

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
May 7, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council FROM: Allan Roeder, City Manager
Members

I. PRIORITY AND COUNCIL AGENDA ISSUES

None.

II. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. RECENT ACTIONS BY THE UNION OF VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (UVSA)

Kim Huy provides information on reports filed by the UVSA with the Garden Grove Police Department and Attorney General's office regarding possible fraud against their current president and treasurer.

B. 2015 STRAWBERRY BALL

Kim Huy invites you to the 2015 Strawberry Ball on Thursday, May 21st.

III. RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (PINKS)

A. PINK 3702

Information in response to a letter received by the California Land Surveyors Association regarding prompt payment from municipalities for land surveyors within 45 days.

• OTHER ITEMS

– NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



ALLAN L. ROEDER
City Manager

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Allan Roeder
Dept.: Interim City Manager
Subject: INFORMATION REGARDING RECENT ACTIONS BY THE UNION OF VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (UVSA)

From: Kimberly Huy
Dept.: Community Services
Date: May 7, 2015

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit information to the City Council regarding recent actions by the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California (UVSA).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In a website statement posted on May 4, 2015, the UVSA announced that they have filed reports with both the Garden Grove Police Department and the California Attorney General's Office regarding possible fraud, theft and embezzlement against their current president, Nina Tran and their treasurer, Helen Nguyen.

The allegations stem from irregularities ranging from personal credit card bill payments to repeated ATM cash withdrawals. A UVSA Oversight Committee examined financial documents between November 2012 and 2014. That investigation concluded April 24, 2015, and resulted in UVSA reporting more than \$118,000 had been either fraudulently obtained, stolen or embezzled. As of May 3, 2015, both Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen have been removed from their Executive Board positions and UVSA is making every effort to recover the stolen funds.

Attached are the following documents:

- Press Release from UVSA Regarding Findings, dated May 3, 2015
- Voice of OC Article, dated May 4, 2015
- Orange County News Article, dated May 4, 2015
- Vien Dong Daily News Article (translation of), dated May 5, 2015

INFORMATION REGARDING ACTIONS
BY UVSA
May 7, 2015
Page 2

SUMMARY

Staff will keep the City Council informed of any future articles or news that may be transmitted regarding this situation.



KIMBERLY HUY
Director

Attachments Press Release from UVSA Regarding Findings, dated May 3, 2015
 Voice of OC Article, dated May 4, 2015
 Orange County News Article, dated May 4, 2015
 Vien Dong Daily News Article (translation of), dated May 5, 2015

For Immediate Release

May 4, 2015

(714) 890-1418
contact@uvsa.org

**INTERNAL INVESTIGATION EXPOSES POSSIBLE FRAUD, THEFT, AND EMBEZZLEMENT
BY PRESIDENT NINA TRAN AND TREASURER HELEN NGUYEN; UVSA FILES REPORT
WITH LOCAL POLICE AND REMOVES BOTH FROM OFFICE**

GARDEN GROVE, CA - After an extensive internal investigation, the Union of the Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California (UVSA) filed a police report with the Garden Grove Police Department for suspected fraud, theft, and embezzlement of approximately \$118,000.00 by its current president, Nina Tran, and treasurer, Helen Nguyen. Both have served as non-paid executive board members of the organization since June 2013. Nina Tran also served as External Vice President in the previous term.

Serious concerns about the financial management of UVSA under Nina Tran's leadership arose during mandated financial reviews of the 2013 Tet Festival, an internal meeting was held to address concerns about the executive board's ability to move forward with the festival. Further irregularities were found related to a Tet Festival debit bank card used by Nina Tran. This was brought to the Executive Board's attention several times between August and September 2014 but no record of actions were taken or explanation given by the Executive Board.

In November 2014, Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen were confronted with irregularities ranging from personal credit card bill payments to repeated cash withdrawals from ATMs. Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen were given four weeks to provide documentation of expenses and spending of UVSA funds, which to this date has not been fully produced. Additionally, all existing bank accounts under their names were closed to prevent further access to organizational funds. The Executive Board was informed that there would be an internal investigation of suspected financial mismanagement. A UVSA Oversight Committee was formed to conduct the investigation and minimize negative impact on the organization's programs and operations.

The investigation came to a close on April 24, 2015 and found evidence of fraud, theft, and embezzlement of UVSA charitable funds in the amount of approximately \$118,000.00 based on financial documents examined between November 2012 and November 2014. The findings confirm unauthorized use of UVSA charitable funds by two executive board members. Nina Tran is responsible for approximately \$103,000.00 in stolen funds and unauthorized expenditures. This includes \$33,224.00 that has been recovered by UVSA during the investigation; the outstanding amount is \$70,000.00. Helen Nguyen, UVSA Treasurer, is responsible for approximately \$15,000.00 in unauthorized expenditures.

UVSA has filed a report with the Garden Grove Police Department and California Attorney General. Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen have been removed from their Executive Board positions as of May 3, 2015 and UVSA will make every effort to recover the stolen funds. Moving forward, UVSA will appoint an interim Board of Directors to create a culture of transparency and ethics, provide oversight, and to implement internal controls to prevent individuals from taking advantage of the organization again in the future.

It is unfortunate for UVSA to undergo this type of investigation and discover misconduct by two individuals in the organization. However, these two individuals do not reflect the greater good of the hundreds of student and youth leaders throughout the organization. UVSA remains committed to community service, preserving the Vietnamese culture, and developing leaders for our community.

###

Two Tet Festival Organizers Ousted Amid Embezzlement Allegations

By Thy Vo May 4, 2015 at 1:04 PM Follow @thyanhvo

The student group that organizes an annual Lunar New Year festival in Little Saigon has removed two of its top leaders for allegedly embezzling over \$118,000, according to [a press release posted to their website \(http://www.uvsa.org/blog/2015/05/04/internal-investigation-exposes-possible-fraud-theft-and-embezzlement-by-president-nina-tran-and-treasurer-helen-nguyen-uvsa-files-report-with-local-police-and-removes-both-from-office/\)](http://www.uvsa.org/blog/2015/05/04/internal-investigation-exposes-possible-fraud-theft-and-embezzlement-by-president-nina-tran-and-treasurer-helen-nguyen-uvsa-files-report-with-local-police-and-removes-both-from-office/) Monday morning.

After an internal investigation, the nonprofit Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California, or UVSA, ousted President Nina Tran and Treasurer Helen Nguyen and filed reports with the Garden Grove Police Department and California Attorney General's office.

News of the allegations was first reported on Sunday (<http://www.viendongdaily.com/chu-tich-tong-hoi-sinh-vien-nam-cali-bi-to-cao-gian-lan-tai-chanh-E8PaHdQE.html>) by the Vietnamese language newspaper, Vien Dong Daily News.

Serious concerns about Tran's management of the group's finances arose during financial reviews of the 2013 Tet Festival, according to the press release.

The investigation, which was closed on April 24, found evidence of fraud, theft and embezzlement of charitable funds based on financial documents from Nov. 2012 through Nov. 2014.

Tran was found responsible for about \$103,000 in stolen funds, including \$33,224 recovered by UVSA during the investigation, while Nguyen is responsible for \$15,000, according to the release.

From the press release: (<http://www.uvsa.org/blog/2015/05/04/internal-investigation-exposes-possible-fraud-theft-and-embezzlement-by-president-nina-tran-and-treasurer-helen-nguyen-uvsa-files-report-with-local-police-and-removes-both-from-office/>)

In November 2014, Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen were confronted with irregularities ranging from personal credit card bill payments to repeated cash withdrawals from ATMs. Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen were given four weeks to provide documentation of expenses and spending of UVSA funds, which to this date has not been fully produced. Additionally, all existing bank accounts under their names were closed to prevent further access to organizational funds.

UVSA did not immediately return a call for comment.

The nonprofit has been the subject of controversy in recent years. It sparred with Garden Grove city leaders after the city sought a \$75,000 fee (<http://voiceofoc.org/2013/09/student-group-balks-at-citys-charge-for-holding-tet-festival/>) for holding the festival in Garden Grove Park, where it had been held previous years. The festival acts as a fundraiser for UVSA and other local charities.

UVSA refused to pay the \$75,000 fee -- which would have benefited another nonprofit, the Vietnam War Museum of America -- and moved the popular festival to the Orange County Fairgrounds.

Then-Mayor Bruce Broadwater, who sits on the museum's board, had also raised concerns about UVSA's finances, demanding the group conduct an audit.



President and Treasurer of Vietnamese Student Non-Profit Accused of Defrauding Group

By Charles Lam

Published Mon., May 4 2015 at 8:30 AM



The Garden Grove-based Union of Vietnamese Student Associations (UVSA) announced early this morning that they have filed charges against their president and treasurer after finishing an

internal financial review. The group, which organizes one of the oldest and largest Tet festivals in the United States, is accusing former president Nina Tran and former treasurer Helen Nguyen of defrauding them of more than \$118,000 over a period of three years.

According to a UVSA press release, executive board members had concerns with the nonprofit's financial management following the 2013 Tet Festival, the last festival to be held in Garden Grove as part of a previous five-year contract. Irregularities in usage of a festival debit card held by Tran continued, including withdrawals and payments made to Tran and Nguyen without supporting documentation, alleges the UVSA.

The organization started an investigation and closed all of Tran and Nguyen's organizational accounts November 2014. Two weeks ago, the inquiry closed, finding evidence of fraud, theft and embezzlement upwards of \$118,000, \$103,000 attributed to Tran and \$15,000 attributed to Nguyen. During the course of the investigation, \$33,234 was recovered from Tran by the organization.

UVSA has filed reports with both the Garden Grove Police Department and the California Attorney General. Tran and Nguyen have been removed from the executive board positions.

I've reached out to Tran and Nguyen for comment.

UVSA's President Accused of Embezzlement

Westminster - One Vietnamese community organization that had been successfully organizing the annual Tet festival, is facing an internal turmoil. According to sources who asked to remain anonymous, the UVSA is in the process of demoting Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen for being accused of fraud, theft, and embezzlement of more than \$100,000.

Nina Tran is currently serving as the president of the UVSA and Helen Nguyen as treasurer. Nina Tran also served as the head organizer of the 2015 Tet festival.

Since last Friday, on the UVSA's website, the names and the titles of Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen were no longer there. Only the pictures of the vice president and the secretary along with other board members were displayed.

According to a document provided to Vien Dong Daily News on Friday night, May 1, 2015, the UVSA had been concerned about financial mismanagement since the organization could not come to an agreement with the City of Garden Grove and was unable to renew the contract to organize the 2014 Tet festival.

The source also said that UVSA had worked with the Garden Grove Police Department regarding this issue.

On the same day, Vien Dong had tried to contact Nina Tran to find out more details from her side but was unable to reach her.

Following is an excerpt sent to Vien Dong Daily on Friday:

"After an extensive internal investigation, the Union of the Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California (UVSA) filed a police report with the Garden Grove Police Department for suspected fraud, theft, and embezzlement of approximately \$118,000.00 by its current president, Nina Tran, and treasurer, Helen Nguyen. Both have served as non-paid executive board members of the organization since June 2013. Nina Tran also served as External Vice President in the previous term.

Serious concerns about the financial management of UVSA under Nina Tran's leadership arose during mandated financial reviews of the 2013 Tet Festival, an internal meeting was held to address concerns about the executive board's ability to move forward with the festival. Further irregularities were found related to a Tet Festival debit bank card used by Nina Tran. This was brought to the Executive Board's attention several times between August and September 2014 but no record of actions were taken or explanation given by the Executive Board."

The document continues "In November 2014, Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen were confronted with irregularities ranging from personal credit card bill payments to repeated cash withdrawals from ATMs. Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen were given

four weeks to provide documentation of expenses and spending of UVSA funds, which to this date has not been fully produced. Additionally, all existing bank accounts under their names were closed to prevent further access to organizational funds. The Executive Board was informed that there would be an internal investigation of suspected financial mismanagement. A UVSA Oversight Committee was formed to conduct the investigation and minimize negative impact on the organization's programs and operations.

The investigation came to a close on April 24, 2015 and found evidence of fraud, theft, and embezzlement of UVSA charitable funds in the amount of approximately \$118,000.00 based on financial documents examined between November 2012 and November 2014."

The UVSA informed that "33,224.00 had been recovered by UVSA during the investigation. The outstanding amount is \$70,000. Helen Nguyen, UVSA Treasurer, is responsible for approximately \$15,000.00 in unauthorized expenditures."

After filing a report with the GGPD, the UVSA will remove Nina Tran and Helen Nguyen from their executive board positions and they will make efforts to recover the stolen funds. They will appoint an interim board of directors to provide oversight to implement internal controls to prevent individuals from taking advantage of the organization again in the future.

Vien Dong will provide more information on this incident in the coming days.

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Allan Roeder
Dept.: Interim City Manager
Subject: 2015 STRAWBERRY BALL

From: Kimberly Huy
Dept.: Community Services
Date: May 5, 2015

OBJECTIVE

To invite the City Council and their guests to the 2015 Strawberry Ball, Thursday, May 21, 2015.

BACKGROUND

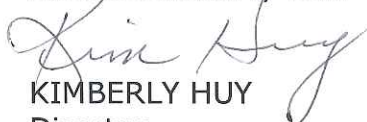
Each year, the H. Louis Lake Senior Center hosts the Strawberry Ball, which is the unofficial kick-off to the annual Strawberry Festival. This year's event marks the 40th Anniversary of the Ball to be held on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center. The highlight of the evening is the crowning of the Senior Man and Senior Woman Volunteers of the Year as the Strawberry Ball King and Queen.

DISCUSSION

The Royal Crowns (past Strawberry Ball Kings and Queens) have selected two organizations they would like to honor for their outstanding contributions to the City; City of Garden Grove Police Department Volunteers in Policing (VIP) and the H. Louis Lake Senior Center. These organizations have been asked to choose an outstanding senior citizen volunteer to represent their organization and reign as the 2015 Strawberry Ball King and Queen. Yolanda Montano, from the H. Louis Lake Senior Center and Hazlette "Tsuki" Tsukiyama, from the Garden Grove Police Department Volunteers in Policing are this year's King and Queen. Throughout the year, they will serve as our ambassadors at many City and senior events. Attached is the flyer with information for this event.

SUMMARY

The Royal Crowns would like to invite the City Council and their guests to the 2015 Strawberry Ball.


KIMBERLY HUY
Director



By: Dana Saucedo
Assistant Supervisor

Attachment: 2015 Strawberry Ball Flyer

The City of Garden Grove presents



2015



Strawberry Ball



Thursday, May 21, 2015



**Community Meeting Center
Butterfield Room AB**

11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Introduction of 2015's
Strawberry Ball Queen & King
Senior Volunteers of the Year

Dancing featuring
"5 Star Band"

Prime Rib Dinner Included

Tickets available at
H. Louis Lake Senior Center
11300 Stanford Avenue
Garden Grove

(714) 741-5253



\$25.00 per person

Advance reservations only



Pinks System

[Internet Home Page](#) | [Employee Directory](#) Tuesday, May 05, 2015

[Admin home](#) | [Pinks home](#) | [Closed Pinks](#) | [Help Logout](#)

Showing pink 3702

Print

Pink ID: 3702

Topic: Letter from the California Land Surveyors Association Orange County regarding prompt payment from municipalities for land surveyors within 45 days.

Status: **AWAITING APPROVAL**

Requester Name: Joseph Padilla, President

Requester Address: 13681 Newport Ave., Ste. 8

Requester CSZ: Tustin, CA 92780-7815

Issued on: 04/14/2015

Initial Letter Sent:

Final Response: 05/05/2015

Priority: pink

Need Manager's Memo: no

Need Copy of response letter: no

Need draft response letter on behalf of the Mayor: no

Need information only: yes

Updated By: melaniev

Updated On: 05/05/2015

Referral Notes: Please prepare a response on behalf of the Mayor to their letter discussing prompt payment to land surveying firms by cities for public works improvements. A copy will be scanned and emailed to you. NOTE: Deadline is April 23, 2015.

Response Notes: No. This is a standard letter that the surveyor's put out every few years to every City and we comply with their requests.



RECEIVED
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2015 APR 15 10:14

**CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER**

PMB 201, 13681 Newport Ave., Suite 8, Tustin, CA 92780-7815

OFFICERS 2015

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Joe Padilla, PLS
(714) 875-8079
President@oc-surveyors.org

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dave@dwoolley.com

Past-Past President

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_Sebourn@vaconsultinginc.com

Chapter Representatives

OCdirectors@oc-surveyors.org

1. Steve Slocum, PLS
2. Daryl Christian, PLS
3. Dave Woolley, PLS
4. Joe Padilla, PLS
5. Trevor Rice, PLS
6. Glenn Lake, PLS

Alt. Chapter Representatives

OCdirectors@oc-surveyors.org

1. Rich Maher, PLS
2. Michael LaFontaine, PLS

April 3, 2015

Sent Via Email and U.S. Mail

Bao Nguyen
Mayor
City of Garden Grove
11222 Acacia Parkway
Garden Grove, CA 92480
baon@garden-grove.org

**Re: Prompt Payment Requirements –
California Civil Code §§ 3320, 3321**

Dear Mayor Nguyen:

As President of the Orange County Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association (“OC CLSA”), I am writing to you regarding the issue of prompt payment to land surveying firms by cities in Orange County California for public works improvement. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 3320(a):

“In each contract for public works of improvement, entered into on or after January 1, 1996, the public agency shall pay to the prime design professional¹ any progress payment within 30 days of receipt of a written demand for payment in accordance with the contract, and the final retention payment within 45 days of receipt of a written demand for payment in accordance with the contract.”

California Civil Code § 3320(b) also provides for penalties for wrongfully withholding or untimely payment in violation of Section 3320(a).

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership

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membership@oc-surveyors.org

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Tech Czar/ C.I.O.

Rich Maher
techczar@oc-surveyors.org

¹ “Design professional” means a person licensed as . . . a land surveyor pursuant to Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 8700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code. Cal. Civil Code § 3320(f)(2).

Additionally, California Civil Code § 3321(a) provides:

“In each contract for public works of improvement, a prime design professional shall pay to each sub-consultant design professional the amount due him or her from the payment received, not later than 15 days after receipt of each progress payment or final retention payment.”

California Civil Code § 3321(b) provides for similar penalties for wrongfully withholding or untimely payment.

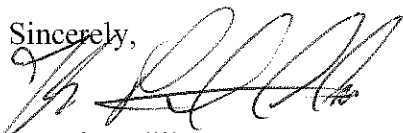
I have attached complete copies of both of these Civil Code Sections for your review and consideration.

Unfortunately, we hear from our members that there have been a significant number of occasions when public entities have failed to make timely payments either to land surveyors or the prime design consultants, resulting in unnecessary interest accrument to support overdue income. I am writing to confirm your commitment to abide by these Civil Code Sections.

So that we can report to our members, please confirm that you have controls in place to ensure that your city is in compliance with these statutes. In your response, please explain those controls and provide OC CLSA with a copy of your payment policy. We would appreciate a response within 10 business days of receipt of this letter or as soon as you are able to do so.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate the relationships your agency has with our members and the surveying profession.

Sincerely,



Joseph Padilla
Professional Land Surveyor
President
CLSA, Orange County Chapter

JP:mp
Attachment

cc: Orange County CLSA Directors
City Manager

California Civil Code §§ 3320, 3321

3320.

- (a) In each contract for public works of improvement, entered into on or after January 1, 1996, the public agency shall pay to the prime design professional any progress payment within 30 days of receipt of a written demand for payment in accordance with the contract, and the final retention payment within 45 days of receipt of a written demand for payment in accordance with the contract. If the public agency disputes in good faith any portion of the amount due, it may withhold from the payment an amount not to exceed 150 percent of the disputed amount. The disputed amount withheld is not subject to any penalty authorized by this section.
- (b) If any amount is wrongfully withheld or is not timely paid in violation of this section, the prime design professional shall be entitled to a penalty of 1 1/2 percent for the improperly withheld amount, in lieu of any interest otherwise due, per month for every month that payment is not made. In any action for the collection of amounts withheld in violation of this section, the prevailing party is entitled to his or her reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
- (c) The penalty described in subdivision (b) is separate from, and in addition to, the design professionals liens provided by Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 8300) of Title 2 of Part 6 of Division 4, mechanics liens provided by Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 8400) of Title 2 of Part 6 of Division 4, and stop payment notices on public works provided by Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 9350) of Title 3 of Part 6 of Division 4.
- (d) This section does not apply to state agency contracts subject to Section 927.6 of the Government Code.
- (e) None of the rights or obligations created by this section between prime design professionals and public agencies apply to construction loan funds held by a lender pursuant to a construction loan agreement.
- (f) For purposes of this section:
 - (1) "Public agency" means the state, any county, any city, any city and county, any district, any public authority, any public agency, any municipal corporation, or other political subdivision or political corporation of the state.
 - (2) "Design professional" means a person licensed as an architect pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5500) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, registered as a professional engineer pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, or licensed as a land surveyor pursuant to Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 8700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

- (3) "Prime design professional" means a design professional with a written contract directly with the public agency.
-

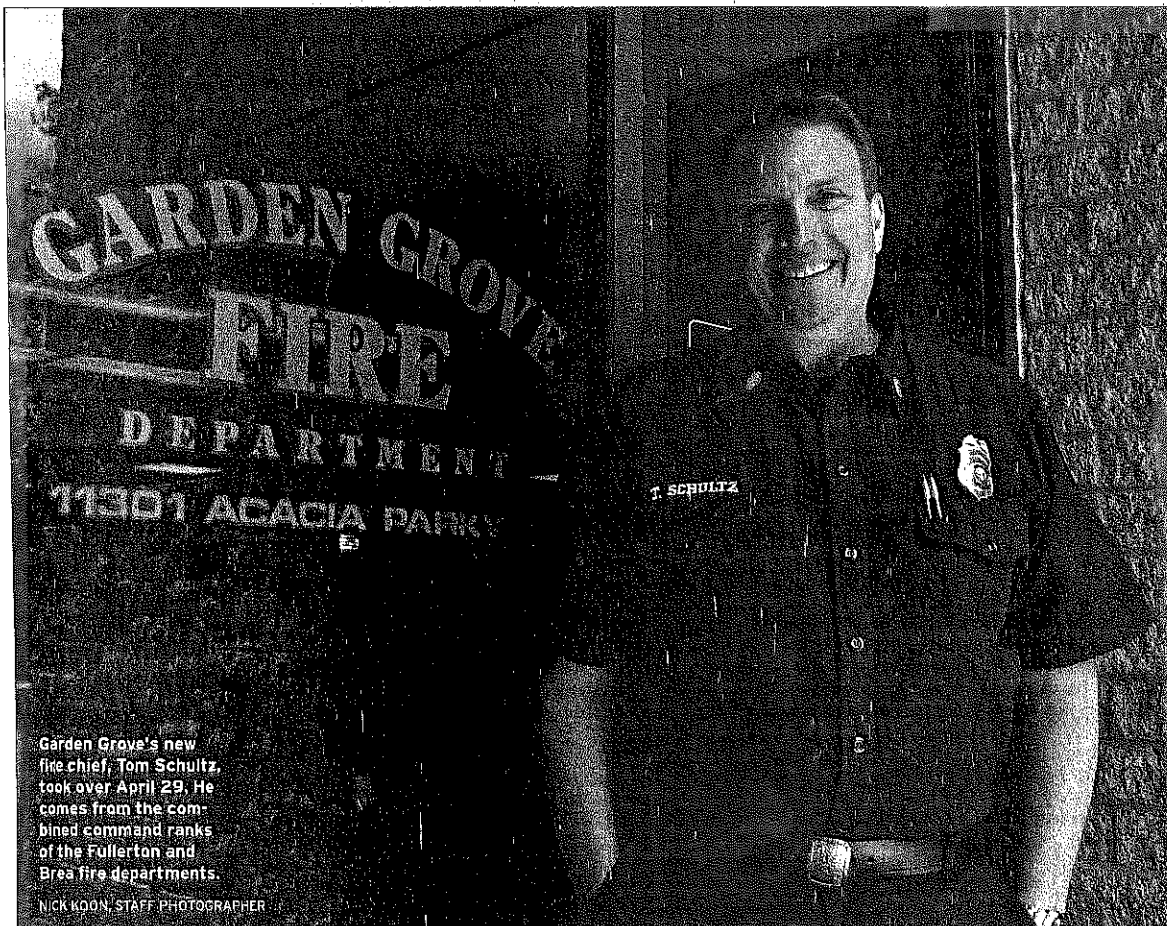
3321.

- (a) In each contract for public works of improvement, a prime design professional shall pay to each subconsultant design professional the amount due him or her from the payment received, not later than 15 days after receipt of each progress payment or final retention payment. If the prime design professional disputes in good faith any portion of the amount due, he or she may withhold from the payment an amount not to exceed 150 percent of the disputed amount. The disputed amount withheld shall not be subject to any penalty authorized by this section.
- (b) If any amount is wrongfully withheld or is not timely paid in violation of this section, the subconsultant design professional shall be entitled to a penalty of 1 1/2 percent of the improperly withheld amount, in lieu of any interest otherwise due, per month, for each month that payment is not made. In any action for the collection of amounts withheld in violation of this section, the prevailing party shall be entitled to his or her reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
- (c) The penalty described in subdivision (b) shall be separate from, and in addition to, the design professionals liens provided by Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 8300) of Title 2 of Part 6 of Division 4, mechanics liens provided by Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 8400) of Title 2 of Part 6 of Division 4, and stop payment notices on public works provided by Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 9350) of Title 3 of Part 6 of Division 4.
- (d) None of the rights or obligations created by this section between prime design professionals and subconsultant design professionals shall apply to construction loan funds held by a lender pursuant to a construction loan agreement.
- (e) For purposes of this section:
- (1) "Public agency" means the state, any county, any city, any city and county, any district, any public authority, any public agency, any municipal corporation, or other political subdivision or political corporation of the state.
- (2) "Design professional" means a person licensed as an architect pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5500) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, registered as a professional engineer pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, or licensed as a land surveyor pursuant to Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 8700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

- (3) "Prime design professional" means a design professional having a written contract directly with the public agency.
- (4) "Subconsultant design professional" means a design professional having a written contract with a prime design professional.

Weekly Memo 5/07/15

**NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES**



CHIEF READY FOR THE CHALLENGE

New leader of Garden Grove fire department said he's prepared to move forward, build collaboration.

BY CHRIS HAIRE
STAFF WRITER

Garden Grove has a new top firefighter. Tom Schultz, the former deputy chief of operations for the Fullerton and Brea fire departments, began his new job as the Garden Grove Fire Department chief April 29. He now leads a 92-firefighter department.

The 51-year-old Placentia resident is learning the department and organizing his office — already a shiny fire ax affixed to a plaque, a gift from Fullerton, adorns one of the walls.

Schultz has been a firefighter since he was 21, when he worked in fire prevention for Fullerton. From there, he steadily climbed the ranks.

He joins the Garden Grove department at an interesting time for the city: There has been City Council changes, including a relatively new mayor and an interim city manager; and Schultz is the first permanent fire chief since David Barlag resigned in September amid criticism over his leadership of the department.

Barlag remains a city employee; his new title is public safety administrator.

The Journal sat down with Schultz to ask him about his new role as chief and life as a firefighter.

Q. What are your first impressions of the department?

A. It's been a great experience so far. It's a great department to work for. I immediately noticed the pride the firefighters have in this department and their work in the community. I noticed that right away.

Q. How do you plan on moving the department forward?

A. My goal is to be as collaborative and inclusive as possible. We have to be transparent. I believe in an open-door policy and we are a public service, so the public has a right to know what we do. ... The public at large appreciates what we do, but like anything, our actions will show where we want to be.

Q. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the department?

A. I haven't seen a lot of weaknesses yet. But the

strength is that desire to serve the community. It's been blinding so far. But in the coming weeks, I will build relationships and then begin to look into the department. I'll determine what we need to change and what we don't need to change. I'm excited to take on the challenges I know about, and finding out about the challenges I don't know.

Q. When did you realize you wanted to be a firefighter?

A. This is going to sound corny, but I was one of those kids who saw the fire truck going down the street and realized that's what I want to do with my life. I think it is an absolute blessing to be a public servant, and being able to help people is a huge honor. It makes it worth it coming to work every day. I was lucky to have found out what I am meant to do at an early age.

Tom Schultz

Age: 51

Title: Garden Grove fire chief

Salary: \$186,048 a year

Residence:

Placentia

Hometown:

Huntington Beach

Q. What is something about being a firefighter that the public doesn't know about that you think they should?

A. They see the firefighters show up and serve the community, but they don't see the work that goes on behind the scenes to make that service happen — the education, the training. A lot goes on behind the scenes to make sure the service is there.

Strawberry Festival packs

Garden Grove Journal / Register
May 7, 2015

big punch of stars

We know the strawberries are still on the vine – The bush? The plant? – but plans for the annual Garden Grove festival to celebrate the juicy red berries are mostly made by now.

And so Brainiac got to wondering: Which famous folks would be enticed to attend this year? And would they live up to the star power of the past?

Because in its 56 years of history, the Strawberry Festival has pulled some mighty big shots to town for the Memorial Day weekend, starting with its second year when silent film star **Francis X. Bushman** was grand marshal for the first-ever parade.

Most of you don't know Mr. Bushman today and that's OK.

He lived and worked long before many of us were born, but in his day he was something else, making 200 or so films, earning enough scratch that at one point he owned a big house on Hollywood Boulevard, which movie theater impresario **Sid Grauman** bought in the '20s to use as the site of his famous Chinese Theatre.

By the time he rode in the Strawberry Festival parade, Bushman – he'd lost a lot of his fortune in the 1929 stock market crash – was doing television guest spots on shows such as "Perry Mason," "Peter Gunn" and "Make Room For Daddy."



AP FILE PHOTO

Veteran actress Sally Kellerman in 2004. She will be grand marshal for the Strawberry Festival.

From there on out, the festival did well with the level of star who could be enticed to drive down from Los Angeles for a day or two of strawberry fun.

In the '60s, actors including **Jayne Mansfield, Jimmy Durante, Jane Powell** and – a rare bit of youthful celebrity – the singing group the Carpenters came to town.

The '70s found actors such as **Danny Bonaduce** from "The Partridge Family" and **Lorne Greene** from "Bonanza" in Garden Grove.

And since then a mix of celebrities old and young have traipsed through town on floats and in converti-



KEVIN WARN, FILE PHOTO

Erin Murphy of "Bewitched" seen in 2012. She will be attending this year's Strawberry Festival.

bles, waving to the crowds and helping the city celebrate its agricultural past.

This year, it's a fairly typical mix of famous people who've been lined up for the festival.

The most celebrated, though she's not done as much work in recent years, is grand marshal **Sally Kellerman**, whose role as Major Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan in the 1970 movie "MASH" earned her an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress.

But Kellerman is just one of the celebrities on hand for the 57th annual Strawberry Festival.

The theme grand marshal – this year's theme is



NICK AGRO, FILE PHOTO

Julie Adams greets the Creature from the Black Lagoon onstage during a 2014 event. She'll be part of the annual Strawberry Festival.

"Honoring Our Returning Veterans" – is **Lt. Col. Patricia Murray**, a former Miss California who's flown the massive C-130 J Super Hercules planes for the California National Guard and done six tours of duty in the Middle East.

Our favorite for kitsch appeal this year is a tie between **Julie Adams**, who played swimsuit-clad Kay Lawrence in the 1954 cult horror/sci-fi flick "The Creature From The Black Lagoon" and **Erin Murphy**, who as a child actress played Tabitha Stephens on

"Bewitched."

Vera Jimenez, a meteorologist and traffic reporter on KTLA/5, is a local hero – she went to Bolsa Grande High School and much of her family still lives in Garden Grove.

Then there are the kid actors, **Forrest Wheeler**, **Ian Chen**, **Jacob Hopkins**, **Ava Kolker**, **Jaida-Iman Benjamin**, **Emily Robinson** and **Asia Monet Ray**, from a variety of shows on ABC, Disney Channel and Nickelodeon.

A couple of character actors, **Santana Dempsey** and

Gregg Daniel, and soap opera star **Kate Linder**, who's starred on "The Young and the Restless" for more than three decades.

So, not a bad crowd – Brainiac approves – though a word of correction to the folks running the festival's website: It's grand marshal, not grand marshall.

We figured we'd help you out there before all the retired grammar teachers in town spot it and give you the business.

You're welcome!

THE → THINGS TO KNOW

Garden Grove Journal / Register
May 7, 2015

Garden Grove weighing new massage rules

Garden Grove massage parlors are receiving copies in the mail of a proposed ordinance that would put tighter regulations on the businesses.

Among other rules, all people performing massages would have to be certified by the California Massage Therapy Council, businesses would have to obtain operating permits and tell the city when they hire new employees.

The City Council will discuss the ordinance at its Tuesday meeting. It had originally been on the April 28 agenda, but the council tabled it and asked staff to send the proposed law to massage businesses that might be affected.

New regulatory authority has been given to cities by the state. The city may enact new rules on massage parlors to ensure they are not sex-trafficking operations or fronts for prostitution.

Garden Grove takes on hate

Garden Grove hates hate. The City Council has publicly – and legally – endorsed the mission of Take on Hate, a national grassroots movement that promotes positive images of Arab and Muslim Americans, and said that it stands “with all Americans, regardless of their ethnicity or religion, and stands against those who preach hate and incite violence.”

Mayor Bao Nguyen brought the resolution before the council last week to promote positive attitudes in the city about Arab and Muslim Americans, who have been victims of hate crimes in the wake of continuing unrest in the Middle East.



Nguyen

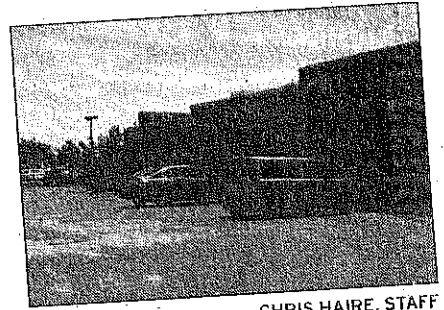
Parking lot named for businessman

No longer is 12916 Main St. just a parking lot – it is the Malcolm L. Pecor Memorial Plaza.

The Main Street Commission is working on creating a plaque in honor of Pecor, a 60-year Garden Grove resident who died in July at age 92.

The City Council recently approved renaming the parking lot in Pecor's honor, at the urging of the Main Street Commission.

Pecor owned several businesses in Garden Grove, including the Maple Shop on Main Street, and he was one of the founding members of the Main Street Parking District.



CHRIS HAIRE, STAFF

The parking lot is between the Motorsport Cafe and The Globe.



PHOENIX FOOD COMES TO GARDEN GROVE

Chinese eatery **Phoenix Food Boutique** opened in **Garden Grove** a couple of weeks ago – its only location in Orange County.

The restaurant, at 13345 Euclid St, is known for desserts such as the coconut mango roll.

There are 14 locations in Los Angeles, including multiple sites in Alhambra and San Gabriel.

Fans of the new location are already taking to Yelp, posting pictures of milk tea and noodle dishes.

Items are generally un-

der \$10, unless you want a whole duck – that'll set you back \$24.

The company dates back to 1965, when it opened the Phoenix Inn in L.A.'s Chinatown.

Grab your cowboy hat and boots, get ready to dance

Guys, put on your spurs; gals, put on your boots – and get ready to do some old-fashioned line dancing.

The Vogue Dance Club has line dancing parties for experts and beginners every Friday.

While the Vogue Dance Club is typically for members, it allows walk-ins during the dance parties.

Newcomers can also learn line dancing from more experienced participants.

– Chris Haire

If you go:

When: 8 p.m. to midnight Friday

Where: Cedarbrook Dance Center, 12812 Garden Grove Blvd.

Cost: \$12

More info: vogue-danceclub@gmail.com or 714-576-4832



CHARLOTTE BRAY, FILE PHOTO

Vogue Dance Club has line dancing parties where you can learn routines like the one in this photo from Stagecoach Music Festival.

O.C. TAKES STEPS TO MEET MANDATES

Agencies order fewer watering days, other restrictions.

BY AARON ORLOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

You need to cut outdoor watering by half.

You water four days a week? Water two. You have your sprinkler system going off for 10 minutes per zone? Drop it to five.

Today.

That's the only way Orange County is going to meet strict state mandates, approved Tuesday, to cut urban water use 25 percent, said Rob Hunter, the general manager of the Municipal Water District of Orange County, a regional wholesaler.

"Whatever you're doing, cut it by 50 percent," Hunter said. "This is something serious we



need to do, and we need to do it immediately."

Orange County water districts have different mandates for how much they must cut water use, ranging from 8 percent to 36 percent, and each district will decide how to persuade its customers to reduce water use. Tiers were created based on how many gallons of water residential customers use per day, with higher-use districts required to cut more.

Local water agencies already have implement-

SEE MANDATES •

MANDATES:

Tighter restrictions ordered, starting immediately

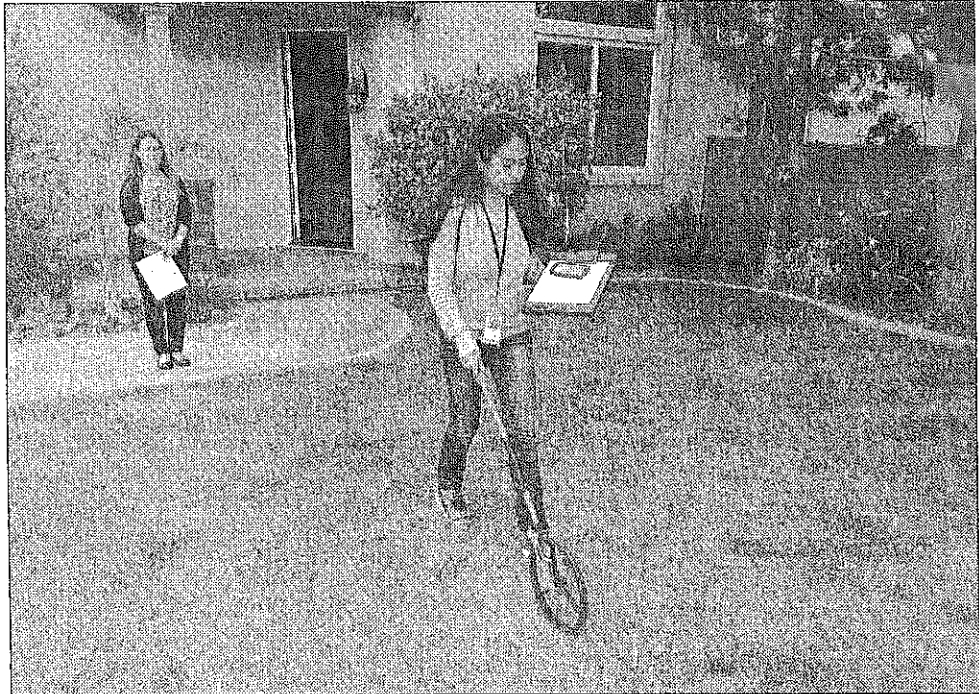
FROM PAGE 1

ed a slew of measures, ranging from restrictions on lawn-watering days and times to awareness-raising campaigns and rebates to tear out grass.

Orange County water districts said Wednesday that they're looking to make those measures more severe by further restricting watering days and pool filling, while doubling down on outreach methods to persuade customers to lower water use with incentives rather than punishment.

The stakes are high. The state's mandate starts in June and continues for nine months. If water districts fail to meet their mandates, they could be fined \$10,000 a day. Districts can't wait to cut water use until July or August because by then, they'll be too far behind to catch up, Hunter said.

Many Orange County water districts have been hesitant to issue fines because they say it doesn't work very well. All the work leading up to a fine - issuing notices, educating the customer on leaks - usually takes care of the problem,



JEFF GRITCHEN, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Margarita Water District Conservation specialist Karla Vitocruz measures the front lawn of a home in Rancho Santa Margarita during a pre-turf inspection on Wednesday. The owners are planning to remove grass in the front and back of their home, replacing it with water-permeable pavers and drought-tolerant plants.

Hunter said.

"The number of fines you give is not indicative of the number of people complying. It's all the work you do leading up to that," Hunter said. "Just because you have zero fines doesn't mean people are out of com-

pliance."

There isn't much more homeowners can do to save water indoors, Hunter said. Low-flow faucets and showerheads and efficient laundry and dishwashing machines are already commonplace. To cut indoor

use more, people are going to have to change behavior by, for instance, taking shorter showers.

Responsible homeowners significantly can reduce outdoor water use just by applying it more efficiently and at the right times, said

Cal Poly Pomona adjunct professor Robert Green, who studies turf grass. But water agencies need simpler tools to persuade customers to reduce water use, such as limiting watering days and giving them incentives to tear out lawns.

"Clearly all this means growing less lawns. Maybe we are coming to the day when there aren't lawns in the front yard," Green said.

But replacing lawns with drought-tolerant plants may not achieve conservation mandates fast enough, especially since new plants take time to sink roots. For immediate results, water agencies will need to limit how often their customers can water, said Dave Feldman, a political science professor at UCI specializing in water management.

Water-thrifty landscapes — that are beautiful, so people readily accept them — and efficient appliances, along with pricing models that punish high use consumers, will help in the long term.

But more immediate measures are needed now.

"It's going to be hard to get there without some

measures that are perceived as painful to some communities and certainly some utilities," Feldman said.

Cutting outdoor water demand may help Orange County meet statewide mandates in the next nine months. But the county also needs to increase supply, said Lacy Kelly, the CEO of the Association of California Cities, Orange County.

Large projects to increase water supplies, Kelly said, such as a planned desalination planned in Huntington Beach, and an expansion of the Groundwater Replenishment System that recycles sewer water by treating it and pumping it underground are needed.

"We need new technology," Kelly said.

Staff writers Brooke Staggs, Tomoya Shimura, Joanna Clay, Lou Pongj, Alejandra Molina, Brian Whitehead, Rebecca Kheel, Sarah de Crescenzo and Jordan Graham contributed to this article.

CONTACT THE WRITER:

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WHAT ORANGE COUNTY IS DOING TO MEET THE CHALLENGE

Here's what some local water agencies are doing so far to meet state mandated water cuts.

CITY OF BUENA PARK

82,400 customers
Buena Park
24 percent mandated cuts
Will discuss restricting watering to two days per week at Tuesday meeting

MESA WATER DISTRICT

108,000 customers
Costa Mesa, Newport Beach
20 percent mandated cuts
District's board will vote on an unknown ordinance May 14

IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

385,000 customers
Irvine, Tustin, Newport Beach, Orange, Lake Forest, Costa Mesa, some unincorporated areas
16 percent mandated cuts
Increasing turf removal rebates and lowering outdoor water allocations to provide only enough for drought-tolerant plants, not turf

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

90,000 customers
Westminster
20 percent mandated cuts
Approved curtailing watering days to three days per week during the summer

TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT

12,700 customers
Rancho Santa Margarita, city of Lake Forest, unincorporated areas in Trabuco Canyon and O'Neill Park
32 percent mandated cuts
The district's board will consider further restricting

landscape irrigation at its May 15 meeting and is working on additional recycling projects.

CITY OF ORANGE

138,640 customers
Orange
28 percent mandated cuts
Considering raising drought restrictions at its next meeting and already has reduced watering at city parks

SERRANO WATER DISTRICT

6,600 customers
Villa Park, Orange
36 percent mandated cuts
District's board limited outdoor watering to twice a week in the summer; starting June 1, customers can't refill pools by more than 1 foot

MOULTON NIGUEL

170,000 customers
Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo, Mission Viejo, Laguna Hills, Dana Point
20 percent mandated cuts
District plans to ratchet up its water shortage contingency plan July 1 to enact penalties for customers who exceed their water budget.

CITY OF ANAHEIM

358,000 customers
Anaheim, unincorporated areas
20 percent mandated cuts
Restricts outdoor watering to two days per week and will issue fines to repeat violators

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

177,000 customers
Garden Grove
28 percent mandated cuts
Restricting watering times and days starting last week; will not adjust rates or rate structure

CITY OF LA HABRA

63,100 customers
La Habra
28 percent mandated cuts
Limiting watering to two days per week, studying increasing or changing rates

SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT

165,000 customers
Rancho Santa Margarita, part of Mission Viejo, Coto de Caza, Ladera, Talega
24 percent mandated cuts
Next week will consider spending more than \$30 million on increasing recycled water and \$1.9 million on inspectors for turf removal and indoor appliance upgrades.

CITY OF SANTA ANA

332,000 customers
Santa Ana
12 percent mandated cuts
Exploring smart meters to help customers manage water use

CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

57,000 customers
Fountain Valley
20 percent mandated cuts
Will consider curtailing watering days at a May 19 meeting

CITY OF FULLERTON

138,000 customers
Fullerton
28 percent mandated cuts
City council will consider ratcheting up its water shortage plan May 19, which would give it the ability to increase rates.

LAGUNA BEACH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

19,100 customers
Laguna Beach
24 percent mandated cuts
Restricting outdoor watering to two days per week starting June 1; will issue fines if necessary

YORBA LINDA WATER DISTRICT

74,000 customers
Yorba Linda, Placentia, Anaheim Hills, Brea
36 percent mandated cuts
Will limit outdoor watering to two days per week in the summer starting June 1 if approved by the board next week

CITY OF BREA WATER

41,000 customers
Brea, unincorporated areas
24 percent mandated cuts
Will consider limiting watering to two days per week at May 19 meeting, and is considering changing its rate structure

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

48,600 customers
Laguna Woods, Mission Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Aliso Viejo
24 percent mandated cuts
Switching the source of irrigation water from potable to recycled water; may reduce allotted water budgets in August

CITY OF TUSTIN

67,700 customers
Tustin, unincorporated North Tustin
28 percent mandated cuts
Does not allow watering from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and proposed a plan this week to limit watering to two days per week for only five minutes per station

Register
May 7, 2015
4 of 4

Police probing Tet Festival embezzlement allegation

BY REBECCA KHEEL
STAFF WRITER

GARDEN GROVE • The Police Department is investigating a complaint accusing two leaders of a Costa Mesa Tet Festival of pocketing \$118,000, a spokesman said Tuesday.

"It's a pretty substantial loss, and any time there is an embezzlement with a substantial loss, we are going to look into it," Garden Grove police Lt. Bob Bogue said.

On Monday, the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California posted a news release accusing President Nina Tran and Treasurer Helen Nguyen of taking \$118,000 from the organization and announcing that both had been removed from their posts.

Neither Tran nor Nguyen have returned phone calls.

The Police Department received a report from the

organization on Friday that included the group's internal investigation, Bogue said.

The internal investigation, which began with a review of the 2013 Tet Festival finances, ended April 24 and found unauthorized use of the organization's charitable funds, according to the news release.

Of the \$118,000 taken between November 2012 and November 2014, \$33,224 has been recovered, the group said.

Thien-Tam Tran, a former secretary for the organization who is among a group of alumni brought in to help with the investigation's fallout, said the issues were isolated to two individuals.

She said the organization will look for ways to be more accountable, possibly by bringing in a financial professional.

"This is a volunteer organization run by students who have a lot on their

plate," Tran said. "We need to let students do what they do best, organizing projects and learning leadership, not putting a huge financial burden on students."

In 2014, UVSA's Tet Festival moved from Garden Grove to Costa Mesa after negotiations to continue the festival in Garden Grove fell apart. During negotiations, the Garden Grove City Council posed questions about the organization's financial transparency.

Councilman Chris Phan said Tuesday that it's too early to judge the accusations. Dina Nguyen, a former Garden Grove councilwoman, also said she's withholding judgment until police investigate.

"Until these people are investigated by some kind of authority, we don't know who all was involved," Nguyen said. "After an investigation, they may be exonerated. Or after an investigation, we may see more people involved."

Register
May 1, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

Massage parlors: To give time for drafts of a new ordinance regulating massage parlors to be sent to any business that might be affected, the City Council tabled a vote until its May 12 meeting on whether to impose the tighter regulations. Because of a recent law passed by state leaders, cities now have more authority to regulate such businesses.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
May 2, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

Politico poll: Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen was one of 21 city leaders across the country to participate in a recent Politico Magazine poll about the political gridlock in Washington. In the poll, 82 percent of the mayors, who spanned 12 states, said they had very little or no confidence in Washington lawmakers.
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
May 4, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

Honor: A parking lot at 12916 Main St. is now the Malcolm L. Pecor Memorial Plaza, after the City Council on Tuesday approved the name change in honor of a 60-year Garden Grove resident who died in July at age 92. The Main Street Commission urged the council to change the name of the lot, between the Motorsport Cafe and The Globe.
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
May 5, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

New chief:

The first day for the city's new fire chief, Tom Schultz, at right, was Wednesday.



The former deputy chief of operations for the Fullerton and Brea fire departments replaces interim Chief Warren Hartley as the Garden Grove department's top firefighter.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
May 6, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

Start-Up Weekend: The city is hosting its first Start-Up Weekend on June 5-7, joining hundreds of other cities across the world to bring entrepreneurs together to pitch and work through various business ideas. Ticket prices vary, but Garden Grove residents get in free with proof of residency. Information: swgardengrove.com.
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707

Register
May 7, 2015

GARDEN GROVE

Strawberry Stomp: May 17 is the last day to register for the annual Strawberry Stomp 5K run and walk, a fundraiser for Garden Grove's Sister City Association scheduled for 8 a.m. May 23. The run goes along Acacia Parkway, Euclid Street and Chapman Avenue. strawberrystomp.com.
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707

Chief rewarded

There's a new sheriff in town. Or, at least, a new fire chief. Tom Schultz, who became Garden Grove's fire chief this week, will make \$186,048 a year under his new contract with the city.

Former Chief David Barlag, who resigned from the post in September amid criticism about his leadership, made about \$205,000. Part of that criticism involved the hiring and employment of then-Mayor Bruce Broadwater's son. Ultimately, firefighters signed a "no confidence" petition against Barlag.



Courtesy photo

Pictured are past and present kings and queens of the annual Strawberry Ball in Garden Grove. This year's ball takes place May 21.

A senior thing: Who'll be queen, who'll be king?

City plans Strawberry Ball in advance of festival

Garden Grove's sweet celebration of senior volunteerism, the Strawberry Ball, marks its 40th anniversary this year.

Hosted by the City of Garden Grove Community Services Department, the gala will be held at the Community Meeting Center, at 11300 Stanford Ave., on May 21 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The special highlight of the gala is the introduction of the King and Queen of the Strawberry Ball,

Hazlette "Tsuki" Tsukiyama, a volunteer for the Garden Grove Police Department, and Yolanda Montañó, from the H. Louis Lake Senior Center.

In addition to being the regal duo, they have each earned the titles of Senior Volunteer of the Year. For 40 years, the City of Garden Grove has selected two special senior volunteers to be honored for the multitude of service hours each provided in

and around the community with various organizations.

The Strawberry Ball is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 per person, and include a prime rib dinner and dancing, as well as music by the "5 Star Band." Advance reservations are required.

For more information, call the H. Louis Lake Senior Center at 714-741-5253 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

'Gratitude Project' bridges gap ***GG police nab burglary suspect***

On Thursday, April 30, exactly 40 years after the Fall of Saigon, Murdy Elementary (14851 Donegal Drive, Garden Grove) students hosted United States and Vietnamese veterans from the Vietnam War at a breakfast.

The breakfast was the culmination of the Gratitude Project, which included hours of work to uncover the histories and stories of the veterans and their families. The students were tasked with identifying evidence that supports the statement "gratitude is present even in the aftermath

of war" and reflected on this through art and writing.

In addition to the veterans and students, distinguished guests included Garden Grove Unified School Board members, Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen and school district administrators.

A short film about the project was shown at the event. Bill Saunders and Dave Marcelletti of the Talking Teaching Network, in collaboration with David Telling, led the effort to document and film the Gratitude Project.

Garden Grove Police officers responded to a residence in the 12500 block of Volkwood Street last week regarding a residential burglary that just occurred.

The officers arrived and found the suspect had entered through an unlocked sliding glass door. The suspect was inside the residence for approximately 30 to 40 minutes before he was detected.

The suspect walked into the bedroom of the young daughter and made physical contact with her. The daughter confronted the suspect and he fled from her bedroom. The daughter then told her father, who called the police.

While investigating this crime scene, one of the officers walked outside to his police car and heard a disturbance from the home directly next door to the first burglary. Two residents exited and said a suspect was in their house. Additional resources were requested to secure

the surrounding area to prevent any escape. The homeowners provided the same description of the suspect as the first victims.

Garden Grove police officers established a perimeter and requested assistance from a K-9 and helicopter. A Tustin Police Department K-9, Orange County Sheriff's Department K-9, and "HB-1" helicopter from the Huntington Beach Police Department, arrived to assist.

While doing yard to yard searches the suspect was located hiding in the backyard of a nearby residence. The suspect failed to comply and the Tustin Police K-9 was used to take him into custody. The suspect fought with the K-9 and a Garden Grove police officer deployed a taser to take the suspect into custody. The suspect was treated for his injuries and was later transported to the Orange County Jail.

The suspect was identified as Noe Gonzalez of Garden Grove.



Tony on the Town

By Tony Cheong

I could say a lot of things about new Garden Grove Police Chief Tom Schultz. He's been in the business for more than 30 years. He has a list of credentials longer than Shaquille O'Neal's arm.

A gal such as myself, from the Bronx, has been accused more than once of having a hard heart.

You know what softens it? Every. Single. Time?

Couples that went to their high school proms together and later got married. High school sweethearts to the end. So I'm

on Schultz's side, because he's been married to his high school sweetie for 27 years.

Awww.

Speaking of proms, Westminster High School is gearing up for its special night, as well as graduation day.

Check out future editions of the Westminster Journal — one of Orange County Neighborhood Newspapers' many weeklies — for news and pictures of these seminal events in the lives of teens.

And boys, treat the ladies well. Be gentleman. I won't go into my prom story but suffice to say...ugh.

I guess that's why I'm not married to my high school sweetheart. He wasn't sweet, and I'm not even sure he had a heart.

Into cars?

Don't miss the Stanton Spring Car Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 16 at Stanton Park, 7800 Katella Ave. in Stanton.

All cars are welcome. There's a \$25 charge. Proceeds benefit the Stanton Community Foundation.

Do you have a comment, question or news tip? You can reach Tony at tonyontown@yahoo.com.

Orange County News
May 6, 2015

Local rep pushes for tax breaks

Under SB 268, middle class families would get a break

State Sen. Janet Nguyen is proud to announce that the Senate's Governance and Finance Committee has unanimously approved her bill SB 268, which provides a tax break to more working parents.

Specifically, the bill would allow working families with incomes of \$250,000 a year or less to receive a deduction in the qualifying expenses used to calculate child tax credits. Under SB 268, the qualifying income will increase from \$100,000 to \$250,000, thereby increasing the number of families eligible to receive tax credits for child care costs.

With the cost of child care reaching an average of \$12,068 a year for one infant, Sen. Nguyen acknowledges that families are struggling to afford child care, which impacts their ability to go back to work or maintain a job.

"As a working mother of two, I understand the financial pressures that come with child care expenses," said Nguyen, who represents Garden Grove and Westminster. "Securing quality care for our children while we are at work is of utmost importance for any parent. By expanding this credit, we also expand this opportunity for more families."

Giving more working families a tax break will help alleviate the high cost of child care in a state that has a high cost of living. Nguyen hopes to assist all families, especially those where both parents work and where there is no other option but to pay for childcare.

"With the cost of child care at approximately 20 percent of the total household income, I hope that SB 268 will aid working parents, especially young professionals and mothers so that they can have access to affordable child care and are not forced to quit their jobs to care for their children," said Nguyen.

The First 5 Association of California, Learning Care Work, Inc. and North Valley Caring Services have all expressed support for SB 268. The bill will now be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee. If it passes, the bill will then go to the Senate floor for a vote by all members.

Community Calendar

Ongoing

Overachievers, check this out
Chamber holds Friday meetings
The Garden Grove Chamber's
Governmental Affairs Committee
meets the second Friday of the
month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the
Community Meeting Center, 11300
Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For
more information, call the chamber
at 714-638-7950.

Grief support

The Grief Share Support Group is
for mothers who have lost children
of every age.
The group meets Thursday evenings
at 12831 Olive St., Garden Grove.
For more information, call 714-892-
1520 or 714-343-7516.

Learn about Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's Association of
Orange County hosts a support
group to provide an opportunity to
meet other caregivers and families,
share experiences and exchange
ideas. These meetings are free
and open to all caregivers and
family members of individuals with
dementia. All groups listed are
in compliance with chapter and
national standards. This is a faith-
based meeting and may include
prayer or pastoral speaker, and will
take place at 1 p.m. Saturdays
at Christ Cathedral, 12141 Lewis
St. in Garden Grove. For more
information, call Peggy Woelke at
714-634-2161.

Dance Center hosts social
Join the staff of the Cedarbrook

Dance Center for nights of square
dancing, line dancing, round danc-
ing (pre-choreographed social
dancing) and salsa. The Dance
Center is at 12812 Garden Grove
Blvd. For more information on
classes, call Eileen Silvia at 949-
637-4169.

Eco-friendly storytime

Family storytime all through the
summer will highlight books about
our environment and the animals
that live in rivers, oceans and icy
places. All ages are encouraged to
attend at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at
the Garden Grove Regional Library,
11200 Stanford Ave. in Garden
Grove. For more information, call
714-530-0711.

Rotary Club to meet

The Rotary Club of Garden Grove
meets at 12:10 p.m. Wednesdays
at The Marriott Hotel, at Chapman
Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in
Garden Grove.

GG Kiwanis to meet

The Kiwanis Club of Garden Grove
hosts dinner meetings at 7 p.m.
Thursdays at Kiwanisland, 9840
Larson Ave. Social hour begins at 6
p.m. For more information, call 714-
892-7267.

School Board to meet

The Garden Grove Unified School
District holds its regular meetings
at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays
of each month at the district offices,
10331 Stanford Ave. in Garden
Grove.

Register
May 5, 2015

Tet Fest sponsor alleges embezzlement of \$118,000

President, treasurer of
the student group are
released from their
volunteer posts.

BY ROXANA KOPETMAN
STAFF WRITER

The student group that sponsored the Tet Festival in Costa Mesa ousted two top leaders and filed a police report alleging suspected embezzlement of over \$100,000, according to a statement posted on its website Monday.

The Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California removed President Nina Tran and Treasurer Helen Nguyen from their volunteer posts, according to a report on its website that was also put out on

Twitter.

Tran and Nguyen could not be reached for comment Monday night.

The UVSA alleges \$118,000 was stolen between November 2012 and November 2014, with \$33,224 recovered since.

Other UVSA leaders could not be reached Monday.

The internal investigation, which began with a review of the 2013 Tet Festival finances, ended April 24 and found unauthorized use of UVSA charitable funds.

Garden Grove police took a report on Monday from UVSA, claiming it was a victim of embezzlement and grand theft, but would not comment further.

CONTACT THE WRITER:
rkopetman@ocregister.com

MAN, 23, ARRESTED IN ATTEMPTED RAPE

GARDEN GROVE • Police say a 23-year-old male entered a young girl's bedroom Friday night, made physical contact with her, and hid out in a couple of homes before being tracked down by a K-9 unit and arrested.

Garden Grove police arrested Noe Gonzalez of Garden Grove early Saturday morning on suspicion of burglary and attempted rape, said Lt. Thomas DaRe.

Police received a 911 call just before midnight regarding a residential burglary on Volkwood Street.

When officers arrived, they found an unlocked sliding glass door at a home, which they believe is how the suspect entered. Police said the suspect remained inside the residence for about 30 to 40 minutes before he was detected.

DaRe said the suspect walked into the bedroom of a young girl and made physical contact with her.

The suspect fled after the girl confronted him. She immediately notified her father, who called the police, DaRe said.

While at the scene, a police officer heard a disturbance from a home next door. Two residents came out and told police officers that the suspect was in their house.

Police set up a perimeter and requested assistance from the Tustin police K-9 unit and a helicopter from the Huntington Beach Police Department.

They found Gonzalez hiding in the backyard of another nearby residence.

DaRe said the suspect failed to comply, and a K-9 was used to attempt to subdue him.

He said the suspect fought with the K-9, which

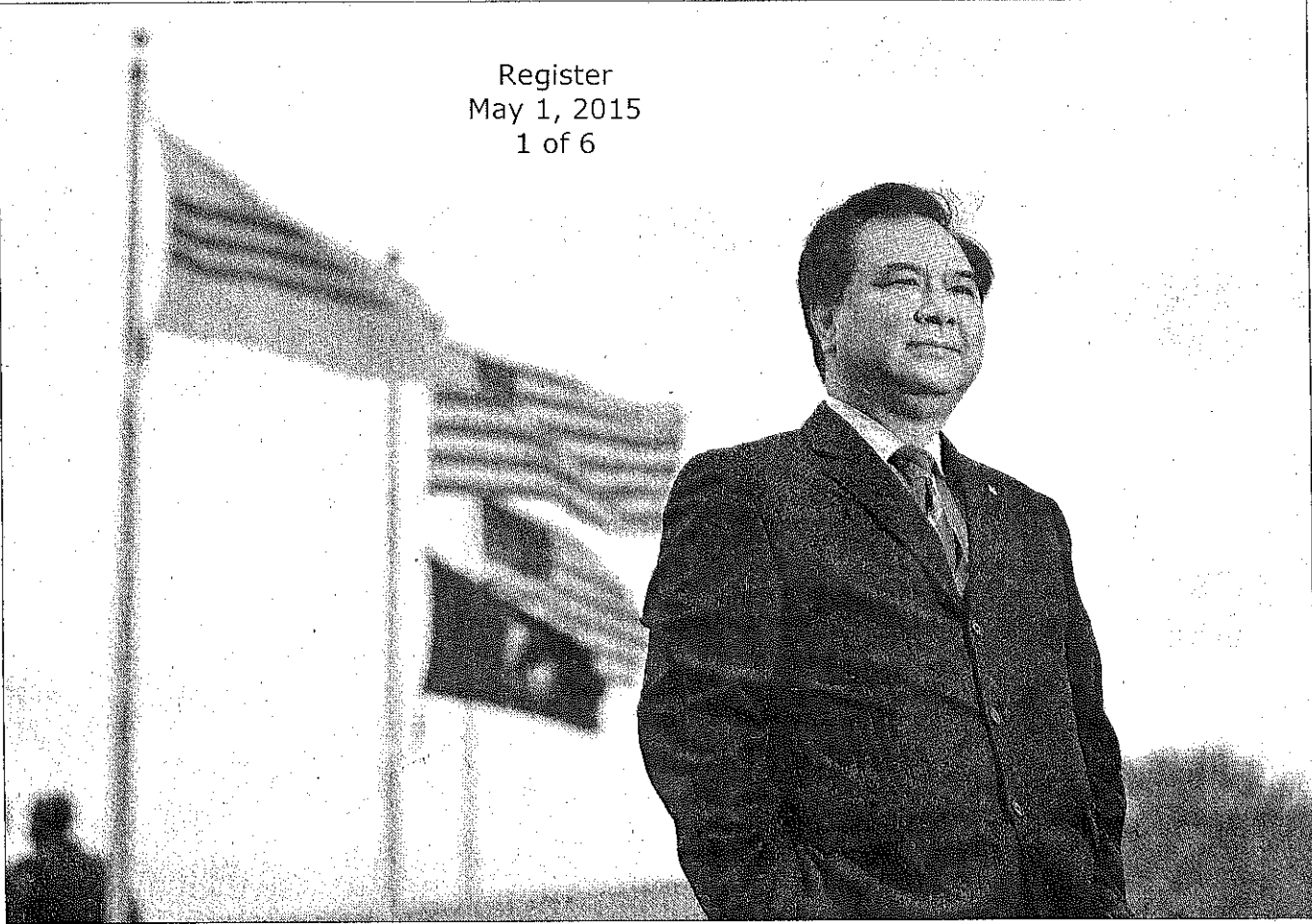
led to a Garden Grove police officer deploying an electronic stun gun to take the suspect into custody.

Gonzalez was treated for his injuries and later transported to Orange County Jail.

— *Joseph Pimentel*

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Van Tran immigrated to the United States after being evacuated by the U.S. Army one week before the fall of Saigon. Tran was elected to the Garden Grove City Council with the highest number of votes in city history and became the first Vietnamese American ever seated in a state Legislature.

JEFF GRITCHEN, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BIG MUSCLE IN LITTLE SAIGON



Vietnamese Americans are proving a more powerful political force in Orange County than any ethnic group before them.



**MARTIN
WISCKOL**
STAFF
WRITER

Van Tran's 2004 election to the state Assembly was as a shot across the political bow, serving notice that Little Saigon's electorate had come of age and would be emerging in ways unprecedented by any other ethnic group in recent history.

With Vietnamese American voters as his base, Tran trounced his well-known white opponent in the Republican primary by 14 per-

centage points and cruised to a general election victory by 21 points.

When he was sworn into the Assembly, Tran became the first Vietnamese American ever seated in a state Legislature.

"It elevated the political clout of the Vietnamese community and people started paying attention to

REMEMBERING FALL OF SAIGON

Thousands gather to commemorate 40th anniversary at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park
News 15

SEE VOTERS •

VOTERS: Community votes for its own, regardless of party

FROM PAGE 1

the community," said Linda Trinh Vo of UC Irvine's Asian American studies department.

The groundswell, building for years, shows no sign of abating. Since Tran's victory, Orange County has elected a Vietnamese American to the state Senate, two to the county Board of Supervisors, one as county clerk-recorder and more than a dozen to city councils and school boards.

Vietnamese American voters have consistently shown they are more concerned with electing fellow Vietnamese than they are with party affiliation, regularly crossing party lines to vote for one of their own. And when Vietnamese are on the ballot, Little Saigon's voter turnout can dwarf that of other ethnic groups.

In January's special election for county supervisor, Latinos had nearly 50 percent more of the district's registered voters than Vietnamese. But Vietnamese cast 44 percent of the ballots and Latinos accounted for just 19 percent, according to an analysis by Political Data Inc.

Andrew Do, then a Garden Grove councilman, edged the better-known former Sen. Lou Correa for the win, despite splitting the vote with two other Vietnamese candidates.

Latinos comprise more than a third of the population in 12 Orange County cities, yet six of those cities lack a single Latino on their city councils. But Vietnamese are well represented — sometimes better represented than non-Latino whites. That's especially true in Garden Grove, where Vietnamese are 28 percent of the population but 60 percent of the City Council.

THE PIONEER

When Vietnam-born businessman Tony Lam was elected to the Westminster City Council in 1992, Little Saigon's electoral power base was in its nascent stages. Just 9 percent of Westminster voters were Vietnamese, meaning Lam received more votes from outside Little Saigon than within it.

Lam beat Margie Rice by 132 votes to become the county's first Vietnamese elected official. His campaign spending came to \$10 per vote and she spent \$1 per vote, according to an analysis by Vietnamese American politics researcher Christian Collet, a former UC Irvine political scientist now at International Christian University in

regardless of party

Register
May 1, 2015
2 of 6

Tokyo.

Among those working on Lam's campaign was a 28-year-old Tran.

"He spent a lot of resources courting mainstream voters with overarching issues such as being pro-business, anti-tax and anti-crime," Tran recalled.

The Vietnamese community wouldn't become a significant factor in elections for another decade. Refugees' attention was still focused on basic issues of survival and acclimation, UC Irvine's Vo said. Additionally, just 39 percent planned on staying in the U.S., according to a 1994 poll by Collet.

But the refugees became more settled, their offspring became adults and it became clear that there wouldn't be a democratic Vietnam to return to any time soon. Within a decade, more than half said they planned on staying. Attention turned increasingly to local politics.

Spurring growing voter participation was Tran.

With a résumé that includes a degree in political science from UC Irvine and stints as a congressional and state Senate aide in the 1980s, the Republican Tran joined Democrat Chuyen Nguyen and others in 1994 to form the Vietnamese American Voters Coalition.

VAVC registered and educated voters. Working hand-in-glove with Little Saigon's ubiquitous Vietnamese-lan-

guage media – about two dozen TV and radio stations, and three daily papers – Tran’s group helped create a political vehicle. And fueling the vehicle were impassioned, firsthand memories of tyranny in the homeland.

THE RED THREAT

When protesters staged a 53-day siege of the Hi-Tek video shop in 1999, Tony Lam was nowhere to be seen. The target of demonstrators’ fury was the Westminster store’s display of communist Vietnam’s flag and of revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh.

Lam said he steered clear of the fray on the advice of the city attorney. But his absence prompted protesters to accuse him of being a communist sympathizer and would lead him to leave political office in 2002.

“The community wanted and needed leadership from Tony in this crisis and he failed to provide it,” Tran said. “It did not help Tony when non-Vietnamese politicians such as (Rep.) Ed Royce, (Assemblyman) Ken Maddox, (state Sen.) Joe Dunn and even (District Attorney) Tony Rackauckas came to the protest site and spoke in solidarity with the protesters.”

The watershed incident made it clear that the issue of communism was not only in play for local officials, but was an essential component when it came to voters in Little Saigon.

Tran, who became the county’s second elected Vietnamese official by winning a seat on the Garden Grove City Council in 2000, pushed successfully for a so-called communist-free zone.

The resolution had more bark than bite – it simply asked dignitaries from Vietnam to give advance notice of their visits and pay for police security. But it was the kind of measure that recently registered voters in Little Saigon rallied around.

“Even though these are local elected offices, the community expects their politicians to have anti-communist positions,” Vo said.

That reflex became automatic for the wave of Vietnamese American officials who followed, many of whom were Tran protégés. Well-known throughout Little Saigon for his influence and political network, Tran mentored Andy Quach, who was elected to the Westminster council in 2002, and Janet Nguyen, whom Tran appointed to two Garden Grove commissions and then endorsed in her successful 2004 City Council bid.

Once elected, Vietnamese American officials have consistently reflected the community’s anti-communist sentiment with resolutions endorsing the use of the flag of the former South Vietnam, appearances at demonstrations outside meetings of officials visiting from Vietnam and letters to federal officials concerning human rights in Vietnam, among other gestures.

POLITICAL POWERHOUSE

As with most political movements, there were some bumps along the way.

In 2005, Quach agreed to pay \$11,500 in fines for illegally accepting cash contributions and improperly voting on a project proposed by a major donor. Voters were forgiving and overwhelmingly re-elected him in 2006.

Tan Nguyen, who ran a 2006 congressional campaign independent of Tran’s network, mailed Latino voters a warning that they could be jailed if they voted illegally. He was found guilty of obstructing justice in the subsequent investigation into whether he illegally tried to suppress the Latino vote and served 10 ½ months in federal prison.

But the electoral muscle of the community continued to grow, even when there wasn’t a Vietnamese candidate running. In 2006, Tom Harman narrowly won the county’s coastal state Senate seat despite being outspent 3-2, due to being the only candidate to court Vietnamese speakers.

When there was a Vietnamese candidate, Little Saigon’s political power was more dramatic – as demonstrated when

SEE VOTERS •

VOTERS

FROM PAGE 14

Janet Nguyen ran in a 2007 election to fill a vacant county supervisor seat.

By that point, Tran and Nguyen had a falling out for reasons that have yet to be publicly detailed. Tran threw his weight behind little-known school trustee Trung Nguyen in an effort to topple his former protégé.

Conventional wisdom was that the two Republican Nguyens would neutralize the Vietnamese vote, opening the door for either Democratic former Assemblyman Tom Umberg, the best-known name in the race, or Carlos Bustamante, a favorite of GOP leaders

But the Nguyens finished in a virtual dead heat for first, with a court determining that Janet Nguyen won by three votes. There were 20 percent more Latinos than Vietnamese registered to vote in the district, but Vietnamese cast nearly four times as many ballots. While Vietnamese accounted for 25 percent of the district's voters, they made up 45 percent of the ballots cast.

ONGOING TRANSITION

In February, the backlash came fast and hard against newly elected Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen.

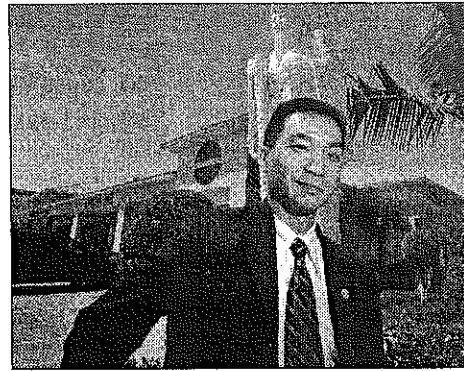
In an increasingly common show of anti-communism, his four fellow council members signed a letter urging Riverside to rescind its sister-city relationship with Can Tho, Vietnam. But Nguyen declined, saying one city shouldn't tell another what to do.

Nguyen was denounced as pro-communist and there was talk of a recall. Nguyen immediately responded with a news release in two languages, emphasizing his opposition to communism in Vietnam and to Garden Grove having a Vietnamese sister city.

"One has to conclude that a visible and firm anti-communist position still matters," Collet said of Nguyen's response.

But Nguyen's press release called on residents to focus on purging corruption from the city. That effort to shift anti-communist energy to domestic issues signaled a new generation's approach to politics, Vo said.

Tony Lam, 78, retired from politics more than a decade ago. Van Tran, 50, is attending to an international busi-



H. LORREN AU JR., FILE PHOTO

Despite campaign malfeasance and improper voting on a project, Westminster City Councilman Andy Quach was re-elected in 2006.

ness consultancy enterprise after losing a congressional race in 2010 and a state Board of Equalization bid in 2014. Janet Nguyen, 38, was elected to the state Senate last year.

All are Vietnamese-born Republicans, elected largely by fellow Vietnam natives. While Nguyen's political career is ascendent, Bao Nguyen represents the next phase of Vietnamese American officials.

Bao Nguyen, 34, was born in an Indonesian refugee camp after his parents left Vietnam. His first language is English. He's a Democrat and a union organizer, and he sees the legacy of communist Vietnam living on in future generations through a dedication to honest government and human rights everywhere.

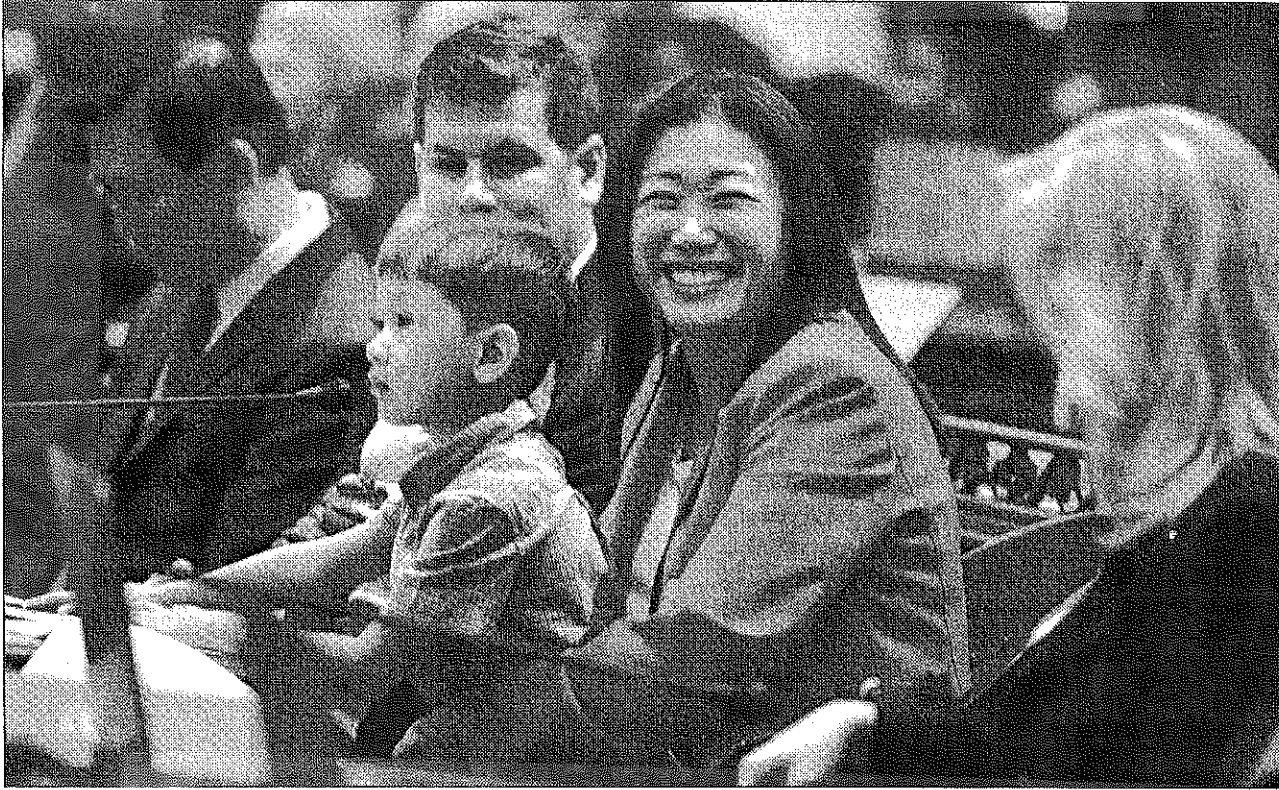
"If you look at millennials, we have very high expectations for government," he said, noting that communism is a less emotional issue for Vietnamese Americans of his generation. "It shouldn't be something that is only about Vietnam."

Unlike their elders, Orange County's Vietnamese Americans under 37 are more likely to be registered as Democrats than Republicans. Those under 30 are more likely to be born in the U.S. than abroad.

With the population is increasingly assimilating, Collet expects their level of engagement to continue and their politicians to rise to new heights.

"One has to assume that a breakthrough at the statewide and federal level is very much on the horizon," he said. "A matter of when, not whether."

CONTACT THE WRITER:
mwlsckol@cregister.com



Janet Nguyen received a big boost from Van Tran when Tran appointed her to two Garden Grove commissions and then endorsed her for a successful 2004 City Council bid. She won a state Senate seat in 2014.

STEVE YEATER, AP FILE PHOTO



JOSHUA SUDOCK, FILE PHOTO

Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen's defiance of the Vietnamese community in not denouncing Riverside's sister-city relationship with a Vietnamese city was a clear sign of the generational shift in Little Saigon.

GOP NOT A LOCK FOR VIETNAMESE

Vietnamese voters in Orange County have tended to favor Republicans, but there are signs that has more to do with circumstance than a deep-rooted affinity for the GOP.

There are more Vietnamese registered as Republicans than Democrats in Orange County, but the opposite is true in Santa Clara County's sizable Vietnamese community.

Republicans largely control Orange County, and Democrats largely control Santa Clara County. Experts say that when Vietnamese arrived in the U.S., they identified with the party in power because that was who could best help them.

"The political environment affects how you conduct yourself," said former GOP Assemblyman Van Tran, who once endorsed Democratic San Jose Councilwoman Madison Nguyen.

In 2004, Tran took advantage of that malleable partisanship.

Democrats had been gaining ground among the county's Vietnamese. By 2002, 38 percent were Republican, 32 percent were Democrats and 26 per-

cent had no party preference. Tran's biggest hurdle to being elected to the heavily GOP Assembly seat was making it through the Republican primary.

His massive voter registration drive - which Little Saigon heard about from the two dozen Vietnamese-language television and radio stations as well as the three Vietnamese daily papers - included efforts to get Democrats to re-register as Republicans so they could vote for him in the primary.

By Election Day, there were 7,500 more Vietnamese registered as Republicans than two years before and 500 fewer Vietnamese Democrats, according to political scientist Christian Collet.

But Democrats are again gaining ground in Little Saigon and the remaining Republicans are not reluctant to cross the aisle.

In the 2012 presidential election, five of the county's 24 GOP cities favored Barack Obama. Two of those were the heavily Vietnamese cities of Westminster and Garden Grove.

- Martin Wisckol

Grammy winners to entertain thousands at Cinco de Mayo

SANTA ANA • More than 150,000 people are expected to head to downtown Santa Ana this weekend for



ALEJANDRA MOLINA
STAFF WRITER

the 16th annual Cinco de Mayo Festival that will be headlined by Grammy Award-winning musicians.

Several cities throughout the county are celebrating Cinco de Mayo, but Santa Ana's event is the largest, bringing people from across Southern California to Orange County.

As Gerardo Mouet, executive director of the city's parks, recreation and community services agency, put it, "There's nothing at this level."

Not to be confused with Mexican Independence Day on Sept. 16, Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican army's victory over France during the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

Tonight, festivalgoers can board rides and play carnival games along Third Street. The carnival will be Saturday and Sunday as well. The street fair on Fourth Street begins at noon on Saturday.

Several organizations will have booths, including:

Cinco de Mayo in Santa Ana

Tonight

5-11: Carnival rides and games

Saturday

Noon-10 p.m.: Food booths

Noon-midnight: Carnival rides and games

Noon-8 p.m.: Entertainment

8 p.m.: Graciela Beltran

Sunday

Noon-9 p.m.: Food booths

Noon-10 p.m.: Carnival rides and games

Noon-6:45 p.m.: Entertainment

6:45 p.m.: City welcome

7 p.m.: Conjunto Primavera

the Bowers Museum, the Santa Ana Zoo and the registrar of voters.

Saturday, Graciela Beltran - known as "*La Reyna del Pueblo*" - will perform on the main stage on Fourth and Mortimer streets. Beltran's releases have topped numerous Billboard Latin categories.

Conjunto Primavera - who in 2014 was awarded the Latin Grammy award for *Nortefío Album* - is headlining Sunday's main stage beginning at 7 p.m., right after the Santa Ana City Council greets the audience.

Sunday is expected to bring the largest crowds of the weekend, Mouet said. The event is free.

Cinco de Mayo across O.C.

Anaheim's annual festival and carnival is a four-day celebration that began at 5 p.m. Thursday at La Palma Park, 100 N. Harbor Blvd. Mariachis, food and vendor booths and games will highlight the free event that runs through Sunday.

Information: 714-765-5191.

San Clemente's 25th annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday at Max Berg Plaza Park, 1100 Calle Puente. The event features mariachi music, ballet folklorico, cumbia music and salsa dancers. There will also be carnival game booths and a vendor area.

Tustin is hosting a Cinco de Mayo celebration 3-5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Tustin Family & Youth Center, 14722 Newport Ave. The free event will feature game booths, music, raffles and performances.

Information: 714-573-3370.

A Cinco de Mayo fiesta is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday at the Louis Lake Senior Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. Festivities include traditional food, dancing and entertainment.

Information: 714-741-5253.

Brown Lawns Loom This Summer in California

Brown lawns loom this summer in California as tough water restrictions take hold amid drought

By AMY TAXIN

The Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE, Calif.

It was with more hope than accuracy that the founder of this Orange County city picked the name Garden Grove in 1874 for what was little more than an open plain under the sweltering Southern California sun.

More than a century later, this middle-class suburb of 175,000 people is true to its name, with parks, trees and lush lawns ??? for now at least.

In Garden Grove and other communities across the state, residents can expect to see their gardens shrivel and lawns go brown this summer as mandatory water-conservation rules take effect amid California's punishing four-year drought.

State regulators Tuesday ordered communities to slash water use anywhere from 8 to 36 percent, with the goal of cutting overall consumption by one-quarter. And since nearly half of residential water in California goes to lawns, turning off sprinklers will be one of the first orders of business.

"We can meet these targets by putting the lawns on a water diet now," said Felicia Marcus, head of the State Water Resources Control Board.

Still, in Garden Grove and other places rich and poor, people who paid dearly to make their lawns beautiful are loath to say goodbye to the grass.

Last summer, Garden Grove residents used even more water than usual after Gov. Jerry Brown asked people to voluntarily conserve. And while the city has banned watering lawns during the day, it sends fewer than a dozen notices a month to violators.

Reaching the city's mandatory new target of cutting water use by 28 percent is doable but will require "a cultural change" in a community wedded to green yards in the front and fruit trees and vegetable gardens in the back, said William Murray, Garden Grove's public works director.

"You are talking about a huge change that needs to be made, and unfortunately in a significantly short period of time," he said.

At least one tree-lined neighborhood in Garden Grove shows the path to conservation. Lawns have been allowed to turn yellow, and some of the greenest yards are artificial turf, made possible by the city's recent easing of restrictions against fake grass.

"I used to have the greenest grass in the whole neighborhood," boasted Mike Meza, a 36-year-old

longshoreman who said he misses gardening with his sons. "Lately we've just been letting it go."

He has scaled back watering to twice a month, tells his kids to keep their showers to four minutes and bangs on the bathroom door when his 14-year-old takes too long.

Garden Grove was a farming community in its early years, then took part in the housing boom that followed World War II. Much of the city is lined with suburban tract homes.

More recently, officials have encouraged development of hotels and restaurants catering to tourists visiting nearby Disneyland, and a big indoor water park and resort is under construction and expected to open early next year.

Because of the drought, rules against artificial turf are being rolled back around the state, and laws have been passed to make it easier to create drought-friendly landscapes of rocks, cactus and other water-stingy plants.

One of the largest water providers in Southern California recently doubled a rebate program encouraging homeowners and golf course owners to rip out grass, receiving a resounding response.

"That doesn't mean getting rid of lawns everywhere. It means keeping them only where they are useful, not just as an ornament, but a place for kids to play, to have a picnic, to have dogs run around," said Ellen Hanak, director of the water policy center at the Public Policy Institute of California.

The water resources board is empowered to enforce drought restrictions but has so far opted not to use its authority to issue fines of up to \$10,000 a day for cities that don't comply. State regulators say cities like Garden Grove can learn from other communities that have made big cutbacks.

For example, Santa Cruz residents who overwater their lawns or fail to fix leaks are sent to "water school," in the same way that bad drivers have to go to traffic school.

Sacramento has deployed dozens of city employees to warn residents who water their lawns on the wrong day, and residents are encouraged to inform on their neighbors.

The state government is also ramping up programs to reduce water use. Lawn removal programs and rebates for customers who replace water-guzzling faucets and household appliances are expanding under an executive order by the governor.

Nirappil reported from Sacramento, Calif.

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CONTACT:
Sgt. John Reynolds (714) 741-5814
Garden Grove Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

ELGIN TO OFFICIATE FIRST POLICE MEMORIAL AS CHIEF

At last year's Call to Duty Police Memorial, then Captain Todd Elgin served as emcee for the annual service that pays respects to Garden Grove's five officers killed in the line of duty. This year, Elgin returns to commemorate the event's 28th year, now as Garden Grove's newest Chief of Police. The public memorial takes place on Thursday, May 14, at 5:00 p.m., in front of Police Headquarters, at 11301 Acacia Parkway.

Family, friends, colleagues, and law enforcement personnel throughout Southern California will join the community in honoring Myron Trapp, Andy Reese, Donald Reed, Michael Rainford, and Howard Dallies, Jr., known as Garden Grove's Fallen Five.

"While many of our department members didn't know these officers, there's a deep and timeless connection to what these five men stood for, and in what they believed. I see that every time one of my officers goes out on duty," says Chief Elgin.

This year's guest speaker is Clarke Paris, a US Navy veteran and retired police sergeant for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. A decorated officer and recognized author on police issues, Paris created an award-winning documentary on police stress and suicide prevention called, "The Pain Behind The Badge" in 2007. Since then, he has presented seminars on the subject to tens of thousands of police officers and military personnel.

-more-

ELGIN TO OFFICIATE FIRST POLICE MEMORIAL AS CHIEF
2-2-2

The ringing of the Memorial Bell for each of the fallen officers complements a stirring 21-gun salute, riderless horse, and formal presentations to the surviving families. The Bolsa Grande High School Concert Choir will perform musical selections in honor of the occasion.

The following street closures will be in effect on May 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.: east and west bound Acacia Parkway, from Garden Grove City Hall to 9th Street; and Civic Center Drive, from Garden Grove Boulevard to Acacia Parkway.

For details on the memorial, contact the Garden Grove Police Department at (714) 741-5901.

#



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

CONTACT: Juan Medina (714) 741-5242
H. Louis Lake Senior Center

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

SENIORS STEP UP FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PARADE WALK

The H. Louis Lake Senior Center is making the morning walk even more fun by inviting seniors to participate in the Strawberry Festival Parade Walk. This comfortable, two-mile walk takes place on Saturday, May 23, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Participants should arrive at the Senior Center, at 11300 Stanford Avenue, by 8:00 a.m.

The walk begins at the corner of Chapman Avenue and 9th Street, and heads west on Chapman Avenue, then turns south onto Euclid toward Stanford Avenue to the Senior Center. The official Strawberry Festival Parade begins at 10:00 a.m.

Signs-up will be taken at the front office. Please contact the H. Louis Lake Senior Center at (714) 741-5253, or visit during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

May 7, 2015

1. Calendar of Events
2. Zoning Administrator Cancellation Notice for the May 14, 2015 meeting.
3. Thank you letter from Mr. Howard Dudley for the installation of a speed radar trailer on Nieta Drive.
4. Cities Advocates dated May 1 and 6, 2015.

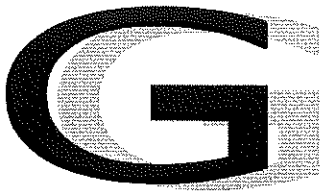


GARDEN GROVE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 7, 2015 – May 19, 2015

Thursday	May 7	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
Friday	May 8	7:00 p.m.- 10:30 p.m.	Angels vs. Astros coordinated by the Customer Service Coaches, Angel Stadium 2000 E. Gene Autry Way, Anaheim, CA
Saturday	May 9	8:00 a.m.- Noon	Project "GO" Graffiti Off, Municipal Service Center
Tuesday	May 12	5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception for New Fire Chief Community Meeting Center, B Room
		6:30 p.m.	Sanitary District Special Meeting, Council Chamber
		6:30 p.m.	Successor Agency Meeting, Council Chamber
		6:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting, Council Chamber
Wednesday	May 13	2:00 p.m.	Oversight Board Meeting, Council Chamber
Thursday	May 14		Casual Day – Military Camo Day
		9:00 a.m.	Main Street Commission Meeting, Council Chamber
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 rd Floor Training Room CANCELLED
		3:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.	Royal Crown Reception hosted by the H. Louis Lake Senior Center Community Meeting Center, A Room
		5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.	28 th Annual "Call to Duty" Police Memorial Memorial Plaza, 11301 Acacia Parkway
Friday	May 15		City Hall Closed
		3:00 p.m.	Special City Council Meeting, Council Chamber
Tuesday	May 19	7:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.	City of Garden Grove Blood Drive hosted by The American Red Cross Community Meeting Center, AB Room




GARDEN GROVE

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 14, 2015**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Third Floor Training Room, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled pursuant to the attached Cancellation Notice.

DATED: May 7, 2015


SUSAN EMERY
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

RECEIVED
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2015 APR 30 A 11: 58

April 27, 2015

Honorable Bao Nguyen, Mayor
City of Garden Grove
11222 Acacia Parkway
Garden Grove, CA 92840-5208

Dear Mayor Nguyen

Thank you and those who got the radar trailer set up here on Nieta Drive. Its presence had a calming effect on most of the drivers using the street. Though it has been gone for several days most drivers are slowing their speed.

Thank you again for your assistance.



Howard Dudley
12061 Nieta Drive
Garden Grove, CA 92840-3523

714-638-1529

CA Cities Advocate



LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

May 1, 2015
Issue #43

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 5: Assembly Speaker's Affordable Housing Bill Passes Its First Committee
- Page 6: Bills in Committee: May 4-8
U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Long-Anticipated Regulations for Rail Cars Transporting Hazardous Materials
- Page 7: GASB 68 Implementation Guide Now Available
California City Solutions: Beverly Hills Develops Civic Engagement Program to Build Trust and Engagement
- Page 9: Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Funding Availability Announcement
Join NLC's Big Ideas for Cities in Los Angeles or Via Webcast

Legislative Action Day Brings Hundreds of City Officials to the Capitol to Advocate for City Priorities

Attendees Briefed on Transportation, Housing, Economic Development and Other Proposals

The League's annual Legislative Action day started on Wednesday morning with a policy update for the assembled city officials on the major pending issues affecting cities. League President and Scotts Valley Council Member Stephany Aguilar welcomed the delegates and thanked them for their commitment to their city and for making the trip to Sacramento for this important event.

For more, see Page 2.



Summit Brings Together Environmental Experts, Public Safety and State Officials to Discuss the Impact of California's Illegal Marijuana Grow Sites

Illegal Growing Uses Significant Water, Pollutes Watersheds

Room 127 in the Capitol was filled to capacity on Wednesday as legislators and their staff attended an almost two-hour discussion on the dangers of illegal marijuana growing in California. These dangers comprise the environmental effects and public safety threats that result from these operations. The event came about from a resolution on this issue passed by the League General Assembly in 2014 calling for collective action between stakeholders including the state, local governments and environmental organizations, to address these effects.

For more, see Page 3.



A New Arrow in the Quiver: League Rolls-Out New Mobile App to Connect City Officials Instantly with Legislators

City Officials Can Join Exclusive League Advocacy Team

On Wednesday during Legislative Action Day, the League rolled-out a new advocacy tool that will enable city officials to more easily play an active role in shaping state policy. This new advocacy app will help the League mobilize our city officials to quickly advocate as a united voice on key city-related pieces of legislation. The app will push out action alerts and enable users to take direct action right from their mobile devices. *For more, see Page 5.*

"We come together to bring the voice of cities to the State Capitol. While our cities are all unique, our core priorities are united. When we join together we are powerful," Aguilar told the audience.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie informed cities on the Department of Finance's proposed changes to the redevelopment dissolution process that attempts to change the rules after the fact. McKenzie explained that this proposal would undo court cases and change other statutes upon which local governments relied on when making decisions, and encouraged attendees to ask their legislators to reject the harmful elements.

McKenzie also reported on the drought meeting he attended, along with 15 mayors from throughout the state, with Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday. The Governor and mayors discussed water conservation realities and strategies including the impacts of the recent California 4th District Court of Appeal ruling that the city of San Juan Capistrano's tired water rate system is unconstitutional. McKenzie stated that without tiered rates, water agencies may need to impose more severe penalties for water waste.

The League distributed four fact sheets on major issues for city officials to use in meetings with their legislators. These addressed:

- Transportation and Public Works;
- Economic Development and Redevelopment;
- Affordable Housing; and
- Medical Marijuana.

Legislators Brief City Officials on Major Issues

City officials had the opportunity to hear from four legislators involved in major policy issues during Wednesday's briefing. They each shared insights on transportation, affordable housing, medical marijuana and other issues.

Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose), chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, outlined his efforts on his SB 16, a major transportation financing proposal aimed at halting the deterioration of state highways and local streets and roads. This measure passed its first legislative hurdle on Tuesday when it passed out the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. Sen. Beall, a former Santa Clara County supervisor and San Jose city council member, urged support for his funding plan because California's highways, streets and roads will no longer be able to support a world class economy. "We are banking on the past and making the future pay the bills in many ways."

Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) updated members on his medical marijuana legislation, AB 266, which is co-sponsored by the League and the California Police Chiefs Association. This measure passed its first hearing Tuesday. "I am a big believer that this is an area of California law that has been neglected," said Cooley, a former city official and League first vice president. Mr. Cooley also explained how AB 266's provisions that concentrate authority over medical marijuana in one state agency, while also protecting local control, provides greater accountability and oversight.

Assembly Republican Leader Kristin Olsen (R-Modesto) gave an overview of her caucus' priorities and shared that the Republican caucus is analyzing the housing and transportation proposals in hopes of finding bipartisan solutions. She encouraged city officials to come to Sacramento and share their stories. She relayed that when she was on the Modesto City Council, she came to the Capitol to advocate for local control. The Republican leader also thanked the League for support of her ACA 1, which would require legislation to be in print or available online for at least 72 hours before a final vote.

Assembly Member David Chiu (D-San Francisco) briefed members on the Assembly's pending affordable housing funding package. He is the author of AB 35, along with Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), which would increase the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit by \$300 million. This bill is part of a housing package that also includes the Speaker's AB 1335, which would establish a permanent source of funding for affordable housing, generating up to

\$700 million annually. Assembly Member Chiu also commented on the drought and stressed that future housing be built using new techniques to conserve water.

Summit on Environmental Degradation and Other Harmful Effects of Illegal Marijuana Grows

During the day, the League also hosted a special summit on the environmental impacts and public safety issues resulting from illegal marijuana growing in California. The almost-two-hour event featured legislators, scientists and law enforcement who briefed the packed room on the environmental degradation from marijuana cultivation and the public safety dangers this activity poses for Californians. For more, please see ["Summit Brings Together Environmental Experts, Public Safety and State Officials to Discuss the Impact of California's Illegal Marijuana Grow Sites."](#)

Panel on Economic Development

Following legislative meetings, and prior to attending the League's Legislative Reception, many city officials participated in a late afternoon panel on economic development, co-sponsored by the League's Latino Caucus. Redwood City Council Member Alicia Aguirre, as caucus president, made opening remarks and introduced Dan Carrigg, the League's senior director for policy development who moderated the panel. The panel comprised Assembly Member Luis Alejo (D-Watsonville) and Assembly Member Edwardo Garcia (D-Coachella).

"This is an opportunity to hear from legislators who are playing leading roles in discussions in the Legislature about economic development," Carrigg told the audience.

Carrigg briefed the audience on the 10 or so bills that are part of the Assembly's economic development package, many of which affect cities including Garcia's AB 184 and [AB 185](#).

Assembly Member Garcia, who came to the Legislature in 2014 after serving for 10 years on the Coachella City Council, began by acknowledging the hard work of local officials. He thanked the assembled city officials for their service. "It is important to recognize the work you do, day in and day out in your communities. You are where the 'rubber hits the road,'" said Garcia.

He also discussed how the committee he chairs, the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy, is taking a broad look at issues affecting these issues. For example, he explained, the committee is very interested in early childhood education. While this might not appear to be related, Assembly Member Garcia stressed how early childhood education has significant implications for job readiness and the economy.

Assembly Member Alejo remarked about the how the loss of redevelopment and the Enterprise Zone program has harmed cities, particularly those in disadvantaged areas. He told the audience that he was just one of three Democrats who voted against the elimination of redevelopment. The Assembly member is optimistic that this year the Governor will sign his legislation, League-supported [AB 2](#), to recreate the redevelopment tool for those communities that need it most He concluded his discussion by saying that he is hopeful that AB 2 will be landmark legislation.

'Marijuana Summit' Continued from Page 1...

Dr. Mourad Gabriel of the Integral Ecology Research Center served as the keynote, bringing to light the rippling effects of these trespass grows on public and tribal lands. This cultivation, which relies on banned and restricted pesticides and herbicides, destroys natural habitat, pollutes water sources, and poisons wildlife. He reported that 60-70 percent of all the marijuana grown in the U.S. is cultivated in California.

Dr. Gabriel pointed to some startling examples from a cleanup of seven illegal grow sites in Six Rivers National Forest and the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The reclamation specialists cleared 205, 50 gallon sized, garbage bags and 8.5 miles of irrigation line total. They calculated that these sites diverted 67.5 million gallons of water per grow season, used 8,188 pounds of fertilizer, 104

pounds of rodenticide and 560 gallons of insecticide. Three of six sites tested showed that they are contaminated with toxicants that are either restricted or banned.

Part of his research included collecting samples of deer meat and livers from cooperative hunters. He found that the meat and livers tested positive with the same types of poison used to protect marijuana crops by illicit growers. There has not been enough research to show what potential human health impacts there may result by consuming tainted meat over long periods of time.

He also warned that backpackers and hikers who regularly rely upon natural water sources may be at risk as backcountry water filters are incapable of removing these types of toxicants from water.

For decades, Arcata, as part of the Emerald Triangle, has been a hotbed of illegal cultivation. In recent years, the number of grows has skyrocketed and has literally changed the fabric of the community. Arcata Council Member Mark Wheatley, the summit moderator, spoke about the devastation the industry has had on his college community.

"I appreciate the Governor's leadership on this issue. All stakeholders must join the Governor and Legislature in order to stop the significant impacts caused by trespass grows and the threat to our residents and visitors posed by growers," remarked Council Member Wheatley as he opened the session.

Two legislators, Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) and Assembly Member Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg) offered their insights from representing an area of the state where a significant amount of marijuana is cultivated. Both have introduced legislation related to medical marijuana cultivation.

Sen. McGuire is the author of SB 643, the Medical Marijuana Public Safety and Environmental Protection Act. The measure passed out of its first committee, the Senate Business and Professions Committee, on April 20.

Assembly Member Wood's bill is AB 243, the Marijuana Watershed Protection Act. The Assembly Committee on Environmental Health and Toxic Waste passed the measure this week.

Public safety is a major challenge of the proliferation of illegal marijuana growing on public and tribal lands. According to Dr. Gabriel, law enforcement is estimated to detect and eradicate between 40-60 percent of the trespass growing sites. Of those, they are able to fully eradicate and clean about 30-50 percent. Law enforcement has detected approximately 2,100 trespass growing sites on public lands alone between 2010 and 2014.

Other speakers during Wednesday's summit included:

- Cris Carrigan, director of the Office of Enforcement of the California State Water Resources Control Board;
- Scott Bauer, senior environmental scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- DeWayne Little, lieutenant, Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Mark Imsdhal, warden, Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Lyle Chan, warden, Department of Fish and Wildlife; and
- John D'Agostini, sheriff, El Dorado County.

Marijuana Cultivation and the Drought

California's ongoing drought is raising awareness about the amount of water illegal marijuana cultivation consumes as well as how the chemicals and fertilizers used in the process degrades the water supply in the area and downstream.

Voters in November 2014 approved [Proposition 1](#) (Water Bond). Prior to Gov. Jerry Brown issuing California's [first mandatory](#) water restrictions, he proposed emergency legislation to allocate Prop. 1 funding and remaining flood-related funding from Prop. 1E (2006) to deal with the drought. A portion of these funds will address the harmful effects of the drought connected to the contamination of habitat and water sources due to marijuana cultivation.

AB 91 provides the following funding related to the drought and could help address environmental impacts of illegal marijuana cultivation:

- \$14.6 million is being appropriated to respond to problems caused by humans that harm wildlife such as fish rescues, fish and wildlife monitoring, animals seeking food and water.
- \$2 million is being appropriated to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for water needs for endangered species, habitat, monitoring and water delivery system projects.
- \$4 million is being appropriated to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRC) and DFW to enhance instream flows in at least five streams that support critical habitat for anadromous fish.

The package, through AB 92, also establishes funding to enhance DFW's regulatory powers to penalize and fine those responsible for water diversions and environmental degradation specific to illegal marijuana growing. DFW has new authority to assess civil penalties for obstructing fish passage due to illegal marijuana cultivation. The agency is also now able to initiate a complaint before the SWRCB for a violation from an unauthorized diversion that harms fish and wildlife.

'Advocacy App' Continued from Page 1...

The new tool's goal is two-fold:

1. Increase membership participation on legislative advocacy; and
2. Rapidly respond to "action alerts" from wherever a city official might be located by receiving an alert directly to their cell phone via text message or push notification.

While anyone in the public can download the League app, the League's Legislative Advocacy section within the app is **EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE ONLY** to city officials that volunteer and sign-up to be part of the League's Advocacy Team. The public can download the League's free app, but the Legislative Advocacy portion of the app is a secured site in which participants will need to register with the League.

To learn more about this tool and become a part of the League's Advocacy Team, please contact your regional public affairs manager.

Assembly Speaker's Affordable Housing Bill Passes Its First Committee *Would Establish Permanent Source of Affordable Housing Funding*

With the loss of redevelopment and the exhaustion of past state affordable housing bond funds, California has virtually no resources to construct affordable housing. Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) has taken the lead in assembling a package to begin to fill the gaps in necessary funding.

AB 1335 (Atkins), the Building Homes and Jobs Act, passed the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee Wednesday on a 5-1 vote. The bill would establish a permanent source of funding for affordable housing generating up to \$700 million per year by placing a \$75 fee on real estate transaction documents, excluding home sales.

The Building Homes and Jobs Act makes legislative definitions about the need for permanent, ongoing funding for affordable housing. Total fees on any transaction are capped at \$225. Revenues from this fee, less county administrative costs, would be sent quarterly to the Department of Housing and Community Development for deposit in the new Building Homes and Jobs Fund and spent for affordable housing, home ownership opportunities, and other housing-related programs. The bill imposes additional auditing and reporting requirements. View the AB 1335 Fact Sheet from the author's office for additional details on the bill.

The other major affordable housing funding bill supported by the League is AB 35 (Chiu and Atkins), which would increase available affordable housing tax credits by \$300 million.

AB 1335 now moves on to the Assembly Appropriations Committee; the hearing date has not yet been set. Cities are encouraged to send the author a support letter on AB 1335. The League's support letter and a sample support letter are available online.

Bills in Committee: May 4-8

Earlier this week, the League released an updated [2015 Hot and Priority Bill list](#) of interest to cities. Many of these bills were heard in committee hearings this week as the League welcomed hundreds of city officials to Sacramento for its annual Legislative Action Day on April 29.

Next week the League will be active on a number of bills as they continue to move through committees, including two hot bills, ACA 1 on legislative transparency and SB 321 stabilizing the volatility of gas tax allocations.

[A full listing](#) of Senate and Assembly hearings is available online. Hearing times are subject to change. Bill language and any available position letters on legislation can be found through the bill search function on the [League's website](#).

Monday, May 4

Senate Appropriations, 11 a.m., State Capitol, John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203)

- [HOT SB 321 \(Beall\) Motor vehicle fuel taxes: rates: adjustments](#). *League position: Support.*

Tuesday, May 5

Assembly Committee on Public Safety, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- [AB 1276 \(Santiago\) Child witnesses: human trafficking](#). *League position: Support.*

Wednesday, May 6

Assembly Committee on Insurance, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 437

- [AB 511 \(Gipson\) Workers' compensation](#). *League position: Oppose.*

Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- [AB 327 \(Gordon\) Public works: volunteers](#). *League position: Support.*

Assembly Committee on Local Government, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 127

- [AB 313 \(Atkins\) Enhanced infrastructure financing districts](#). *League position: Support.*

Thursday, May 7

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 6 on Budget Process, Oversight and Program Evaluation, Upon Adjournment of Session, State Capitol, Room 447

- [HOT ACA 1 \(Olsen\) Legislative procedure](#). *League position: Support.*

U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Long-Anticipated Regulations for Rail Cars Transporting Hazardous Materials *League Will Review Regulations*

Stakeholders concerned with the dangers of the transportation of oil and other flammable materials by rail are busily studying [new regulations](#) released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Upwards of 155,000 tank cars in the U.S. will need to be retrofitted or replaced under the rule. The goal is to decrease the likelihood of accidents and improve response when accidents occur. The regulations would apply to high-hazard flammable trains, which are "a continuous block of 20 or more tank cars loaded with a flammable liquid or 35 or more cars loaded with a flammable liquid dispersed through a train."

These regulations, the [Enhanced Tank Car Standards Controls for High-Hazard Flammable Trains](#), were issued by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration.

The League will be reviewing the details of the rule.

Senators Also Announced Legislation to Protect Communities from Oil Transport Accidents

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and five other U.S. senators today also announced the Hazardous Materials Rail Transportation Improvement Act of 2015. This bill would impose a fee on companies that transport oil, ethanol and other flammable liquids to fund emergency response and track relocation. Companies would be charged \$175 per car for older cars to start, which would increase to \$1,400 in 2018. Approximately \$600 million would be generated through these fees, which would go towards making the communities adjacent to these rail lines better prepared to respond to a dangerous materials spill. It would create a dedicated fund to pay for oil train accident clean-up costs, advanced first responder training and grants for states and cities to invest in the re-routing of tracks away from highly populated areas.

GASB 68 Implementation Guide Now Available

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, which affects the financial statements of employers for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014. GASB 68 substantially changes the accounting and financial reporting of pensions for CalPERS and CalPERS employers.

To assist local governments in implementing this new standard, The California Committee on Municipal Accounting, a joint committee comprised of representatives of the League of California Cities and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, has published a white paper. This valuable guide is available at www.cacities.org/GASB68-ImplementationGuide. Sample journal entries and CAFR footnote disclosures are included and will be invaluable to finance staff charged with implementation.

With GASB 68, the Government Accounting Standards Board is supporting an important fiscal policy objective by providing additional transparency with regard to local government pension obligations within government financial statements.

California City Solutions: Beverly Hills Develops Civic Engagement Program to Build Trust and Engagement

This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2014 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called California City Solutions. TEAM Beverly Hills was submitted in 2014 for the Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement award category.

Beverly Hills is known for glamour, beautiful homes, celebrities and luxury. Although the city lives up to its stunning attractions, very few of its residents associated its unique environment to its municipal services. The city of Beverly Hills set out to create awareness and boost civic engagement for its city services and programs, launching TEAM Beverly Hills in 1996. The program is a hands-on, grassroots effort designed to build positive community relations between residents and the city as well as educate community members about city services, operations, public safety programs and partnering agencies.

Beverly Hills is a 5.7 square-mile city in the middle of Los Angeles County with a population of less than 35,000. On any given day there could be up to 200,000 people within its city limits, including more than 76,000 workers.

Although Beverly Hills is a small city, it provides a full range of municipal services. Most commonly known as a tourist attraction, Beverly Hills found it challenging to engage residents and show them how the services and programs maintained by a small city can impact the community. This was especially difficult because the local papers were more interested in sharing glamorous lifestyle stories rather than important local government news.

The city wanted to create an environment, built on the foundation of transparency and openness that fostered community pride by keeping residents informed of its structures, services, and processes. Additionally, the city wanted to engage residents in a variety of civic and volunteer activities, most specifically city commissions. With a five-member city council and 11 city commissions comprising approximately 60 commissioners, Beverly Hills has many opportunities for residents to become involved in local government.

TEAM Beverly Hills' initial vision centered on developing and educating future commissioners. The city council hand-picked TEAM Beverly Hills class members and scheduled the program for evenings and the occasional weekend to accommodate working residents.

The program was originally designed as a nine-class lecture series taught over a six month period. TEAM Beverly Hills members could attend leadership workshops and actively participate in a diverse mix of interactive and memorable experiences. Each program concluded with a graduation ceremony attended by the mayor and city council, city manager, city commissioners, and city staff.

The first program featured high-profile executives and community leaders sharing experiences and education in developing various leadership skills. City officials also highlighted or demonstrated daily local government responsibilities, functions, and matters.

Although the program was very well received, with 94 applicants applying for 25 program spots, the city learned that participants preferred city-lead sessions. They reported an interest in more classes highlighting various city departments and less focus on leadership advice from high-profile members in the community.

TEAM Beverly Hills progressed into a dynamic and interactive city-led program included: hands-on demonstrations; dialogue with city staff; meetings with officials and commissioners; behind-the-scenes walking and driving tours of city facilities and public/private sites; networking opportunities; teambuilding exercises; and small focus group interactions, which provided opportunities for discussing and understanding various issues, opportunities, and challenges facing the city.

By the program's second year the city turned to a lottery system to select the TEAM Beverly Hills members to include a broader scope of residents in the leadership academy, better reflecting the diversity of the community. Members include residents — ranging in age from 17 to 70+ years old, renters, homeowners, business owners, entrepreneurs, stay-at-home moms, teachers, seniors, non-profit leaders, and most recently students. Each TEAM Beverly Hills class has increased from 25 to 42 members and includes two senior Beverly Hills High School students, which are selected by the school district.

Since its inception, 536 residents have completed the TEAM Beverly Hills. The program's first city mayor, elected in 2008, graduated from the inaugural TEAM Beverly Hills Class of 1996. TEAM alumni also comprise 68 percent of the commissioners serving on the city's 11 commissions and two elected officials — the city treasurer and vice mayor.

Other TEAM Beverly Hills achievements include:

- A high percentage of alumni members regularly volunteering at city events, assisting city departments, and providing feedback at community meetings and focus groups.
 - Residents applying for commission vacancies with a broader knowledge and understanding of city opportunities and challenges.
 - A General Fund cost savings as a result of centralizing and reducing the amount of time city staff previously needed to train and educate new commissioners and elected officials.
 - An enhanced sense of unity and pride from city employees who participate in the program and provide demonstrations and tours to TEAM members.
-

Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Funding Availability Announcement

May 29 Application Deadline

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) recently announced a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) funding availability for FY 2015-16.

The JABG program, administered at the federal level by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, supports state and local efforts to reduce juvenile crime through programs that focus on offender accountability and strengthen the juvenile justice system, working with community partners to keep youth from reoffending.

As the designated state agency for this federally funded program, BSCC distributes the federal annual allocations to local jurisdictions meeting the federal funding threshold to receive a direct allocation.

It should be noted that although the JABG program was not funded at the federal level in FY 2015-16, the BSCC has a reserve of JABG funding from previous years allocations that have not been dispersed. This will allow the 23 local jurisdictions that meet the FY 2013-14 threshold for receiving a direct allocation to be funded by the BSCC for the project period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Continued funding for future year direct allocations will be dependent upon the outcome of federal appropriations.

Please see the attached [NOFA](#) and the FY 2015-16 [application packet](#).

Applications due by 5 p.m. on May 29.

Join NLC's Big Ideas for Cities in Los Angeles or Via Webcast

Big Ideas for Cities is coming to Los Angeles on May 8. Co-hosted by the National League of Cities (NLC) and the city of Los Angeles, the event offers a chance to convene for an interactive dialogue with mayors who are deeply committed to moving our country forward by taking bold steps at the local level.

This free, one-day event will feature some of America's mayors as they share their "big ideas" that are driving innovation within their communities, and more importantly, will give you the opportunity to adapt these ideas to solutions for your community.

Mayors from across the country — including two from California, Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles mayor and Lindsey Horvath, West Hollywood mayor — will share a compelling idea or innovation that can make a dramatic difference to the future of our cities through a TED-style talk or panel discussion.

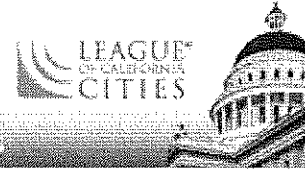
Workshop Details

May 8 at 1 p.m.
Los Angeles Public Library, Central Library
Mark Taper Auditorium
630 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Register [online](#).

NLC will offer a live webcast of the event on www.nlc.org for those who are unable to attend in person. More information will be posted on NLC's [website](#) as details emerge.

CA Cities Advocate



LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

May 6, 2015
Issue #44

State Water Resources Control Board Formally Adopts Strict Water Restrictions

Californians are about to feel the severity of the drought more acutely later this month when the severe water restrictions adopted yesterday by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) go into effect. Unanimously adopted by the water board on a 5-0 vote, the emergency regulations will reduce urban water usage statewide by 25 percent. These temporary regulations, which will remain in effect for 270 days, implement the urban water conservation called for in Gov. Jerry Brown's April 1 Executive Order. The Office of Administrative Law will next review and approve the regulations. *For more, see Page 2.*



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'Water Restrictions' Continued from Page 1...

Conditions are so dire that the Department of Water Resources skipped the final May 1 snow survey because there was literally nothing to measure at the Phillips Stations in the Sierra Nevada. Voluntary cut backs have not been effective according to SWRCB, which reported that in March, water usage was down a mere 3.6 percent compared to the same month in 2013.

The Sacramento Bee also reports that water usage is only down approximately 9 percent since June 2014. Water agencies are under fire. Although 10,000 complaints have been filed against water wasters, water agencies have issued just 682 actual citations. Local agencies will be under pressure to meet these very stringent water conservation requirements.

The adopted restrictions establish a range of water reduction mandates depending on agencies usage. Some agencies will have to cut back 4 percent but others, which have not been as successful meeting the January 2014 voluntary restrictions, will have to meet a more drastic 36 percent conservation rate. The restrictions only apply to potable water use.

Additional Resources

The SWRCB has issued a detailed FAQ to help water agencies and the public understand the Governor's April 1 Executive Order.

It has also issued an Emergency Regulations Digest that details the prohibited activities and mandatory actions during the drought emergency.

'Big Ideas' Continued from Page 1...

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