



# THE NEWS

LAND USE / PLANNING

EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

GOVERNMENT

PARKS / RECREATION

## LA Metro/Caltran's 710 tunnel plan will take your breath away. Literally.

BY DR. SCOTT FRUIN  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION  
USC DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

**A**s a University of Southern California professor and air quality researcher engaged in the landmark Children's Health Studies on Los Angeles air pollution, my colleagues and I are frequently called upon to evaluate and testify about the health effects of LA traffic emissions.

I've also been closely studying LA Metro's and Caltrans' proposal to connect — by a nearly five mile tunnel — the 710 between El Sereno and Pasadena. As many have already indicated, the proposed tunnel raises troubling safety, economic and engineering concerns. No less troubling, however, is that air quality analysis clearly finds as unacceptable the health risks from the traffic-related air pollution exposure alone.

Air quality in Los Angeles and the surrounding counties remains the worst in the nation, and traffic-related pollution continues to be the largest contributor. It's a sad fact that many thousands of LA residents live, work or go to school too close to traffic and, consequently, have unacceptably high exposure. However, even when too close to traffic, normal dilution in the open air is relatively rapid.

Contrast this with emissions from the proposed tunnel. Tunnel emissions will not be rapidly diluted. Rather, they will be collected from nearly five miles of heavy traffic and released from two or more towers in Old Pasadena. The result? Two or more new air pollution hotspots — likely to be among LA's worst.

Homes, schools and even a hospital are within coughing distance of these new hotspots. Our analysis indicates that this exposure will result in up to 15 times the limits set for



new sources by the South Coast Air Quality Monitoring District (SCAQMD) — and result in new or worsening cases of asthma. It will also accelerate progression of inflammatory-related cardiovascular and metabolic diseases — health effects already shown among LA residents who live too close to traffic.

Nearby residents, however, are not the only ones who will suffer. Based on stated tunnel ventilation rates, a one-way trip through

the tunnel will likely double or triple daily pollution exposure for tunnel motorists. A recent study of a similarly long tunnel, which bypasses central Stockholm, concluded that the health benefits to urban Stockholm residents were offset by the adverse health impacts to tunnel users. With the proposed 710 tunnel, however, vehicle emissions would not bypass the urban area. Rather, they'd be concentrated and released in Old Pasadena.

*Continued on page 13*

### Battle won!

## PUSD saves San Rafael Elementary

BY KENYON HARBISON  
DIRECTOR, WPRA

**T**he West Pasadena Residents' Association and others have engaged in a years-long fight to save the last Pasadena public school west of the Arroyo — San Rafael Elementary School (SRES). The WPRA and its numerous allies can now officially report that we have won that battle.

When surface readings several years ago indicated that faults could lie under the SRES campus, the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) started down a path to close the school.

Three current WPRA Board members served on a so-called "7-11 Committee," a committee that is required by law to advise PUSD on what should be done with such a property. That committee gave various

*Continued on page 12*

# Your WPRA Needs You!

BY GEOFFREY BAUM  
PRESIDENT, WPRA

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*



Geoffrey Baum

This quote, most often attributed to anthropologist Margaret Mead, offers a wonderful reminder about the power of our work together to preserve and improve our neighborhoods in west Pasadena.

For example, WPRA's steadfast advocacy for public education and our local school, San Rafael Elementary, helped convince Pasadena Unified School District's Board of Education to keep it open for children in and beyond our neighborhood. We also continue to challenge the proposed 710 tunnel and raise concerns about traffic and safety in our residential neighborhoods.

An all-volunteer organization, the WPRA Board comprises a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens who invest countless hours and precious resources to ensure that neighborhood voices are heard in local decision-making. For example, WPRA volunteers:

- **Write**, edit and produce this quarterly newsletter and *Neighborhood Update*, our weekly email
- **Monitor** and speak at meetings of our City Council, committees and commissions
- **Track** our finances and membership to ensure prudent management of your donations
- **Set up**, organize, promote and cleanup for events like the annual meeting, candidates forum and neighborhood reception.

But to be even more effective, WPRA needs you ... not only to support your association financially, but also to serve on a committee or on the Board. We currently have vacancies on the Board and will be electing new directors at the annual meeting in May.

Let us know how you'd like to help by sending an email to [president@wpra.net](mailto:president@wpra.net) or come to the monthly board meeting, which is held the first Wednesday of each month (except August and December) at 6:30 p.m. For more meeting details, visit our website <[wpra.net](http://wpra.net)> or our Facebook page.

Finally, I want to acknowledge City Manager Michael Beck for his service to our community and to the WPRA. He recently announced he'll be leaving to assume a senior position at UCLA. Thanks to his support and leadership, we were able to realize several important achievements including the renovation of Casita del Arroyo and getting commitment of City Council to oppose the 710 tunnel. He has been an important partner on major areas of concern in west Pasadena. We wish him and his family the very best with the new position and look forward to welcoming him back to Pasadena next year at UCLA football games. We will also keep you informed as the City Council selects a new city manager in the coming year.

On behalf of the WPRA, we wish you and yours a happy and healthy 2016!

## About us

### 2015 – 2016 officers

- President: Geoffrey Baum ([baum@wpra.net](mailto:baum@wpra.net))
- Vice President: Sarah Gavit ([gavit@wpra.net](mailto:gavit@wpra.net))
- Treasurer: Blaine Cavena ([cavena@wpra.net](mailto:cavena@wpra.net))
- Secretary: Justin Chapman ([chapman@wpra.net](mailto:chapman@wpra.net))

**Mission:** Founded in 1962, the West Pasadena Residents' Association is dedicated to maintaining the character of our community and enhancing the quality of life in west Pasadena.

**Area:** The WPRA service area is bounded on the north by Colorado Boulevard, on the east by Fair Oaks Avenue and on the south and west by the city limits.

**Funding:** All WPRA activities are funded through membership dues and contributions. The WPRA receives no public funding and has no paid employees. Since the WPRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation, contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.

### 2015 – 2016 board of directors

- Elissa DeAngelo
- Avram Gold
- Ken Grobecker ([grobecker@wpra.net](mailto:grobecker@wpra.net))  
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- Bill Urban, past president
- John Van de Kamp
- Nancy Walker
- Fred Zepeda, past president
- Linda Zinn ([zinn@wpra.net](mailto:zinn@wpra.net))  
*Membership, Open Space & Conservation*



The News is mailed each quarter to nearly 8,000 homes and businesses in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes and beyond.

**Editor:** Chuck Hudson  
([editor@wpra.net](mailto:editor@wpra.net))

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Visit our Facebook page

## BRIEFS

**City Manager resigns, heads to UCLA**

Pasadena City Manager Michael J. Beck will leave his position with the City in February to assume a new role at the University of California at Los Angeles. In a letter to City employees, Beck wrote "I will be leaving my position to embark on the next chapter of my professional journey. Beginning on March 1, 2016 I will assume the role of Administrative Vice Chancellor at UCLA." In his new position, Beck will oversee the UCLA Administration Division, which has an operating budget of \$625 million and is responsible for nearly 4,500 employees.

Both City officials and Beck report that the decision to leave was his (Beck's) alone. Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek said "there are those who expect that this is somehow connected to the embezzlement scandal. I can tell you that I didn't ask him to leave. In fact, I asked him to stay."

Looking to his final months as City Manager, Beck wants to get "the budget in a strong position," support and transition all of the recent executive positions in operations, and schedule many of the long-term capital projects that were held up over the last five years "because of the fiscal realities."

Former Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard said that, "When Michael Beck arrived at City Hall in 2008, the great recession was devastating the local economy. He worked hard over several years to keep the City's financial ship on course. His efforts in those troubled times were extremely effective, as they were on other challenges such as the Rose Bowl renovation project, the controversy about Rose Bowl use, police-community relations, energy efficiency and water conservation, the General Plan, and the misappropriation of public funds."

Mayor Tornek said he would expect there will be an Interim City Manager appointed while the recruitment process for a permanent replacement unfolds. (Source: *Pasadena Now*)



## Facing City challenges: finance comes first

BY TERRY TORNEK  
MAYOR, PASADENA

Since taking office in May, I've had the opportunity to meet many more Pasadenans as well as become better acquainted with their organizations and programs. While I already knew how incredibly active many of our residents are in their respective community, this more intensive exposure has really opened my eyes.

Our City is built on volunteerism and civic engagement, ranging from the Tournament of Roses to the Eagle Scouts and including both faith- and neighborhood-based organizations. And although Pasadena's City government couldn't possibly do without the highly valued service provided by our non-profit organizations' volunteers, City staff must still provide critical services with excellence.

To understand how that can be achieved and the limits that confront us, we must all become educated about our City's finances. That's why I'll devote my first State of the City address on January 20 to that topic. I hope that you will attend the event. This year, it will be held at McKinley School's new joint-use, City/PUSD gymnasium, 325 S. El Molino Ave. at 7 p.m.

We are now closing the book on the 11 year-long embezzlement scandal. Thanks to (another) volunteer task force, we have identified changes that we must make in our procedures and in our organizational culture to minimize any possibility of something similar happening again. The upcoming selection of a new City Manager is an

opportunity to accelerate the required cultural shift inside City Hall.

We are fortunate to live in a great City at an exciting time when our reputation continues to grow. Pasadena looms large, not only because of our world-famous New Year's Day events, but for lots of other reasons, including:

- Higher level astronomy and other sciences from the Carnegie Observatories, CalTech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- Scientific breakthroughs from the Huntington Medical Research Institutes and the bio-science collaborative
- Entrepreneurial, design and technology vision from Innovate Pasadena
- World-class design from the Art Center
- Premieres from the Pasadena Playhouse and beyond

... the examples, however, can go on and on.

While we face challenges in this new year, including stopping the 710 tunnel, improving police oversight, working through proposals for new activities at the Rose Bowl and easing the City's ongoing financial limitations, I am confident that we are up to these challenges especially because of our incredible citizen resources.

It is a privilege to serve as your Mayor, and I am always glad to hear from you.

Maria and I wish you a healthy, happy and peaceful 2016.

*Please contact me at [ttornek@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ttornek@cityofpasadena.net) to share your ideas for improving our City.*



## BRIEFS

**City appoints new department directors**

City Manager Michael J. Beck has appointed Michael Johnson as director for the Public Health, Matthew E. Hawkesworth as director of Finance and Ara Maloyan as director for Public Works.

*Public Health:* Johnson is responsible for the overall planning, administration and operation of the Pasadena Public Health Department. He assumed his duties in mid-September. Johnson will have overall responsibility for the Department, while Dr. Ying-Ying Goh will continue to serve as the City's Health Officer for specific medical issues. Johnson has previously served Merced County and Long Beach. He has a bachelor's degree in social ecology from the University of California, Irvine, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. He is married to Rebecca, and has a son, Charlie, 23, and daughter, Leah, 20.

*Finance:* Hawkesworth is responsible for the administration and operation of the department, including overall financial management of the City, accounting, debt management, investments, purchasing and payroll. He assumed his duties in early October. Hawkesworth has previously served Rosemead, Claremont and El Monte. He has a bachelor's degree in social science (economics and political science) from the University of La Verne and is a graduate of the Claremont Leadership Academy. He is married to Danielle, and they have two daughters, Katie, 15 and Emma, 12.

*Public Works:* Maloyan is responsible for all administrative and operational aspects of the department, including oversight of city parks, facilities, streets and bridges; the city's urban forest; capital improvement projects; the Citizen Service Center; refuse and recycling programs; graffiti abatement; fleet maintenance for all City vehicles, and coordination of animal services. He assumed his duties in December. Maloyan brings more than 30 years of

*Continued on page 13*



La Loma Bridge by Joseph Stoddard (reprinted with permission)

## La Loma bridge retrofit, rehabilitation progresses

BY BLAINE CAVENA  
TREASURER, WPRA

It may not seem like much is happening at the La Loma bridge, but that will change soon. Most of the work so far has been in preparation for the partial demolition of the bridge, and almost all of that preparation has occurred down in the Arroyo.

A steel skeleton, or "falsework," is being erected around the bridge to provide support and scaffolding during demolition and reconstruction. New, stronger foundations have been established for the bridge, and a pedestrian access "tunnel" has been built to allow use of the east side trail. A temporary bridge at the bottom of the Arroyo is next, to allow heavy equipment to cross the concrete channel.

Once demolition begins most of the bridge, except for the major arches, will be removed. What's left will look a little strange for a while as those arches are reinforced and patched. Then the rebuilding will begin, as modern-day craftspeople recreate a cast-in-place concrete bridge designed a century ago, using the latest techniques and engineering to create a stronger bridge.

The entire deck, brackets and minor supporting arches will be completely new; stronger yet consistent with the bridge's character. The galvanized steel railings and lamp posts will be replaced by concrete railings and posts using the bridge's original design. The bridge advisory group continues its work with City staff and the contractor, now focusing on concrete finishes, so that those who drive, ride or walk across the bridge will be able to enjoy its historic character.

The west side Arroyo and access trails remain closed for the duration of the project. The pedestrian access tunnel allows use of the east side trail, although it may be closed during construction hours (7 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday) during demolition and other phases. A detour will be available, but equestrians should use caution.

The completion target remains December of 2016.

*More information, including project updates, information on trail closures and detours, and photos, can be found at [http://cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/La\\_Loma\\_Bridge\\_Project/](http://cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/La_Loma_Bridge_Project/).*



# Setting the development bar high for scale, design

BY SUE MOSSMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
PASADENA HERITAGE

## Lincoln Properties project design: a work in progress

One of the largest development sites in Pasadena, the Parsons property, is bordered by Pasadena Avenue, Walnut Street, Fair Oaks Avenue and Union Street. Phase One of the project is now under review and includes 450 residential units along Fair Oaks and Holly, and new commercial and office space at the corner of Walnut and Fair Oaks.

Design Commission review in mid-December included a lengthy presentation on the five residential buildings (some with retail on the first floor) and the office complex facing Walnut and Fair Oaks. Commissioners praised the presentation, including a first look at surface finishes and materials, but highlighted a number of areas needing more exploration or refinement.

Pasadena Heritage has been particularly concerned with the buildings that face Fair Oaks, across the street from historic Old Pasadena buildings of a much smaller scale and height. We asked again for more compatible design that better references the historic context of the project.

The Design Commission continued its Concept Review to early January.

## YWCA/Kimpton Hotel Project EIR due out by year end

First expected to be released in October, the environmental impact report (EIR) for the Kimpton Hotel project in the Civic Center, a National Register Historic District, has been delayed. Further study of alternatives was undertaken by the design team to arrive at the right set of choices to be studied in the EIR.

Considerations include potential impacts on the historic YWCA building, designed by noted architect Julia Morgan, as well as impacts on the Civic Center, as a whole. This highly visible location presents a unique set of challenges – designing a new building that will share the hotel use with the former YWCA and creating a building that also responds to the civic nature of the larger site and is a compliment to City Hall across the street.

Once the draft EIR is released, the review and comment period will last 60 days. Pasadena



Heritage has been an active and consistent participant in this issue since urging the City to purchase the former YWCA eight years ago. We continue to believe that the hotel use is ideal for the historic building, but the challenges are great and a truly beautiful and functional hotel must be the outcome.

## Coming attractions

Pasadena Heritage is finalizing its 2016 events calendar and looks forward to presenting a range of interesting activities in the coming months.

- Although the theme of our annual Spring Home Tour hasn't been decided, it's sure to be a showcase of some of Pasadena's best residential architecture.

- The biennial Colorado Street Bridge Party is scheduled for Saturday, July 16.
- Moving our annual Craftsman Weekend to November worked well this year, so the 2016 dates have been set for November 11-13.
- We've scheduled a lecture on the history of the San Gabriel Valley for May, and the second part of our South Orange Grove in Transition exploration for September.
- The year will start with our annual members meeting, which we hope to hold at A Noise Within, the very successful theater in the former Stuart Pharmaceutical Building in east Pasadena.

Check our website, sign up for our e-news, or better yet, join Pasadena Heritage to receive program notices and discounts throughout the year.



Pasadena Heritage's 2015 Craftsman Weekend was so popular this past November, that the event will again be held on November 11-13 in 2016. In the above photo, taken during the 2015 event, a docent shares details about the history and architecture of the Root House. In the photo below, attendees enjoy a beautiful day as they wait to enter the McKnight House. (Photos by Joanne Wilborn, Marlyn Woo and Richard Silverstein)



## BRIEFS

**Fire Department receives international accreditation**

The Pasadena Fire Department joins an elite cadre of fire organizations around the world that have received the coveted "Accredited Agency" status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Only 10 municipal fire departments in California and 218 internationally have earned this status. The accreditation award was presented this past August in Atlanta.

Accreditation is a comprehensive self-assessment and evaluation model that enables organizations to examine past, current and future service levels and internal performances and to compare them to industry best practices. The process leads to improved service for the public.

"This demonstrates our commitment to provide the highest quality of service to our community," said Fire Chief Bertral Washington. "We are able to use the Commission on Fire Accreditation International's process as a proactive mechanism to plan for the future and identify areas we can improve on the services we provide."

**City attorney elected to League of California Cities Board**

Pasadena City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris was elected by fellow city attorneys throughout California to a two-year term on the Board of Directors for the League of California Cities. She and other new officers were installed at the closing general session of the League's 117th Annual Conference in San Jose this past October.

Ms. Bagneris is the first African-American to be elected by city attorneys throughout the state to serve as the City Attorney-representative on the Board.

During the Annual Conference's closing session, Bagneris voted on Resolutions passed by the League, on behalf of Pasadena, as authorized by City Council. Her participation and votes ensure that Pasadena's interests are represented on a variety of issues that the League is working on with state leaders.

# New law reduces minimum parking requirements for affordable housing

BY MIC HANSEN

Introduced in February and signed into law by California Gov. Jerry Brown in October of 2015, Assembly Bill 744 reduces minimum parking requirements for affordable housing.

The rationale for the bill is to enable developers to invest more in building affordable units rather than parking, and to give developers the flexibility to build parking only necessary to meet actual demand.

The current California density bonus laws are designed to provide the means to facilitate the creation of affordable and senior housing. These provisions have allowed up to a 35% increase in unit densities, depending on the amount and type of affordable units included.

Until Assembly Bill 744 was signed into law, developers were required to provide one parking place for every studio or bedroom. Under the provisions of this new bill, cities cannot require more than 0.5 parking spaces for developments that have low or very low income housing that are built within transit-accessible areas. In Pasadena, this means multi-family housing built within a ½ mile radius of our Gold Line stations.

The underlying principle for the bill is to enable developers to invest more in building affordable units rather than for parking, and to give developers the flexibility to build parking only necessary to meet actual demand.

There is some ability for local governments to impose a higher parking requirement if they have recent studies that substantiate or can justify the need for an increase.

The bill was opposed by the League of California Cities, which cited a number of concerns. The League contended that senior, low-income and special-needs men and women's need for parking may not necessarily be half that of those who occupy market rate housing, and that "...housing projects with inadequate parking will negatively impact the quality of life of the vulnerable populations of identified residents. Such housing will also

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*"The underlying principle for the bill is to enable developers to invest more in building affordable units rather than for parking, and to give developers the flexibility to build parking only necessary to meet actual demand."*

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create negative spillover effects on adjacent properties and increase community resistance to future development."

Proponents of the new law included pedestrians, bicycle users, affordable housing developers, sustainable development advocates, and more densely populated cities. As quoted in the California Planning and Development Report, "It's going to help us make better buildings," said Meea Kang of Domus Development, who also heads the Council of Infill Builders, which was the principal sponsor of the bill. "We're going to have...much more walkable neighborhoods. We'll have better architecture because we're not dedicating so much space to empty parking spaces and curb cuts."

For a built-up city such as Pasadena, potential application of this legislation will most likely occur in infill areas.

*Mic Hansen is a current member of the Planning and Design commissions, the Metro/710 Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee (as Pasadena's representative) and a member of the Heritage Housing Partners board of directors. She has been a member of the WPRA and Pasadena Heritage boards of directors, and the General Plan Update Advisory Committee.*





On November 24, 1886 the *Pasadena Star* described the first lithograph of the city as “that magnificent birds-eye view of Pasadena, the finest lithograph view ever made in California ...” West Pasadena is depicted with extensive orchards and few homes before the building boom that would change the area. [See center spread for lithograph made just four years later, which captures the building boom Pasadena experienced in the late 1880s.]

### Gone, but not forgotten

## West Pasadena in 1886: a wonderful little city

[Editor’s note: The Pasadena Museum of History graciously provides WPRA News readers with historical vignettes to relive our past and inform our future.]

BY KIRK MYERS  
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST  
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

**1** 886 was an eventful year in early Pasadena. Incorporation as a city was finalized on June 19, but a transformation from the agricultural village founded in 1874 was already underway

On February 23, 20 acres of property along Colorado and South St. John, originally belonging to Dr. O.H. Conger, was sold by real estate investors at auction. On March 12, the five acre site of the Central School on the southeast corner of Colorado and Fair Oaks was auctioned, and a real estate boom was evident to all.

On June 11, the Pasadena & Valley Union reported that the amount of real estate transfers for the first five months of the year “reveals a rush and a whirl of business activity in buying and selling and building that makes the easy-going old-timer stand dumb with amazement ...”

*“Pasadena, the new-born Garden of Eden, has been lithographed in fine shape. The view of Pasadena is par excellence - just such as would give eastern people a very good idea of what this little city is. The buildings, groves, orchards, vineyards, etc. show very distinctly every street and avenue correctly drawn ....”*

The *Pasadena Star* noted with pride on August 25 that “Pasadena, the new-born Garden of Eden, has been lithographed in fine shape. The view of Pasadena is par excellence - just such as would give eastern people a very good idea of what this little city is. The buildings, groves, orchards, vineyards, etc. show very

distinctly every street and avenue correctly drawn ...”

The excitement of the boom was conveyed by the *Star* on November 24 – “Pasadena is booming in every department, and everybody is supremely happy.” “Every day adds to the beauty, the pride and glory of Pasadena. Brick blocks are going up on every hand, scores and scores of fine residences are being erected and real estate is changing hands at the rate of hundreds of thousands of dollars in actual cash value every week.”

On December 29, the *Star* printed a column of the boasts of Pasadena. “Pasadena is growing more rapidly than any other city in the state.” “We have no blizzards, no cyclones, no thunder storms, no lightning rod peddlers and no bed bugs. Pasadena is a wonderful little city.”

*The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Walnut Street (470 W. Walnut); free parking in the museum lot. The Research Library & Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursdays-Sundays from 1-4 p.m. For additional information, please visit the Museum’s website, [pasadenahistory.org](http://pasadenahistory.org) or call (626) 577-1660, ext. 10.*



A lithograph of Pasadena printed in February, 1890, shows a city transformed by the building boom of the late 1880s.

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**BIRDS EYE VIEW**

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# The ANNUAL OF THE TRADE EDITION

## Pasadena Daily Star

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# City prepares second draft of new urban forest management plan

BY JOHN FAUVRE

In the prior issue of this newsletter, we reported on the April draft of Pasadena's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).

October, however, brought a new edition (UFMP 2) by the Dudek consulting group and with it, a new set of questions.

The good news is that Pasadena has an arboreal abundance of street trees, nurtured for over a hundred years, spreading over almost the entire city. The abundance is valued by replacement cost at over \$300 million and is sustained by City programs.

The possibly less good news is that the Lower Arroyo (starting at the western curb of South Arroyo Blvd.) has a spreading arboreal absence, as sycamores, alders, and some oaks are dying off, part of "the worst epidemic of tree mortality in modern history," as phrased by California Gov. Jerry Brown in his October 30 proclamation of a statewide emergency arising from the fire danger from California's number of dead trees.

The Lower Arroyo's canopy is evolving into a matrix of dead tree trunks and branches, and the Arroyo floor is dappled with clumps of kindling. All of this is caused by the drought, beetle infestation, the withering of already low-flow streams, and the Park Department's sense of inflexible regulations concerning dead tree removals in the Lower Arroyo Master Plan.

Now, the City will plant drought-resistant shrubs instead of new trees; sage for the sycamores. By next Spring, the City hopes to plant shrubs along the west side of the casting pond and along the border of the southern third of the archery range. Also, the City hopes to win grants to remove dead trees to avoid the risk of fires in the Arroyo.

In the meantime, City Council and the Forestry Department are considering UFMP 2 along with the comments of residents and the combined membership of the Design Commission and the Urban Forest Advisory

Committee. These comments include requests that UFMP 2 add measurable and global goals to frame and support the mosaic of existing neighborhood canopies.

The current system for management of street trees includes annual removal of about 400 dead trees and planting of about 800 replacement and new ones. Views of the whole city and neighborhood canopies can be found on the Google satellite, and listings of the addresses of trees to be removed and to be planted are on the Forestry Department's website. Every street has a designated tree species, and canopy distribution among our many neighborhoods is fairly equitable.

UFMP 2 states that the goal set in the past by City Council for the extent of the citywide canopy is 25%, which tracks the level suggested for an average city in the western United States. The current level in Pasadena is 28%. Nevertheless, the Forestry Department thinks that this "goal" is merely a minimum or floor, and that no change in the current levels of tree removal and plantings is contemplated.

UFMP 2 explicitly states that it does not address the trees in our parks or on private property, though these greatly outnumber those on our streets. Trees in the parks are subject to no particular policies, only that they be managed according to "best practices," and trees on private property are subject to some pruning and removal restrictions, though the Pasadena Water and Power provides some information and subsidies to encourage their use to provide shade. The Fire Department also outlaws dead trees within 200 feet of a structure. The WPRA supports the protecting and planting of trees as one of the founding purposes in its Bylaws.

As we go to press, the Forestry Department expects to formally present the plan to City Council toward the end of the first quarter.





# When is the best time to prepare for El Niño?

## Opinion

BY TIM BRICK

Remember Geraldine, Flip Wilson's cross-dressing comic character from the 1970s? She had a ready answer for all her peccadillos: "The Devil made me do it." Now it seems that LA County Flood Control officials are auditioning for a revival of Geraldine, and sensationalistic journalists are letting them get away with it.

Faced with heavy storms that might be coming this winter as a result of the El Niño warming of the Pacific Ocean, the flood bureaucrats keep pointing to Devil's Gate Dam and the accumulated sediment behind it as the cause for potential flooding along the Arroyo Seco. The journalists, for their part, fail to ask two key questions: Why has the sediment piled up behind Devil's Gate Dam? And why hasn't it been removed to a safe level by now?

Until 1920, sediment from the San Gabriel Mountains flowed through the Arroyo Seco to the Los Angeles River and eventually out to the coast, where it replenished beaches and the ocean. In 1920, the County Flood Control District built Devil's Gate Dam. Dams trap sediment, something the flood control engineers didn't fully understand then. Since Devil's Gate Dam was first built, the accumulation and management of sediment in the reservoir has been a problem.

Flood waters rush into the dam basin every 20 years or so and then recede and dissipate after the peak, but the sediment remains. By 1938 2.5 million cubic yards of sand and soil had accumulated behind the dam, which has a total capacity of about 7.5 million cubic yards. Since then the sediment level has fluctuated in a range between 2.5 to 4 million cubic yards. After the Station Fire in 2009, 1 million cubic yards of sand and gravel from the mountains flowed into Hahamongna Watershed Park, bringing the level to its current 3.9 million cubic yards, near the top of the level maintained by County Flood since the 1930s.

The Arroyo Seco Foundation has been advocating a slow, steady sediment removal program for more than two decades. The Flood Control District, however, seems to prefer massive mining and trucking programs occurring every few decades. The last major sediment removal project was in 1994, when County Flood removed 190,000 cubic yards. After the Station Fire, County Flood developed a plan to remove 2.4 million cubic yards over three to five years — 13 times their

*"Will this winter's widely-promised 'Godzilla' storms be a blessing or a curse? Will they bring relief to California's long drought or horrendous flooding throughout our region?"*

1994 project. If the sediment problem is as bad as the flood control engineers say, why haven't they removed any significant amounts of sediment from the basin for over 20 years? The time to prepare for an El Niño storm was 10 or 20 years ago.

ASF has joined with Pasadena Audubon Society to challenge the Flood Control District's Big Dig plan. We seek a sediment management program that will minimize impacts on the habitat at Hahamongna and on local neighborhoods. Meanwhile the Flood Control District has not been able to get the permits they need to comply with applicable environmental law. That's why they won't be removing any significant amount of sediment before the expected El Niño storms.

The storm the Flood Control District projects is a virtual impossibility. Two 50-year storms (each as large as the largest that have occurred in the last 100 years) would have to occur within a short period of time, and both would have to be preceded by a thorough burnoff of the upper mountain watershed. The probability of that combination of factors is extremely minimal.

The assertion that the problem is the sediment buildup in Devil's Gate Dam is also fallacious. Devil's Gate Dam has the capacity to pass

floods 50% larger than any we have seen in the last hundred years, but the flood channel through the Arroyo Seco is inadequate to contain the kind of compounded flood flow that the Flood District projects. They have known that for a long time. Four years ago they commissioned a study that identified the properties in peril.

So County Flood built a dam that traps sediment, has not adequately managed the sediment in the basin, and has built an

inadequate flood channel. The district is ready to spend \$100 million to truck sediment out of Hahamongna Watershed Park to distant gravel pits, but how much has it spent to provide flood protection to the homes, parks and business that they believe are subject to flooding resulting from the overtopping of their channel in the Noah-like flood scenario?

The facilities that County Flood built, including Devil's Gate Dam and the 10 mile downstream concrete channel, were experimental, pilot facilities, engineered with a primitive understanding of flood dynamics and of ecosystems. We now have a 100 years of records and a more sophisticated understanding of flood dynamics. A science-based watershed management approach should guide the development of a more sustainable river and flood management program for the next 100 years.

Will this winter's widely-promised "Godzilla" storms be a blessing or a curse? Will they bring relief to California's long drought or horrendous flooding throughout our region? That won't be clear for a few months, but two things are clear: the devil didn't make Geraldine do it, and Devil's Gate is not the source of local flood problems.

*Tim Brick, the Managing Director of the Arroyo Seco Foundation, is the former chairman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the former executive director of the Hahamongna Operating Company.*

## PUSD saves San Rafael Elementary

*Continued from page 1*

recommendations, the first of which was to do limited trenching on the SRES property to confirm or rebut the surface acoustic readings, which had resulted in the finding that the property was likely located on active fault lines that could rupture the surface of the SRES property.

Despite the recommendations of the committee, the PUSD Board – acting on the recommendation of the then-existing PUSD administration, elected not to trench. Rather, the Board elected to close the school and to declare the school site “surplus.” That declaration permitted PUSD to dispose of the SRES property either through a long-term lease, a sale or otherwise.

However, with a new administration and Board turnover, the current Board agreed to proceed with the trenching during the summer of 2015. As reported in the Fall 2015 issue of this newsletter, trenching found no active faults under the SRES property. However, this scientific finding did not change the fact that the SRES property had already been declared “surplus” by the prior Board, and was still slated to be disposed of (and the school closed) no later than 2018.

The last step in the saving of SRES came in November 2015, when the PUSD Board voted to remove that surplus designation entirely. This completed the final step required to make sure that SRES continues to operate as the last remaining public school in Pasadena west of the Arroyo. Another major issue to be addressed is funding the SRES campus renovations, which were halted several years ago when faults were thought to run under the campus. Since then certain originally earmarked funds have been committed elsewhere in the PUSD system.

As we move forward, the WPRA will continue to work with the District to improve traffic flow around the school. In part due to requests of WPRA Board members, PUSD has also hired a traffic consultant, who has already met with residents and other stakeholders.

We are extremely grateful to PUSD Superintendent Brian McDonald, Board member Scott Phelps and others, who acted boldly to ensure that SRES will live on.



## WPRA grant helps budding San Rafael Elementary musicians

Did you know that San Rafael Elementary offers music education and orchestra participation to every fourth and fifth grader at the school? Every student is invited to learn an instrument to play in the orchestra, and receive music instruction with PUSD orchestra teacher, Ms. Luu. However, due to the very limited number of instruments available, most families must rent or purchase an instrument at considerable expense, a cost that is a barrier for many students. In October, the WPRA made a grant in the amount of \$2,500 to purchase additional instruments for San Rafael to increase the number of students able to take advantage of the opportunity. The grant will also be used to fulfill a challenge grant with a music foundation to secure additional funds for the music program at SRE.





## LA Metro/Caltran's 710 tunnel plan

*Continued from page 1*

As volunteers from the West Pasadena Residents' Association and others, including SCAQMD and the federal Environmental Protection Agency, have detailed in their responses to the Metro/Caltrans draft environmental impact report/statement (EIR/EIS), the report has many shortcomings and, in summary, is woefully inadequate. For example, the EIR/EIS:

- Deceptively attributes to the tunnel major air quality improvements, when, in fact, it merely combines tunnel emission impact with the possibility that federal vehicle emission standards will be tightened in the future;
- Omits important traffic-related pollutants such as ultrafine particles, black carbon and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs);
- Excludes health outcomes besides cancer (as listed above) and, worse, is based on outdated cancer methodologies;
- Models tunnel and tower emissions without including critical receptor locations, unfiltered releases at bore openings, critical details about tower air filtering, and the worst-case conditions during windless periods.

These issues, along with dozens of others documented elsewhere, represent obvious violations of the California Environmental Quality Act requirements and show a lack of good faith and transparency.

All of us who breathe deserve better.

### LOOKING BACK, 1895:

**Arbor Street:** "Opened by I. M. Hill, and named from the cypress arbor leading from the front of his house to Orange Grove Avenue. This house was the third one built in the original colony settlement – built by Col. J. Banbury, who also planted and trained the arbor in front, and it was a notable thing in the early colony days, as a cool and shady place for the family meals in warm weather, and the scene of many delightful social gatherings. [The arbor was cut away in 1895.]"  
— History of Pasadena, by Hiram Reid in 1895

## Neighbors group gathers to mitigate Rose Bowl event challenges

BY BILL URBAN  
DIRECTOR, WPPA

**T**he Rose Bowl Neighbors group meets monthly to coordinate efforts to manage and minimize the impact of Rose Bowl events on surrounding neighborhoods. The group consists of Rose Bowl management and representatives from:

- Each of the three main neighborhood organizations affected by Rose Bowl events: Linda Vista~Annandale Association, East Arroyo Neighborhood Association, and the WPPA
- Field reps for District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison and District 1 Councilmember Tyron Hampton
- Others, which could include those responsible for "outside-the-fence" traffic and crowd control, the Pasadena Police Department, the Pasadena Fire Department and other City officials

Here are some of the issues discussed in recent meetings:

- **Arroyo Seco Music and Arts Festival:** The first planned festival will be postponed until 2017 to permit adequate time for the City to complete and coordinate community review of the Environmental Impact Report for the festival.
- **CONCACAF Cup soccer match (October 10):** Residents noticed an improvement in operations (traffic and parking management, for example) and in the new alerts being sent out. There are still issues with inconsistent attentiveness of barricade workers stationed at residential intersections.
- **UCLA football games (Oct. 22 and Oct. 31):** Congestion and parking on the East side of the Arroyo was discussed, especially on Lincoln under the freeway and nearby. No-parking signs are posted under the freeway, but people just park further along Lincoln. Discussion revolved around how far down Lincoln parking should be restricted. However, residents of that area were not represented at the

meeting, so City Council reps will follow up with the councilmember for that area.

- **Runs and walks:** The Rose Bowl limits itself to 13 runs and walks of over 500 people per year. It turns down many requests to keep within the limit.
- **Reducing Use of Rose Bowl area for events:** The City is trying to move some events to other parks, like Central Park, but the Rose Bowl is an attractive area and in demand.
- **2016 Rose Bowl game:** Although this discussion took place before the San Bernardino shootings, Rose Bowl management indicated there will be heightened security in and around the Rose Bowl. The Rose Bowl cannot control who comes into the area, but it will have increased security patrolling and monitoring of the parking lots and also will use bomb-sniffing dogs for explosive detection. Starting December 29, the Rose Bowl will be locked down at night and have security on patrol, including a security sweep of the area every night. Game day will have enhanced security and surveillance with additional personnel from state, County and City agencies. As usual, there are plans for parking in neighborhoods in case of rain, since the golf course can't be used for parking then.

## City appoints new department directors

*Continued from page 4*

civil engineering, construction management and organizational leadership to Pasadena. He has previously served Long Beach, Beverly Hills and the City of Los Angeles. Maloyan has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from California State University, Los Angeles, is a registered civil engineer and holds a certificate in construction management from UCLA.

## An arts and crafts legacy

# Architectural historian, Robert Winter, donates Batchelder tiles to PMH

**P**asadena Museum of History is pleased to announce the recent gift by architectural historian Robert Winter, Ph.D., of his personal collection of Batchelder tiles and accompanying archives. Dr. Winter (or “Bungalow Bob,” as he is affectionately known), current owner of the Batchelder house and backyard kiln, has devoted much of his scholarship to preserving the tilemaker’s legacy.

The donation includes over 200 Batchelder tiles made between the years 1910 and the early 1930s, including tiles in the Arts and Crafts style (from landscape reliefs to figural corbels) as well as colorfully glazed tiles of later years in the Mayan, Spanish Revival and Art Deco styles. Additionally, there are a half a dozen objects from Batchelder’s rare later line, Kinneloa Ceramics. “Dr. Winter’s extraordinary donation gives PMH a major Arts and Crafts collection that is particularly meaningful to the cultural history of this region,” says the Museum’s Director of Collections, Laura Verlaque.

The public can view items from the collection during the exhibition *Batchelder: Tilemaker*, which will be curated by Dr. Winter, at the Pasadena Museum of History from September 21, 2016 through February 12, 2017. This will be the first local exhibit dedicated solely to the life and work of this extraordinary artist and educator.

## Coming Up Next:

- **Fabulous Fashion** tells a stylish tale of designs, trends and women’s history through Valentine’s Day, February 14. On March 5 PMH opens two new exhibitions that continue our exploration of textiles history.
- **Crossing the Atlantic Quilt by Quilt** features more than 20 quilts from the collection of renowned quiltmaker, curator and scholar Maggi Gordon. These distinctive layered fabric coverlets illustrate the similarities and differences of American quilts and their British counterparts.



Robert W. Winter in his home, 2014. (Photograph by Marlyn Woo/Joanne Wilborn. Courtesy of the Pasadena Museum of History)

■ **Strings Attached: Tradition Meets Contemporary Woven Art** celebrates the 60-year legacy of the Bobinwinders Guild of the San Gabriel Valley. The exhibit will showcase diverse works of local weavers, their looms and tools, and offer periodic live weaving demonstrations.

For further information on all these exhibits and related programming, please visit the Museum’s website at [pasadenahistory.org](http://pasadenahistory.org) or call (626) 577-1660.



Batchelder decorative tile, 6” diameter. Courtesy of the Pasadena Museum of History (Ernest A. Batchelder Tile Collection and Archives, 2015.008.031)



Batchelder decorative tile with Dutch landscape relief, 5 3/4” square. Courtesy of the Pasadena Museum of History (Ernest A. Batchelder Tile Collection and Archives, 2015.008.049)



# John Van de Kamp fires up the way-back machine

BY JUSTIN CHAPMAN  
TREASURER, WPRA

*Nearly an octogenarian, John Van de Kamp is still going strong, wielding his influence and wisdom to improve government and society. At 79, he looks back on a storied and public career — having served as LA County District Attorney and state Attorney General, as well as on numerous boards, including the WPRA, and commissions that have helped shape state and local policy. I recently sat down with Van de Kamp to discuss his local service, his ongoing projects, and growing up in the area.*

**Q: Tell me about your experience growing up in Altadena.**

**A:** I lived at 2187 N. Holliston Ave. We lived in a very nice little house that my parents bought during the Depression. Next door was a long lot that went from Holliston to Maiden Lane. During World War II there was an anti-aircraft gun in that lot with a barracks, and there were soldiers stationed there, anti-aircraft gunners. I went to a school called the Trailfinders [School for Boys, founded by Harry James] up on Mariposa and El Molino. It was a very unusual school. There were about 40 boys in the school. In the morning we'd have to clean up the cactus gardens and the premises. Then the headmaster would read [aloud] the newspaper. That was our current-events course. Then he would play classical music; we'd hear Moller and Mozart. Every other week we'd go camping, and in the summer for a number of years we went out to Yosemite for six weeks. This was [when I was] between 10 and 13 years of age. We'd have to wash our own clothes and hike every day. A couple times we went to the Indian country and up to the Tetons. We did a lot of climbing at that age, and it was a great experience because we had to learn some self-reliance.

**Q: What about Pasadena made you decide to spend your life here?**

**A:** I liked the neighborhoods, we liked the people. In 1971 I was single and walking precincts for [the late] Kicker McKinney, who was running for City Council, and I remember walking through the area near Prospect Terrace, and going into a home. I thought, "This is a neat place." The house was up for sale, so I bought it for \$35,000. Andrea

and I got married in '78, and we lived there until about '87.

**Q: What do you think are the most pressing issues facing Pasadena today?**

**A:** A combination of things. It is growth, density, transportation, race relations, schools; all of which need to be addressed in a rational, careful way. We're growing a little too fast, though on the other hand you have to stimulate the business community to bring jobs. You have to have a variety of different housing, but at the same time you need to preserve your historical neighborhoods and make sure that they're cohesive, that they really are neighborhoods.

**Q: Your family is also in the restaurant business. Are you still connected to Van de Kamp's Holland Dutch Bakeries?**

**A:** My father may have worked at the Van de Kamp Bakery as a young man at one time,

but he was never an owner. My uncles were owners. They sold that in '55 or '56. I worked there one summer, back in the early '50s. I remember I was a packing clerk from 3:30 p.m. until midnight. It was a good experience, but the family got out of that business and stuck with the restaurant side. I became the chairman of that board about two years ago. We own Lawry's The Prime Rib in Beverly Hills, one of the most famous restaurants in LA. It's been there 75 years. We also have the Tam O'Shanter Inn in Atwater Village. That's been there since 1922. We have a Lawry's in Chicago, Dallas, Las Vegas, and we have franchised out in a number of cities in Asia. It's been a very successful concept. We also had a food company that produced Lawry's seasoned salt and salad dressings. That part of the business was later sold to Unilever and then Lipton, and then to the McCormick spice company.



Caricature of John Van de Kamp at The Palm steakhouse in downtown LA



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## Pasadena: city on call

### Police Department

Emergency..... 9-1-1  
Pasadena Crime Stoppers ..... (800) 222-8477  
Non-Emergency ..... (626) 744-4241

### Services

Bulky trash items ..... (626) 744-4158  
Missed trash pickup..... (626) 744-4087  
Missed residential recycling pickup (626) 744-4087  
New trash container..... (626) 744-4087  
New street light ..... (626) 744-4191  
Pothole ..... (626) 744-4158  
Recycling..... (626) 744-4087  
Sewer problem..... (626) 744-4158  
Shopping cart pickup ..... (626) 744-8227  
Street light not working ..... (626) 744-4158  
Storm drain blockage..... (626) 744-4158  
Traffic signal malfunction..... (626) 744-4158  
Traffic signal timing problems .... (626) 744-4191

### Frequently called numbers

City information operator ..... (626) 744-4000  
Abandoned vehicles ..... (626) 744-7627  
Alarm permits ..... (626) 744-4166  
Animal control ..... (626) 792-7151  
ARTS bus ..... (626) 744-4055  
Code enforcement ..... (626) 744-4633  
Dog licenses ..... (626) 744-4501  
Graffiti ..... (626) 744-7622  
Historic preservation ..... (626) 744-4009  
Neighborhood Watch ..... (626) 744-4550  
Park/picnic reservations ..... (626) 744-7275  
Parking permits/exemptions ..... (626) 744-6440  
Parking tickets ..... (626) 744-4360  
Street tree maintenance ..... (626) 744-4321  
Trash pick-up ..... (626) 744-4087  
Water/power billing inquiries ..... (626) 744-4005  
Yard sale permits ..... (626) 744-4200

**The West Pasadena Residents' Association is a  
501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation.**

## Make your own motion!

Our representatives need to hear from you. Take a few minutes to make your voice heard, and make your own motion.

### Pasadena

#### Mayor Terry Tornek

[ttornek@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ttornek@cityofpasadena.net)

#### City Manager Michael J. Beck

[mbeck@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mbeck@cityofpasadena.net)

#### Tyron Hampton, Council District 1

[thampton@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:thampton@cityofpasadena.net)

#### Margaret McAustin, Council District 2

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#### John Kennedy, Council District 3

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#### Gene Masuda, Council District 4 (vice mayor)

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#### Victor Gordo, Council District 5

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#### Steve Madison, Council District 6

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#### Andy Wilson, Council District 7

[awilson@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:awilson@cityofpasadena.net)

### California

**Senator Carol Liu (D-21), (818) 409-0400**

**Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41), (626) 351-1917**

### United States

**Representative Judy Chu (D-27), (626) 304-0110**

**Representative Adam Schiff (D-28), (818) 450-2900**

**Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), (202) 224-3553**

**Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), (202) 224-3841**