



## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2016-11

March 17, 2016

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**TO:** La Palma City Council

**FROM:** Laurie A. Murray, City Manager *LAM*

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#### In This Week's Report

- Agenda Summary
- Parenting OC
- California's Road Charge Program (w\Attachment)
- Oral Communications Response (w\Attachment)
- ACTIVE Online Registration Available
- Personnel Activity
- Agenda Planning Guide

#### Other Attachments & Correspondence from Other Organizations

- City Council Monthly Calendar of Events
- Certificate Presented to PokiPPoki
- LOCC News
- OCFA News
- OCWD News
- La Palma in the News

#### City Manager's Office News

**Agenda Summary:** The Agenda for Tuesday, March 22, will include an overview of the City's Revenues and expenditures, including detailed presentations by Department Directors on their proposed budgets. While the meeting was originally scheduled for the Community Center, it has been relocated to the Council Chambers to allow the meeting to be audiocast.

**Parenting OC:** Parenting OC has once again recognized La Palma as one of the best cities for families in Orange County. The magazine chose 16 OC cities for the list – 8 Best Affordable Cities for Families and 8 Best Higher-Priced Cities for Families. Some of the parameters considered include schools, low crime rates, and pleasing amenities. La Palma came in 6th on the Best Higher-Priced Cities for Families. Congratulations La Palma!

**California's Road Charge Program (w\Attachment):** Among top issues statewide in transportation is California's Road Charge Program. To ensure future adequate revenues transportation infrastructure, SB 1077, signed into law by Governor Brown, created a Technical Advisory Committee to look at the methods of road charging. This program involves a Road Charge Pilot Program where drivers statewide can sign up to be a participant and relay their experiences with different ways to track miles travelled – ranging from the simple to the complex. There is a concern that the pilot sample group is predominantly from Northern California; therefore the State is encouraging those that are interested in this program – no matter how they view the idea of road charging – to sign up.

Attached is a flier with more details or one may go to [www.CaliforniaRoadCharge Pilot.com](http://www.CaliforniaRoadChargePilot.com). Lisa Bartlett, OCTA Director and Chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors sits on the Technical Advisory Committee as does Steve Finnegan from the Automobile Club of Southern California (based here in Orange County). Lastly, CTC Commissioner and the Chairman of the Road User Charge Technical Advisory Committee, Jim Madaffer, will attend the Monday, April 4th, 2016 OCTA Regional Highways Committee meeting (starts at 10:30a.m.) to make a presentation on the Pilot Project.

### **Community Development Department News**

**Oral Communications Response (w\Attachment):** Attached is staff's follow-up response to the member of the public who spoke under oral communications at the March 15, 2016, City Council meeting expressing their concern with making left turns out of Alexander Avenue onto eastbound Orangethorpe Avenue and expressed trepidation that the proposed Retail building at 5100 Orangethorpe Avenue would exacerbate the experience.

### **Community Services Department News**

**ACTIVE Online Registration Available:** Today the Community Services Recreation Division went live with their new Registration and Reservation Software. The current CLASS software (used for the past 10 years) was being phased out and required either an upgrade to ACTIVE or to another vendor and system. Staff, led by Supervisor Robinson, spent several months researching possible options and chose to continue with the ActiveNetwork due to the cost, familiarity and similarity, and the built in e-marketing tools. Additionally the system is more user friendly for those who choose to register for classes and programs online. For the past two months staff has been inputting information and training in the new system in preparation of going live. If you wish to create an account please go to [www.cityoflapalma.org/active](http://www.cityoflapalma.org/active).



**Citywide News**

<b>Personnel Activity</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>
Police Officer (Eligibility List)	Candidates in backgrounds
Per Diem Dispatcher	Applications being reviewed
Police Services Aide	Second Interviews held March 17
Police Dispatcher	Applications being reviewed
Administrative Services Director	Candidate to start March 21
Recreation Leader/Sr. Recreation Leader	Interviews to be held March 23
Sr. Recreation Leader Day Camp Counselor	Interviews to be held March 22
Police Chief	Interim Police Chief hired; Recruitment to be held in late 2016

**Agenda Planning Guide**

(All meetings start at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated)

***Items listed on the planning guide are tentative and subject to move to different dates***

**March 22 – Special Budget Workshop**

**April 5**

Presentation of Proposed FY 2016-17 Budget  
 Precise Plan Amendment – 5418 La Palma  
 Precise Plan Amendment – Gateway Tower  
 2016 Street Closures – City Special Events  
*Planning Commission* - Eliminate Planning Commission/Designate City Council as Planning Agency  
 Resolution Requesting that the Anaheim Union High School District become a “School District of Choice”

**April 12 – Special Budget Workshop (if necessary)**

**April 19**

Budget Questions  
 Precise Plan Amendment – 6811 Walker  
 Precise Plan – Ozawa Subdivision  
*Introduction/First Reading* - Eliminate Planning Commission/Designate City Council as Planning Agency

**May 3**

Adoption of FY 2016-17 Budget  
 Cash and Investment Reports as of 3/31/16  
 Third Quarter Operations Report – FY 15/16  
*Adoption/Second Reading* - Eliminate Planning Commission/Designate City Council as Planning Agency

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

Please tell Crystal which of the following activities you will be attending and if you would like assistance in registering for any upcoming event.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Information</b>	<b>Known Attendees</b>
Monday March 21	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Mission Viejo, 24932 Veterans Way, 7:00 p.m.	

Thursday March 24	Orange State of the City, Chapman University Sandhu Conference Room, 571 N. Grand St., 11:30 a.m.	
	KACCLA Annual Gala & Awards Night, Millennium Biltmore Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, 506 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, 5:30 p.m.	PK
Sunday March 27	IACGOC Annual Nowruz Festival, Rose Garden, Irvine, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday March 29	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Garden Grove, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Butterfield Room A, 7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday March 30	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Laguna Woods, 24264 El Toro Road, 10:00 a.m.	
Thursday March 31	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Tustin, 300 Centennial Way, 7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday April 6	HB Chamber Economic Conference, Hyatt Huntington Beach Resort & Spa, 8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	
Thursday April 7	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Brea, 1 Civic Center Circle, Community Rooms A & B, 7:00 p.m.	
Thursday April 14	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Irvine, Trabuco Center, 5701 Trabuco Road, 6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday April 19	Arbor Day Celebration, Central Park, 4:00 p.m.	PK, MS
Friday April 22	Los Coyotes Talent Show, Multi Purpose Room, 6:00 p.m.	LM
Tuesday April 26	State of the City, Central Park, Royal Palm Room, 7:00 p.m.	GG, PK, MS, LM
Saturday April 30	Fullerton Donate Life Run Walk Event, Cal State Fullerton, 7:00 a.m. - Noon	MS
Friday May 13	American Red Cross Heroes Luncheon, Angel Stadium, 2000 E. Gene Autry Way, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	

# California Road Charge Pilot Program

Exploring the Possibilities...  
ONE MILE AT A TIME



Vehicles go farther with less fuel



Roads are fixed with fuel taxes at the pump



Roads and revenue to fix them are suffering

## Why Study Road Charge?



Increased damage to all roads



Reduced buying power



California's economy

**SIGN UP NOW!** Limited Opportunity

[www.CaliforniaRoadChargePilot.com](http://www.CaliforniaRoadChargePilot.com)

# Maintaining California's Economy **ONE MILE AT A TIME**

## **Background**

An efficient transportation system is critical for California's economy and quality of life. The revenues currently available for highways and local roads are inadequate to preserve and maintain existing infrastructure and to provide funds for improvements that would reduce congestion and improve safety. Because of improving fuel economy, motor fuel taxes are ineffective methods of meeting California's long-term revenue needs; they will steadily generate less revenue as cars and trucks become more fuel efficient and alternative sources of power are identified. By 2030, as much as half of the revenue that could have been collected will be lost to fuel efficiency.

## **Senate Bill 1077**

In an effort to address this problem, in 2014 the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Senate Bill (SB)1077. SB 1077 established the Technical Advisory Committee under the California Transportation Commission to formulate recommendations for design of a pilot project to explore the risks and benefits of road charging. The recommendations of this diverse statewide committee are currently being finalized and will be provided to the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency for consideration and guidance in executing the pilot. The road charging pilot will illustrate firsthand the advantages, disadvantages, challenges, and opportunities of road charging.

## **Road Charge Pilot Program**

The success of the Road Charge Pilot Program is contingent on **YOU**. To effectively evaluate the pilot program we need to recruit 5,000 volunteers to participate in this innovative and exciting 9-month study. The recruiting process has already started to ensure the pilot represents a broad cross-section of the population of California. With the Road Charge Pilot Program scheduled to commence in the summer of 2016, we need you to **participate in the pilot** and to **assist in the recruitment of volunteers**.

Go to the program website to find out more about the pilot efforts to date, provide feedback on the program, sign-up for updates, and most importantly volunteer and help us...**Improve our Roads – One Mile at a Time.**

[www.CaliforniaRoadChargePilot.com](http://www.CaliforniaRoadChargePilot.com)

## Dumhart, Douglas

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**From:** Dumhart, Douglas  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 8:52 AM  
**To:** 'Mohgan@aol.com'  
**Subject:** Gateway Retail Building - 5100 Orangethorpe Avenue

**Importance:** High

Mr. Ganapathy:

This is a follow-up to your oral communications at the March 15, 2016, City Council meeting. You had expressed concerns about the difficulty making left turns out of Alexander Avenue onto eastbound Orangethorpe Avenue. Additionally, you had expressed trepidation that the proposed Retail building at 5100 Orangethorpe would exacerbate your experience.

The Gateway Retail building was reviewed and approved last February 3, 2015. The matter that has recently been circulated with notice to your neighborhood is that the property owner now desires to add a cellular facility to his previously approved project. The cellular facility will not add any traffic to the project but will greatly improve wireless connectivity and broadband capacity in your neighborhood.

As for the previously approved Gateway Retail building, traffic analysis was performed and evaluated by the approving body (La Palma Planning Commission.) You can review the report to the Planning Commission with the trip generation analysis on the City's web site at: <http://www.cityoflapalma.org/DocumentCenter/View/5175> As you will see, the small non-destination oriented retail space will only result in a couple dozen outbound trips during the PM peak period on Orangethorpe Avenue. Compared to the 22,000+ average daily trips (ADT's) on Orangethorpe the additional 23 outbound trips did not warrant any changes to existing traffic control measures.

I have placed a call to the City of Cerritos to inquire whether or not anyone from the Alexander Avenue neighborhood has expressed concerns about left turn egress from Alexandar Avenue. The Cerritos Engineering Division indicated they have never heard such a complaint from your neighborhood. I would encourage you to reach out to your own City of Cerritos Engineering Division if you believe there is a circulation problem exiting your tract. The contact is Albert at 562-860-0311 ext. 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Douglas D. Dumhart  
Community Development Director  
City of La Palma

# March 2016

March 2016							April 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 28	29	Mar 1 7:00pm City Council Meeting (Council Chamber)	2 8:30am Los Coyotes Elementary - Read Across America (MS) (8122 Moody Street) - City Council	3 10:00am SCAG Energy and Environment 10:30am SCAG Subcommittees (711) 12:30pm SCAG Regional Council (711 S. Hope)	4	5
6	7	8 6:00pm CAB Committee (City Council Chambers)	9 12:00pm OCFA Budget & Committee Meeting (1 Fire 5:00pm O.C. Sanitation (FHRA) Committee (10844 Ellis Avenue,	10 11:00am SCAG MAGLEV Mtg. (SCAG Office)	11 City Hall Closed/Flex Day	12 5:30pm Garden Grove Chamber Annual Gala and Awards (12681 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove) - City Council
13	14 4:00pm AUHSD Foundation Meeting (District Campus, 501 7:00pm Development Committee (Council Chambers)	15 6:00pm Poki Poki Ribbon Cutting (5456 La Palma) - City 7:00pm City Council Mtg. (Council Chambers)	16 9:00am Groundbreaking Ceremony of Heroes 11:15am Los Alamitos Police Appreciation 7:00pm Cerritos Mayoral Transition (18125	17 3:00pm O.C. Vector Control District (13001 Garden Grove Blvd.)	18	19
20	21 7:00pm OCVCD Town Hall Meeting (24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo) - City Council	22 7:00pm City Council Special Meeting_Budget Workshop (Central Park, Royal Palm Room) - City Council	23 7:00pm O.C. Sanitation District Board Mtg. (10844 Ellis Ave., Fountain Valley)	24 10:30am OCCOG (OCTA, Conf. Rm. 103/104; 11:30am Orange State of the City (571 N. Grand 5:30pm KACCLA Annual 6:00pm OCFA Exec. &	25 City Hall Closed/Flex Day	26
27 1:00pm Annual Nowruz Festival (Rose Garden, Irvine) - Wilkerson, Crystal	28	29 7:00pm OCVCD Town Hall Meeting (11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove) - City Council	30 10:00am OCVCD Town Hall Meeting (24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods) - City Council	31 7:00pm OCVCD Town Hall Meeting (300 Centennial Way, Tustin) - City Council	Apr 1	2

# April 2016

April 2016							May 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1 7:00pm JF Kennedy High School Mr. & Ms. Pageantry (Performing Arts Center) - City Council	2
3	4	5 7:00pm City Council Meeting (Council Chamber)	6 8:15am HB Chamber Economic Conference (Hyatt Huntington Beach Resort & Spa) - City Council	7 10:00am SCAG Energy and Environment 10:30am SCAG Subcommittees (711) 12:30pm SCAG Regional 7:00pm OCVCD Town	8 City Hall Closed/Flex Day	9
10	11 4:00pm AUHSD Foundation Meeting (District Campus, 501 Crescent Way, Anaheim)	12 6:00pm CAB Committee (City Council Chambers)	13 12:00pm OCFA Budget & Committee Meeting (1 Fire) 5:00pm O.C. Sanitation (FHRA) Committee (10844 Ellis Avenue,	14 11:00am SCAG MAGLEV Mtg. (SCAG Office) 4:00pm Library Executive & Finance Committee 6:00pm OCVCD Town Hall Meeting (5701	15	16
17	18	19 4:00pm Arbor Day Celebration (PK, MS) (Central Park) - City 7:00pm City Council Mtg. (Council Chambers)	20	21 3:00pm O.C. Vector Control District (13001 Garden Grove Blvd.)	22 City Hall Closed/Flex Day 6:00pm Los Coyotes Elementary School Talent Show (8122 Moody Street)	23
24	25 6:00pm Traffic Safety Committee Meeting (Council Chambers)	26 7:00pm State of the City (GG, PK, MS) (Central Park, Royal Palm Room) - City Council	27 7:00pm O.C. Sanitation District Board Mtg. (10844 Ellis Ave., Fountain Valley)	28 10:30am OCCOG (OCTA, Conf. Rm. 103/104; 600 S. Main St., 6:00pm OCFA Exec. & Brd. Comm. Mtg. (1 Fire Authority Road,	29	30 Fullerton Donate Life Run Walk Evnet (Cal State Fullerton) - City Council

# Certificate of Appreciation

to

**poki**ppoki

*This Certificate of Appreciation is conferred upon PokiPPoki for  
choosing the City of La Palma for their place of business*

The City of La Palma recognizes that healthy living habits can only exist when residents have access to available and quality foods, and the City welcomes this new poké restaurant which is a fast casual dining experience whose culinary traditions originate from the Pacific Islands.

The City wishes to express its appreciation to PokiPPoki for the commitment they have made to bring fresh culinary experience to La Palma neighborhood's in need of a dining options and wishes to express its gratitude to locate their operations at 5456 La Palma Avenue.

Therefore, the City of La Palma officially welcomes PokiPPoki and their employees to the community of La Palma and for advancing La Palma's economic growth.



Gerard Goedhart  
Mayor, City of La Palma



March 15, 2016

Date

## Wilkerson, Crystal

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**From:** League of CA Cities <cacitiesadvocate@cacities.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2016 12:31 PM  
**To:** Wilkerson, Crystal  
**Subject:** CA Cities Advocate Issue #23: League Members Advocate for City Priorities during 2016 NLC Congressional Conference, Cities, Counties Awarded for Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Projects, League Submits Comments on CAMTC Sunset Review Legislation

# CA Cities Advocate



LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

March 11, 2016  
Issue #23

## Editor's Note

For a PDF copy of the newsletter please visit the League's [website](#). For more updates from the League, follow us on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

## [League Members Advocate for City Priorities during 2016 NLC City Congressional Conference](#)

### *Sen. Boxer Receives League Congressional Leader of the Year Award*

More than 2,000 city officials from across the nation met in Washington, D.C. this week for the 2016 National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. During the conference, attendees heard from a variety of Cabinet-level appointees on issues of importance to cities.

[NLC, Federal, Meetings and Events](#)

## [Cities, Counties Awarded for Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Projects](#)

### *Los Angeles County Wins Top Prize, Cities of Cupertino, Santa Cruz, and Placer County also Honored*

The County Engineers Association of California and the Public Works Officers' Institute on Thursday, March 10, today announced the winners of the 2016 Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards at their annual spring meeting in Sacramento. Local governments being recognized include the cities of Cupertino and Santa Cruz and the counties of Placer and Los Angeles.

[Public Works Officers, Public Works, Transportation, Meetings and Events](#)

## **League Submits Comments on California Massage Therapy Council Sunset Review Legislation**

The Assembly Business and Professions Committee and the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development committees on Monday, March 14 will hold a [sunset review hearing](#) for the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC). The hearing will cover [AB 2195 \(Bonilla\)](#), legislation that would extend its sunset under the [Massage Therapy Act \(AB 1147 of 2014\)](#) from Jan. 1, 2017 to Jan. 1, 2019.

Massage Regulation, Legislation

## **Measures Include Authority to Regulate Electronic Cigarettes in Same Manner as Tobacco**

Just one week after the Assembly took action on March 4, the Senate on March 10 approved all six tobacco control bills, including measures that would regulate electronic cigarettes as tobacco products, increase the legal smoking age to 21 from 18, and authorize counties to impose local tobacco taxes.

Environmental Quality, Legislation

## **Speaker Rendon Announces New Committee Chairs, Floor Leadership Team**

The busy week in the Capitol wrapped up on Thursday when Anthony Rendon, the newly sworn in Speaker, released changes to several of the [Assembly's policy committees](#) as well as his [floor leadership team](#). The changes are effective immediately for the 2015-16 Regular Session.

Assembly

## **Public Works Officers Learn about Benefits of U.S. Communities Joint Purchasing Program**

City and county public works officers and staff this week had an opportunity to learn more about how the League of California Cities® sponsored [U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance](#) program can help their local agencies save taxpayer dollars through the power of using the government purchasing cooperative.

Financial Solutions for CA Cities

## **March 16 Deadline Approaching for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities NOFA**

*NEW FAQ Released for Current Fiscal Year Funding Cycle*

Cities that are interested in applying for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grants must submit their concept proposals by March 16. The Strategic Growth Council earlier this week released [new responses to FAQ](#) for the FY 2015-16 funding round.

Affordable Housing, Housing, Grants and Funding

## **The League's 2016 Legislative Action Day is Wednesday, April 27**

*Register Today for the Condensed One-Day Program*

It is not too early to register for the League's Annual Legislative Action Day. Scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, the one-day event is free for League members and League Partners.

[Legislation, Assembly, Senate, Meetings and Events](#)

## **Register Today for March 16 Webinar to Provide Help for Cities Addressing Homelessness**

Registration closes March 15 for the League's March 16 webinar intended to provide cities with information on fundamental tools for addressing homelessness. This 90-minute webinar will begin at 2 p.m.

[Housing, Homelessness, Meetings and Events](#)

## **California City Solutions: Millbrae Tackles Illegal Dumping Activity with Clean Team**

*This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2015 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called [California City Solutions](#). The city of Millbrae's Clean Team was submitted in 2015 for the Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement in city Government award category.*

[CA City Solutions, Helen Putnam, Environmental Quality, Ethics](#)

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**1400 K Street ■ Sacramento, CA 95814 ■ (916) 658-8200**

You can unsubscribe here: [Unsubscribe](#)

## Wilkerson, Crystal

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**From:** League of CA Cities <cacitiesadvocate@cacities.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:52 PM  
**To:** Wilkerson, Crystal  
**Subject:** CA Cities Advocate Issue #24: WEBINAR: Legislative Action Day Preview: Briefing on Priority Bills, League-Sponsored Bond Agency Issues \$282,555,000 in Tax-Exempt Bonds for Student Housing on the University of California, Irvine Campus

# CA Cities Advocate



LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

March 17, 2016  
Issue #24

## Editor's Note

For a PDF copy of the newsletter please visit the League's [website](#). For more updates from the League, follow us on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

## [WEBINAR: Legislative Action Day Preview: Briefing on Priority Bills](#)

Join the League's Legislative team on Thursday, April 21 from 1:30-3 p.m. for a legislative briefing to review the top priority bills that will impact local governments. League lobbyists will be sharing information on legislation affecting transportation funding, employee relations, public safety and local control.

[Meetings and Events, Legislation, Hot Bills](#)

## [League-Sponsored Bond Agency Issues \\$282,555,000 in Tax-Exempt Bonds for Student Housing on the University of California, Irvine Campus](#)

Some of the most significant benefits of League membership for cities since 1988 have flowed from the League's co-sponsorship of the [California Statewide Communities Development Authority](#) (CSCDA). This program provides a variety of public agencies and developers access to low-cost, tax-exempt financing and economic development tools. CSCDA recently issued \$282,555,000 in tax-exempt refunding revenue bonds for student housing facilities located on campus at the University of California, Irvine.

[Financial Solutions for CA Cities](#)

## [Groundwater Workshops Underway](#)

Workshops are underway on the Prop. 1 groundwater sustainability program, including stops for the State Water Resources Control Board to take public comment in San Luis Obispo, March 21, and Rancho Cordova, March 25.

Environmental Quality, Water

## **March 23 Seminar in Oakland to Focus on Using Graywater and Stormwater to Enhance Local Water Supplies**

### ***Event to be Simultaneously Webcast***

The State Water Resources Control Board is co-sponsoring a seminar on Wednesday, March 23 on the recent report from the National Academy of Sciences, *Using Graywater and Stormwater to Enhance Local Water Supplies: An Assessment of Risks, Costs, and Benefits*.

Water, Environmental Quality, Meetings and Events

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**1400 K Street ■ Sacramento, CA 95814 ■ (916) 658-8200**

You can unsubscribe here: [Unsubscribe](#)



# Orange County Fire Authority

## Weekly Executive Summary

Prepared by Communications and Public Affairs

Gene Hernandez, Board Chairman

Elizabeth Swift, Vice Chair

Jeff Bowman, Fire Chief

[www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)

March 17, 2016

### News & Events

OCFA has recently partnered with [PulsePoint](#) to help save lives. If you haven't done so already, please be sure to like/follow/visit the OCFA [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages to keep up to date on things like the PulsePoint launch, recent incidents, and safety campaigns. This month we will be working with our member cities to collaborate on social media sites and encourage residents to learn CPR and download the app.

### \*Weekly Media Clips

[OCFA Weekly News Coverage](#)

This report is for internal and research purposes only. All other uses are prohibited.

[OCFA Weekly Media Coverage](#)

This report is for internal and research purposes only. All other uses are prohibited.

### Board Action

For Board agendas, please visit <http://www.ocfa.org> and click on "Board Agendas/Minutes."

### Weekly Update on Response and Preparedness

[Weekly Fire Activity Report](#): This is a regular status update of available OCFA resources and a list of OCFA out of County resources jurisdiction and a list of out of county resources.

**Weather Outlook:** *Normal to Above Normal Temperatures for March 18 – March 25.* For more information, please visit the [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#).

**Fire Outlook –Dry:** Little or no risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event. You can obtain a 7-day forecast, monthly and/or seasonal by clicking [here](#).



## Community Events

- Crew from Station 57 (C Shift) participated in the **Aliso Viejo** Aquatic Center Summer Kickoff Event. The event was on March 12 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Crew from Station 63 (B Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and station tour to a group of fire tech students from **Buena Park**. The program was on March 15 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Community Education Specialist Alexa Pratt provided a cooking fire safety presentation for students and staff at **Cypress College**. The event was on March 15 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
- Crew from Engine 55 (B Shift) supported students during a Jog-A-Thon at Canyon View Elementary in **Irvine**. The event was on March 16 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
- Crew from Station 6 (C Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and station tour to a group of Girl Scouts from **Irvine**. The program was on March 11 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Crew from Station 6 (B Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and station tour to a group of local residents from **Irvine**. The program was on March 15 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Community Education Specialist Alexa Pratt provided an education booth for the Goddard Community Fair in **Ladera Ranch**. The event was on March 12 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Crew from Station 19 (C Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and station tour to a group of Boy Scouts from **Lake Forest**. The program was on March 17 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Crew from Engine 60 (C Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and engine visit to students at Concordia Elementary in **San Clemente**. The program was on March 11 from 8:15 a.m. – 9 a.m.
- Crew from Engine 60 (B Shift) and Community Education Specialist Polly Bowen provided a life and fire safety program and engine visit to students at Concordia School in **San Clemente**. The program was on March 15 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Crews from Engine 7, Engine 9, Engine 56, Patrol 7 and Patrol 30 (C Shift) attended the Swallow's Day Parade in **San Juan Capistrano**. The event was on March 12 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Crew from Engine 78 (A Shift) and Community Education Specialist Martha Espiritu provided a life and fire safety program and engine visit to students at Hazard Elementary in **Santa Ana**.
- Crew from Engine 78 (B Shift) and Community Education Specialist Martha Espiritu provided a life and fire safety program and engine visit to a group of students from AG Minassian School in **Santa Ana**. The program was on March 15 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Crew from Engine 78 (B Shift) and Community Education Specialist Martha Espiritu provided a life and fire safety program and station tour to a group of students from Fitz Intermediate in **Santa Ana**. The program was on March 16 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.



- Crew from Station 44 (A Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and station tour to a group of Daisy Troops from **Seal Beach**. The program was on March 12 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Crew from Engine 21 (A Shift) participated in a Read Across America event at Benson Elementary in **Tustin**. The event was on March 14 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Crews from Engine 21, Medic 21 and Truck 43 (B Shift) participated in an Every 15 Minutes demonstration for students at **Tustin** High School. The program was on March 15 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Crew from Station 43 (B Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and station tour to a group of Daisy Troops from **Tustin**. The program was on March 15 from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- Crew from Station 21 (B Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and station tour to a group of Cub Scouts from **Tustin**. The program was on March 16 from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Crew from Engine 21 (C Shift) participated in a St. Patrick's Day parade at **Tustin** Community Preschool. The event was on March 17 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Crew from Truck 64 (B Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and engine visit to students at Shalom Preschool in **Westminster**. The program was on March 16 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Crew from Engine 10 (B Shift) provided a life and fire safety program and engine visit to students at Linda Vista Elementary in **Yorba Linda**. The program was on March 15 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Crew from Station 10 (C Shift) participated in a flag event at the American Legion in **Yorba Linda**. The event was on March 17 from 6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.



## Significant Emergency Incidents

### Laguna Beach

**Structure Fire – March 10** - At 6:17 p.m., Laguna Beach Fire requested assistance with a structure fire on La Mirada Street in Laguna Beach. A single family residence with 2 sub-levels on a cliff side was fully involved. OCFA units assisting:

Battalion 4, Engine 5, Engine 57, Engine 222, Truck 49, Truck 22, Safety 4, Service Support 2, Investigator 6 and Investigator 55. Units remained on scene for an extended period to assist with overhaul and investigation. Engine 47 and Engine 51 also assisted in Laguna Beach station coverage. All units with the exception of the investigators were complete by approximately midnight.

**Agency Representative:**

**Chief Casario, B4**

### Laguna Beach

**HazMat – March 11** - At 10:32 a.m. Laguna Beach Fire requested the OCFA HazMat team as part of a unified command with the Joint Hazard Assessment Team at a hotel located on South Coast Hwy in Laguna Beach for an extended incident involving a strong odor causing inhalation issues. Orange County Sheriff Bomb Squad cleared the hotel using their practices and found no threat releasing all OCFA resources at 3:11 p.m.

**Incident Commander:**

**Chief Spencer, B5**

### Laguna Niguel

**HazMat – March 11** - At 5:51 p.m. Engine 39 responded to the Chet Holifield Federal Building on Avila Road in Laguna Niguel for a suspicious package found at an X-ray machine inside the building. Engine 39 arrived onscene and requested HazMat, Sheriff, and Health Department at 6:08 p.m. Battalion 4 arrived onscene and assumed Alicia Incident Command and also entered into a unified command with FBI and Joint Hazard Assessment Team at 6:40 p.m.. The team made entry to the evacuated property at 8:26 p.m. and cleared the building at 9:10 p.m. The suspicious packaged was determined to be an illegal drug substance and Incident Command was disbanded at 9:26 p.m.

**Incident Commander:**

**Chief Contreras, B4**

### Laguna Niguel

**Remote Rescue – March 13** - At 12:28 p.m. units were dispatched for remote rescue at the top of Mathis Trail inside Aliso Woods Canyon Park on Alicia Parkway in Laguna Niguel. Helicopter 2 was training in the area of Irvine Lake with Truck 9 rescuers onboard when the incident was dispatched. Helicopter 2 reported they needed to return to Fullerton Airport for fuel in order to complete this mission. Park rangers and Patrol 11 made contact with the patient who had a chief complaint of pain after falling off her bike. The patient was determined to require Advanced Life Support requiring an airlift to Mission Hospital.

**Incident Commander:**

**Chief Petro, B4**



**Lake Forest**

**Remote Rescue – March 13** - At 4:54 p.m. units responded to Serrano Cow Trail within Whiting Ranch for a leg injury resulting from a bike accident. Helicopter 2 and Truck 9 rescuers were paired at Fullerton Airport when the call was dispatched. Ground units made patient contact and determined the patient could be carried out on the trail with no need for the helicopter or rescuers.

**Incident Commander:**

**Captain Ventura**

**Tustin**

**Structure Fire – March 15** - At 5:58 p.m., a structure response was dispatched to Cranberry Drive in Tustin. Engine 26 arrived on scene at 6:04 p.m. with smoke showing from the roof. The assignment was upgraded to a working structure response. Crews began an aggressive interior attack and found a fire in the kitchen and the attic. The fire was extinguished with no extension to the rest of the residence. The Red Cross responded to assist with two displaced residents.

**Incident Commander:**

**Chief Hoey, B3**

**Cause:**

**Accidental**

**Incidents By Major Category  
for Period: 2/29/2016 - 3/6/2016**

3/10/2016

CITY/JURISDICTION	FIRE	OVER - PRESSURE RUPTURE	EMS/ RESCUE CALL	HAZMAT	SERVICE CALL	GOOD INTENT CALL	FALSE CALL	NATURAL	OTHER	TOTAL
ALISO VIEJO	1	0	28	0	0	7	2	0	7	45
BUENA PARK	4	0	82	2	4	3	6	0	46	147
CYPRESS	0	0	40	0	1	3	0	0	9	53
DANA POINT	0	0	44	0	4	8	0	0	14	70
IRVINE	2	0	198	4	3	12	23	0	52	294
IRVINE - UCI	0	0	9	0	0	1	0	0	8	18
LA PALMA	0	0	15	0	0	1	0	0	4	20
LAGUNA HILLS	0	0	48	0	4	5	1	0	7	65
LAGUNA NIGUEL	2	0	53	0	4	3	6	0	6	74
LAGUNA WOODS	1	0	68	0	5	2	2	0	11	89
LAKE FOREST CITY	1	0	76	0	4	3	4	0	18	106
LOS ALAMITOS	0	0	19	0	0	7	1	0	1	28
MISSION VIEJO	0	0	92	2	11	6	4	0	29	144
PLACENTIA	0	0	28	1	4	5	4	0	11	53
RANCHO SANTA MARGAR	0	0	34	0	0	1	4	0	5	44
SAN CLEMENTE	0	0	49	0	1	8	3	0	20	81
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO	0	0	44	0	2	4	1	0	12	63
SANTA ANA	1	0	292	2	10	28	11	0	131	475
SEAL BEACH	0	0	75	0	4	7	3	0	6	95
STANTON	0	0	31	1	1	5	1	0	19	58
TUSTIN	0	0	68	1	6	10	3	0	8	96
VILLA PARK	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	8	13
WESTMINSTER	0	0	97	1	7	9	8	0	39	161
YORBA LINDA	0	0	41	0	2	3	2	0	24	72
<b>UNINCORPORATED</b>	0	0	66	3	8	13	7	0	35	132
<b>TOTAL</b>	13	0	1600	17	85	155	96	0	530	2496



Orange County Fire Authority  
***DAILY MEDIA REPORT***

Communications &  
Public Relations  
1 Fire Authority Road  
Irvine, CA 92602

*Prepared by the Communications Section*

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March 15, 2016

**Fatal Motorcycle Accident, San Clemente**

Assignment Desk, KNBC TV; Staff provided details of a motorcycle accident that occurred this afternoon at the intersection of Calle Del Cerro and Avenida Pico in San Clemente. A motorcyclist struck a tree, and was pronounced deceased on scene by OCFA paramedics. This story is may run today or tomorrow. OCFA contact, Larry Kurtz

**Court of Appeal Decision Re: OCFA v. County of Orange, Santa Ana**

Teri Sforza, OC Register; regarding the Court of Appeal decision released today in "Orange County Fire Authority v. County of Orange." In response, Communications Director Sandy Cooney released a statement on behalf of OCFA, "We're in the process of reviewing the decision. Until we're able to complete that review, and consult with our board, it would not be appropriate for us to comment on the court's ruling or our next steps." This story will run tomorrow. OCFA contact, Sandy Cooney

## Wilkerson, Crystal

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**From:** Orange County Water District <gayala@ocwd.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 4:14 PM  
**Subject:** OCWD Water Lines



[OCWD IN THE NEWS](#)

[INDUSTRY NEWS](#)

[DROUGHT NEWS](#)

[POLICY](#)

[REGIONAL WATER AGENCY NEWS](#)

### OCWD in the News

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#### [Water wars](#)

Orange County Register - 03.15.2016

are trying to derail the desalination deal struck between the **Orange County Water District** and Poseidon Resources, the company proposing the...

#### [Recent winter storm brings little rain to O.C.](#)

Orange County Register - 03.14.2016

...very quickly, said John Kennedy, an executive director with the **Orange County Water District**. It helps to Scattered rain fell across Orange County...

#### [Catching Storm Runoff Could Ease Droughts, But It's No Quick Fix](#)

KQED Public Media for Northern CA - 03.14.2016

...where flash storms may become more frequent. For 75 years, the **Orange County Water District (OCWD)** has added to its supplies while it controlled...

#### [Disneyland resets river in prep for 'Star Wars'](#)

Orange County Register - 03.13.2016

...Disneyland Resort spokeswoman. All the resort's water is sent to the **Orange County Water District** and recycled, she said. The southern half of the...

### Industry News

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#### [New survey reveals Californian's support for recycled water as a long-term drought solution](#)

Xylem - 03.14.2016

89 percent of residents are more willing to use recycled water after learning about the advanced treatment processes used to make it clean and safe...

## Drought News

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### [Storms replenish key reservoirs amid California drought](#)

Orange County Register - 03.15.2016

Storms replenish key reservoirs amid **California drought** SAN FRANCISCO Four straight days of rain have replenished several key reservoirs in Northern...

### [Lake Oroville passes benchmark, now fuller than average](#)

Oroville Mercury Register - 03.14.2016

that this winter's rains have removed the emergency nature of the **drought**. He expected there will be some summer restrictions, particularly in...

### [State gets fourth day of rain, snow](#)

Orange County Register - 03.14.2016

...evacuations. Dry conditions and warmer weather are forecast for today. **California** is in its fifth year of **drought**, SAN FRANCISCO A storm brought...

### [California drought: State's biggest reservoir, Shasta, rises to key milestone](#)

Contra Costa Times - 03.13.2016

**California drought**: State's biggest reservoir, Shasta, rises to key milestone Sunday's storms brought more rain to Northern California, but they...

## Policy

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### [Gov. Brown Appoints Baker and Ball to California Water Commission](#)

Association of California Water Agencies - 03.14.2016

...Senate confirmation. Carol Baker served as chair of the **California** Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission in 2011...

## Regional Water Agency News

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### [Final 'Science on Tap' event of the semester will look at California's drought](#)

Orange County Register - 03.11.2016

...semester. The final guest will be Paul Cook, general manager of the **Irvine Ranch Water District**. Cook's talk, titled Diving Deeper: Understanding California...

### [San Diego Region Gets A Break On Water Conservation Goals | KPBS](#)

KPBS - 03.11.2016

...State officials certified the San Diego region's billion-dollar **desalination plant** as a drought resilient water supply. That plant in Carlsbad...

### **About Orange County Water District (OCWD)**

OCWD manages the large groundwater basin that underlies north and central Orange County and provides water to approximately 2.4 million people. OCWD is a special district established by the California State Legislature in 1933 and governed by a 10-member board of directors. It is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly and economical manner. The following cities utilize the groundwater basin managed by OCWD: Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster and Yorba Linda. For more information, please visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com).

Please contact the Orange County Water District at [info@ocwd.com](mailto:info@ocwd.com) if you would like to unsubscribe from this list.

The Orange County Register

Thursday, March 10, 2016 | Local 3

### LA PALMA

**Free sandbags:** With El Niño rains expected to continue this month, empty sandbags are being given away at Fire Station No. 13, 7822 Walker St. You can also fill your own sandbags at La Palma Central Park, 7821 Walker St. Sandbags are also available at Fire Station No. 17 in Cypress and the Orange County Public Works yard in Orange.

Art Marroquin, 714-796-7831  
amarroquin@ocregister.com

Saturday, March 12, 2016 | Local 3

### LA PALMA

**League lunch:** The League of Women Voters North Orange County, which serves eight cities including La Palma, will hold a lunch at 11:30 a.m. on March 24 at the Meridian Sports Club in Fullerton. The featured speaker will be Natalie Fousekis, head of the Center for Oral and Public History at Cal State Fullerton. Cost is \$20. Information: 714-254-7440 or [lwvnoc.org](http://lwvnoc.org)  
Art Marroquin, 714-796-7831

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 | Local 3

### LA PALMA

**City speech:** Mayor Gerard Goedhart will deliver the State of the City speech in a town hall format at 7 p.m. April 26 at the Community Center, 7821 Walker St. Information: 714-690-3350 or [cityoflapalma.org/stateofthecity](http://cityoflapalma.org/stateofthecity).

Art Marroquin, 714-796-7831  
amarroquin@ocregister.com

Friday, March 11, 2016 | Local 3

### LA PALMA

**Ribbon-cutting:** Mayor Gerard Goedhart and Miss La Palma will attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6 p.m. Tuesday at PokiPPoki, 5456 La Palma Ave. The fast-casual eatery will offer fresh-cut fish dishes. Owner Seong Ho "Kevin" Kim previously operated a Korean restaurant for seven years in Alaska.

Art Marroquin, 714-796-7831  
amarroquin@ocregister.com

Monday, March 14, 2016 | Local 3

### LA PALMA

**Consulting contract:** The City Council on Tuesday will consider awarding a \$94,000 consulting contract to the Lew Edwards Group to prepare mailers explaining the city's budget deficit to residents. The council is also scheduled to hold a study session to discuss the city's long-term financial plan.

Art Marroquin, 714-796-7831  
amarroquin@ocregister.com

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 | Local 3

### LA PALMA

**Office hours:** Mayor Gerard Goedhart will hold his weekly office hours from 1 to 4 p.m. today at City Hall, 7822 Walker St. The mayor said residents and business owners can discuss issues that are important to them.

Art Marroquin, 714-796-7831  
amarroquin@ocregister.com

## La Palma student in Nat Geo spelling bee semis

***Ebba Adinew faces one more round before State Bee***

Ebba Adinew was recently notified by the National Geographic Society that he is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2016 California National Geographic State Bee. Ebba is a sixth grade student at Luther School located at 4631 La Palma Ave. in La Palma.

The contest will be held at Fresno State University on Friday, April 1, 2016.

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 28th year. School Bees were held in

schools with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took an online qualifying



Courtesy Photo  
Ebba Adinew

test. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories

test. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia,

*Bee, Page 5*

## ***Bee***

*From Page 1*

to compete in the State Bees.

Each state champion will receive \$100, the National Geographic book "The National Parks: An Illustrated History" and a medal, and will journey to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Geographic Bee Championship at National Geographic Society headquarters on May 22-25. The

national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. The national champion will also travel (along with one parent or guardian), all expenses paid, on a Lindblad expedition to Southeast Alaska aboard National Geographic Sea Lion, including Glacier Bay National Park, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Travel for the trip is provided by Lindblad Expeditions and Na-

tional Geographic. Visit [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org) for more information on the National Geographic Bee.

The 2016 National Geographic Bee Championship final round, moderated for the first time by journalist and humorist Mo Rocca, will air on the National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo WILD on Friday, May 27, at 8 p.m. ET, and later on public television stations. Check local television listings for air date and time in your area.



Photo by Ted Apodaca

Diana Mendoza, left, and Miyuki Pugrad have helped establish a girls wrestling team for Kennedy High, and are now looking to end their careers on a high note.

## Kennedy girls grapple way to Nationals

*Both took different paths, but both had desire to succeed*

By TED APODACA  
Sports Reporter

Kennedy High coach Mike Kim likes to say that wrestling is one of the few sports that doesn't discriminate against athletic ability. If someone doesn't have the speed, hand-eye coordination, vertical leap, or size to play cer-

*Wrestling, Page 11*

# Wrestling

From Page 9

tain sports at a high level, they can still find a place in wrestling.

"We just need somebody with heart," Kim says.

Miyuki Pugrad and Diana Mendoza both have natural athleticism, but when they drifted into the wrestling ring, it was their desire, their heart and their drive that helped them rise to high ranks in the sport.

The two seniors were part of the Fighting Irish team that won the Empire League championship this year, then they both qualified for the State Championships and are now preparing for the National Championships in Oklahoma in March.

Not bad for a couple of girls who didn't even know wrestling was a female sport when they entered high school.

Miyuki joined the team as a freshman on the suggestion of a friend. After competing in cross country in the fall, she heard about the wrestling team and decided to check it out.

"I just kind of hopped into it," Pugrad said.

Pugrad nearly didn't wrestle her senior year and Mendoza has wrestled only two of her four years in high school.

Still, after making the trip to nationals, Kim expects both will have offers to wrestle at the collegiate level.

He said it's a growing sport that is looking for athletes with potential.

Sitting outside a La Palma Jiu Jitsu studio, where they are training with Kim and other members of the Kennedy team, Pugrad and Mendoza are almost amused by their journeys so far. Their per-

sonalities also appear drastically different. Pugrad is talkative and animated, while Mendoza says fewer words.

Yet, both have bright smiles and laugh easily.

After getting involved with the team as a freshman, Pugrad took an instant liking to the sport.

She admits to always having an aggressive side that helped her, but she also picked up the mechanics and the techniques fairly quickly.

Still, Mendoza said she sees mostly an internal desire that has made her teammate successful.

"I'd say it's her drive," Mendoza said of Pugrad.

Pugrad missed much of this season, despite great success in her first three years.

She said she wasn't sure she could commit this year, so she did not join the team at the start of the season.

But when she attended a match to cheer on her friends, she realized how much she missed it.

"I was like, 'oh my god,' I belong here," Pugrad said.

She worked hard to get back into shape, and wound up taking first at the CIF-SS Championships, first at the Master's and 2nd at the State Championships in the 131 pound division.

Kim said that Pugrad is the kind of athlete that never needs to be pushed, only given guidance. And he said that also translates to her class work as well.

"Everything she does, she wants to be successful," Kim said of Pugrad.

Mendoza wrestled as a sophomore, when she qualified for the Masters in her first year.

After skipping her junior year she returned this year, to take 2nd at the CIF-SS Championships, 8th at the Masters and finish in

the top 12 at State, in the 143 pound division.

Mendoza admits that she might not have the same technical skill as many of her competitors, but she makes up for it with strength and stamina. Although, she said the techniques of the sport tend to fascinate her.

She laughs that even when an opponent takes her down, she sometimes marvels at the how the technique worked. But admiring an opponent's skill doesn't mean accepting defeat.

"She doesn't like to lose," Kim said of Mendoza.

In fact, Pugrad said that there have been lots of times when Mendoza would beat an opponent who seemed to be the more sound wrestler.

Her theory is that Mendoza's strength, aggressiveness and a kind of awkward movements, throw opponents off balance.

"She kept winning and no one on our team knew how she was winning," Pugrad said. "But she had a really hard work ethic."

Part of her drive, did come from a simple desire to be a little tougher, Mendoza admits.

"I wanted to learn how to fight, like in the Hunger Games," she said with a sheepish smile.

Kennedy High started a girls wrestling team five years ago. This year, there were enough teams among the league schools hold an Empire League Championship, which Kennedy won.

The growth of the sport is providing opportunities for girls, though as it grows, those opportunities will become harder to come by.

But Kim is hopeful that the girls who follow in the footsteps of Pugrad and Mendoza will still find those opportunities. All they need is heart.

# La Palma PD program graduates

*Celebrates 10th anniversary of youth program*

By EDNA ETHINGTON

Captain Jim Engen, Interim Chief Mike McCrary, and Detective Julian Gonzales of the La Palma Police Department recently recognized 65 sixth grade students who graduated from the Police Department's "Police Interaction with Youth"(PIY) Program.

The graduation, held at Steve Luther Elementary School in La

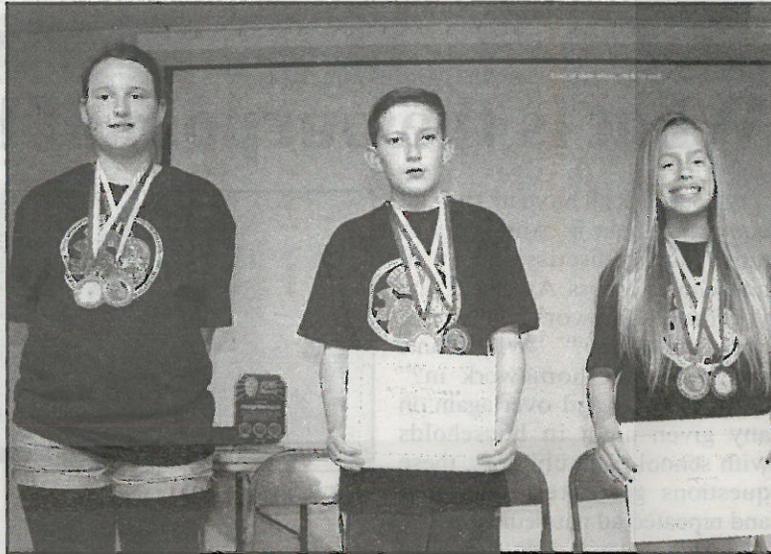


Photo by Edna Ethington

Pictured at the La Palma Police Department PIY program graduation are Essay Winners, left to right, Michelle Waldman, Noah Harper, and Kaitlyn Benda.

*Graduate, Page 5*

# Local schools celebrate reading

## *Los Al students participate in 'Read Across America'*

Elementary schools in the Los Alamitos Unified School District hosted festivities to celebrate the National Education Association's Read Across America. This annual reading motivation and awareness campaign calls for every child, in every community, to celebrate reading in honor of the birthday of beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss.

At Hopkinson Elementary, Los Alamitos High School ASB students and members of the school's administration team were guest readers in Hopkinson classrooms. In addition, selected fifth grade students will deliver hundreds of donated books to an underprivileged school where they will serve as guest readers.

Under the direction of Mrs. Susan McElderry, 2nd grade students at McGaugh Elementary performed "Seussical the Musical." There were also celebrity guest readers from Seal Beach Lions Club, Seal Beach Police Department, and Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station.

At Lee Elementary, families joined the "Read on the Green" event, sharing a book and a blanket with their children on the lawn. Additionally, 15 exemplary athletes, artists, and scholars from Los Alamitos High School and Board mem-



Courtesy Photo

**Cat in the Hat poses with students at "Read on the Green" at Lee Elementary in Los Alamitos**

ber, Meg Cutuli, partnered with Lee as guest readers in classrooms.

Rossmoor Knights came together to celebrate Dr. Seuss, as students enjoyed delicious green eggs and ham, a parade of Seuss décor, wore crazy hats, dressed in stripes and more. Classrooms welcomed mystery readers to engage in Seuss literature and students spent the day immersed in a love for reading.

Weaver Elementary kicked off the day with a monthly reading incentive flag ceremony. Afterwards, all students were read to by Weaver par-

ents, teachers, and Seal Beach Police Chief Joe Stilinovich, and the Weaver PTA sponsored a Green Eggs and Ham supper to collect books for students who are less fortunate.

Los Alamitos Elementary Ambassadors sponsored the celebration by sending invitations to various community members, leading the kick-off ceremony and welcoming guest readers from the City of Los Alamitos, Los Alamitos Police Department, Los Alamitos Unified School District, local businesses, non-profit organizations and members from the LAE school community.

## Graduate

From Page 3

Palma, was also an occasion to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the PIY Program, which 2,500 sixth grade students in La Palma have completed since the program began in 2006.

Sixth grade teacher Margi Sanchez announced the winners of the Essay contest, which was on what students learned from the PIY Program.

The winners were Michelle Waldman, Ebba Adinew and Sky McLean from Sanchez's class, Kaitlyn Benda, Reuben Park and Jason Nguyen from Elizabeth Elmgreen's class, and Noah Harper from Sue Ochoa's class.

The Essay Contest Winners received a special medal for their writing efforts.

After three of the winning essays were read by Michelle Waldman, Kaitlyn Benda and Noah Harper, all 65 students received medals and certificates commemorating their graduation from the PIY Program.

According to Mrs. Teschke, Luther's PTA generously donated over \$1,000 to purchase tee shirts, medallions and certificates for the sixth graders.

In a letter to parents, Captain Jim Engen said that the PIY Program was designed as an eight-week student safety program to educate sixth grade students about laws pertinent to their age such as bicycle safety, firearms, drugs and alcohol, fireworks safety, disaster preparedness, and



internet predators. He said that Officer Gonzales served as a role model and taught conflict resolution skills, which would give students "the ability and motivation to make proper choices when faced with peer group pressure."

In addition, Gonzales also "discussed how to develop positive self-esteem and make students aware of the negative consequences associated with controlled substance and alcohol abuse."

# ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Orange County Fire Authority's financial deficit has some officials sounding alarms

By [TERI SFORZA](#)

2016-03-12 22:16:31



When your neighbor suffers a medical emergency, or the business down the street spills a load of stinky chemicals, or flames roar through a nearby arroyo, chances are good that alarm bells will ring at one of the Orange County Fire Authority's 72 stations.

The Fire Authority is O.C.'s security blanket, providing emergency services to 1.8 million people in 23 cities and the unincorporated pockets of Orange County. But it's facing financial uncertainties that some officials warn threaten its very existence.

New, more transparent accounting rules have flipped its official balance sheet into negative territory, largely due to unfunded pension obligations. And Irvine – its largest member city and funding partner – is threatening to secede from the fire protection network, adding to questions about the agency's future.

The red ink could cost taxpayers more by raising the costs of borrowing. And without Irvine – and the \$68 million a year its property taxpayers provide – the Fire Authority would lose 20 percent of its budget. That could prompt remaining cities in the joint powers authority to pay more and reassess their emergency response services.

Cities have been assured that, in a worst-case scenario, the red ink now being reported by the authority would not become debt owed by the member cities. But there are differing legal theories on that question.

Jeff Lalloway, an Irvine city councilman who represents his city on the Fire Authority's large board, says "it is an existential threat. We're sending down a liability to our children that I don't think can ever be paid."

The Fire Authority's assistant chief, Lori Zeller, said the agency is working to correct the imbalance. She said it's a product of accounting changes, not a sign of problems that jeopardize operations.

"Nothing has changed in our true financial position," said Zeller. "We're in solid financial shape."

### **DIRE STRAITS?**

New rules were imposed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board to force public agencies to formally recognize long-term liabilities that were relegated to audit footnotes. The intent is to paint a clearer picture of what government agencies actually owe and eventually must

pay for promised pensions.

This is the first year under the new rules, and the effects can be dramatic.

When unfunded pension, medical and other liabilities are formally included on its balance sheet, the Fire Authority's debts exceeded its assets by \$169 million for the fiscal year that ended in June.

That's a plunge of more than 680 percent in its "net position," or more than \$420 million, over a single year.

The Fire Authority isn't alone in seeing millions – and even billions – of dollars in recorded assets instantly vanish. The County of Orange had more than \$3.5 billion disappear from its financial cushion because of the new rules, with its net position shrinking from a comfortable \$5.5 billion to \$2 billion.

Observers are bracing for the state and other agencies large and small to release their numbers. But only a small percentage of the thousands of government agencies in California are expected to fall into the red as a result.

The Fire Authority has been hit particularly hard because it's an independent government whose entire business is public safety, and public safety workers have the most expensive pension costs.

## **STATEWIDE PROBLEM**

Consider: The County of Orange had 2,348 public safety workers who'll receive retirement checks equal to 3 percent of pay for each year worked once they hit age 50. That translates to 90 percent of pay for those who work 30 years, plus regular cost-of-living adjustments.

But public safety workers comprise only 13 percent of the workforce, making the hit to county government's bottom line less painful.

The Fire Authority, by contrast, had 892 workers covered by "3 percent at 50" – or more than 70 percent of its workforce. There are dramatically fewer workers with lower-cost retirement benefits to blunt its financial exposure.

California has about 550 special districts like the Fire Authority, formed specifically for public safety jobs such as policing, fire suppression and ambulance services. Many of those agencies could suffer similar pressures.

Why does it matter to you? In California – outside of federal bankruptcy court – public pension promises are legally protected. If employer and employee contributions and investments don't earn enough to pay what's been promised, taxpayers must make up the difference.

The gap between what the Fire Authority has promised workers and what it currently has available for retirement benefits is \$442.3 million. That's more than double the 2004 gap of \$186.1 million.

## **'SNOWBALL STRATEGY'**

The new accounting rules – and moves by pension plan administrators like the Orange County Employees Retirement System to extract greater contributions from employers and employees alike – are designed to force agencies to put enough money aside now to make good on future pension obligations.

The Fire Authority has been one of the most proactive in trying to close the gaps. For four years, it has dissected its debts in great public detail and set money aside to cover not just its unfunded pension liabilities, but also unfunded health care liabilities. Most public agencies haven't put much, if anything, aside for retiree health care costs, which are growing rapidly.

The money is coming from property taxes, fees and contract payments from member cities.

Assistant Chief Zeller calls it the "snowball strategy." It will shift an extra \$254.5 million to authority retirement funds administered by OCERS over the next dozen years.

That's on top of the Fire Authority's required annual payments to OCERS, which total \$72.3 million this year, or 22 percent of the general fund budget.

"You won't find many agencies with aggressive plans like ours in place," Zeller said. "We engage our board and our labor groups in these decisions, and our financial statements win awards. We had a clean opinion from our auditor - we had zero findings.

"I believe we're financially strong, and will continue to be financially strong," she said.

### **'ENRON 2016'**

Bankruptcy attorney Rick Barnett, a councilman for Villa Park, has represented his city on the Fire Authority's board for four years. He gives the agency points for trying hard and doing a lot of good work, but says its attitude toward pension liabilities is ineffective, naive and frustrating.

"I complain year after year that this agency is a financial disaster because of its unfunded pension liability, and every time I do, I get the same response: 'We're fine, everything's good. Approval of those extra pension payments allows us to pay down our deficit ahead of schedule,'" Barnett said.

"I said, 'Are you serious? No one has any idea what our liability really is or will be. These numbers are a joke - sheer speculation.'"

The numbers recorded on agencies' balance sheets for unfunded liabilities are, indeed, moving targets. They will grow, and shrink, depending on myriad variables. Barnett suspects the Fire Authority is actually a half-billion dollars in the red - or more - when longer life expectancies and more conservative investment returns are factored in.

Barnett thinks guaranteed and open-ended pensions are dangerous for public agencies and he fears the Fire Authority may be "Enron 2016."

"In 37 years of bankruptcy practice, I've never been involved with an entity as financially troubled or with such irresponsible financial governance," he said. In his view, the Fire Authority needs to freeze wage and benefit increases in light of its deficit.

### **BURNING QUESTION**

Could member cities be on the hook for authority debts at some point?

The agreement creating the Fire Authority specifically states that "The Authority shall be a public entity separate from the (members) and its debts, liabilities and obligations shall not be the debts, liabilities and obligations of its members."

"Irvine's position is the same as other cities," Irvine City Manager Sean Joyce said. "We confidently

believe that OCFA's unfunded liabilities' responsibility belongs with OCFA - the agency, not the member cities."

However, a legal analysis titled "Liability of Municipal Members of a Joint Powers Authority," prepared for the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association when the city of Richmond considered joining a JPA, concluded that "individual cities would remain liable ... as to any damages arising from a JPA's activities."

Some O.C. city officials worry that their rainy-day funds might be tapped some day to cover Fire Authority obligations, or that they'll have to increase annual payments to make ends meet. That could mean less money to pay for other services for residents, from street repairs to parks and recreation programs, they said.

"The unfunded liabilities at every level are incredibly disturbing to me," said Irvine's Lalloway. "It's the reason I ran for office in 2010, to try to fix this for my kids. It's bad for the taxpayers, and it's bad for the people depending on these benefits."

## **IRVINE FIGHT**

The new accounting requirements are playing out against the backdrop of Irvine's threatened secession. It's an issue of fairness, the city argues.

The Fire Authority's funding come from two sources: Direct fees for service paid by eight "cash contract cities," including Santa Ana, San Clemente and Tustin; and a slice of property taxes designated for fire protection from 15 cities and the unincorporated areas, including Irvine.

Property owners in Irvine have been paying more to the Fire Authority each year than it costs to provide service, studies have found. By some estimates, the city could save some \$20 million a year by pulling out and starting its own fire department.

In an attempt to keep the Fire Authority intact, an "equity plan" refunding millions to Irvine was negotiated. But the County of Orange balked. Property taxes received by the Fire Authority are specifically designated for fire protection, the county argued in a lawsuit, asserting that returning a portion to Irvine to use however it sees fit is an illegal gift of public funds.

A Superior Court judge agreed with the county and threw out the equity plan. Irvine and the Fire Authority have appealed; a decision is expected next week.

"Irvine has the ability to leave the Fire Authority in 2020, and statements from council are, if we don't work something out, we'll have to explore our options," Lalloway said.

He likened the Fire Authority to a car careening down the highway out of control. "Sooner or later, it's going to hit something," Lalloway said.

## **FUTURE**

Joe Kerr, spokesman for the firefighters association, believes the Fire Authority will weather the storms. If it's time to adjust how much property tax is directed to firefighting, the association can help address that, he said.

"But please. Balance the needs of a regional system," he said. "There will never be what some would call complete equity in a regional system. But when you consolidate overhead and share economies of scale, it will always be more efficient than running your own fire department."

The red ink tied to pensions doesn't worry him, either. Unfunded liabilities will be addressed "in a prudent way over the long-term," he said. Firefighters are paying more toward their retirements than ever before, and the Fire Authority's snowball strategy is managing the deficit, he said.

"We don't draw the conclusion, like some of these guys do, that the last decade and a half represents a one-way trend and that pension liabilities are on the way to swallowing OCFA's budget," he said. "Quite the contrary.

"The Orange County Fire Authority was created in the 100 days of turmoil post-bankruptcy back in 1995. Since then, Orange County firefighters have lowered health care costs, pre-funded retiree health care, found new functional revenue. The Fire Authority is solvent, safe and the best way to provide fire service to the county," Kerr said.

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