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Dry hydrants Was it unique to LA?

Freeways Fueling housing crisis.



Gas prices

Where to fill up.

What's Up Westside

Events and activities.

Volume 25 Issue 23

WEDNESDAY 12/17/25

smdp.com

Malibu Council rejects county library plan, demands 'world-class' facility

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council unanimously rejected a proposed \$13 million library expansion at their last meeting, instead directing staff to develop plans for a comprehensive "world-class" facility that would also serve as a community center.

The decision came during a budget discussion that shifted from routine funding approvals to a fundamental reassessment of how the city should utilize its library setaside fund, which has accumulated approximately \$25 million in surplus property tax revenue.

We should be exploring the construction and development of a world-class library on the site that the library is currently situated," said Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Silverstein, who led the charge against the county's proposal for a detached 4,000-square-foot addition. "Let's create something that we're proud

The Los Angeles County Library had presented the expansion as a discussion item, with an estimated cost of roughly \$3,000 per square foot and a construction timeline of 24 to 30 months. Council members balked at both the price and the limited scope.

LA County completes \$23.4 million wildfire relief distribution



Courtesy image

FUNDS: \$23.4 million in disaster assistance funding have been distributed by Los Angeles County to small companies and workers affected by the January 2025 wildfires and windstorms.

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County has completed distribution of \$23.4 million in emergency relief funds to small businesses and workers devastated by the January 2025 windstorms and wildfires, marking the successful closure of a publicprivate partnership that funded SEE MALIBU PAGE 11 | every eligible applicant.

The LA County Department of Economic Opportunity announced that all 14,477 complete applications received through the LA Region Small Business & Worker Relief Funds have been processed, with 2,181 small businesses and nonprofits receiving \$17.7 million and 2,892 workers receiving \$5.7 million in direct aid.

The wildfires destroyed or severely damaged thousands of structures with many businesses actually destroyed. An additional 39,000 businesses faced disruptions from evacuations, road closures, and infrastructure outages. Many small businesses that survived saw revenues plummet 25-33% below normal levels even six months later, with some forced to use savings or take on debt to survive.

SEE **WILDFIRE** PAGE 6

School district receives positive financial certification

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board unanimously approved its First Interim Budget Report for 2025-26 last week, which projects significant deficits over the next three years while still earning a positive financial certification from Los Angeles County education officials.

The district projects a deficit of \$10.9 million for the current fiscal year, followed by deficits of \$6.4 million in 2026-27 and \$7.3 million in 2027-28, according to the report presented by Assistant Superintendent of Business and Fiscal Services Gerardo Cruz.

Despite the red ink, the district received a "positive certification," meaning officials have determined SMMUSD can meet its financial obligations for the current and next two fiscal years. The certification must be submitted to the Los Angeles County Office of Education as required by state education code.

The district's financial position reflects both encouraging enrollment trends and mounting cost pressures, particularly in employee healthcare benefits.

ENROLLMENT STABILIZES AFTER YEARS OF DECLINE

After years of steep enrollment losses, SMMUSD has seen student

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7







The hydrants will run dry: Trump's LA fire claims missed the mark, study shows

As firefighters battled catastrophic fires in Los Angeles last January, one question reverberated across the country: Where was the water?

The question came from wealthy developer Rick Caruso and then-President-elect Donald Trump, from reporters and residents. It prompted executive orders and state and federal investigations. Once the fires were more ash than flame, the Trump administration used a water shortage to justify its baffling move to release vital summer irrigation supplies from two reservoirs that do not supply Los Angeles.

"I will demand that this incompetent governor allow beautiful, clean, fresh water to FLOW INTO CALIFORNIA!" Trump posted on social media, referencing Gov. Gavin Newsom, as the fires raged across L.A. "On top of it all, no water for fire hydrants, not (sic) firefighting planes. A true disaster!"

A team of researchers, led by Gregory Pierce, director of the UCLA Water Resources Group, set out to uncover whether the intense focus on water supply meant that dry hydrants had uniquely hampered the Palisades firefight, or whether this was a common occurrence.

In a policy brief published Monday, the researchers used media reports to confirm that when fires burn urban areas, hydrant flows often sputter out — the result of lost pressure as burnt homes hemorrhage water and too many hoses simultaneously draw on



Photo by Ted Soqui for CalMatters

FIRE: Firefighters work to put out a fire in the rubble of a home that burned down on Pacific Coast Highway near Malibu, as a result of the Palisades Fire. Jan. 9, 2025..

a limited supply.

"Fire hydrant performance in the Palisades seems to represent the rule rather than the exception," the report says. "The

only apparent, factual difference between the Palisades Fire and its comparators is that hydrant performance did not make the headlines of news stories covering the other fires."

'THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION'

The policy brief echoes the findings of a recent state investigation into water supply during the Palisades Fire.

"Even though there was plenty of water available in the system," state investigators wrote, "it was not possible to pump enough water to the fire area all at once to meet the flow rate demand created by the leaking water from already destroyed structures and high water use from hydrants."

Even if the much-implicated empty Santa Ynez reservoir had been full, "the hydrants could not have maintained pressure," the state report said.

Together, the Eaton and Palisades fires destroyed thousands of structures, caused tens of billions of dollars in damage, killed at least 31 people and likely contributed to hundreds more deaths.

With smoke still in the air, experts, state officials, reporters and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power raced to fact-check claims that water management resulting in dry hydrants was uniquely responsible for the devastation. The repeated refrain: urban water systems aren't built to put out wildfires.

But the spark had caught. And as residents reeled from the devastating losses of entire communities and grasped for explanations,

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 8



GUEST COMMENTARY

California's freeways are fueling its housing crisis

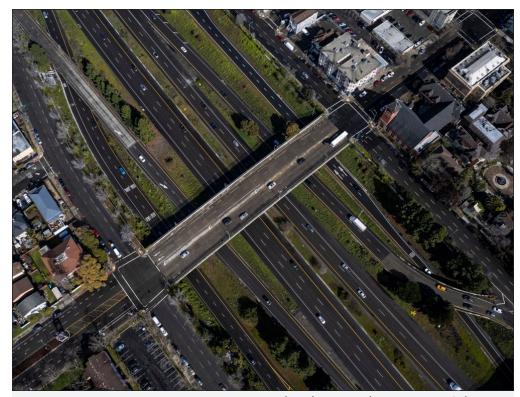


Photo by Martin do Nascimento, CalMatters

ROADS: The I-980 freeway in Oakland on Feb. 24, 2023.

Freeway expansion isn't just a transportation issue; it's one of the most overlooked drivers of California's housing

It didn't arrive as a sudden catastrophe; it has been a slow erosion, a quiet form of displacement that has pushed thousands of families from their homes. And it isn't just a legacy of the past; new projects planned across the state are continuing to displace families.

In San Mateo, for instance, 33 families near the proposed Highway 101/92 expansion are facing forced removal from their homes. Versions of this pattern are unfolding across California: The California Department of Transportation, known as Caltrans, forces families from their homes to widen freeways, then it demolishes what remains.

In other cases, the agency buys up neighborhoods for projects that stall or are canceled, leaving the community trapped in limbo. For many of the affected families, there is no real choice - only eminent domain, pressured buyouts or the slow dismantling of livable conditions.

A stark example is the 710 freeway project in Los Angeles County. Caltrans displaced 460 families for a freeway that was never built, after decades of community opposition, environmental lawsuits and soaring costs. But the damage was done, suspending an entire community between displacement and decay. Caltrans has spent more than \$17 million since 2020 just to guard the empty

"Because they never built the freeway... hundreds of properties fell into disrepair. A lot of them are blighted," said Raymond Gutierrez, an architect and community advocate, "It feels like the neighborhood is a slum, but it's not. These buildings could have been housing people."

His words reflect a harsh reality: state policy has repeatedly chosen freeways over people staying housed.

Recent state data shows that from 2018 to 2023, Caltrans demolished 623 homes and businesses to make way for 13 projects to expand freeways. The vast majority of the lost homes were in lowincome communities of color, primarily in Los Angeles County.

New data from the state shows an additional 248 homes and businesses were demolished for freeway expansion in 2024, primarily in the Inland Empire

And that's only during a narrow window of time. Before 2018, California required no public reporting on displacement, but Los Angeles Times research has found that more than 10,000 families were displaced by freeway projects over the past 30 years.

The lack of transparency is exactly why The Greenlining Institute created its Homes Before Highways interactive mapping tool, which brings data to life, showing where highway expansion has destroyed homes and businesses across California in recent years.

Freeway expansion destabilizes entire communities. Tearing down homes shrinks the housing supply and limits affordable options for families.

Families displaced by freeway projects face soaring rents, fewer housing options and longer commutes to jobs and support networks. As residents are pushed farther

SEE **FREEWAY** PAGE 6



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

WEDNESDAY | SURF: 1-2ft POOR TO FAIR

More WNW/NW swell mix builds, trace SSW mixes in. Select winter magnets are fun. Light AM winds. Fun zone new round of WNW/NW swell bumps up through the day as small SSW swell continues. The early high tide is sluggish/slow outside of select breaks. Most of the region will see some improvement as the tide drops and WNW swell nudges up through the morning. Expecting widespread waist-high surf with winter focal points in the chest high range at times. Beachbreaks out west have a few corners. Wind looks light for the morning, puffing up to low-end moderate WNW during the afternoon.

POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft

Knee to thigh

Waves hold early morning, then taper off as the swell fades. Winds looking light, AM most favorable Mix of WNW/NW swell and small SSW swell keeps widespread surf running waist high+ in the morning, showing best shape after the early morning high tide backs out for a while Waves dip as the day goes on and the swell eases. Winds looking light all day, offshore early morning, WNW sea breeze for the afternoon.



Wednesday: Patchy dense fog before 10am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 71. Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming north northeast after midnight. Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 73. North wind around 5 mph becoming west in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/12/17	Wed	12:30 AM	2.41	L
2025/12/17	Wed	06:58 AM	5.75	Н
2025/12/17	Wed	2:23 PM	-0.41	L
2025/12/17	Wed	8:57 PM	3.43	Н
2025/12/18	Thu	01:02 AM	2.50	L
2025/12/18	Thu	07:27 AM	5.88	Н
2025/12/18	Thu	2:55 PM	-0.60	L
2025/12/18	Thu	9:31 PM	3.45	Н
2025/12/19	Fri	01:34 AM	2.53	L
2025/12/19	Fri	07:58 AM	5.96	Н
2025/12/19	Fri	3:27 PM	-0.70	L
2025/12/19	Fri	10:05 PM	3.46	Н

· 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 nation and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery



23 35 59 63 68 Jackpot: 1.25 M

10 50 55 58 59

7 16 17 33 35

Jackpot: 80 M



Draw Date: 12/15 EVENING: 2 5 3

Draw Date: 12/15

Draw Date: 12/15 MIDDAY: 4 3 4

Draw Date: 12/15



1st: 04 - Big Ben 2nd: 06 - Whirl Win 3rd: 07 - Eureka Race Time: 1:44.74

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Santa Monica Daily Press



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Santa Monica BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT:

Planning Commission Recommendation to the City Council that the Council (1) Permanently Adopt Economic Recovery Interim Zoning Ordinance 2825 (CCS) and (2) Amend the Text of Article 9 Zoning and Planning of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to Promote Economic Recovery and Increase Land Use Flexibility in the City's Downtown and Citywide Areas by Streamlining, Simplifying, and Modifying Land Uses and Limitations, Updating Standards for Specific Uses and Activities, Including Alcohol Permits and Review, Modifying Definitions, Adding Flexibility for Certain Non-Conforming Uses, and Making Other Minor Changes, Corrections, Clarifications, and Clerical Amendments. Additionally, contingent on Council adoption of a Resolution of Intention on December 16, 2025, amendments related to the applicability of Resource Recovery and Recycling requirements and trash enclosure dimensional standards are proposed to remove barriers for new and existing businesses, facilitate process streamlining and updated standards for objectivity.

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider recommending to the City Council that the Council (1) permanently adopt economic recovery Interim Zoning Ordinance 2825 (CCS) and (2) amend the text of Article 9 Zoning and Planning of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to promote economic recovery and increase land use flexibility in the City's Downtown and citywide areas by streamlining, simplifying, and modifying land uses and limitations, updating standards for Specific Uses and Activities, including alcohol permits and review, modifying definitions, adding flexibility for certain non-conforming uses, and making other minor changes, corrections, clarifications, and clerical amendments. On October 15, 2025, the Planning Commission approved Resolution Number 25-014 (PCS) declaring its intension to consider recommendations as described above.

Additionally, contingent on Council adoption of a Resolution of Intention on December 16, 2025, amendments related to the applicability of Resource Recovery and Recycling requirements and trash enclosure dimensional standards are proposed to remove barriers for new and existing businesses, facilitate process streamlining and updated standards for objectivity.

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main

Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Planning Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: Steve Mizokami, Principal Planner

Re: Economic Opportunity and Growth Amendments

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division

1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28 Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about these amendments, please visit the Planning Commission webpage (January 21, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting Agenda) or October 15, 2025 PC Item 7D Resolution of Intention. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑO

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Biomass is a money pit that won't solve California's energy or wildfire problems



Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

ENERGY: Power lines in Sacramento on Sept. 20, 2022.

California's most expensive electricity source is finally poised to lose a government handout that props up its high costs and harmful pollution. In an era of clean, cheap solar and wind energy, policymakers are rightly beginning to treat biomass energy like the boondoggle it is.

Biomass energy — electricity made by burning or gasifying trees — is an expensive, dirty relic that relies on industry misinformation and taxpayer money.

In a vote later this month, the California Public Utilities Commission is expected to end the BioMAT subsidy program, which requires electric utilities to buy biomass power at exorbitant costs — four times the average. Californians get hit with those extra costs in our power bills, along with pollution that harms our health and climate.

Utilities and environmental groups support ending this costly subsidy.

But the biomass industry is fighting back with misleading claims that its projects are made clean by "new" technology or that they're needed for wildfire safety. Don't be fooled.

Burning trees to make electricity harms the climate. In fact, biomass power is more climate-polluting at the smokestack than coal.

Biomass energy releases toxic air pollutants that endanger health, increasing the risk of premature death and illnesses like asthma. The facilities often are located in low-income communities and communities of color that have long fought to shut them down.

It is telling that the biomass industry is

rebranding.

It claims it will use "clean" methods to gasify trees instead of burning them. But gasification — which also involves heating organic material — releases large amounts of climate-harming air pollution.

State regulators in May denied a costly biomass gasification project that couldn't show it would reduce emissions as promised.

The industry also promotes carbon capture and storage, claiming this technology will suck up carbon dioxide from biomass smokestacks and store it underground forever. But carbon capture and storage is a costly, decades-old technology with a long history of failure and serious health and safety risks.

Finally, the industry claims biomass energy projects will help pay for forest thinning, which it says will protect communities during wildfires. That means cutting trees, often large trees, which threatens wildlife and destroys forests, which naturally store carbon and fight climate change.

Thinning isn't a good way to keep communities safe. Most of the community destruction is caused by wind-driven fires during extreme fire weather, made worse by climate change. The fastest-moving 3% of wind-driven fires is responsible for 88% of the damage to homes.

No amount of forest thinning can stop that. In fact, thinning makes cool, moist forests hotter, drier and more wind-prone, which can make fires burn faster and more intensely.



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 7.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.49/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 32.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 21.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 5.3 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$3.618 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$3.65/g while the most expensive was \$5.69/g, a difference of \$2.04/g. The lowest price in the state was \$2.69/g while the highest was \$7.99/g, a difference of \$5.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 4.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.85/g. The national average is down 22.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 12.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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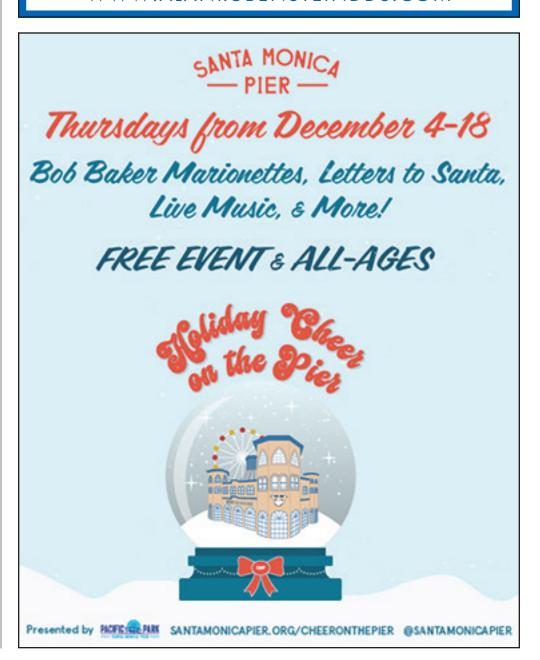
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COURTESY NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING Santa Monica BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

Adoption of a Resolution Updating the Santa Monica Cannabis Equity Program

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to adopt a Resolution updating the text of the Santa Monica Cannabis Equity Program.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 AT 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main

Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT:

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

City Clerk Address your comments to:

> Cannabis Equity Program Re:

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov VIA MAIL:

1685 Main Street, Room 102 Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Ana Fernandez by e-mail at $\underline{ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov}. \ \ For \ \ disability-related$ accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.



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WILDFIRE

FROM PAGE 1

Unemployment claims spiked 12-17% above normal, adding 6,300-8,700 workers to jobless rolls. Service sectors—restaurants, hospitality, retail, and healthcare-were hardest hit, with lower-income and hourly workers bearing the brunt. Payroll data showed a 10% drop in paychecks issued in affected areas during the two weeks after the fires. Total wage income losses reached approximately \$297 million in 2025, with 5,000 people turning to federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

The fires are projected to reduce LA County's 2025 GDP by 0.5% (about \$4.6 billion). Five-year cumulative losses are forecast between \$5.2 and \$10.1 billion. Property and capital losses range from \$76 to \$131 billion, with insured losses up to \$45 billion. Tax revenues are expected to decline by roughly \$1 billion or more over five years, including an annual property tax shortfall of \$61 million. Approximately 40-45% of economic damage stems from indirect ripple effects beyond the burn zones. Recovery speed will be crucial—faster rebuilding could restore jobs and tax revenues more quickly.

"Fire survivors deserve nothing less than a full and fair recovery, and these funds reflect Los Angeles County's commitment to just that," said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, who authored the motion to create the funds. 'With \$23.4 million in grants, we ensured that every eligible small business, nonprofit, and worker had access to meaningful relief to move forward."

Small businesses and nonprofits were awarded up to \$25,000 each, while workers received \$2,000 grants through the program, which launched less than one month after the wildfires began.

The funding effort started with a \$1 million commitment from the county's Care First Community Investment funds, followed by \$4 million from the LA County Board of Supervisors. Additional contributions came from philanthropic partners including the California Community Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, Hilton Foundation and Fire Aid, along with corporate donors Wells Fargo and Google.

State leadership through Governors' LA Rises, led by Mark Walter, Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Casey Wasserman, also contributed, along with the Walter Family Foundation, Maersk and APM Terminals. Public donations were collected through the LA County Relief website.

"From the earliest days of the Los Angeles wildfires, it was clear that our small businesses, nonprofits, and workers needed quick, meaningful help to stabilize their lives," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who co-authored the board motion to launch the relief programs.

To reach affected communities, the Department of Economic Opportunity conducted more than 20 English and Spanish webinars, 19 in-person community events and 15 training sessions with over 40 community-based organizations. The county deployed more than 100 staff members to provide technical assistance and application processing, with materials available in all 14 county threshold languages.

The outreach efforts focused on ensuring equitable access, particularly for survivors facing language barriers, limited digital access or displacement.

Anya Schodorf, owner and founder of Café de Leche in Altadena, said the grant provided crucial support. "When we got it, we were so happy and so grateful that we got the funds because it's going to help us focus on rebuilding," she said.

Patrick Hildebrand, a worker relief fund recipient, said the assistance arrived at a critical moment. "My income had been cut to almost nothing, but my bills didn't stop these grants are what's keeping me afloat," he

The county also partnered with the LA County Department of Arts and Culture to support creative workers, using more than \$800,000 from Fire Aid to assist artists, musicians, performers and craft producers experiencing economic instability.

In a separate effort, the Department of Economic Opportunity partnered with the USC Credit Union Community Foundation to provide \$1,000 grants to 80 families and individuals facing extreme hardship. That program concluded July 30.

"In a matter of weeks and months, our region built a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership capable of delivering rapid, equitable, and complete financial relief," said Kelly LoBianco, director of the LA County Department of Economic Opportunity.

While the relief funds are now closed, the county will continue supporting affected communities through the One-Stop Permit Center and Altadena Job Center, providing small business technical assistance, hiring and training services for workers, and longterm economic recovery planning.

Businesses and workers seeking recovery resources, permitting support or access to capital can visit the department's wildfire recovery hub online.

maaz@smdp.com

FREEWAY

FROM PAGE 3

from job centers, they're forced to spend more on transportation, now the second highest expense after housing.

Yet the justification for road expansion and displacement — traffic relief — rarely materializes. The expansions don't reduce traffic; they make it worse by inducing

The Interstate 405 expansion, for example, cost \$1.6 billion. Located in the western and southern reaches of the Los Angeles area, the project went wildly over budget and caused the demolition of 20 homes and three businesses. It also made traffic and commutes worse after completion.

California has better, proven options.

Investments in public transit, walking and biking infrastructure, and electric vehicles reduce transportation costs and take cars out of gridlock, without forcing families from their homes and dismantling communities.

California's elected leaders face an urgent and fundamental choice: They can continue spending billions on expansions that exacerbate the housing crisis but never deliver meaningful traffic relief; or they can invest in a transportation system that reflects values Californians champion: affordability and community wellbeing.

Hana Creger is associate director of climate equity at the Greenlining Institute. Yesenia Perez is senior program manager for climate equity at the Greenlining Institute.

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

numbers stabilize, marking a significant shift in a trend that had been driving budget cuts. The district recorded 8,520 students as of its official count day Oct. 1, 2025 — a decline of only 80 students from the prior year.

"Unlike previous years where enrollment dropped by 300 to 600 students annually, the district saw a decrease of only about 80 students this year," according to a summary of the report. "This stabilization is attributed to families from the Palisades fire area moving permanently into the district and a steady number of inter-district permits."

The enrollment stabilization is significant for SMMUSD, which operates as a "basic aid" district. Unlike most California school districts that receive state funding based on enrollment, basic aid districts are funded primarily through local property taxes because their property values are high enough to exceed state funding formulas.

Property taxes comprise 59% of the district's revenue, while federal funding accounts for only 2% — meaning SMMUSD is relatively insulated from federal funding cuts but vulnerable to property value fluctuations.

HEALTHCARE COSTS DRIVE STRUCTURAL DEFICIT

The projected deficits are driven largely by escalating employee healthcare costs, which pose what board members described as a structural budget challenge.

Healthcare and welfare benefit costs increased by \$665,000 in the current budget and are projected to rise by 7% annually in future years. The multi-year projection anticipates potential increases of 9% as the district exhausts one-time healthcare credits achieved during a transition from CalPERS to the Self-Insured Schools of California.

Board member John Kean warned that the district's reserve policy and careful accounting, while providing stability, cannot solve underlying budget problems.

"The reserve policy would be a big step forward, but it doesn't change the structural budget," Kean said during the meeting. "At some point all the time we talk about program, where do we really want to put our attention to and at a certain point we are going to have to choose what we're supporting that is effective. We can't keep going like this. It's just not sustainable."

Salaries and benefits comprise 81% of the district's general fund budget, limiting flexibility for cost reductions without affecting personnel.

RESERVE LEVELS BELOW RECOMMENDATIONS

The district's financial reserves stand at 21.31% of expenditures, up from 17.61% at the adopted budget but still below recommended levels for basic aid districts.

The state recommends that basic aid districts maintain reserves of 33%, while unified state-aid districts average 24.36%. SMMUSD's current reserve equals approximately two months of general fund expenditures, or about \$30.7 million.

Cruz noted that reserves are essential for managing cash flow, particularly in months when property tax revenues have not yet arrived, preventing the district from having to choose which bills to pay.

The board is also considering updates to Board Policy 3100 regarding budget reserves to formalize the district's practice of maintaining a two-month reserve.

REVENUE BRIGHT SPOTS

The budget includes some positive revenue adjustments, including a \$500,000 increase in Redevelopment Agency funds due to better forecasting and understanding of how these property tax revenues work.

Cruz told board members the district is trying to get ahead of having to report in September that another half million dollars fell short because of projection issues.

The district also saw increases from the Santa Monica Education Foundation (\$75,000) and Malibu Education Foundation (\$83,000), as well as higher-than-expected property tax collections.

The next budget checkpoint will be the Second Interim Report in March 2026.

maaz@smdp.com

BIOMASS

FROM PAGE 4

Most of California's destructive wildfires — like the Los Angeles area fires in January — have burned in shrublands and grasslands, not forests, making thinning irrelevant in those cases.

A BETTER WAY TO PREVENT FIRES

Instead, the best investment for protecting communities during wildfires is hardening homes, so they're less likely to catch fire, and stopping new development in fire-prone areas. Yet the state has earmarked only 1% of its wildfire funding for home hardening. Most goes to thinning.

Where thinning occurs, it's most costeffective to scatter the wood in the forest to create wildlife habitat, retain vital

nutrients, and enhance natural carbon storage. If wood must be removed, it can be turned into mulch and shavings. The worst choice is subsidizing biomass companies to make dirty energy.

Any way you look at it, biomass energy is a polluting money pit that won't solve our climate or wildfire safety problems.

California already has the affordable solutions we need: Clean, cheap solar and wind energy and energy storage to power our state, and home hardening to protect communities from wildfire while growing local economies. California's leaders need to embrace these proven solutions and get us out of the expensive, dangerous biomass business.

Shaye Wolf is the climate science director at the Center for Biological Diversity

GET IT DAILY



CLEAN HEALTHY WATER

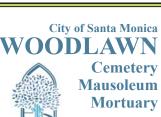
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FIRE

FROM PAGE 2

a sense of betrayal — that water and their hydrants had failed to save Los Angeles from the flames — set in.

By the end of March, nearly a third of 2,000 Los Angeles County residents surveyed by the USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research blamed poor water management as the biggest contributor to the wildfires. Only slightly more — 36% — said arson.

Another survey by Probolsky Research reported that more than a quarter of 1,000 likely primary election voters in California were surprised to hear — or flat out didn't believe — that fire hydrants are not designed to fight major wildfires.

"Sometimes all you need is one idea to catch on a little bit and start spreading. And then once it starts to go viral, it gets accepted by lots of people," said Lisa Fazio, an associate professor of psychology and human development at Vanderbilt University who studies how people learn information.

During disasters, she said, "people are hunting for that understanding and sense of control"

IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE — MANY TIMES.

In fire after fire, the researchers found reports of lost water pressure.

Paul Lowenthal, division chief fire marshal with the Santa Rosa Fire Department, remembers when the Tubbs Fire roared through Santa Rosa in 2017, destroying thousands of homes and killing 22 people.

"When we had the loss of pressure in Fountaingrove, there was this immediate sense of, 'The firefighters didn't have the water that they needed to fight the fire," he said. "And I think we saw some of the same concerns bubble up out of Los Angeles."

But Lowenthal said the true picture was much more complicated: In the hills, as the fire was pushing into the city, firefighters were too busy getting people out to even use the hydrants.

"It was all just purely saving lives," he said. By the time the winds had died down on the valley floor enough to fight back the flames, he said, the city's water system had restored enough pressure to hydrants.

Kevin Phillips, district manager of Paradise Irrigation District, said that some hydrants in the town of Paradise lost pressure during the 2018 Camp Fire, which remains the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history.

When a wildfire destroys a town, like the fires in Paradise or the Palisades, Phillips said, each burned home bleeds water out of the system — sapping its pressure.

"Every one of those homes that gets burned is an open sore to the outside," Phillips said. "Your system basically is dying as every one of those homes are being destroyed."

William Sapeta, fire chief of the Lake County Fire Protection District, agreed. "The Eaton and the Palisades fires really drew a lot of attention to the capabilities of water for fire suppression," he said. "Yet we experienced in the Camp Fire, the Valley Fire, the Carr Fire—all of these fires have exceeded municipalities' ability to provide water for fire suppression."

NEW REQUIREMENTS

Hydrants and water supply have drawn public scrutiny in Ventura County, where two major wildfires in less than a decade spurred reports of hydrant outages and lost water pressur

The fires in Assemblymember Steve Bennett's home county, one of which burned homes on his own street, prompted new legislation. Signed into law this year, Bennett's bill sets new requirements for certain water suppliers in fire-prone parts of Ventura County to harden their systems and obtain enough backup power or alternate water supplies to keep water pumps running for 24 hours.

"You ought to be able to have a system that can at least help you put out the small little ember, the bush that catches on fire — so that you can get it before the house catches on fire," the Democrat from Oxnard said. Having enough to do that, he added, should be the minimum requirement.

But some water suppliers fear they won't be able to withstand the financial costs of meeting the law's requirements, and worry about the potential liability if they can't.

"You have smaller water systems that don't even have the capacity or funding to deal with all those things," said Daryl Osby, former Los Angeles County Fire Department chief and now vice president of emergency preparedness, safety & security for California Water Service, an investor-owned water utility.

A NEW FRONTIER

ASU's Faith Kearns, a co-author of the policy brief, has chronicled the convergence of fire and water supplies before, and said the growing scale and devastation of these fires are resetting public expectations for urban water systems.

"This feels like the new frontier we're discussing around wildfire, but (it's) just part and parcel of California's really complex,

ongoing wildfire issues," Kearns said.

Climate change-fueled, extreme conditions further limit what water and water systems are capable of in response to fire — like in Santa Rosa, where Lowenthal said firefighters were too focused on saving lives to tap the hydrants in the hills.

"You might have the best water system in the world, and you still might not have conditions that are safe for fire personnel to go into," Kearns said.

The new UCLA policy brief doesn't interrogate why the hydrants became such a flashpoint in the Palisades Fire, but Pierce has some hypotheses. Preliminary data for a forthcoming study suggests it's political — that support for Trump drives the belief that water management was to blame for the fires.

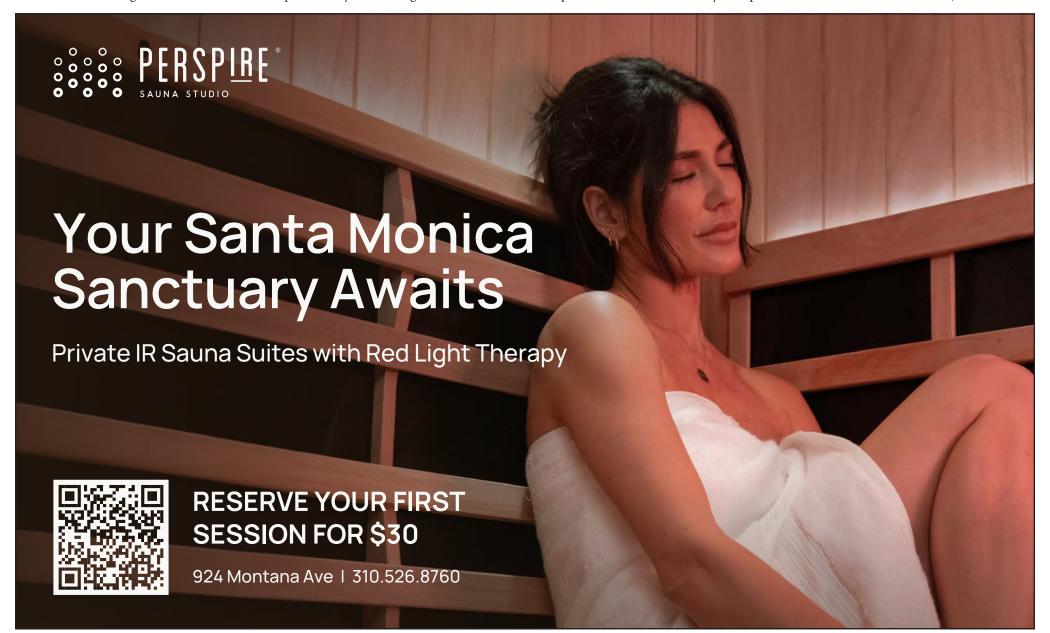
"Local influencers, political voices — all the way up to the president and a lot of people in between — quickly seized on the fact that some of the fire hydrants in the Palisades Fire didn't have water," Pierce said.

That gained a snowball effect. "The same thing kept getting repeated, and then people just thought it was true."

Fazio, the psychology professor at Vanderbilt not involved in the policy brief, said the urge to cling to a culprit may even go deeper: people often seek out simple answers in moments of crisis.

"You could think of all of this as being a part of a causal story — like, 'What caused my house to burn down? Why was it not safe?" Fazio said. "The really simple model is, 'The firefighters and the hydrants are supposed to prevent it, and they didn't, therefore they're at fault.' Whereas I'm sure the actual causal story is much more complicated."

Rachel Becker, CalMatters Water Reporter



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN







Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART





Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE





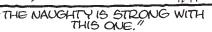
Heathcliff

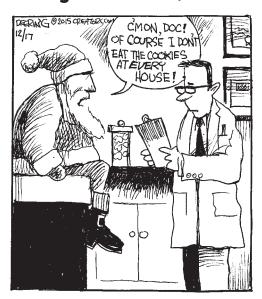
By PETER GALLAGHER

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6792

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Almond	Copper	Fawn	Ochre	Sepia	
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Azure	Cream	Gold	Opal	grey	
Blue	Cyan	Indigo	Orange	Sorrel	
Bordeaux	Dark	Jet	Peach	Tan	
Camel	Drab	Khaki	Pink	Teal	
Cardinal	Dull	Lilac	Plum	Tint	
Celadon	Dyes	Lime	Puce	Tyrian	
Cherry	Ecru	Linen	Roan	purple	
Clear	Emerald	Mauve	Rose	Umber	
Cocoa	Fast	Navy	Rouge		

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE. Staying in stunning Sawtell

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The destination mindset might work for a vacation or a game, but it doesn't work for the things that matter. Important things need a mindset of practice. Love, relationships, health - it's built over again every day

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The way you show up becomes what people remember about you. Your mood reads, your kindness makes an impression, and your attitude changes the plot. It matters today because someone chooses a path based on an interaction with you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Knowledge, compliments and skin cream are all things that must be absorbed before they start to work for you. Today, you'll soak in your experiences, giving each moment a second to settle before you sprint ahead.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Something in your world feels off. That's your aesthetic intuition talking. It's the part of you that cares about harmony, beauty and intention. Adjust what needs adjusting. You're the artist here. Make your world match your vision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're facing a high-quality dilemma. It's the kind of problem that only shows up when life has improved - all these quality options to choose from. Some might call it an embarrassment of riches. You'll sort it with gratitude in your heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The value you offer doesn't have to come only from you. Your network is a treasure you can share, too. Today, you'll connect people who need each other, helping expertise and opportunity flow in the right direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Be careful who you involve at this tender point in the creative process. When your idea is brand-new, it's fragile, and you don't want it to be changed by someone else's doubts or enthusiasm. It's too early for outside influence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Having to be right all the time is exhausting and very boring. It keeps one living defensively and, in the past, scrambling for evidence to support stances and claims instead of living and learning in the moment. You'll liberate yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are many things that can expand your sense of what's possible. Conversations, brilliant media, travel and even your own dreams. You're ready for an experience that broadens your mind, sharpens your perception and delights your spirit. Here it comes!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People who signal superiority are usually showing insecurity instead. Try to meet it with patience. They need extra care, not confrontation. What looks like a problem could actually be an opportunity to build a meaningful and unexpected bond.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Do enough people know what you do? Are they the ones who'll truly benefit from it? Today, you'll ask the right questions about your audience, make a few adjustments and see a real boost in what comes

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Each person brings out a different side of you. Today, people will not do what you expect, and your reactions will surprise you. It's exciting to realize that each new person is a chance to know yourself more completely.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

T	Α	P	S		S		G	Н	S		S	C	0	T
В	L	U	E		Α	W	Α	T	T		P	U	N	Y
S	0	R	E		L	I	N	T	Y		F	L	Α	Р
P	Е	R	S		Α	Ν	G	U	L	F		T	Т	E
			Α	D	D			Р	Е	R	T	U	R	В
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F	Ε	T	E		L	E	N	_	N		Е	G	0	S
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H	Α	Н		N	U	L	L	Α	N	D	V	O	Т	D
Α	T	0	М		М	0	0	L	Α		Е	D	D	Y
F	Ε	L	L		Р	S	Α	L	М		Ν	0	N	E
T	R	Е	K		S	Е	Ν	S	Е		T	R	0	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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Quick haircut
- 5 Fit for a royal ruler
- 10 Con game
- 14 Reduced-price event
- 15 Stood up
- 16 Part of TLC
- 17 Pop singer Tori
- 18 Carryall bags
- 19 Himalayas' continent
- 20 Top-class student 23 Gibbon or gorilla
- 25 Eve's first home
- 26 Tubular pasta
- 27 Greet informally
- 29 Salt Lake City collegian
- 31 Rowboat implement
- 32 Cunning action
- 33 Mouths, informally
- 37 Designation for a
- 41 Never ever
- 42 Gain altitude
- 44 Pregrown grass
- 47 __ Faire (jousting venue)
- 48 Flows slowly (through)
- 49 Veal cuts
- 51 Practice boxing
- 54 Explosive initials
- 55 What a 20-Across receives
- 59 Actress _ Rae
- 60 Glaringly vivid
- 61 Clumsy person's comment
- 64 Ocean's cousins

65 Treat poorly

- 66 Creative thought
- 67 Ration (out)
- 68 Newspaper's papers
- 69 Finish a flight

DOWN

- 1 Passenger screening
- 2 Lamb's father
- 3 Valentine message
- 4 Flat-topped hill
- 5 Evaluated
- 6 Wear away
- 7 Was accepted
- 8 "Hold on ___" ("Be patient")
- 9 For fear that
- 10 Frighten

- 11 Gambling establishment
- 12 Singer star Grande
- 13 More cruel
- 21 Luau neckwear
- 22 Drama with singers
- 23 Nile snake
- 24 Good buddies
- 28 Choir music
- 29 "Semper Fi" org.
- 30 Prefix for scope
- 33 Handbag designer
- 35 Solar system center
- 36 "Of course"
- 38 Tapped-out "code"

- Spade
- 34 Clickable picture
- codeveloper
- 39 Low-cal fizzy

- beverage
- 40 SportsCenter airer

www.stanxwords.com

TOP-CLASS by Winston Emmons Edited by Stanley Newman

- 43 Superlative suffix
- 44 Factional rift
- 45 "Aha, understood"
- 46 Watched Fido
- 48 "Sold out" theater letters
- 50 Lunar view stage
- 51 "I don't know" gesture
- 52 Coolheadedness
- 53 South American range
- 56 Open-handed hit
- 57 Large brass instrument
- 58 Irritate
- 62 Farm enclosure
- 63 Sorrowful

12 113 14 15 16 18 17 19 20 22 26 25 23 24 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 37 38 41 43 48 44 45 49 50 52 56 58 59 60 63 62 64 65 66 68 69 67

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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

"I looked at the county library pictures of all the libraries that the county has. We probably had the dumpiest one," said Councilmember Doug Stewart, who visited the Topanga library recently. "What a firstclass library. The facility is outstanding, and we're talking about putting a 4,000-squarefoot addition on it's going to cost \$13 million. I'm stunned by the price."

The Malibu Library generates an annual surplus of approximately \$3.1 million, created when property tax revenue allocated to the county library system exceeds operational costs. Under a 2008 memorandum of understanding extended through 2044, these funds must be used solely for Malibu library facilities and services.

Stewart noted that while the city receives about 7.4% of property taxes paid by residents, the library receives roughly 2.5% funds that have been accumulating since the agreement was established.

'This is no shortage to have a first-class library system," Stewart said. "We're not even spending all the money we have."

Financial documents show the city approved \$1.43 million in library programs for fiscal year 2023-24 but spent only \$747,118, leaving \$679,684 unspent. The library's total operating costs were \$2.68 million against revenue of \$5.8 million.

Security concerns dominated much of the discussion. Councilmember Steve Uhring referenced ongoing problems at the library

"I keep getting calls from parents who just are afraid to go to the library," Uhring said. "We ought to just figure out something we can do to police that place and make it a little bit safer for everybody."

The council voted to budget for three security guards with direction to hire two immediately. Currently, only one guard is utilized, though the budget allows for two at \$130,000 each annually.

A library staff member identified as Melissa confirmed that guards patrol both inside the library and the surrounding county property, including parking lots and the area near the

The council also approved continuing funding for fiscal year 2026-27 priorities including the speaker series (\$125,000),

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and Out, New Roof, many Upgrades !We

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extended service hours (\$175,000), outreach and teen librarians (\$155,000 each), and school campus library support. New items include funding for community resiliency programs proposed by the Community Brigade and Boys & Girls Club, as well as a micro-forest proposal from the SAMO Fund.

Staff will transfer the city-funded poet laureate program from the general fund to library funding.

Senior Management Analyst Cynthia Alba emphasized that the action established discussion priorities rather than approving specific expenditures. Staff will meet with county library officials the following week, with the library subcommittee reviewing a recommended budget in March before final council approval.

The council's directive to explore a comprehensive facility represents a dramatic expansion from the county's modest addition proposal. Silverstein suggested the project could incorporate community meeting spaces and an auditorium while potentially solving the city's need for a dedicated community center.

Councilmember Haylynn Conrad questioned whether the city should invest tax dollars in county-owned property, but Silverstein argued the contractual arrangement prevents using the accumulated funds elsewhere. He estimated that with \$25 million in equity, the project could secure \$50 million to \$70 million in financing, repaid through ongoing surplus revenue.

"Let's start thinking grand," Silverstein said. "We've got a ton of money to do it."

Alba said staff is rewriting a request for proposals for a community needs assessment and feasibility study to incorporate the expanded vision, including potential coordination with the city's Community Lands project and Parks and Recreation master plan.

The Malibu Library, established in 1970 and renovated in 2012, welcomed 64,787 visitors in fiscal year 2023-24, a 7% increase from the previous year. The library is located at 23519 W. Civic Center Way on countyowned civic center property.

The Library Subcommittee had met Friday, Dec. 5, to discuss recommendations for the fiscal year 2026-27 budget before presenting priorities to the full council.

maaz@smdp.com

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 fieldfresh 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 | DECEMBER 17

SANTA SESSIONS

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles. Meet Santa, share your wishlist, write him a letter, take a picture, and enjoy some Holiday music! Visit: https://smdp. com/events/#/details/santa-sessions/17631618/2025-12-

wednesday-market/12382446/2025-12-17T08

STAR STORIES WITH PAM

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. STAR Stories With Pam Children are invited to share the joy of storytelling and reading with our special STAR volunteer, Pam. Come three times and take home a free book. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/starstories-with-pam/15607289/2025-12-17T12

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC

4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with HOUSING issues. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/free-walk-in-legalclinic/13906563/2025-12-17T16

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 18

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/club-latinopara-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-12-18T11

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus. Visit: https://smdp.com/ events/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellnessmarket/14548473/2025-12-18T11

2025 HOLIDAY THURSDAYS

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Third Street Promenade Santa Monica. Feel the magic of the season at Third Street Promenade onDecember 4th, 11th, and 18th! Get ready

for the holidays with live holiday music while you sip hot cocoa and watch it "snow" in Santa Monica! This series of events is for all ages and will include holiday crafts and games for everyone. The magic doesn't stop there; the Girl Scouts will be on hand to help you wrap your presents in time for the holidays. Come experience the joy of the holiday season on Thursdays!! - Hot Cocoa and Cookies: Holiday sips and treats are on us! - Special Performance by Toyland Brass: What's the holiday season without holiday music? - Holiday Vendor Market for all your holiday presents and essentials -Holiday Crafts: For all ages! - "Snowfall": Experience the magic of "snow" by the beach. - Gift Wrapping: The local Girl Scouts troops will be on hand to wrap gifts. Donations are appreciated. FREE RSVP Link Coming Soon! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/2025holiday-thursdays/17408734/2025-12-18T17

MONTANA BRANCH BOOK GROUP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library 1704 Montana Ave. Santa Monica. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Montana Branch Library. This book group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. To register, email library@santamonica. gov. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/montanabranch-book-group/14818668/2025-12-18T18

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 19

SANTA SESSIONS

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles. Meet Santa, share your wishlist, write him a letter, take a picture, and enjoy some Holiday music! Visit: https://smdp. com/events/#/details/santa-sessions/17631618/2025-12-

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE ART DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY SALE

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College Corsair Gym 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Once a year huge sale of artworks from students and faculty of Santa Monica College's Art Department, One of a kind original blown glass, ceramics, sculptures, jewelry, prints and paintings. A portion of sales benefit the Art department at SMC and help support programs and materials for students. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/santa-monicacollege-art-department-holiday-sale/17613875/2025-12-

BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tiato Kitchen & Venue 2700 Colorado Ave Santa Monica. Our newly launched Brunch Fridays just got vibey-er! Every week enjoy great eats, summer libations, and a featured music artist on our beautiful garden patio! So come toast to summer with our uniquely crafted brunch menu including our Turmeric Spiced Cloud Egg dish, Smoked Gouda Scramble with Smashed Ube, Vietnamese French Toast, along with Mama An classics such as Famous Garlic Noodles, Shaken Beef, and Seafood Egg Fried Rice! And of course, it wouldn't be brunch without bottomless mimosas & summer punch bowls, so grab your brunch crew and enjoy the fair along the beautiful backdrop of Al fresco dining. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/ details/brunch-fridays-with-live-music-in-our-gardenpatio-/14639006/2025-12-19T11

Classifieds

Ridgway at (310) 435-5782.

Views; Amazing Sunsets; Night Sounds of Crashing Waves; Fresh Coastal Breezes; SafeNeighborhood Vibe (We Are NOT on Sunset Blvd.); Easy Access to Coastal Overlooks, Temescal Canvon, Beach and Hiking Trails – and Bus Routes !WE WELCOME RETURNING PALISADIANS !We Offer : On-Site Manager and On-Site Laundry: New Roof: Newly Painted Everywhere; GasWall Heaters, Gas Stoves and Refrigerators included; Covered Parking; Light-Filled Living.For More Information Contact On-Site Manager Jeff

File No. 2025249160 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FURUTANI & CO., 1725 Baldwin PI, Montebello, CA 90640, Los Angeles County. Registered Owner(s): FURUTANI & CO. LLC, 1725 Baldwin PI, Montebello, CA 90640. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/1/2025. s/ Joey Furutani, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles

County on 11/5/2025. SANTA MONICA

DAILY PRESS to publish on: 12/3/2025,

12/10/2025, 12/17/2025, 12/24/2025.

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

Share the Stoke

Have you ever tucked your toes in the sand of Mother's Beach on a quiet morning?

You breathe in the cool crisp air with nothing but you and the sound of your paddle dipping in the calm flat water. It's the steady churn that puts your body back into the right kind of rhythm and helps the rest of life feel a little lighter. That feeling is the kind of gift that money can't buy.

But you're in luck because money can buy... Pro SUP Shop rental packs & memberships.

Choose from five visits, ten visits or go unlimited and give them a stack of incredible mornings.

Let's be honest, most gifts end up collecting dust but people actually remember and use our rental packs again and again.

