

*Saving L.A.'s
Mountain Lions*

2021 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

EARTHDAY

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER GROUP
PUBLISHED BY CIVIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.

This supplement did not involve the editorial staff of the Los Angeles Times or the Southern California Newspaper Group.

There Are Things Greater Than Myself!

By Chris Lancaster
 Publisher, Civic Publications

The longer I have lived the more I am convinced the values we learn in the home have a direct correlation to how we treat others and ultimately our great planet.

For example, when I was young my parents taught me to honor and respect them – by doing so, I learned some important values. Values



such as, there is an important hierarchal structure to the home and ultimately to society – meaning that there are things greater than myself. Also, being taught (sometimes forcibly as a teenager) to show respect toward others when I didn't feel like it, taught me life's lessons that sometimes my obligations take priority over my personal feelings. My father once said that there are only a few people in your life who care about how you feel, the rest of the world cares only how you act! I personally believe that any child who is taught

"...the world cares only how you act!"

to honor parents at an early age is more likely not to not grow up to be a narcissist. And isn't that what Earth Day is all about? Shouldn't we put aside our narcissism when it comes to the treatment of the planet? Are we not to think in terms of tomorrow, by recognizing that we have an obligation to our family, society and to the next generation by reducing our environmental footprint today by choosing and adopting a sustainable lifestyle?

I know that there is always the exception to the rule, but in general, I think there is a direct correlation as to how one treats their parents and how one will presumably act toward mother earth. ○



An Urban Survival Story A Massive Wildlife Crossing Could Help Save the Big Cats from Extinction

By Elizabeth Smilor
 Special Sections Writer

Early in the morning, his face is caught on camera before he disappears from view as a jogger passes on the Griffith Park trail. This celebrity is followed daily, but he's adept at avoiding the Hollywood spotlight.

This is Puma-22 (P-22), the "Brad Pitt of mountain lions," who lives alone in the park, trapped in the huge metropolis of Los Angeles.

"I've never seen anything that's inspired me more than these mountain lions hanging on in the most urban and challenging of places," said Beth Pratt, California's executive director for the National Wildlife Federation. "What really draws me to them is their resiliency. They are a holdover from the ice age and here they are living under the Hollywood sign, dodging traffic ... I don't want them to go extinct on our watch."



Sheila Kuehl
 L.A. County Supervisor

P-22 is the face of an \$85-million fundraising campaign to build the world's largest wildlife crossing. The 165-foot-wide crossing will span 10 lanes of the 101 Freeway at Liberty Canyon Road in Agoura Hills. More than \$18 million has been raised to date and the design phase is nearing completion, Pratt said.

"In Los Angeles County, we are fortunate to live close to nature. Few urban areas on earth permit so many people and so much wildlife to live closely together," said L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, whose district includes

[See URBAN, Page 22]

F. O. G.
 Fats, Oils, and Grease, also known as "FOG", are found in meat, salad dressing, deep fried food, cookies, butter, and more! When food waste containing FOGs are disposed down our sinks, the grease coats the pipes and accumulates into a hardened lining over time that clogs our sewer pipes. This causes sewer backups in the street and onto your property, which is gross and damaging! **DO NOT** pour FOGs down the drain. Instead, throw greasy food waste into your trash can, cool and scrape used cooking oil into the trash.

RECYCLE RIGHT
 Every time you choose to recycle, you are giving that item a second life and save natural resources. It's important to remember these rules when recycling:
 1. Recycle CLEAN bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard.
 2. Keep food and liquid out!
 3. No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.
 These rules ensure the items you intend to recycle end up being recycled! Otherwise, the items are considered contaminated and will end up in the landfill instead.

WATER CONSERVATION
 The City of Arcadia continues to observe the seasonal outdoor watering schedules below, applicable to all water customers:
 Winter (November 1 - April 30): Tuesday and Saturday
 Summer (May 1 - October 31): Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Outdoor irrigation is only allowed before 9:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. Trees and plants may be hand watered by hose with shut-off nozzle attachment daily within the allowed timeframe.

USED OIL AND FILTERS
 Improperly dumped motor oil pollutes waterways and drinking water. Nothing should go into storm drains except rainwater. Instead, recycle your used motor oil and oil filters by bringing them to a Certified Collection Center below for proper disposal:

- Firestone: 1500 S. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
- Jiffy Lube: 5 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia

The City of Arcadia also offers free used oil containers, funnels, and oil change mats to Arcadia residents at the Arcadia Public Works Services Department. Call (626) 254-2720 to reserve.



Publisher Chris Lancaster
 Editor Elizabeth Smilor
 Art Director Christie Robinson
 Contributors Amy Bentley
 Elizabeth Smilor

EARTHDAY 2021 is an advertising supplement published by Civic Publications, Inc. ©2021.

For comments or questions, email Chris Lancaster at chris.lancaster@civicpub.com

Printed with recycled paper.



Proterra has been manufacturing its electric transit vehicles in the City of Industry since 2017. The newest generation bus the Proterra ZX5, at left, is now assembled at the facility, below left. Proterra expanded its site at the end of last year to include a new battery production line, shown in the photos above and at right, adding dozens of new jobs. This battery technology has been proven in 17 million miles driven by the fleets of Proterra buses throughout North America.

Proterra Expands in the City of Industry

Earth-Friendly Electric Bus Maker Contributes to Region

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer

"The City of Industry is proud to partner with progressive and innovative companies like Proterra that advance transportation and manufacturing technology in our city."

Cory Moss
Mayor, City of Industry



As a manufacturing home to Proterra, a leading maker of zero-emission electric transit vehicles, the City of Industry is bringing green jobs into the region for a company that is sending out technology for cleaner communities throughout North America.

"The City of Industry is proud to partner with progressive and innovative companies like Proterra that advance transportation and manufacturing technology in our city, and clear the air for a healthier planet," said City of Industry Mayor Cory Moss.

In 2017, Proterra opened its electric bus manufacturing facility in the City of Industry, one of two where the company's latest generation electric bus, the Proterra ZX5, is now assembled. At the end of 2020, Proterra opened a new battery production line on site, adding dozens of new jobs. This production line will fuel the Proterra ZX5, which can now be equipped with the most energy storage of any 40-foot electric bus in the market right now. Proterra's headquarters are in Burlingame in northern California and they have another manufacturing facility in Greenville, South Carolina.



Cory Moss

"Proterra furthered our commitment to the City of Industry and Los Angeles County as we bring more advanced manufacturing jobs to California," said Proterra CEO Jack Allen. "Proterra's industry-leading battery technology has been proven in 17 million miles driven by our fleet of buses. Now, with the opening of our new battery production line, we're excited to build on this progress as we deliver Proterra Powered technology solutions to vehicle manufacturers around the world."

The very first Proterra customer was Foothill Transit in Pomona, which now operates more than 30 Proterra buses along its San Gabriel Valley route. Seven lines service residents and businesses in the City of Industry. Proterra has sold more than 1,000 electric buses to over 130 communities



Jack Allen

across 43 U.S. states and Canadian provinces. Their technology has prevented more than 90 million pounds of greenhouse gases from escaping into the atmosphere and avoided burning some five million gallons of fuel.

The City of Industry is an economic hub with roughly 3,000 businesses generating employment for more than 68,000 people and contributing over \$31 billion annually to the regional economy.

"The city's mission is to provide appropriate resources and easy avenues for our local businesses so they can continue manufacturing necessary services and bringing jobs to Industry," Moss said. The Industry Business Council, which serves as the city's chamber of commerce, provides guidance and resources for all the businesses.

"We reach out and develop relationships with companies, like Proterra," said IBC Executive Director Joanne McClaskey. "By fostering these connections, we assist in their success and they give back to our community in many ways."

Not surprisingly, Proterra is a good environmental steward. The company participates in Valley Vista Service's Organic Waste Program, ensuring that recyclable organic waste does not end up in landfills. Proterra's goal is to achieve a 100 percent diversion of waste from their facility away from landfills. Proterra has clearly labeled bins for trash, recyclables, and food waste. They have also invested in reusable kitchen items for staff members to use to eliminate the use of disposable plastics and paper goods.

Proterra also partnered with Citrus College to launch an Electric Bus Manufacturing Training program last October. To develop and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the green manufacturing sector, this new program will help to fill union jobs manufacturing battery-electric buses at Proterra's facility in the City of Industry.



Joanne McClaskey

"Citrus College is excited to be a part of this new training program," said Michael Wangler, Dean of Career, Technical and Continuing Education at Citrus College. "Our automotive and diesel faculty built this customized curriculum that will benefit the community, the environment and the local economy."

The program's first cohort of 15 students will gain training and skills in advanced blueprint reading, assembly and manufacturing principles, and other manufacturing skills that include fabrication, electrical systems, wire harness assembly and working with composites. They will also be provided professional development and job readiness skills.

"Electric vehicle technology is an opportunity to strengthen American manufacturing and create good-paying, skilled jobs for Californians," said Proterra CEO Allen. "Proterra is proud to partner with Los Angeles County and Citrus College to invest in vital workforce development and training. We are excited to support the creation of more job opportunities in electric vehicle technology manufacturing."

Outside of its transit business, Proterra offers its electric vehicle technology and expertise to other commercial vehicle manufacturers through the company's Proterra Powered program. To learn more about Proterra, visit Proterra.com

"Having Proterra in our city is a win-win for everyone from inspiring young workers to skilled technicians to neighboring businesses," said Mayor Moss. "Best of all, together we are doing our part to making Earth more livable for future generations." ○

"Proterra furthered our commitment to the City of Industry and Los Angeles County as we bring more advanced manufacturing jobs to California."

Jack Allen
CEO, Proterra



Live every day like
it's **Earth Day.**

Earth Day is the perfect day to remember what's beneath our soil – our primary water supply, groundwater.

About 100 yards underground the San Gabriel Valley where we live, work and play, our water is held by the earth's bedrock, silt and rocks. When snow melts and rain falls, it seeps down into the ground where it is held naturally by the earth, becoming our groundwater. It's truly a feat of nature, **providing most of the water 1.5 million of us in the San Gabriel Valley** use every day in our lives.

It's also a collective effort to take care of these waters every day. This effort is especially important now, as our snow and rain are well below average for the year. Right now, **our groundwater levels are about 20% lower** than they were before the last drought began. We all need to help our groundwater recover from the last drought before the next one begins by being smart about our water use.

To learn more about the story of how every day is Earth Day for our water and how you can help, visit: thewatersthatconnectus.com

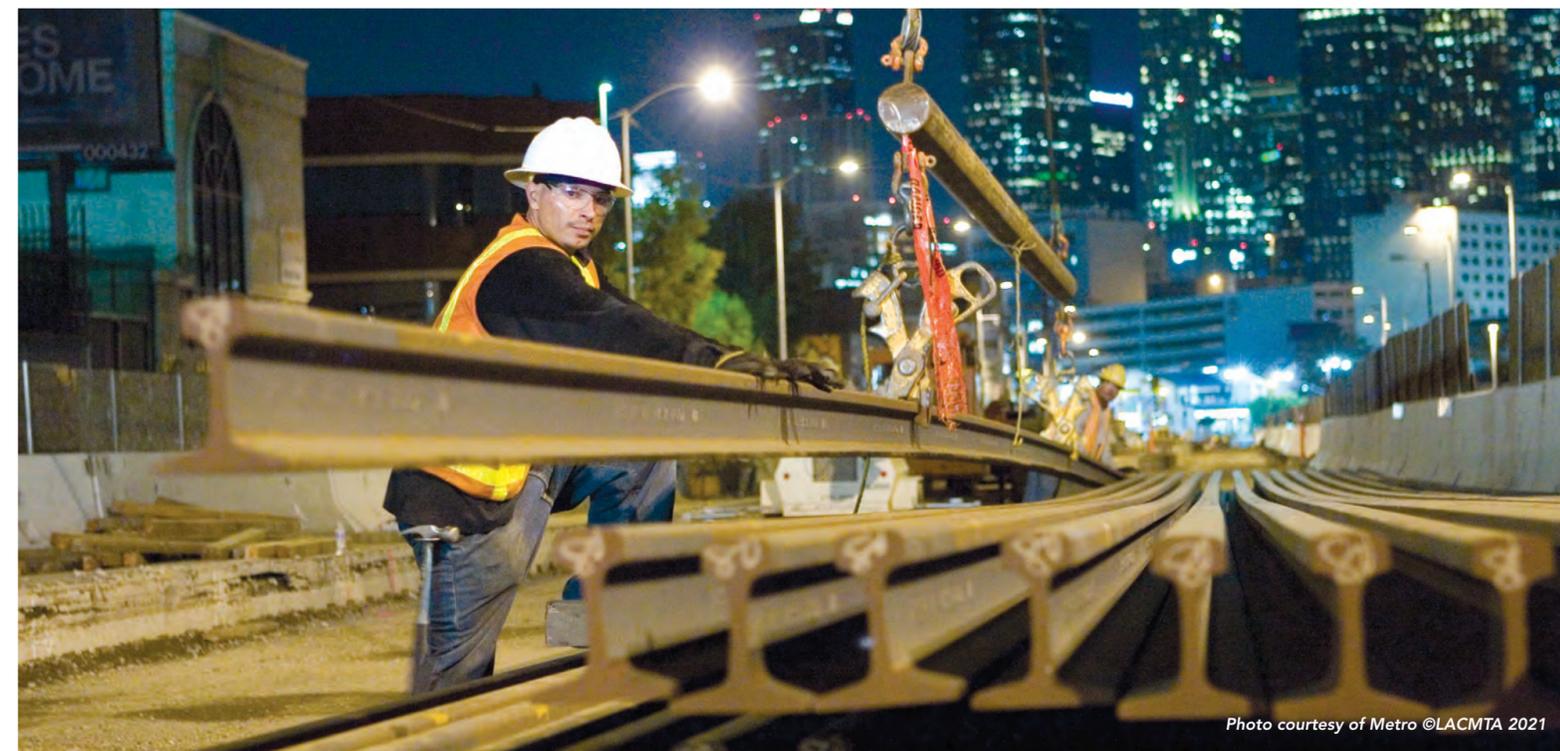


Photo courtesy of Metro ©LACMTA 2021

Rebuild SoCal Partnership

Hosts Discussion with Rep. Grace Napolitano Focusing on Local Infrastructure Projects

By Amy Bentley
Special Sections Writer

Water, union, local elected officials pledge to support Rep. Napolitano's efforts

"When we come together to talk about the needs of our state, then we are all working toward the same common goal. Our outdated infrastructure is in dire need of a 21st Century overhaul."

Marci Stange
Director, Water and
Environmental Relations
Rebuild SoCal Partnership

Bringing more federal dollars to San Gabriel Valley water projects and making sure the Whittier Narrows Dam is safe were among the topics discussed during an informative online roundtable talk with Rep. Grace Napolitano, hosted by the Rebuild SoCal Partnership.

"Holding an event with a high-profile guest like Congresswoman Napolitano brings a lot of interest to leaders in the public works sector, associations and their member organizations, unions, and transportation and water agencies," said Marci Stange, the Partnership's Director of Water and Environmental Relations. "When we come together to talk about the needs of our state, then we are all working toward the same common goal. Our outdated infrastructure is in dire need of a 21st Century overhaul."

Rebuild SoCal Partnership represents 2,750 construction firms who employ over 90,000 union

[See REBUILD, Page 8]



Congresswoman Grace Napolitano during the online roundtable.

“Through efforts like this roundtable, InfrastructureLA and the Los Angeles County Water Plan, infrastructure leaders are working together like never before to prioritize the needs of the region so we are ready to speak with one voice if and when the federal funding that was discussed today becomes available.”

Mark Pestrella, PE
Director
Los Angeles County Public Works



Photo courtesy of Metro ©LACMTA 2021

[REBUILD, Page 7]

workers throughout Southern California. The Partnership works daily to advocate for responsible infrastructure funding that creates thousands of career construction jobs locally. The Partnership



Marci Stanage

also educates the public on the need to invest responsibly in aging infrastructure and achieves this by engaging with public officials at the state, local and federal levels. Rebuild SoCal Partnership is working with Rep. Napolitano to ensure that Southern California receives its share of state and federal funding for infrastructure work. Rep. Napolitano’s district serves 13 cities in the San Gabriel Valley. She serves on the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure and chairs the subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. She also serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources and is a long-time advocate for conservation, water recycling, desalination, and groundwater management.

Rep. Napolitano discussed how in December 2020, she announced that she and her colleagues had secured \$192.5 million

in federal funding for the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Project, noting that area dams must be safe from risk of failure and funded adequately for regular safety inspections. “Whittier Narrows is in my backyard,” the Congresswoman said. In 2015, the dam was found to need structural improvements.

She also discussed the Biden Administration’s proposed \$2.1 trillion infrastructure plan. It would pour billions of dollars into transportation infrastructure like bridges, roads, public transit, ports, airports, and electric buses (Rep. Napolitano said \$11 billion would go to California transit agencies); improve drinking water infrastructure; expand broadband access; upgrade electric grids; and fund many other efforts including upgrading schools. “We will pass it,” Napolitano said of the plan while acknowledging the opposition. Rep. Napolitano further spoke about the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021 that she plans to introduce. Funds would go toward wastewater treatment and water recycling projects.

Rebuild SoCal supports these efforts. “These investments will definitely create hundreds of thousands of really good paying union jobs and we’re really happy to see that,” Stanage said.



Photo courtesy of Metro ©LACMTA 2021

“Collectively we’re a very large voice in this state and together we can accomplish great things.”

Dave Garbarino
Board Chairman
Rebuild SoCal Partnership

Participating online were 40 of the region’s top water officials, elected officials, union leaders, and others in the public works sector.

“I’m grateful for the robust roundtable discussion with Congresswoman Napolitano. She is a true champion of initiatives that support the delivery of a 21st Century public infrastructure for Los Angeles County,” said Mark Pestrella, PE, Public Works Director for Los Angeles County. “Through efforts like this roundtable, InfrastructureLA and the Los Angeles County Water Plan, infrastructure leaders are working together like never before to prioritize the needs of the region so we are ready to speak with one voice if and when the federal funding that was discussed today becomes available.”

Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District, urged his colleagues to join the Congresswoman to support the many big water recycling projects going on around Southern California. David De Jesus, a board member of Three Valleys Municipal Water District, said the infrastructure bill will be a

“lifesaver” for the San Gabriel Valley and he thanked Rep. Napolitano for all her good work.

Carlos Goytia, also with Three Valleys, echoed De Jesus’ sentiments: “Congresswomen Napolitano, you definitely are a champion for water in the San Gabriel Valley.” Dee Zinke, assistant general manager and chief external affairs officer at the Metropolitan Water District, mentioned the need to support rebuilding aging infrastructure as well as new water projects.

In closing remarks, Dave Garbarino, Chair of Rebuild SoCal’s Board, told the group, “Collectively we’re a very large voice in this state and together we can accomplish great things.” ○



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mark Pestrella, PE
Public Works Director
Los Angeles County



Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager
Metropolitan Water District



David De Jesus
Board Member
Three Valleys Municipal
Water District



Dee Zinke
Asst. General Manager and
Chief External Affairs Officer
Metropolitan Water District



Dave Garbarino
Board Chairman
Rebuild SoCal Partnership



John Hakel
Executive Director
Rebuild SoCal Partnership



DAVID GARBARINO
Chairman of the Board
Intl. Union of Operating
Engineers Local 12



JAIMIE ANGUS
Associated General
Contractors of
California



STEVE CLARK
United
Contractors



MATT PIM
Southern California
Contractors
Association



JON PRECIADO
Southern California
District Council
of Laborers



JOSH RAPER
Southwest
Regional Council
of Carpenters



RON SIKORSKI
International Union of
Operating Engineers
Local 12



EDDIE SPRECCO
Associated General
Contractors of America,
San Diego Chapter



DAVE SOREM
Engineering
Contractors
Association



BRYAN ZATICA
Building Industry
Association of
Southern California

HELPING THOSE IN NEED and the ENVIRONMENT

Starting January 1, 2022, all residents and businesses in California should receive mandatory organic waste collection services from their waste haulers. Organic waste includes food waste, yard waste, paper products and more. Organic waste disposed in landfills is responsible for 20 percent of California's methane emissions. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas and a short-lived climate pollutant that is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Recycling organic waste is crucial in the fight against climate change because it reduces landfill methane emissions and creates beneficial products such as compost, mulch, and renewable, carbon-negative electricity and fuels. Carbon negative fuels are fuels that remove more carbon from the atmosphere than they generate.



California Law Senate Bill 1383 (2016) requires a 50 percent reduction in Statewide organic waste disposal by the year 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by the year 2025. In addition, the law requires that not less than 20 percent of edible food that is currently disposed be recovered for human consumption by 2025.

Since the pandemic, people experiencing food insecurity has increased. Los Angeles County's Food Donation and Recovery Outreach Program (Food DROP) provides resources for businesses to safely donate their excess edible food by connecting them to local food recovery agencies to facilitate the donation and distribution of food to food insecure people and families throughout the County. While donating and recovering excess food is currently voluntary for businesses, it will become mandatory in 2022.



Residents can also do their part to avoid food waste by:

- Preparing the right amount of food
- Placing newer produce behind older produce to avoid spoilage
- Planning meals with food that you already have before purchasing more
- Making a grocery list before going shopping
- Getting familiar with "best by" and "sell by" date labels on food products that can lead to premature disposal of edible food

Each one of us can do our part to help those in need and preserve our environment! Visit FoodDropLA.com for more information and resources. If you have questions regarding organic waste collection, contact your waste hauler.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
Visit CleanLA.com



LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S Road to Zero Waste



In 2014, Los Angeles County adopted the Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future, a general framework for strategies and initiatives to produce less waste, promote reuse and recycling, and focus on diverting the maximum amount of material from landfill disposal. Pursuing a circular economy will not only reduce waste and pollution, it also promotes renewable energy generation and creates new green jobs.

Since 2014, new laws were passed and recycling markets have undergone major changes, including China's National Sword Policy, which drastically decreased the importation of recyclables from the U.S. This is guiding the County to update this planning document. The updated plan will encourage residents and businesses to prioritize waste reduction through new waste diversion programs.

You can help reduce landfill waste by living a sustainable lifestyle and following the 4R's:



REDUCE
Waste reduction or prevention is key to waste management. If waste is not created, it does not have to be discarded.



REUSE
Items can often be used again for the same or new function. Reusing allows you to get the most out of the products you buy and saves you money. Remember to Bring Your Own (BYO) reusables everywhere you go!



RECYCLE
Recycling is an easy and efficient way to keep Los Angeles County clean. Recycle right by ensuring your recyclables are empty, clean and dry before placing them in your recycling bin. You can even put cash in your pocket by recycling CRV eligible beverage containers.



RETHINK
Find ways to reduce the waste you create by purchasing and disposing wisely. Consider if the items can be reused, repaired or recycled.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
Visit CleanLA.com

Simple Steps to Recycling



For more information please visit CleanLA.com

San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Hosts Special Online Update for Local City Officials

By Amy Bentley
Special Sections Writer

"The San Gabriel Basin is an asset. Right now that asset has been impacted by contamination and we are working to restore it... about 80 percent of our groundwater that we drink in the Basin comes from there so it's a very valuable asset, especially in light of the drought situation."

Randy Schoellerman
Executive Director,
San Gabriel Basin
Water Quality Authority

The successful cleanup of contamination in the Main San Gabriel Basin continues, with 32 treatment facilities in the Basin working daily to remove pollutants, but there's more work to do and more funding will be needed, says Randy Schoellerman, Executive Director of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA).

Schoellerman hosted an online presentation in early March for city officials in the San Gabriel Valley. It's one of several the WQA plans to host every three or four months to keep Valley leaders informed.

"Our goal is to increase the awareness of Basin cleanup activities among local city leaders and the value of restoring and protecting a vital asset," Schoellerman said.

Using maps and aerial photos of the treatment plants in the Basin, Schoellerman discussed three topics: the status of the cleanup effort in the Basin; the benefits of restoring limited federal earmarks for Basin cleanup; and how Prop 68 funds are helping pay for future costs. He delivered a brief overview and pointed to areas where contaminants were first detected in 1979. "About 80 percent of your drinking water comes from this groundwater basin and the rest has to be imported," Schoellerman explained.

After the contamination was detected, the state Public Health department began a sampling program to determine the extent. By 1984, over 59 wells in the Basin were found to have elevated levels of volatile organic compounds, a common groundwater contaminant typically comprised of industrial solvents. This led the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to add the Basin to the national priority list for cleanup. Widespread public concern and media coverage throughout the 1980s led to the formation of the WQA as a special district agency. Its goals are to coordinate the groundwater cleanup, inform the public, work with the responsible parties, prevent or minimize the migration of contaminants, remove contamination quickly and effectively, protect groundwater resources, and secure funding for the effort.

Schoellerman said that to date, the 32 treatment plants have removed 180,000 pounds of contaminants and treated 1.73 million acre-feet of groundwater. Due to the widespread contamination, USEPA divided up the Basin into more manageable "operable units." Schoellerman described how many responsible parties have been identified for the individual operable units, whether they've helped fund the cleanup for that area, and the required treatment technology. In the South El Monte Operable Unit, for example, there are approximately 70 responsible parties, including many small companies without the financial resources to fund the cleanup. Negotiated settlements with the viable parties are partially funding this cleanup, with the city of Monterey Park, the San Gabriel Valley Water Company and Golden State Water Company operating the treatment facilities.

Other funding sources will be needed to finish the work, Schoellerman said. He discussed the importance of bringing back federal funding earmarks, which were stopped in 2009, so WQA



The Puente Valley Operable Unit construction activities on the intermediate zone remedy ramped up in 2020. All treatment equipment has been positioned on site. The influent pipeline from the existing off-site wells to the treatment plant has been installed. Startup testing is scheduled to begin in mid 2021. La Puente Valley County Water District will operate and maintain the plant. Northrop Grumman Corporation is paying for the treatment facility that will also clean up naturally occurring contaminants to make the water drinkable, in addition WQA has contributed approximately \$5.5M of federal funding to the project.

can access funding already set aside for the Basin. He said these funds are also needed so the WQA can access state bond funding that requires matching funds.

The overall cleanup cost is projected to be \$1.5 billion. The WQA so far has secured approximately \$994 million via federal and state funding, settlements with responsible parties, and local funds.

"We want to restore the basin," Schoellerman said. "The San Gabriel Basin is an asset. Right now that asset has been impacted by contamination and we are working to restore it. As I mentioned before, about 80 percent of our drinking water comes from the Basin so it's a very valuable asset especially in light of the drought situation. It's not easy to import water."

So far, responsible parties have paid 74.2 percent of the cleanup. Another 3.7 percent came from the state, 9.6 percent came from local resources, and 12.5 percent came from federal government.

California voters passed Prop 68 in 2018, which provides \$74 million to projects that reduce or prevent contamination in groundwater and provide a source of

drinking water. The WQA was awarded \$35.3 million for 21 treatment facilities throughout the Basin, offsetting the cost for several cities and water companies.

Schoellerman ended the presentation by reminding the audience how neither the responsible parties nor the USEPA will fund the entire cleanup. "There are many cleanup projects that do not fall under the USEPA process. This is also why we need other funding." ○



Learn more about your water and the WQA's efforts to keep it safe and clean. Visit www.wqa.com.



Board Members

Valerie Muñoz Chairwoman	Mark Paulson Vice-Chairman	Jorge Marquez Treasurer	Bob Kuhn Secretary	Lynda Noriega Board Member	Ed Chavez Board Member	Michael Whitehead Board Member	Randy Schoellerman Executive Director



At left, Three Valleys Municipal Water District's Claremont headquarters sits next to their Miramar treatment plant. Above, Co-operational Supervisors Dominique Aguire and Freeman Ensign inspect Miramar Well #1, which adds 326 million gallons of water per year to the treatment facility. Matt Litchfield, below left, is Three Valleys' General Manager.

Tapping into Local Sources

Three Valleys Municipal Water District Diversifying Supplies for Resiliency

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer

"With the decline in available supplies from the Colorado River and State Water Project, it's imperative that we develop new local supplies and partner with other agencies on development of recycled water for the region."

Matt Litchfield
General Manager
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

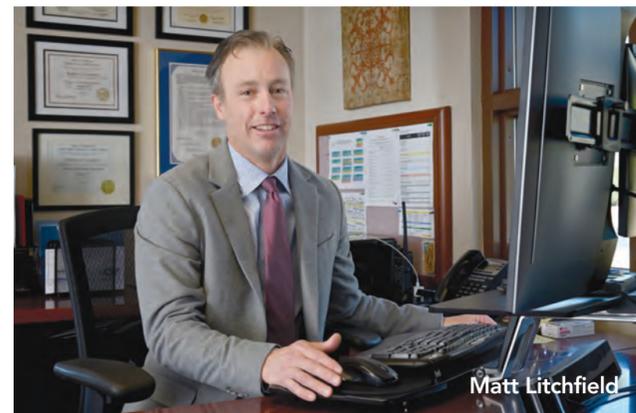
Three Valleys Municipal Water District is tapping into more local supplies to better serve the region now and into the future.

"With the decline in available supplies from the Colorado River and State Water Project, it's imperative that we develop new local supplies and partner with other agencies on development of recycled water for the region," said TVMWD General Manager Matt Litchfield.

Three Valleys has three operational wells and a fourth under construction drawing groundwater from the area near the district's 25-million-gallon-per-day water treatment plant at the Claremont headquarters. They are in negotiations with another property owner for a fifth well site. Each well adds up to approximately 1,000 acre-feet per year to the district's supply.

Litchfield said the district has also signed a letter of intent for 6,500 acre-feet per year from the planned Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center being developed by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts.

"Recycled water could be used for groundwater recharge and hopefully in the future for direct potable reuse," Litchfield said. "A project like this creates a 100 percent reliable source."



Three Valleys serves 13 member agencies in Pomona, Walnut and eastern San Gabriel valleys, covering 133 square miles. The vast majority of the district's water is imported from the Colorado River and the State Water Project by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

"We're always going to be reliant on imported water, but if we could cut that back incrementally, like we are, that's a big positive," Litchfield said.

It's also cost-effective, he explained. Producing groundwater from wells costs \$175-\$200 per acre foot. The cost of raw water from Metropolitan is \$777 per acre-foot. "The more you can produce locally, the greater the financial benefit to the district and its member agencies," Litchfield said.

Three Valleys provides 50,000-60,000 acre-feet of water per year to its member agencies. An acre-foot is equal to 326,000 gallons or the equivalent of about a football field covered in one foot of water. More than 90 percent of this water is imported from northern California and the Colorado River. Both the sources are threatened by climate change that is producing bigger storms and longer droughts.

Three Valleys is also actively engaged with its member agencies on implementing a wide variety of water conservation programs and rebates for retail customers. "Every acre-foot of water conserved is an acre-foot that does not need to be imported," Litchfield said.

"We're always looking to reduce our imported water demand due to the variability," Litchfield said. "Every additional source makes us a little more resilient into the future from a water supply standpoint." ○

In November 2020, two new members were elected to the Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board of Directors. Their terms run from December 2020 to December 2024.

Danielle Soto, Division 6

Danielle Soto represents a small portion of Claremont, a portion of San Dimas and most of north Pomona. Soto is the senior public information specialist for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD). She has worked there since 2009 and currently conducts community education and engagement for the agency, primarily in the Gateway Cities region.

Soto's interest in water, air, and the environment grew in college where she attended UC Santa Cruz (UCSC) and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental studies.

Following in the footsteps of her grandparents, Soto entered public service at the age of 22 when she was elected to the Pomona City Council, representing the residents of District 1 from 2008-2012. During that period, she founded and chaired the Environmental Stewardship Council Sub-Committee and the Transportation Sub-Committee. In her role as council member Danielle also sat on the California League of Cities Environmental Sub-Committee and Chaired the Pomona Valley Transit Authority Board. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Pomona Valley Historical Society.

Mike Ti, Division 7

Mike Ti represents the unincorporated communities of Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights and portions of West Covina, City of Industry, Walnut, and La Puente. Ti is currently a senior resource specialist at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, where he has been since 1998.

With more than 20 years of water industry experience, he oversees technical work on various aspects of water resource planning with particular expertise on regional water demands and water use modeling. Ti is a part of a team that develops Metropolitan's Integrated Water Resource Plan to provide water supply reliability for more than 19 million people in Southern California.

"We live in a semi-arid region and almost half of our water supplies are imported. As the population grows, I want to see more water conservation and recycled water use," Ti said. "I also want to make sure we continue to have a safe and reliable water supply in the future that is also cost effective and environmentally responsible."

Ti holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from University of California, Santa Cruz, a Water Leadership and Management Certificate from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and an Environmental Leadership Certificate from California State University San Marcos. He enjoys cooking, hiking, and camping with his wife and two children.



1021 E. Miramar Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711
www.threevalleys.com

Board Members



Carlos Goytia
Division I
Secretary



David De Jesus
Division II
Vice President



Brian Bowcock
Division III
Treasurer



Bob Kuhn
Division IV
President



Jody Roberto
Division V
Director



Danielle Soto
Division VI
Director



Mike Ti
Division VII
Director

Fill a Bottle to Save Water and Sustain the Environment

Upper District's Water Fill Station Program Takes Off in Public Facilities, Schools

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer



Drink tap water to conserve water. Seems counterintuitive, but that's exactly one benefit driving Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's water bottle fill station initiative.

"So, you might ask how does putting a water bottle fill station in a park or at a school help conserve water? Well, it takes about 10 times more water than is in a plastic water bottle to produce that bottle and transport it," said Upper District General Manager Tom Love. "So, that water is conserved somewhere else, but it's still conserving water."

Just as importantly, the stations discourage the use of single-use plastic water bottles, which are filling up our landfills and littering our watersheds and waterways. Americans purchase 50 billion plastic bottles per year and only 23 percent are recycled. Lastly, Upper District is educating the public about the safety and quality of tap water with informational kiosks at the fill stations.



Tom Love

"Many people don't trust tap water and pay a lot of money for water that might in reality be filtered tap water," said Love. "Bottled water is 10,000 times more expensive than tap water and not necessarily better."

Upper District has installed 44 water fill stations in more than a dozen cities and unincorporated areas in the San Gabriel Valley since the program began in 2019. Fill stations are located in schools in several districts, senior centers, parks and recreation centers and the Arcadia Public Library. Twenty more stations are planned at schools in the West Covina Unified School District (WCUSD). Upper District pays for the installation of the units, which are bought by member water retailers or cities. Upper District covers approximately 144 square miles and includes all or part of 18 cities and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County with more than 950,000 residents. The district has 27 member agencies.

Board Members



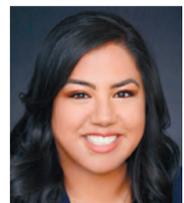
Dr. Anthony R. Fellow
Director, Division 1



Charles Treviño
Treasurer
Division 2



Ed Chavez
President
Division 3



Katarina Garcia
Secretary
Division 4



Jennifer Santana
Vice President
Division 5



Visit <https://upperdistrict.org>

The closure of schools and public facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented regular use of the fill stations. However, each station is equipped with a counter so Upper District and the facilities can track just how many bottles were filled and how many plastic water bottles were not used.

The resources required to produce the plastic bottles and to deliver filled bottles to consumers, including both energy and water, is substantial. The Pacific Institute determined that the production of water bottles for American water bottle consumption in 2006 alone: Took three liters of water to produce one liter of bottled water; required more than 17 million barrels of oil, not including the energy for transportation; produced more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide.

"As a recently elected board member, I am pleased to see the program's popularity at West Covina Unified School District. It is exciting to know the students are embracing the change of using refillable water bottles and it's inspiring positive behavioral changes that impact the overall sustainability of our environment," said Director Katarina Garcia.

A map of water fill station locations is available on the district's web site, www.upperdistrict.org. For more information about the water fill station program, contact Patty Cortez, Director of Government and Community Affairs at patty@usgvmwd.org.

"It is exciting to know the students are embracing the change of using refillable water bottles and it's inspiring positive behavioral changes that impact the overall sustainability of our environment."

Katarina Garcia
Board Director



Moving Beyond Sustainability

Metro's 10-Year Plan Envisions a Greener Los Angeles Region

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer

"Transportation is not merely the biggest source of air pollution in our state – it's one of our greatest opportunities to turn the tides of the climate crisis and reverse generations of inequities found at the heart of our communities."

Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles Mayor and
Metro Board Chair

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is moving past normal – congested freeways and polluted air – to create a more sustainable city and planet.

"Amidst the challenges presented by COVID-19, our commitment to sustainability does not waver," said Metro's Chief Sustainability Officer Cris B. Liban. In 2020, Metro unveiled its most comprehensive sustainability plan to date, "Moving Beyond Sustainability."

"Over the course of the last decade, we have been very successful in fulfilling the internal, operational vision of sustainability by reducing energy and water use and decreasing emissions," said Liban. "Moving Beyond" means we're moving outside of our agency as well to work with other organizations and communities to achieve resiliency."



Eric Garcetti

The plan for the next decade, which was approved by the Metro Board of Directors in September, outlines strategies for making Metro facilities greener, reducing air pollution and trash from construction and reducing smog and greenhouse gases across L.A. County.

"Transportation is not merely the biggest source of air pollution in our state – it's one of our greatest opportunities to turn the tides of the climate crisis and reverse generations of inequities found at the heart of our communities," said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti. "Metro's Moving Beyond Sustainability plan is only a first step, and we will keep working to build on this foundation and accelerate our ambitions toward a more sustainable and just future."

Among the plan's specific goals are the transition from compressed natural gas buses to a 100 percent electric bus fleet by 2030. Additionally, the plan calls for tripling Metro's on-site renewable energy generation by 2030, reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by 79 percent and reducing total nitrogen oxides emissions by 54 percent.



[MOVING, Page 17]

Photos courtesy of Metro ©LACMTA 2021

Metro has 40, 60-foot electric buses in service on the G Line (Orange). The agency has ordered an additional 65 zero emission electric buses from the manufacturer BYD in Lancaster with five of those buses being 60-foot articulated buses earmarked for the G Line (Orange) and the remainder to be used on the J Line (Silver) that operates between the El Monte Bus Station and the Harbor Gateway Transit Center in Gardena. Metro plans to convert the J Line (Silver) to zero emission electric buses in 2021.



Cris B. Liban

“Transit in general is a net-displacer of greenhouse gas emission. We do have greenhouse gas emissions, but we also take cars away from roads, solo drivers in particular, and we reduce congestion on streets,” said Liban. “We displace about 100,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases every year.”

Additionally, Metro has reduced emissions and generated revenue by converting its bus fleet to run on renewable natural gas (RNG). The revenue generated from selling about 100-150,000 credits a year in the California Air Resources Board credit market goes back into Metro’s sustainability projects.



“Over the course of the last decade, we have been very successful in fulfilling the internal, operational vision of sustainability by reducing energy and water use and decreasing emissions.”

Cris B. Liban
Metro’s Chief Sustainability Officer



As part of its longterm sustainability plan, Metro has converted its bus fleet to run on renewable natural gas (RNG) and plans a full conversion to electric buses by 2030. Stations and bus stops are also built to encourage biking and walking as shown at left. Metro is also expanding its rail and subway lines (above), using renewable energy, such as the solar panels shown on page 7, and saving water with new fixtures and native plants as shown below left. To keep passengers and staff safe, Metro has strict COVID-19 protocols as shown at right.

“This program has been a net-zero cost program since 2017. We take revenue-generating programs and invest back into the sustainability initiatives,” explained Liban. “Other cities and agencies cut their sustainability programs in light of the pandemic. We have not. We’ve made some very aggressive moves to push forward our agenda, specifically in terms of climate change, despite the pandemic.”

The plan follows the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and social. Liban said the public good is at the core of everything Metro does. The sustainability department reaches out to the community for input and also provides educational programs to empower environmental stewardship and leadership. Metro is also encouraging building density around its rail stations and bus lines to enable walking and biking, rather than driving.

“Metro is leading a bold movement to reimagine L.A. County: one that expands mobility, increases access to opportunities and increases environmental stewardship,” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “We are thoughtfully and strategically moving forward to combat climate change and reduce L.A. County’s carbon footprint.”

Finally, “Moving Beyond Sustainability” addresses the uncertainties of our time, particularly in light of climate change. The plan’s “Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation” section allows for flexibility and builds upon regional partnerships to prepare for and mitigate natural hazards.



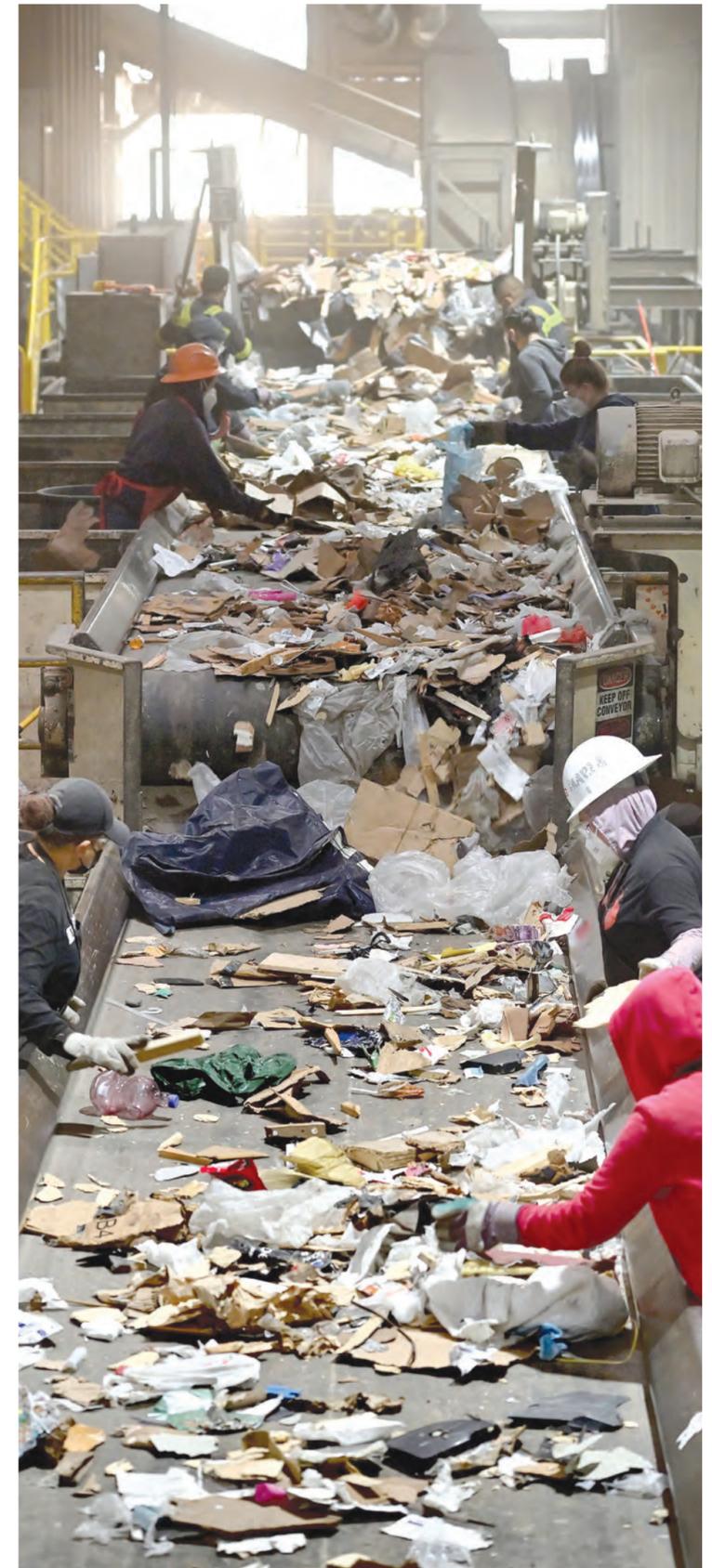
“As a public agency we always strive to optimize public good benefits through the services that we provide and our operations,” Liban said. “There’s a lot of expectation of us, especially with the pandemic. How do we ensure, despite the limitations we’re faced with, that we work with the general public and deliver the level of service they’re expecting? This is what we strive for.”



To read the full “Moving Beyond Sustainability” plan and to learn about Growing a Greener Workforce educational opportunities, go to www.metro.net/projects/sustainability



Valley Vista Services, a family-owned and operated solid-waste and recycling company, continues to provide this essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Personal protective equipment has been provided to all employees from those who service the trucks (at left) to drivers (above) to those working the recycling lines (right). Manager Chris Perez (below left) said he's proud of all the Valley Vista employees for doing their work safely without customer service interruptions.



Pride in Our Employees...Job Well Done

Valley Vista Services Prioritizes Customer Service, Employee Safety During Pandemic

By Amy Bentley
Special Sections Writer

When thinking about "essential businesses" during the COVID-19 pandemic, grocery stores and hospitals come to mind. But there's another business that's equally essential to our way of life: trash collection.

Valley Vista Services is a family-owned and operated solid waste disposal and recycling company serving the communities of Claremont, Cypress, Diamond Bar, El Monte, La Puente, Hacienda Heights, Industry, Pomona and Walnut, plus the unincorporated communities of Bassett, Valinda and San Jose Hills. It was founded in 1957.

Throughout the pandemic, Valley Vista Services remained dedicated to safely providing uninterrupted services for residential and commercial clients while prioritizing safety for the employees too, whether they worked remotely or in-person. Valley Vista has about 300 employees and most can't work remotely due to the nature of their jobs.

"We are very proud of our people for their courage and the work they did. They deserve recognition," said Manager Chris Perez. "We're so proud of all of our people for being flexible and being able to work throughout the pandemic to make it happen."



Chris Perez

Most of the work is done by drivers, mechanics, transfer station truck drivers and loaders, and those working the recycling lines sorting recyclables. Keeping these

employees safe at work has been a top priority for Valley Vista, which has provided all its employees with plenty of personal protective equipment (PPE) and set up hand sanitizing stations throughout the workplace. Employees also wore masks and kept customers safe, he said.

Many Customer Service and office employees have been working remotely. Valley Vista is happy to accommodate those employees who preferred working from home for safety reasons or because they had school-aged children to supervise at home while schools were closed. Accounting and Dispatch crews have been working onsite throughout, and their efforts as well as the outstanding efforts of the office crew should be recognized also.

Valley Vista has continued to service all waste and recycling routes: collecting trash, recycling, green waste and bulky items. Routes were consolidated at times when needed for safety or staffing reasons, but the regular routes were brought back as soon as possible.

For the entire pandemic to date, Perez said, "We never had any interruptions in services. All scheduled pickups have been done on time and this will continue."

Valley Vista Services also continued to provide personal support to customers through its Customer Service Call Center. "We worked with our customers to avoid any disruption of service due to financial issues. We understand this is a challenging time for everyone," Perez said.

All in all, Perez said, "We decided we were going to do this and make it all happen. We're proud of how our company and our employees have handled these challenging times." ○

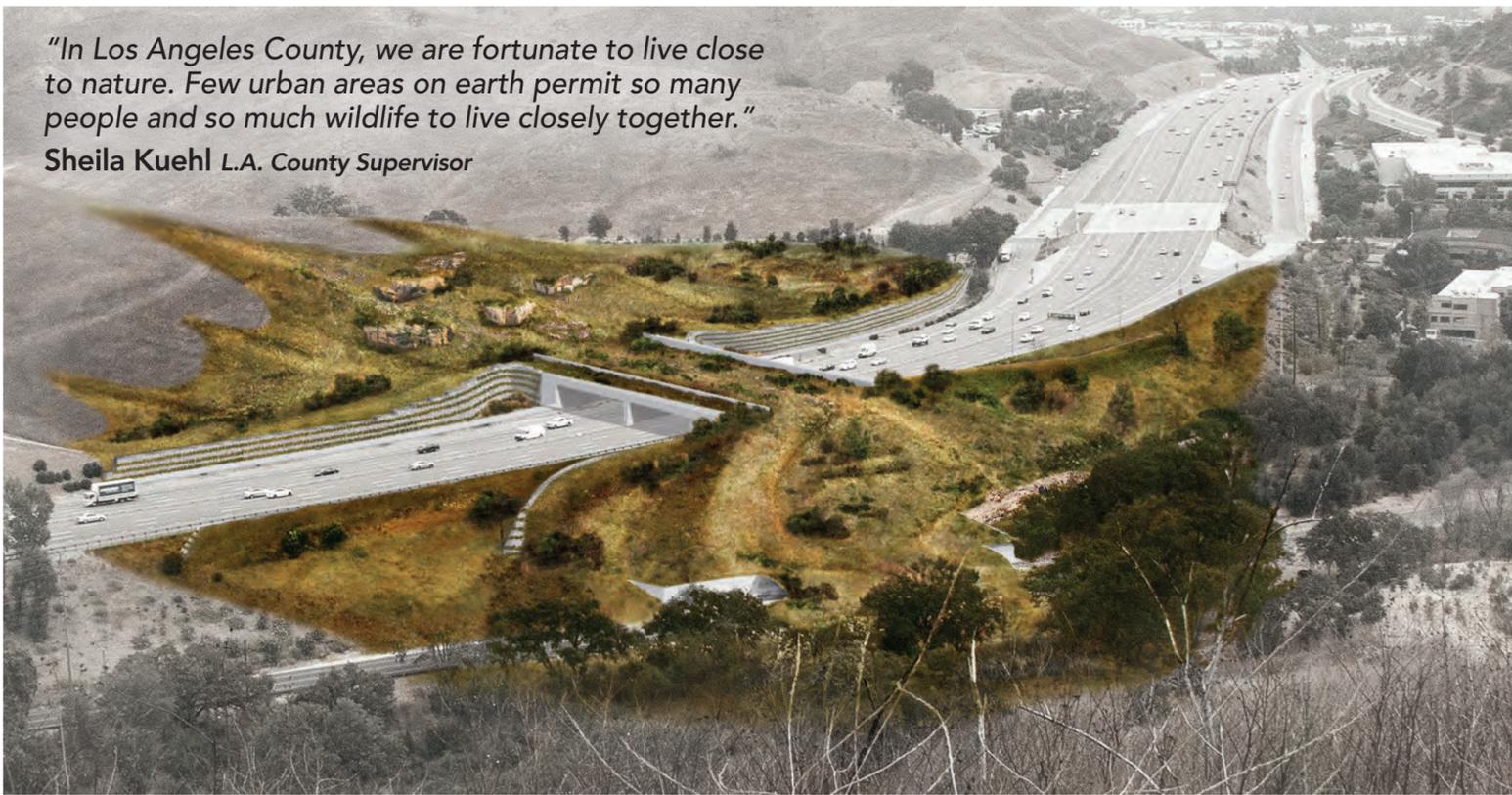


Learn more at
www.valleyvistaservices.com



"In Los Angeles County, we are fortunate to live close to nature. Few urban areas on earth permit so many people and so much wildlife to live closely together."

Sheila Kuehl L.A. County Supervisor



[URBAN, Page 2]

Santa Monica and Agoura Hills. "In order to protect this unique element of L.A.'s ecology, residents, the county, and other local and national groups, as well as my office, have taken special care to preserve habitats that allow our wildlife, including our mountain lions, to survive and thrive."

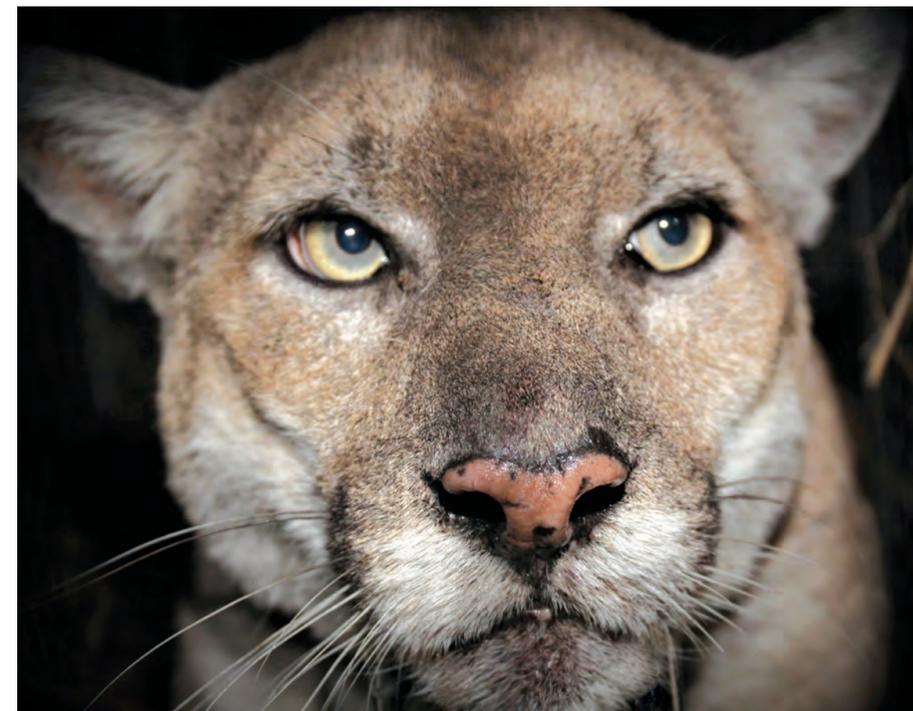
The public-private partnership involving Caltrans, the National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains and the National Wildlife Federation expects to break ground on the wildlife corridor project by the end of the year and completion could be as soon as 2023.

"We didn't know when we put in the 101 Freeway what we were doing, but we do know now," said Pratt. "It's wonderful that we can use science to right some of that wrong and reconnect an ecosystem. This mountain lion population is one of the most closely monitored in the world."

National Park Service wildlife ecologist Seth Riley is one of the scientists in the Santa Monica Mountains Recreational area who has been studying and tracking the Los Angeles mountain lions since 2002. Researchers have monitored 95 cougars in all and currently have GPS collars on 11 adult lions that show them eight location points a day. Seven cougars are in the Santa Monica Mountains, three in the Simi Hills north of the 101 Freeway and one, P-22, in Griffith Park, Riley explained. He suspects there are fewer than two dozen in the area now. There were five litters born last summer. One litter had to be relocated to a sanctuary because the mother died, but Riley says there is evidence some of the other young cougars are still alive.

"All the work we do is aimed at understanding the effects of urbanization on wildlife," Riley said, adding that the mountain lions are most threatened because they require the most space for survival. "A female bobcat uses 1½-2 square kilometers for her home range and the female mountain lion is using 100 square kilometers, so it's on a whole different scale."

Their research has shown the cougars are threatened not just by urban dangers such as cars and rodent poison, but by the fact they can't disperse far from home and interact outside their small groups. Their loss of habitat has led to more fights between male mountain lions and to inbreeding.



A \$85-million wildlife crossing over the 101 Freeway at Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills, as shown in the rendering at left, would give all the wildlife more room to roam. There are believed to be about two dozen mountain lions in Los Angeles County. Five litters of kittens, including the one shown below left, were born last summer. P-22, above, was recollared in February and was healthy. He is the most famous of the cats because he crossed multiple freeways and is now isolated in Griffith Park. At right is another lion collared by the National Park Service, P-35. Currently, 11 adult lions have GPS collars used by researchers to track their movements.

"We've known for a number of years that they have very low genetic diversity," Riley said adding that the L.A. population and one in the Santa Ana mountains are the least genetically diverse. "Just this last year, we saw first physical signs of inbreeding, lions with kinked tails and only one descended testicle. That's concerning because we hadn't seen physical manifestations of the low genetic diversity."

This inbreeding could lead to the extinction of mountain lions in Los Angeles within 50 years. In February, the state Fish and Game Commission unanimously granted mountain lions in six regions including Los Angeles "candidate status" to be listed as threatened in as soon as a year. This protection status as well as the planned wildlife corridor give lion supporters hope.

"The hope is that we can coexist. L.A. is not only setting a model for the world in building this crossing but the model it's setting is that we want wildlife here, even in the most urban of places," said Pratt. "This crossing is really inspiring other people to envision coexisting with wildlife in places we might have ruled out before."

It might be too late for P-22 to mate as he is 11 years old and it's far too risky to move him closer to the other lions. He was recollared in February and is a healthy 123 pounds, but the average lifespan of a mountain lion is 9 to 13 years old. The oldest lion documented in the L.A. study was approximately 12 (P-1, the father of P-22). Still, Pratt and Riley look forward to the day when about 400,000 cars drive under the Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing every day and realize how it serves all the wildlife and plant species.

"People think of L.A. as a big, sprawling metropolis, which it is, but it's also surrounded by amazing natural areas, including areas that still have a large carnivore," said Riley. "So, I'm hopeful we will be able to connect these areas and preserve all the species." ○

To learn more about the \$85-million Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing and support its completion, go to www.savelacougars.org

MOUNTAIN LION SAFETY TIPS

Wildlife experts say the more you understand mountain lion behavior, the less afraid you'll be if you encounter one. "Please don't fear mountain lions," says the National Wildlife Federation's Beth Pratt. "We should always respect them, but most encounters end without any incident. It's never zero risk, but it's pretty low." In California, in 100 years there have been fewer than 20 attacks and just six fatalities.

AT HOME:

- Supervise pets and children outdoors.
- Keep pets inside at night.
- Do not leave pet food or food for wildlife outside.
- Fence your yard. Keep garbage cans secured. Trim low brush.

ON THE TRAIL:

- Do not hike or run alone where a lion might be.
- Keep children close to you and pick them up if you spot a cougar.
- Do not approach a lion or kittens.
- Make yourself appear larger by raising arms and waving them slowly.
- Make noise. Sound defiant, not afraid.
- Slowly back away, keeping eye contact with the lion.
- If a lion attacks, fight back with hands and rocks. Protect your head and neck.



FACTS & FIGURES*

- The National Park Service has studied 95 mountain lions in and around the Santa Monica Mountains.
- The major causes of death among study animals are intraspecific strife (mountain lions killing other mountain lions), vehicle collisions, and rodenticide poisoning.
- A total of 23 mountain lions have been struck and killed by vehicles in the study area since 2002. The most recent being P-78, a young male, last December.
- A typical home range is around 150 square miles for adult males and 65 square miles for adult females in our region.
- Mountain lions typically eat about one deer per week, along with other smaller prey as the opportunity arises. NPS researchers have analyzed more than 700 kills, of which 87 percent were mule deer (the second-most common prey was coyotes and then raccoons).
- 27 of 28 mountain lions have tested positive for exposure to one or more anticoagulant rodenticides (rat poison) and six have died directly of poisoning.

*From NPS as of March 31, 2021

Drought

This Earth Day It's ~~Déjà Vu~~ All Over Again!



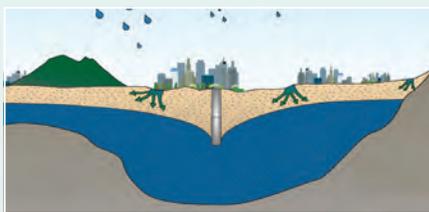
Bad Signs for Our Water Supply

**LOCAL RAINFALL
(LA ALMANAC)**



↓
131%
 OF NORMAL 2019
91%
 OF NORMAL 2020
38%
 OF NORMAL 2021

**LOCAL GROUNDWATER
(WATERMASTER)**



↓
212.5 ft.
 ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL
 DECEMBER 2019
207.2 ft.
 ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL
 APRIL 2020
196.2 ft.
 ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL
 APRIL 2021

**STATEWIDE RESERVOIRS
(DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES)**

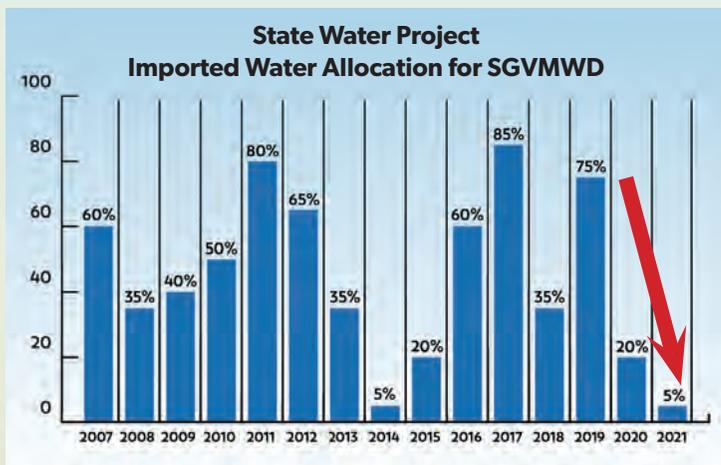


↓
107%
 OF AVERAGE 2019
99%
 OF AVERAGE 2020
77%
 OF AVERAGE 2021

**STATEWIDE SNOWFALL
(DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES)**



↓
161%
 OF NORMAL 2019
53%
 OF NORMAL 2020
49%
 OF NORMAL 2021



Good News: Conservation Works!

CONSERVE WATER

LOW RAINFALL = LOW GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES!