique studio is surrounded by great local coffee shops and restaurants, making it the perfect place to kick off your weekend. Plenty of metered parking available on Pico Blvd, and both metered and free street parking available on Urban Ave. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/beginner-reformer-pilates-at-good-body-pilates-studio/16094481/2025-08-23T10

DISNEY ANIMATED FILMS
11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. California Heritage Museum 2612 Main Street Santa Monica. Disney Animated Films showcases more than 100 original works of art from the production of Disney's most cherished animated classics including Bambi, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp and more. We offer visitors an intimate glimpse behind the scenes of filmmaking history. All artwork is generously on loan from the prestigious Mark Hilbert Collection. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/disney-animated-films/16449187/2025-08-23T11

DOG DAZE OF SUMMER
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. The Dog Daze on Montana Avenue is back! Join them for sales, treats, giveaways, photo opps and more! It's the perfect way to celebrate an afternoon with your four-legged friend.Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/dog-daze-of-summer/15799899/2025-08-23T11

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-08-23T11

THE VALLEY NUPES PRESENT: POLOS, PLAID, AND SUNDRESSES
3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl, Santa Monica. Hosted by the Valley Nupes of the San Fernando–Santa Clarita (CA) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. This day party is all about that smooth, soulful vibe. It's a celebration of culture, community, and music. You don't want to miss this one. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-valley-nupes-present-polos-plaid-and-sundresses/16348577/2025-08-23T15

SUNDAY | AUGUST 24

BRISK FESTIVAL LA 2025
6:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Morgan-Wixson Theatre 2627 Pico Bvd Santa Monica. Brisk Festival LA Celebrates Its 5th Edition with 49 Plays, 33 in English and 16 in Spanish, Over 200 Artists, and a Fresh Take on Contemporary Theater. From August 16 to September 7, 2025, Brisk Festival LA returns to the Morgan-Wixson Theater with a bold new edition showcasing 49 short plays—33 in English and 16 in Spanish—written, directed, and performed by over 200 artists from across the globe. Following the successful launch of its first international edition in Buenos Aires, the festival is back in Los Angeles to celebrate five editions of storytelling that transcends language and geography. Produced by Full Emotions and founded by actor and filmmaker Christian Rodrigo, Brisk has become a vital platform for independent theater, amplifying new voices and fostering cultural exchange through the performing arts. $19.00 to $29.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/brisk-festival-la-2025/16402497/2025-08-24T18

MONDAY | AUGUST 25

CITIZENSHIP CLASS
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. An ongoing series of citizenship classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District parents have priority enrollment. The classes help students study the 100 civics questions, practice the dictations, review the citizenship application, and prepare for the interview. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/citizenship-class/16220806/2025-08-25T10

TUESDAY | AUGUST 26

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2025-08-26T10

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2025-08-26T17

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE REAL THING
6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson delve into the world of art forgery in this new historical mystery from the author of Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell. London, 189–: The great city is brought to a standstill by a series of blizzards and Sherlock Holmes is bored to distraction. It would take a miracle to bring a case to the detective's door. What arrives is not promising: a landlady who complains her artist tenant is behind on rent. Not exactly the miracle for which Holmes was hoping. But, next thing you know, there are several corpses and Sherlock Holmes and his biographer, John H. Watson, MD, find themselves drawn into one of the most bizarre cases of the great detective's career. And into the cutthroat big business of Art, where chicanery and mendacity (and cut throats) proliferate. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/sherlock-holmes-and-the-real-thing/16543453/2025-08-26T18

TEEN BOOK DISCUSSION: PERSEPOLIS
6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. Following our screening of the film Persepolis , join us for a discussion of Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel memoir about her life as a young girl during Iran's Islamic Revolution. Free copies are available to interested teens at the Youth Services desk, while supplies last. For ages 13 - 18. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/teen-book-discussion-persepolis/16220808/2025-08-26T18

THE NO CHASERS
9:30 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica. Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Please note, we are 21 and over only! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-no-chasers/15099083/2025-08-26T21

TUESDAY OPEN MIC
10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2025-08-26T22

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 27

GUIDED MINDFULNESS MEDITATION
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South
2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Welcome.. pease join daily at 10 am for a 45 minute guided mindfulness meditation which will also include a short loving friendliness meditation at the end. Give yourself the love and attention you deserve by developing your mind, finding peace and creating community. Everyone is welcome. Please bring the appropriate attire for sun and wind along with a cushion or chair. We will meet by the Mobile Community Meditation and Retreat Center Van at the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South lot across from the Ocean View Park tennis and basketball court. Use these coordinate 33.999050,-118.484385.. please arrive 5 minutes early to set up and check the schedule for any changes or cancellations Stacey has been meditating and studying Buddhism for over 25 years. She has studied under some of the most prominent Buddhist scholars and Meditation teachers in both the Ch'an (Zen) and Theravada tradition and has traveled and lived in Myanmar and Sri Lanka to further her knowledge and practice. Stacey has been teaching meditation since 2018 and started leading retreats in person and on line since 2021. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/guided-mindfulness-meditation/16169673/2025-08-27T10

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library. 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/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-/14548476/2025-08-27T12

EMERGENCY POWER

FROM PAGE 1

for installing generator quick-connect equipment.

"We lost 22 school days in Malibu this last year for various reasons, but one of those being the shut off of power, the public safety power shut-offs from SoCal Edison," said Carrie Upton, the district's chief operations officer, during the board meeting.

Southern California Edison has warned the district that there will be more power shutoffs this year than in previous years due to fire safety concerns during the traditional fire season, which runs from August through January.

All seven board members present voted in favor of the measure.

Under the emergency authorization, the district can immediately install quick-connect systems that will allow schools to seamlessly switch from Edison's power grid to backup generators when shutoffs occur.

The district initially planned to incorporate the generator connections into an existing solar and battery project with Schneider Electric Buildings Americas Inc.

"We would not be able to meet our deadline of having that ready by the end of September; instead, it was going to be ready sometime at the end of March, which is after when we need it for this year," Upton explained.

The district is simultaneously working to purchase its own generators for approximately $600,000, funded through Measure MM bond proceeds. Those generators are expected to arrive in November or December due to manufacturing delays.

Until the purchased generators arrive, the district may need to rent backup power equipment, which would require general fund money rather than bond funds. However, Upton said the district is negotiating with Southern California Edison to loan generators for the interim period.

"We've explored the process of renting generators, and we find that if we have a season like we had last year, we'll spend significantly more money than it would cost us to buy generators," Upton said.

The Santa Monica-Malibu district operates under the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act, which allows for informal rather than formal bidding processes in certain circumstances. This designation helped facilitate the emergency procurement approach.

Because of its emergency status, the resolution will return to the board for review at each monthly meeting until the work is completed.

Boardmember Stacy Rouse praised the district's proactive approach, acknowledging the difficulties of the previous school year.

"This last year was so hard," Rouse said. "Losing 22 days — it was more or less at different places. We all want our kids in school."

The power shutoffs affected not only classroom instruction but also created logistical challenges for families and staff. The emergency resolution aims to ensure that power outages will no longer be the sole reason for school closures.

In addition to the power infrastructure improvements, the district is working with Los Angeles County on a separate grant application to reinforce hillsides along Las Virgenes and Malibu Canyon Road, where falling rocks frequently cause road closures that also disrupt school operations.

The emergency work is expected to begin within two weeks, with completion targeted for late September, just as the peak fire season typically begins in the area.

maaz@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

Summons

STATEMENT OF DAMAGES(Personal Injury or Wrongful Death) Civ 050Case No: 25SMCV00721Attorney for JUSTIN PORTNOYATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name and Address):Eddie Dennis, Esq. (SBN: 312483)Lederer & Nojima, LLP12100 WIlshire Boulevard, Suite 480Los Angeles, CA 90025SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OFSTREET ADDRESS: 1725 Main St MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Santa Monica , C 90401BRANCH NAME: Santa Monica Courthouse PLAINTIFF: JUSTIN PORTNOYDEFENDANT: ALI SADEGHI, et al.STATEMENT OF DAMAGES(Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)To (name of one defendant only): Eight8Home, LLC Plaintiff (name of one plaintiff only):JUSTIN PORTNOYseeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:1. General damages AMOUNTa. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience .$ 4,500,000.00 b. Emotional distress. $ 500,000.00c. Loss of consortium. $d. Loss of society and companionship (wrongful death actions only). $e. Other (specify) $f. Other (specify) $g. Continued on Attachment 1.g.2. Special damagesa. Medical expenses (to date). $ 1,000,000.00b. Future medical expenses (present value). $ 1,500.000.00c. Loss of earnings (to date). $ d. Loss of future earning capacity (present value). $ e. Property damage. $f. Funeral expenses (wrongful death actions only). $g. Future contributions (present value) (wrongful death actions only). $h. Value of personal service, advice, or training (wrongful death actions only). $i. Other (specify) $j. Other (specify) $k. Continued on Attachment 2.k.3. Punitive damages: Plaintiff reserves the right to seek punitive damages in the amount of (specify).. when pursuing a judgment in the suit filed against you. Date: 08/12/2025(TYPE OR PRINT NAME) Eddie Dennis, Esq. (SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF) E.D.S.PROOF OF SERVICE(After having the other party served as described below, with any of the documents identified in item 1, have the person who servedThe documents complete this Proof of Service. Plaintiff cannot serve these papers.)1. I served thea. Statement of Damagesc. by serving OTHER SERVED BY PUBLICATION 2. Manner of service (check proper box):f. Other (specify code section):SERVED BY PUBLICATION

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Lois Lambert Gallery to Close After 39 Years in Santa Monica

The Lois Lambert Gallery, Gallery of Functional Art and Our Gallery Store will close its doors on September 30, 2025, after nearly four decades serving Santa Monica's arts community.

Founded in 1987, the gallery has provided a platform for mid-career and emerging artists while serving as a gathering place for art enthusiasts. The closure comes due to rising rents and a downturn in the art market, according to founder and director Lois Lambert.

"For 39 years, this gallery has been my life's work," Lambert said. "We've had the privilege of presenting extraordinary artists, welcoming curious visitors, and creating a space where conversations about art and life could flourish. Closing is bittersweet, but it has become impossible to continue because of rising rents and the downturn in the art market."

> "We are deeply grateful to the artists, collectors, and friends who have walked this journey with us"
> - Lois Lambert

During its nearly four-decade run, the gallery hosted more than 175 exhibitions and championed both local and international artists. The space also partnered with schools and nonprofits to bring art to broader audiences and became known for fostering dialogue about pressing social issues while mentoring countless young artists.

The gallery's impact extended beyond exhibitions, establishing itself as a vital part of Santa Monica's cultural landscape and arts community.

While the physical gallery space will close, Lambert indicated the gallery's influence will persist through its community of artists and supporters, as well as through upcoming pop-up sites.

"We are deeply grateful to the artists, collectors, and friends who have walked this journey with us," Lambert said.

The gallery's closure marks the end of an era for Santa Monica's arts scene, representing one of the longest-running independent galleries in the area.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

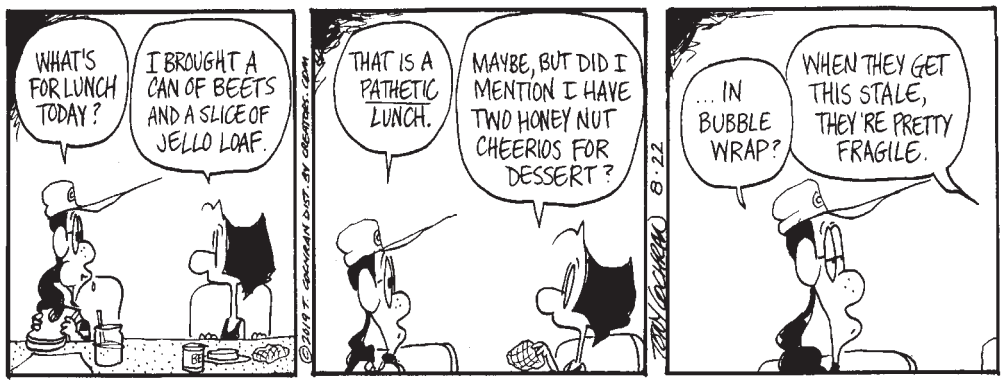


Courtesy photo

LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY: Gallery of Functional Art and Gallery Store will close its doors on September 30, 2025.

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



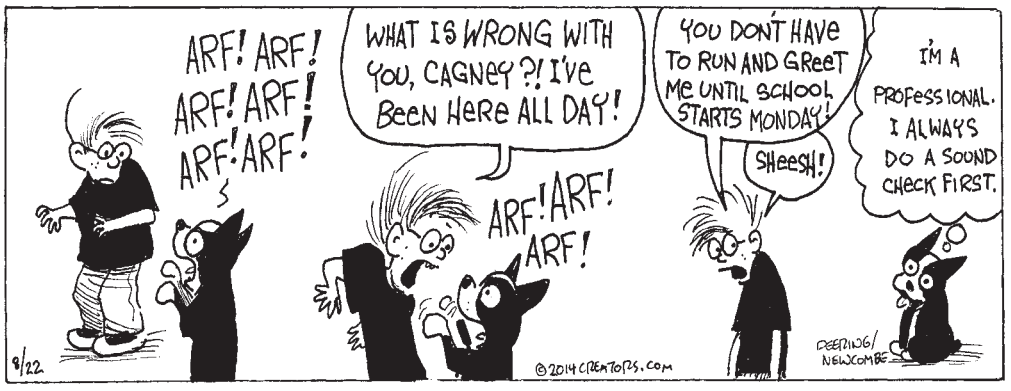
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

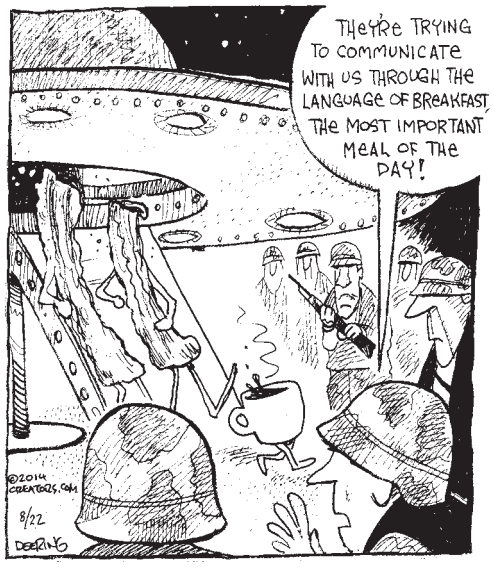
By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S LATE. WE SHOULD BE GOING."

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 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Let's renovate! They said

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

Addition	Eaves	Mats	Seal
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Angle	Fence	Mortar	Shed
Carpenter	Fuel	Nail	Storey
Clever	Garage	Niche	Tape
Column	Glass	Nuts	Test
Design	Glue	Panel	Tiler
Do it yourself	House	Patch	Tree
Dome	Inlay	Pipe	U-bend
Door	Innovative	Pool	Unit
Drain	Lawn	Repair	Weed
Drips	Leak	Roof	Wiring
	Lock	Rugs	Wood

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 22)

Power moves - like being the first to step up - draw people to your natural leadership. You'll spark connections, unite teams and set things in motion. More highlights: Patience pays. The long game brings both financial gains and personal reward. Family will lean on you, and your steady support will return to you in lasting, meaningful ways. You'll be celebrated not only for your talent, but for the generosity and commitment with which you share it. Cancer and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 12, 5, 38 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Self-recognition is a foundation for emotional health. Actively reflect on and honor your resilience and wins - big or small. You haven't been fully acknowledged for what you've achieved or endured, but when you notice what's remarkable about being you, others will, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Support is coming your way from many sources; some people truly understand your situation, while others may not, but their intentions are still good. Kindness is always worth accepting, even if the advice isn't useful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your mind is active and seeking stimulation, so you're naturally pulled toward interesting people, ideas and experiences. Curiosity lifts your energy and keeps you from getting bogged down in routine or dull tasks.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When your body tells you what to eat or how to move, you listen. Why wouldn't you? This body built itself from scratch; it knows how to grow, heal and guide you. You're learning to trust it more.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life is a balancing act, and you have the grace of a cat - improbable moves that surprise everyone. Knowing how you'll manage isn't necessary. It won't be an intellectual process. Trust and go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Relationship-building is a path to mutual influence. The more people you know and engage with, the more impact and opportunity you have - not just for personal gain, but to be a positive force in the lives of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). These things that you discuss with yourself - your private opinions and singular takes on the world - they entertain you. You're thinking something you won't share. You're in control of what you reveal and to whom. Your privacy is part of your charm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you step away from a role you've outgrown, it can feel disorienting at first - like you don't know who you are. But you're not lost. You're actively revising your direction, based on your own truth, not someone else's map.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Trust the part of you that is not defined by titles but by how you feel inside. That part of you that's in touch with what makes your heart race with curiosity or your chest swell with dignity or deflate with dishonor. That's your truth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Because life moves and you grow with it, you're never quite the same person who signs up for something as the one who has to deliver it. Before you commit, pause. Imagine how future-you will feel about the choice you're making today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have a teacher's heart and a natural instinct for people's needs and potential. It fills you with pride to see others thrive using the lessons you've shared. Their growth is more than a win. Their growth is confirmation that your intuition was right.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everything feels better when you can just be yourself. If you find you're filtering the picture or bending the story to cast yourself in a better light, it may speak to the depth of the connection. Is the person you're with capable of going deeper?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

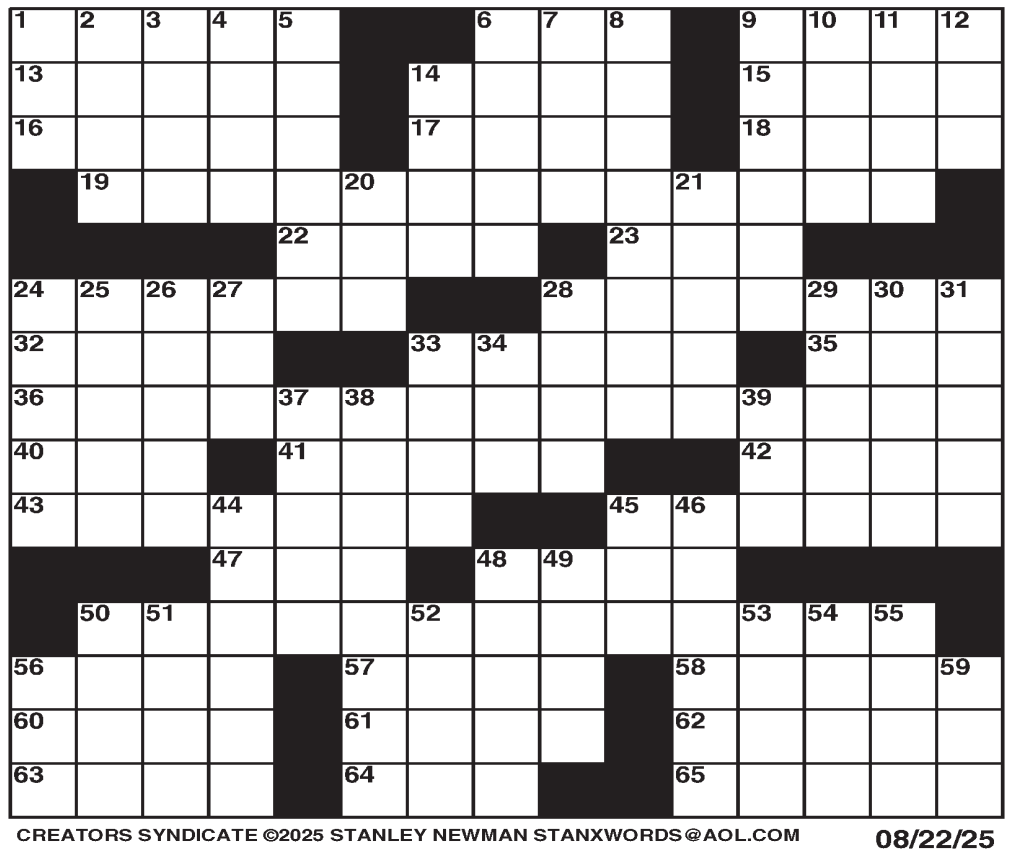
ACROSSING by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Doubly
6 Tangled mess
9 It's west of Tulsa on US-412
13 Back again
14 Prix __ menu
15 It's north of West Palm on I-95
16 Broadcast interrupter of a sort
17 Server operating system
18 Way to go
19 White-coated workers
22 Fine finish
23 Agcy. with a huge photo archive
24 NPR's Sunday puzzlemaster
28 What Waze watches
32 It's south of Fort Worth on I-35
33 Athena's weapon
35 Punk music offshoot
36 Lineman's perch
40 Top-10 baby girl name since 2005
41 Loses solidity
42 Withdraw gradually
43 Cheap and chintzy
45 Beethoven student, a Liszt teacher
47 Memory measure
48 Lilliputian
50 Commands you don't listen to
56 Foremost
57 Rice paddy laborers
58 *Académie* kin
60 Show with demos
61 Adopted son of Claudius
62 Where else to find words hidden in the three longest answers
63 Colorist
64 Appraisal abbr.
65 __-Loompa (Wonka worker)

DOWN

1 Refrain snippet
2 "Let me think ..."
3 Internal impression
4 Rein in
5 Still around
6 Tiny Oreos
7 Gyroscope piece
8 Of woven fabric's feel
9 Were it possible that
10 On deck
11 Crocus kin
12 Tiny portion
14 Commotion
20 States, as seen in comics
21 Dismantled
24 Organic coolant
25 Bisect
26 Vast amount
27 Mythical pachyderm predator
28 Caddy's bags
29 Word like less
30 Clarification intro
31 Trite and tiresome
33 Much of deltas
34 PD HQ
37 Sound from a sycamore
38 Call notice
39 Be short
44 E-flat analog
45 NBA position
46 Louisiana folk music
48 Nonreactive
49 __ end (incessantly)
50 Paraffinic
51 At fruition
52 Former items
53 Sound in the NATO alphabet
54 Breathing space
55 Faux pas
56 Script detail
59 Significant age



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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

and counties have no rules, or only bare-bones guidelines. Mendocino County has no encampment management policy. The sheriff's office's 861-page manual includes a little more than two pages on how deputies should interact with homeless individuals. Deputies are "encouraged" to consider referring them to shelter and counseling instead of arresting them for minor crimes. Mendocino County also does not track encampment removals.

Santa Monica's municipal code broadly prohibits camping in virtually all public spaces within the city limits at any time. The local law defines "camp" as erecting, maintaining or occupying a camp facility for living accommodations, with "camp facility" encompassing structures and other items used to make a living space in the public domain.

"Prohibited public places" under Santa Monica's ordinance cover comprehensive territory, including parks, beaches, the Santa Monica Pier, public streets, sidewalks, alleys, parking lots, passageways, rights-of-way, landscaped areas, greenbelts, public schools and college property.

The ordinance classifies violations as criminal misdemeanors punishable by fines up to $500 per violation. Enforcement is handled by Santa Monica Police, who typically issue citations that are then referred to the City Attorney's Office for possible prosecution.

Dismantling an encampment can be devastating for the people who call the camp home, many of whom already have experienced significant trauma while living on the streets. At the same time, cities say they have an obligation to remove camps that are dangerous, unsanitary, pose fire risks or are blocking traffic.

Having a policy in place, so that people living in an encampment know what to expect, can make the process easier on everyone, said Alex Visotzky, senior California policy fellow for the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

"Folks need to know when that trash truck is coming," he said. "Folks need to know how long they have to be able to move. And when there's nothing in place at all and folks are just flying by the seat of their pants, that leads to more harm. That leads to more chaos."

How cities and counties remove camps has become especially important recently, as many places are increasing enforcement after the U.S. Supreme Court last year gave them more leeway to do so. Cities across the state have passed new laws banning encampments, which may or may not include provisions that require the city to give advance warning before clearing a camp, or store people's possessions.

Some counties, including Santa Cruz and Monterey, are just now writing encampment policies for the first time, spurred by a recent push from Newsom's administration. In May, he called on cities to make it illegal to camp for more than three days in one place, while also encouraging them to give people a 48-hour notice before clearing a camp and to store belongings confiscated during a clearing so that their owners can claim them.

The latest application for state homelessness funding requires cities and counties to submit a link to their encampment policy. If they have no such policy, they are supposed to commit to following the state's guidance on addressing camps.

Both the governor's office and the Legislature have signalled that the next round of funding — which won't come until the 2026-27 budget year — will require cities and counties to adopt encampment policies in order to qualify.

> "The Governor cannot mandate cities and local jurisdictions to adopt a specific plan or ordinance"
> - Tara Gallegos

"The Governor cannot mandate cities and local jurisdictions to adopt a specific plan or ordinance," Tara Gallegos, a spokesperson for the governor's office, said in an email. "That said, the Governor has shared a model ordinance and called on every local government to adopt and implement local policies without delay, backed by billions in state funding and authority affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court last year."

Santa Cruz County recently drafted a policy to govern encampment removals in unincorporated parts of the county (nearly 600 square miles), which is set to go before the board of supervisors next month. Monterey County passed a new policy earlier this year.

The current process for clearing an encampment in unincorporated Santa Cruz County can be "chaotic," said Robert Ratner, director of Santa Cruz County Housing for Health. It's not always clear which agencies should be making the difficult decisions about which camps to clear, when and how.

Typically the sheriff's office makes those calls, Ratner said, but there are many relevant factors that the agency might not know — such as how many shelter beds are available, or whether the camp is polluting a nearby waterway. The new policy puts the county's executive office in charge of those tough decisions, and gives guidance on how long to store confiscated property (for at least 90 days) and how to conduct outreach (make a list of all camp residents and record details about their situation that will help connect them with housing and other services).

"Unfortunately, it's not easy," Ratner said. "And I think this is where the guide is helpful. Because we're bringing it to the board and they're agreeing to the principles and then giving that direction to all the staff, so staff aren't left guessing."

But cities and counties, including Santa Cruz, tend to be reluctant to write strict rules they may have trouble following later; It's hard to promise a shelter bed when you don't know if one will be available, for example. As a result, many policies offer vague guidelines rather than enforceable decrees. The U.S. Supreme Court last year ruled local governments can ban encampments even if no shelter is available. While some local encampment policies state that cities and counties should try to offer a shelter bed before destroying a camp, few go so far as to require it.

There is one thing that tends to make encampment policies more binding: when they're written in court. That often happens after a group of homeless residents sues a city, as happened in San Diego and San Bernardino. When the two sides settle, they may agree on new rules to govern encampment removals in that city, and the city is legally bound to follow them.

But that can also lead to drawn-out courtroom battles. Chico has been fighting for the past year to get out from under a settlement reached after eight homeless residents sued the city in 2021, claiming its enforcement of anti-camping laws was unconstitutional.

The settlement set out strict new rules Chico now has to follow before it can clear a homeless encampment. The city must make sure it has enough shelter beds available for everyone who will be displaced from the camp, provide written notice to the plaintiffs' lawyers more than two weeks ahead of the clearing, provide a seven-day warning to the camp residents, and then give another 72-hour warning.

Advocates for unhoused communities say those rules, which are stricter than in many other California cities, provide crucial protections for people on the street who are just trying to survive. The city, on the other hand, says following that "multi-week, burdensome" process before enforcing its camping ordinances is getting in the way of its duty to clear camps in areas prone to wildfires.

"The City of Chico is prevented from exercising reasonable actions to protect public health and safety (including the transient encampments themselves) from fire danger," City Manager Mark Sorensen said in an email. "The city is held hostage by the seven remaining plaintiffs and (their lawyers, Legal Services of Northern California)."

The city tried last year to get out of the settlement, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that cities can make camping illegal even if they don't have shelter beds available, and was shot down. Now, the city is trying again. The parties are expected back in court later this fall.

Legal battles can also influence how cities handle personal belongings taken from a homeless encampment. San Bernardino, which last year settled a lawsuit related to the destruction of unhoused people's property, must provide camp residents with different-colored bags to differentiate between their property and trash, and give people with disabilities extra time to pack up their belongings.

Stockton, which cleared more than 200 encampments last year, instead abides by a police department policy that vaguely states officers should "use reasonable care" with a homeless resident's property, and avoid destroying it. If the property owner can't pack it up, "measures should be taken" to secure the items.

Most jurisdictions lack the resources to respond to all the encampments on their streets, so some have drafted policies that help them prioritize which camps to clear first. Fresno has a detailed metric that ranks encampments based on various risk factors. A camp gets two points if the fire department has had to come out, four points if it's been the location of a violent crime, and one point if a policy maker has asked the city to clear the camp.

Having such a patchwork of policies across the state makes it harder to solve the problem of homelessness, Ratner said. And while Newsom's efforts to get cities on the same page seem to be having some effect, tying those rules to state funding is far from a perfect solution, he said. Smaller cities that don't receive homelessness funds directly from the state have no incentive to adopt rules, he said.

"It creates significant inconsistencies," Ratner said, "and more drama between the jurisdictions."

By Marisa Kendall. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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