



## PUSD to close last public school in West Pasadena

By CATHERINE STRINGER  
VICE PRESIDENT, WPRA

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) made a long-awaited recommendation to the Board of Education regarding the eventual relocation of San Rafael Elementary. The Board approved that recommendation, closing the door on an 18-month process to decide the fate of the school. San Rafael first opened its doors to students nearly a century ago.

In May 2012, after conducting a seismic study in preparation for modernization of school structures under the Measure TT Bond Construction Program, PUSD found four earthquake faults running beneath San Rafael's campus. The discovery triggered a State of California provision precluding any structural improvements being made to buildings within 50 feet of the fault zone. Additionally, the State requires the

**See related opinion article  
on page 6**

District to have a plan to rebuild the school on ground free of active faults or vacate the property for public school purposes.



In the 18 months since, PUSD officials researched options. Parents and the school community advocated for rebuilding at San Rafael on an area of the property outside the setback zone or relocating the school to a renovated Linda Vista Elementary campus, which has been shuttered for several years. Either of those options would have kept a public school in West Pasadena,

but the District deemed both options too costly.

After looking at its other existing campuses, PUSD determined that the site that formerly housed Allendale Elementary, adjacent to the Blair middle and high schools complex, was the most appropriate choice. Because the site is being used as swing space during renovations to Blair High and will need significant improvements after that time to accommodate the San Rafael program, the District estimates that a relocation could happen no sooner than the 2017-18 school year. PUSD officials said the improvements to the Allendale campus would be financed with the \$4 million in unspent TT funds designated for San Rafael.

*[Editor's note: Catherine Stringer's two children are students in the Dual Language Immersion Program at San Rafael.]*



**Haute couture de cafeteria?** Tom Seifert, former WPRA president, and Bob Holmes, current WPRA Secretary and Neighborhood Safety chair, proudly model the stylish hair nets they wore in December while helping to serve dinners for the Pasadena Hot Meals Program. **For more, see page 13.** (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

## Citizens, City await court ruling on NFL-EIR suit

By NINA CHOMSKY, PRESIDENT,  
LINDA VISTA~ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION

By the time you read this, the lawsuit challenging Pasadena's environmental review of a proposal to consider a five-year Rose Bowl Stadium lease to a National Football League team will likely have been decided. However, win or lose, the issue of the NFL in the Rose Bowl on a "temporary" basis will not necessarily be over since even a citizens' win in this lawsuit cannot directly block NFL use of the Rose Bowl.

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# 2014 will bring us great challenges and opportunities

BY BILL URBAN  
PRESIDENT, WPRA

To cite a well-worn phrase, the new year promises to be a time of great challenges and opportunities for West Pasadena. Although we face significant threats to the quality of life in West Pasadena and other parts of the city, the WPRA Board believes that together we can solve these problems with a little (or a lot) of elbow grease, midnight oil and maybe, if necessary, even a bit of Tinker Bell dust.

The challenges include:

- Keeping open San Rafael Elementary School, the last public school in West Pasadena and site of the highly successful Dual Immersion Language program
- Winning a lawsuit against the City's environmental impact report (EIR) that should have (but didn't) include ways to mitigate the negative impacts that would likely arise from a temporary lease of the Rose Bowl Stadium by the National Football League

- Stopping LA Metro's freeway tunnel option for extension of the SR-710 freeway
- Ensuring that the Ambassador College development, now known as Ambassador Gardens, continues to meet its promises, which we can ensure by regular monitoring and meaningful dialog with its master developer City Ventures
- Protecting the Hahamongna watershed, including Devil's Gate dam, and surrounding areas
- Improving resident safety on Avenue 64 and other streets in our city

Of course, the most immediate and threatening challenge is the one posed by Metro's multi-billion-dollar plan to connect the SR-710 freeway stubs between Alhambra and Pasadena. This will funnel even more traffic and smog through West Pasadena and into the foothill communities.

Although Metro's current study includes a wide range of alternatives, it's clear that Metro (and what I'll call the freeway industrial complex) aims to show that the best alternative is to spend about 12 years

(or more) constructing gigantic tunnels that will erupt from the ground just west of Old Pasadena and direct overflow traffic through Alhambra, South Pasadena and Pasadena. Metro plans to release its draft EIR, with its recommended alternative, in early 2014.

Another major concern is the County's recently unveiled ambitious and, say some, disruptive plan to remove millions of cubic yards of silt, debris, living plants and trees from behind Devil's Gate dam. The WPRA, generally, agrees that sediment should be removed, but we're not sure that the current plan, which would require disposing of the sediment by trucks ... one per minute every day for five years ... is the best way to do it.

We're even looking within. The WPRA Board is also seeking ways to improve its effectiveness as both a community advocate and communicator.

Even though it may sound trite, we're excited about the good we hope to do in this new year!

## About us

**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.

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The News is mailed each quarter to nearly 7,000 homes in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes.

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

## Five cities join forces for 710 EIR review

**F**ive cities along the proposed SR-710 extension have joined forces to analyze and respond to an Environmental Impact Report LA Metro and Caltrans expect to publish by spring 2014. The “5-Cities Alliance” includes Glendale, La Canada-Flintridge, Pasadena, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena.

The Alliance will allow participating cities to save money and share information related to SR-710 North studies. It is meant to eliminate expensive, patchwork consultant work. Each city has agreed to contribute \$50,000 (with South Pasadena serving as the treasurer) and serve a specialized role in the search for a professional to analyze the EIR: Glendale will focus on safety and security; La Canada-Flintridge on soils geology and seismology; Pasadena on legal and the California Environmental Quality Act, Sierra Madre on air quality and South Pasadena on transportation. The Alliance members, jointly, will evaluate the contenders and award the contract.



**Fire Station #39 reopens after two-year rehab.** After nearly two years and a \$2.9 million seismic retrofit and renovation, Fire Station #39, Avenue 64, reopened on December 16. Concurrently, the temporary Glen Summer Road station, which housed a rescue ambulance, was taken out of service. In this photo, Pasadena City Manager Michael Beck, Mayor Bill Bogaard, District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison and City Fire Chief Calvin Wells cut the customary ribbon on December 14 to rededicate the station. Fire Station 39 is one of the oldest of the City Fire Department's eight stations and was originally constructed in 1949. In addition to the retrofitting, the City also increased the building's energy efficiency, installed new fire sprinklers and alarm systems, and built new interior living, office and kitchen areas and a new emergency generator room. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

## SR-710 project back on accelerated funding list

BY MIC HANSEN  
PASADENA'S REPRESENTATIVE, STAKEHOLDER  
OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**D**uring a late 2013 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Stakeholder Outreach Advisory Committee (SOAC) meetings, LA Metro reported its findings from the “Value Analysis” study conducted last spring. The study, according to Metro, “... emphasizes the interrelationship between cost and performance and can be quantified and compared in terms of how they contribute to overall value.”

Several alternatives were recommended regarding the 710-North Freeway Tunnel.

### Single-bore tunnel

- Two lanes in each direction, stacked two-over-two
- Most likely will have variable toll, depending on real-time demand

- Potential cost savings of \$2.5 billion (45%) over dual-bore tunnel
- Has “profitability” advantage; more likely to be financeable (Public-Private Partnership (PPP), for example)
- May have less environmental impact than double-bore tunnel option
- Reduces road capacity and revenues (presumably to Metro and PPP)

### Car-only freeway tunnel

*Reduced internal diameter of 8.4 ft. vertical clearance and 9.8 ft. traffic lanes*

- Reduces construction time and materials; somewhat lessens impact
- May be difficult to get approval from Federal agencies
- Would not accommodate trucks
- Saves \$584 million in construction cost, but potential for tolls is reduced
- May be more claustrophobic for motorists

- Requires special low-clearance maintenance and emergency response vehicles

### Additional ingress-egress ramps at North Portal

*St. John and Pasadena avenues*

- Metro: “... improves connectivity for local access”
- Metro: “... gives additional SR-710 access” to motorists/trucks
- Increases cost by \$47 million
- Creates local street congestion
- Creates adverse environmental impacts (multi- and single-family residences, schools, and sensitive receptors surround the area)

*Continued on page 10*

## BRIEFS

**Governor signs bill to sell state-owned houses on SR-710**

"Gov. Jerry Brown has signed into law a bill expediting the sale of state-owned houses that will never be needed for a proposed State Highway Route 710 extension in Los Angeles, Alhambra, South Pasadena, and Pasadena, Sen. Carol Liu announced Wednesday October 2, 2013." Source: *Pasadena Independent*

**Central Park South reopens, beautification complete**

"City officials and representatives from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and the Tournament of Roses gathered in Central Park early Tuesday afternoon to officially reopen the southern end of the park, with its newest landscaping and beautification projects completed." Source: *Pasadena Now*

**Art Center announces \$15 million gift**

Southern California philanthropists and classic car enthusiasts Peter and Merle Mullin donated \$15 million to the Art Center of Design. The donation will help fund construction of a new Art Center industrial and transportation design facility at the south campus on Raymond Avenue near Glenarm Street." Source: *Pasadena Now*

**Flood control district to build five-mile pipeline across Pasadena**

"The State has granted the Los Angeles County Flood Control District \$28 million for the construction of a five-mile pipeline that will connect Devil's Gate Dam in northwest Pasadena and Eaton Canyon Wash in east Pasadena." Source: *Pasadena Now*

**Gov. Jerry Brown signs Holden's architect protection bill**

Gov. Brown has signed Assemblymember Chris Holden's (D-Pasadena) bill to end disputes over architects' designs. AB 630 safeguards an architect's work such as architectural drawings or plans, by clarifying that a person can only use the plans or drawings if they have written permission. Architects currently face a challenge preventing those who are not authorized to use their work from using it again and again.



Artist's rendering of upper campus: North/Green Street elevation, Building B

## Ambassador Gardens takes shape

BY BEN BESLY

PROJECT MANAGER, CITY VENTURES

**P**rogress at the Ambassador West campus, now known as Ambassador Gardens, continues.

**Phase 1**

City Ventures opened its first homes in late October and interest has been very strong, with the first homeowners moving in by February. The sales center, housed in first floor of the Merritt Mansion, is also open. Construction of the sales center was done under the supervision of historical consultants with input from Pasadena Heritage to preserve the existing historical finishes while creating an inviting atmosphere for City Ventures' prospective homebuyers and visitors.

**Phase 2**

Construction on the second phase of homes at the former Library and Library Annex site also continues. This will be 21-unit, three story building located above Fowler Garden. Excavation is complete and the podium will be out of the ground by mid-February.

**Phase 4**

Design of the project at the former Sunrise property on Green Street is well underway. The former Sunrise project approved in 2007 would have constructed 420,000 to 440,000 square feet of floor area to accommodate 248 senior condominiums and assisted living units. With as many as six stories, the buildings would have been up to 70 feet tall and attached to the north side of the Merritt Mansion.

After the City of Pasadena's Transportation Department completed its review of a traffic study for the proposed redesign, I met with a sub-committee of the WPRB Board to review the design, which reduces these buildings to less than 250,000 square feet and no more than 74 for-sale townhomes and flats. The buildings will be no taller than 4½ stories and 60 feet. All parking will be subterranean and the design does not impact the Merritt Mansion. The elevations of the redesigned buildings will respond to the new buildings designed for the corner of Green St. and South Orange Grove Blvd., the Merritt Mansion and the Ambassador Auditorium. The sub-committee reviewed a

*Continued on page 10*



Artist's rendering of lower campus: East/St. John Street elevation, luxury flats

## BRIEFS

**La Loma Bridge progress report**

With all state approvals in place and the majority of funding (about \$14 million) committed from two federal sources, supplementing \$2.4 million in local money, the La Loma Bridge project is moving forward, reports Pasadena Heritage. Construction drawings are now being completed in consultation with the Design Advisory Committee. The concept of making a potential construction-related bridge across the flood control channel into a permanent installation has been taken off the table in response to community concerns. The City's project schedule now calls for construction to get underway next summer, and neighborhood meetings will be scheduled to discuss the construction process and bridge closure details.

**PH raising funds to retrofit Madison House foundation**

Pasadena Heritage is launching a campaign to repair and seismically upgrade the foundation of the 120-year-old Madison House. Gradually deteriorating for decades (and carefully monitored since PH acquired the house through a bequest from the Madison family 20 years ago), the house's brick foundation has reached a critical state of disrepair. A \$25,000 grant from the Pasadena Community Foundation is getting the campaign off to a great start. A team of architects and engineers have contributed their expertise to analyze the problems and design the solution. The goal is \$170,000.

**Pasadena Heritage gets bequest**

Pasadena Heritage received a \$25,000 bequest from the late Barbara Wirick, a long-time member and supporter. Barbara lived for many years in the home designed by Calvin Straub for her and her late husband. Her three children have many fond memories of the house being built. They also shared stories of their mother's love of Pasadena and its architecture. This unrestricted gift will be used to further the cause of historic preservation. Her family expressed hope that her bequest would inspire others to remember Pasadena Heritage in their wills and estate plans.

# Pace of development accelerates; landmark districts can close loophole

BY SUE MOSSMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PASADENA HERITAGE

**Development on the increase**

New development projects are coming to our attention at an ever-accelerating pace these days, and in 2014, this surge will become better defined and more real as actual projects come before various commissions for review.



Among the current projects with historic preservation overtones are:

- Rehabilitation and new construction at the Evanston Inn property on South Marengo
- Preservation of many early 20th-century buildings and cottages, plus a new medical use for the Aurora Las Encinas Hospital on East Del Mar
- Development of one or two hotels at Hill and Colorado, including the old Ford dealership property on the northwest corner and across the street
- Conversion of the now-vacant Macy's store at the east end of the Paseo Colorado to a hotel
- Development of new office and residential space on the Parson's property on the north side of Old Pasadena
- A proposal for repurposing the former St. Luke's Hospital in East Pasadena
- A boutique hotel proposed in the Civic Center, which will include the former YWCA

For each project, Pasadena Heritage gathers information, attends hearings, meets with developers and communicates with City staff while assessing if the project involves or could impact historic buildings. We are finding that the Preliminary Project Review (PPR) meetings are often very helpful in learning more about pending projects in the earliest stages. For example, we recently got

our first look at the Kimpton hotel project (including the old YWCA) and learned that the number of rooms had increased, as compared to the initial project proposal.

**Landmark districts offer neighborhood projection**

New single-family homes have caused concerns several times in recent months. Because only basic zoning and building code regulations typically apply to single-family projects, new houses can be significantly larger and look much different than existing neighborhood homes. No design guidelines exist for single-family homes. Sometimes an existing house is taken down to make way for a new one.

Unless a house is landmark-eligible, listed, or included in a Landmark District, it can be demolished. The new houses we've seen recently are not required to have any particular architectural features or characteristics, no matter how the surrounding neighborhood looks or feels. Therefore, Pasadena Heritage is again on the bandwagon to encourage and facilitate the creation of Landmark Districts wherever residents are interested.

Even when a residential project is a "remodel" there are times when the existing house has been obliterated in the process. In at least two cases, remodeling permits resulted in work being done that went far beyond the granted permits with the original house virtually demolished in the process. In the case of a house on Prospect Boulevard, City staff ultimately stopped the project and cited the owner for illegal demolition which results in no new construction on the site for four years. We have suggested adding a stiff fine to this process, too, and using the money for more inspectors!

So, there is never a dull moment in the world of Pasadena Heritage. We appreciate all the support and the calls from members and friends who help us stay informed!

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# WPRA believes West Pasadena needs, deserves a public school

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BY BILL URBAN  
PRESIDENT, WPRA

On the eve of the reopening of Fire Station 39 after a two-and-a-half year closure, one's thoughts turn to public services and the essential role they play in building and maintaining safe, vibrant communities.

One of the public services essential for every community is education. We now face a future in which West Pasadena, for the first time in a century, may be without a single public school to fulfill the promise of an accessible, free education to the citizens of our community.

It's true that the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) finds itself in a difficult situation. Just 18 months ago, the District was breaking ground on \$4 million in structural upgrades to San Rafael's historic buildings. When in the course of soils testing it was discovered that seismic faults run directly beneath the campus, San Rafael went from a school experiencing an incredible renaissance, worthy of every investment, to ineligible for the upgrades or any long-term operation in its current state. PUSD was ordered by the State of California to create a plan for the school's future: Either rebuild on a portion of the campus outside the earthquake fault zone – an

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## Opinion

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option that would require millions more than available bond funds – or move.

No one will argue that public schools across our state have fallen on hard financial times. A report from Education Week earlier this year put California 49th in per-pupil spending in the nation. PUSD can hardly be blamed for feeling the pinch of inadequate funding, and making a determination that San Rafael, simply as a matter of economics, must be moved. The property, in turn, will be leased or sold.

But is a temporary financial crisis reason to leave a community, an entire City Council District, without one of the cornerstones of public service, possibly in perpetuity? When

Linda Vista Elementary was shuttered in 2006, West Pasadena was left with a single public school, San Rafael.

There are those who argue that our community isn't concerned about public education, since many West Pasadenans send their children to private school -- a trend that accelerated in the 1970s and continues today. In the last four years, though, San Rafael School has bucked that trend. With the advent of the Dual Language Immersion Program, active parents, outstanding teachers and a new administration dedicated to excellence, the school has experienced a complete turnaround. For the first time in decades, people want to live in San Rafael in order to send their kids to school here.

Now is the time to take the long view. As we look back 100 years, we must look forward with the same perspective. As PUSD finalizes its plans to move San Rafael to another site, I urge the Board of Education and District leaders to consider the generational impact of pulling up every stake in our community. West Pasadena parents have returned their children to our neighborhood school in significant numbers. Help us build on this renewed trust, and keep the "public" in education.

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## Citizens, City await... *Continued from page 1*

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Further, despite City elected officials and staff publicly repeating that "there is no news regarding the NFL," the City, as detailed in Petitioners' lawsuit Briefs and Oral Argument, has been in undisclosed direct contact and collaboration with the NFL long before the effort to get environmental review out of the way by amending the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance to allow up to 25 Rose Bowl Major Events for five years, including up to thirteen NFL games.

The next opportunity for the NFL to announce a team for Los Angeles (perhaps the San Diego Chargers) is February 2014. And, while AEG and Farmers' Field might be

fading, and there seems to be less attention on Dodger Stadium for the permanent Los Angeles stadium, a possible new, suitable and NFL-friendly, location is coming into focus: Hollywood Park in Inglewood.

Hollywood Park, taken over by wealthy Betfair in March, 2013, closed for good as a horse-racing venue last December. The current structures will be demolished, and the site's 260 flat acres will be redeveloped. The owners have recently suggested, according to the media, that they want to convert the site into housing and commercial development. However, many continue to remark how well

suited the site would be for an NFL stadium, alongside of housing and commercial space.

Will Los Angeles fight nearby Inglewood? Maybe not, since the current LA mayor Eric Garcetti seems less interested in the proposal to build an NFL stadium downtown than his predecessor.

If Hollywood Park is THE site, where will the team play temporarily? It seems unlikely that it would be the Coliseum, which has been taken over by USC, which, it's reported, neither wants nor needs the NFL. What's left ... the Rose Bowl Stadium. Stay tuned. The plot continues to twist and turn.



**Hands across the dam at the “too big dig.”** Dogs, horses, kids and people of all ages formed a chain across the top of Pasadena’s Devil’s Gate Dam on Saturday, December 14 to protest an LA County sediment removal plan that some believe could damage, possibly irreparably, the Hahamongna Watershed Park. Devil’s Gate Dam overlooks the roughly 300-acre park that is home to thousands of trees and plants, as well as many hiking and equestrian trails, the nation’s first Frisbee golf course, Tom Sawyer Kid’s Camp, Move A Child Higher (autism and disabilities rehabilitation center) and the Rose Bowl Riders Equestrian Center. (Photo by Lori Paul)

## ASF urges “slow, sustainable” sediment removal program

BY TIM BRICK  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION

It was built to prevent floods in the Arroyo Seco, but over its 93-year history Devil’s Gate Dam has accumulated massive amounts of sand, rock and sediment. Now the aging dam could bring a flood of diesel trucks and air pollution into the communities of West Pasadena, Altadena and La Canada-Flintridge.

In October the LA County Flood Control District (LACFCD) released a draft environmental impact report (EIR) evaluating its plan to remove as much as 4 million cubic yards (MCY) of sediment beginning in 2015. LACFCD’s plan is to remove 7,650 cubic yards per day over a three- to five-year period with 425 double-bed diesel truck trips in and out of Hahamongna, six days of the week. Massive earth-moving equipment will scoop up sediment and vegetation and dump it into a long line of waiting trucks.

The scraping and trucking will take an enormous toll on the recreational uses and rich riparian habitat in Hahamongna Watershed Park, the neighborhoods around it and on the freeway along the route to the landfill in Irwindale.

Other casualties will include air quality throughout the region, the safety of surrounding schools, road conditions, and the pocketbooks of Los Angeles County taxpayers, who will foot the bill for the \$100 million project. While this “plan” might temporarily increase the capacity of the reservoir, it will not solve the problem because sediment will keep flowing into the basin.

There is a sensible, sustainable way to manage sediment in Devil’s Gate Reservoir, which the Arroyo Seco Foundation has developed with stakeholders and the communities affected.

We call it the *Slow Program*. Our solution would maintain flood protection for

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downstream communities, reduce negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods, and take advantage of the Arroyo Seco’s natural ability to transport sediment. It would also protect the rich habitat and recreational opportunities in Hahamongna Watershed Park.



This plan involves four key elements: timing, method, the permanent footprint and the neighborhood impacts of sediment removal:

- **Go slow.** LACFCD has not provided any direct evidence of an immediate flood threat to the Arroyo Seco downstream of the dam. Their records reveal that the dam has stored greater amounts of sediment in the past and currently still has about 47% capacity. With a low probability of a sediment flow similar to the two years after the Station Fire, there is no need to remove 4 MCY in five years. A 20-year project will minimize all negative environmental impacts. Instead of removing 1 MCY each year, LACFCD should remove 160,000 cubic yards. After a suitable storage capacity is restored, sediment removal should be an ongoing maintenance tasks based on the amount that flows into the basin annually.
- **Go with the flow.** LACFCD should use natural stream flows through the dam to remove sediment from the reservoir to the extent possible. Large quantities of sediment have been removed in the past using this method. Using hydrology will not require heavy, noisy, air polluting diesel trucks on our already over-crowded freeways.
- **Let the habitat grow.** LACFCD proposes to leave a permanently denuded maintenance area of up to 120 acres after

their removal program, but Hahamongna is now home to some of the richest riparian and woodland habitat in Los Angeles County. A Slow Program will not require this permanent scar, creating only small areas of temporary biological disturbance.

- **Keep neighborhood impacts low.** The Slow Program can reduce the cataclysmic impacts of the LACFCD Big Dig, which will be hard on everyone in this region but especially on residents of West Pasadena. The Slow Program will reduce harmful air pollution levels, noise and traffic.

There is no dispute that something needs to be done to restore storage capacity at Devil’s Gate Dam., but the solution needs to be ongoing and sustainable, while reducing neighborhood impacts. The Devil’s Gate project should be the first of a new generation of sustainable flood management for Southern California. The Slow Program will ensure that it is.

### City opposes County’s current sediment removal plan

The Pasadena City Council will tell Los Angeles County that “we’re not backing down” in opposition to the currently proposed sediment removal project in Hahamongna Watershed Park. Council, in December, voted to retain an expert consultant to support a special committee of experts, community members and City staff charged with developing an alternate plan that, from Pasadena’s point of view, would be preferred. Expressing a Council consensus, District 2 Councilmember Margaret McAustin noted that “There has to be ‘a’ project, it just can’t be this project.” Source: *Pasadena Now*.

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# A thank-you to our donor-members!

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The WPRA appreciates the above-and-beyond financial support of all those who join/contribute. The membership donations listed below include the names of all those who contribute \$100 and more between December 2012 and December 2013. If your name is not listed or is not listed correctly, please contact me. We thank you for your support. *Linda Zinn, Membership chair, zinn@wpra.net.*

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	Barbara Donagan	Jim and Tina Hart	Lisa Kenyon
	Janet Doud	Thomas Hays	Richard Kirtland

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 Ethan and Joanne Lipsig  
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*The WPRA never releases your personal information.*

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- ☐ Do not send email updates to this email address.
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## Ambassador Gardens...

*Continued from page 4*

working draft of the site plans at the offices of the architect, Adele Chang of Lim, Chang & Rohling.

The Planning, Design and Historic Preservation commissions are completing their review of the technical aspects of the new design, which should result in a public hearing in February. The new design will also go through the City's Design Review process, also a public process. City Ventures will continue to keep the WPRA Board updated on any changes to the status of the project.

### Historical markers

City Ventures is also designing historical markers that will be placed around the campus to provide visitors with background information on the various buildings, gardens and property itself. The historical markers were a condition of approval for the project. The text on the markers is being reviewed by staff at the Pasadena Museum of History for relevance and accuracy and was reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission in October. The markers will go back to the Commission in February for additional review.

**Pasadena Community Gardens "A Time of Celebration and Gratitude."** On October 26, Pasadena Community Garden "opened for business" at 721 S. Pasadena Ave. The warm fall day welcomed those who attended with a festive event that included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a champagne cork-popping toast, music, great food, a raffle and words of gratitude from garden founders to those supporters, donors, volunteers and to the City staff and elected officials who helped make this community garden, Pasadena Community Gardens' first, possible. More than 100 Pasadena residents, new garden members, received their garden plot assignments. In the above photo, the ribbon-cutting ceremony included (left to right), Al Renner, Los Angeles Community Garden Council; Cathy Morrison, Pasadena Community Gardens (PCG) founder and co-chair; Mayor Bill Bogaard and Claire Bogaard; District 6 Council member Steve Madison; Kathryn Barefoot, CBS, KCAL 9 TV and CBS Eco-Media; donor Kevin Miller, Westside Rentals; PCG co-chair Jody Hudson; and current garden president, Ron Garretson. *(Photo by Chuck Hudson)*

## SR-710 Project...

*Continued from page 3*

### Raise profile of north portal approximately 40 feet

*Brings the boring of the tunnel 40 feet closer to the surface at the North end and eliminates the majority of the cut-and-cover portion between California and Green streets*

- Estimates cost savings of \$198 million
- Eliminates removal/reconstruction of existing bridges
- Raises adverse environmental impacts (presumed to be ground shift, disruption of infrastructure such as electrical and water, ground vibration, increased noise, etc.)

### ■ Requires additional ground improvements

The report also recommended early contractor involvement for all project alternatives.

The single-bore tunnel alternative and the raising of the tunnel profile were the two alternatives that were accepted without qualification; whereas adding tunnel ingress/egress at North Portal was accepted with modifications.

# Pasadena burglaries at three-year high

BY BOB HOLMES  
WPRA SECRETARY AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY CHAIR

**B**urglaries from vehicles, residences and commercial businesses are at a three-year high in southwest Pasadena. The totals, through October 2013, exceed the total number for recorded for the full years of 2011 or 2012.

- Burglaries from vehicles: 122 in 2013 (through October), 97 in 2012 and 121 in 2011
- Residential burglaries: 127 in 2013, 121 in 2012, 128 in 2011
- Commercial burglaries: 77 in 2013, 54 in 2012 and 45 in 2011

The following are comments from victims of these crimes:

- "...our two cars parked in our driveway were broken into last night--just coins and cell phone chargers were stolen. We had forgotten to close our driveway gate last night and the cars were not locked."
- "Someone broke into my husband's car last night. Glove compartment was pulled out and everything was thrown on the passenger seat. Nothing missing and the car was NOT locked!"
- "My house was robbed yesterday. The burglars came in through an old garage window and gained entry into the house. They were likely in and out in 90 seconds. They stole a lot of jewelry, a computer and an iPad. All of which were sitting out in the open and easy to spot while the thieves were rushing around the house."
- A 65-year-old woman was asleep in her home about 12:15 a.m. when she heard some noises. She believed the noises were from another family member, so she did not investigate the sound. When the woman got up in the morning she found someone had entered her home through an unlocked window, and several electronic items had been stolen.
- "The Grand Theft (loss of over \$950) was jewelry. Apparently the thief walked into the home, which was open."

A common thread runs through several of these crimes: doors and windows were not locked and items of value were left in plain

sight. We can be the first line of defense by securing our houses and vehicles. When we see suspicious people or vehicles we can call the Pasadena Police Department at (626)744-4241.

Lt. John Dewar of the Pasadena Police offers the following advice: "The majority of residential burglaries are committed in the daytime. Burglars are knocking on doors of residences where it appears that no one is home. If someone answers the knock, the suspects will usually tell the resident they are looking for work (clean-up, painting, tree trimming etc). If no one is home the suspects will walk to the rear of the residence, break a window, unlock the door or window and

make entry. The loss is most often tablets, smart phones, laptop computers and jewelry. The best prevention is the alert neighbor who calls in the suspicious activity. Regarding vehicle burglaries, we are finding most victims leave valuables in their car. This includes cars parked in driveways. Many of our car burglaries occur at the Rose Bowl or the Aquatic Center; people leave their valuables on the seat, or under the seat, and leave for their workout."

The statistics can be seen at the WPRA web site [www.wpra.net](http://www.wpra.net). Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Local Area Crime Statistics."

## Complete Streets programs arising to improve road safety

BY BOB HOLMES  
WPRA SECRETARY AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY CHAIR

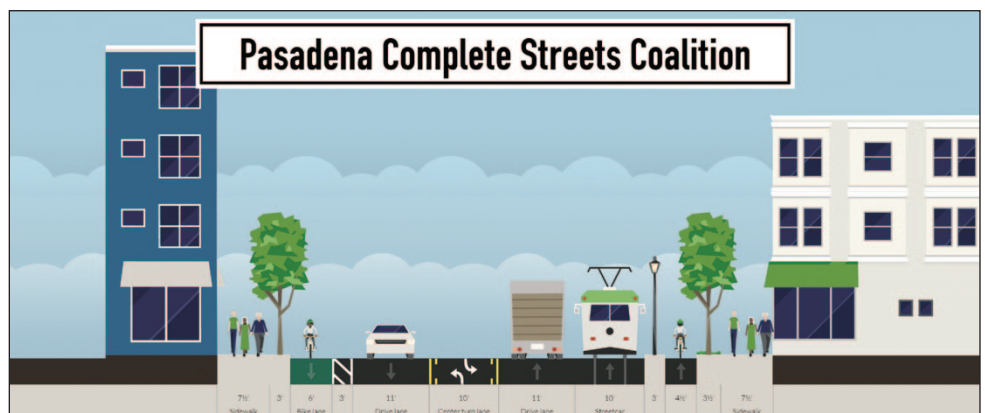
**A**s we reported in the previous issue, residents in the vicinity of Avenue 64 formed a coalition to lobby for increased safety in their neighborhood. Its first positive result was to convince the City of Los Angeles to install new stop signs on Avenue 64. The coalition will be requesting additional stop signs.

Also, the City of Pasadena has established a San Rafael Complete Streets program working group, under the direction of the City's Department of Transportation, to address safety issues south of Colorado and west of the

Arroyo Seco. A "complete street," as defined by the National Complete Streets Coalition (NCSC), is planned, designed and operated for all modes of transportation and all users regardless of age or ability.

The group held its first meeting on November 20 and is now collecting data, and developing and analyzing options. The City has already surveyed the community and identified several problem areas. The Working Group encourages input from the community. The group will next meet in late January or early February. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Richard Dilluvio at (626)744-7254.

*Continued on page 12*



# A letter from San Rafael Elementary

*Editor's note: The WPRA has "adopted" San Rafael Elementary School, 1090 Nithsdale Rd., which is the last public elementary school in our service area, through the WPRA Student Enrichment Program.*

## Dear friends of the West Pasadena Residents' Association:

Students, staff and parents of San Rafael Elementary School had so much to be thankful for this holiday season.

We recently had the honor of submitting our application to be recognized as a California Distinguished School. Because of San Rafael's recent academic success, we were identified by the California Department of Education as one of the schools that met its performance criteria. In the last three years, San Rafael has experienced a 93 point increase in our Academic Performance Index (API).



Considering that the majority of our classroom instruction is delivered in Spanish, it makes our academic success that much more spectacular.

This past week, John Van de Kamp [former California attorney general and current attorney, restaurateur and member of the WPRA Board of Directors] served as our keynote speaker for student council officer elections. Thirteen students presented their campaign speeches, and our student body voted.

The students elected Ella Salvato as president, Judson Pitre as vice president, Andy Alcaraz as historian and Evan Zesati as secretary. Our

students did an amazing job as they presented with great posture, focus and attention to detail. We are so proud of their leadership.

Pasadena Unified School District will soon begin our annual

Open Enrollment process. If the 2014-2015 campaign is anything like last year's, San Rafael Elementary will once again be one of the most sought-after elementary schools in the District. San Rafael's Dual Language Immersion Program in Spanish is creating quite a buzz among different parent groups. We have school tours every Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. To know us is to love us!

Lastly, our school hat is off to the WPRA Board for its unyielding support of our school. Specifically, Marilyn Randolph has been a tireless champion in securing a variety of experiences for our students that not many schools can brag about.

Rudy Ramirez  
Principal  
San Rafael Elementary School



Rudy Ramirez



## Celebrate 2014 with a brick

It's not too late for you to help with the Rose Bowl Stadium renovation. Better still, it's easy. Simply purchase a brick to commemorate a memory, a loved one or a special time spent in the central Arroyo. All the bricks will be laid at the stadium's front door in the Donor Plaza, which is located in front of Gate A, leading to the main entrance of the stadium.

Bricks of varying size and finishes will be incorporated into the mosaic Tournament Rose design and surrounding plaza. The bricks range in price from \$100 to \$425, with optional incentives including replicas and display cases. Brick purchases are tax deductible.

For more information about the brick campaign or to purchase your brick, visit the campaign website at [rosebowlbricks.com](http://rosebowlbricks.com).

## Complete Streets...

*Continued from page 11*

Another Complete Streets group has formed in Pasadena: Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition. It was formed in July following the third bicyclist fatality in the City in two years. Their first accomplishment was to convince the City's Municipal Services Committee to direct City staff to improve the draft Bicycle

Master Plan, which in current form relies very heavily on class III bicycle routes (signage, roadway stencils), as opposed to safer treatments. To learn more about this coalition and its plans, or to join the email list, visit its website at [pas-csc.org](http://pas-csc.org).

The Complete Streets Committee has also wrapped up a review of Lida Street.

*If you see good examples of how other cities manage their streets, send a photo of the location to [ata@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ata@cityofpasadena.net).*



**Working the line.** A number of WPRA Board members and friends volunteered in June and December to help serve meals for the Pasadena Hot Meals Program. In this photo are Katherine Higgins, Tom Seifert, Thaine Allison Jr., Priscilla Taylor, Bob Holmes and Sarah Gavit. The WPRA is happy to support this program and welcomes any residents of West Pasadena to assist us in this outreach. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

## Pasadena Hot Meals Program marks third anniversary

**T**his past December, the Pasadena Hot Meals Program held each Wednesday at the Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave., celebrated its third anniversary. The program, under the sponsorship and direction of Robin Salzer, owner of Robin's Wood Fire BBQ in East Pasadena, has served more than 35,000 hot meals since its founding.

Robin was a member of the Center for Community and Family Services Board when state budget cuts forced the board to discontinue its Homeward Bound Hot Meal program. The decision affected several hundred residents of Pasadena, most of them seniors, who depended on this program to help get them through the day.

In 2010, Robin founded the program, which is serves meals on Wednesday night at the Jackie Robinson Community Center. His objective was to create a volunteer-driven organization to ensure that even in the face of various organizational budget cutbacks this vital Pasadena need would continue to be met. In fact, the new all-volunteer program became so successful that in April 2012 it gave rise to a Thursday night program at the Villa Park Community Center.

The program's mission statement, "Rebuilding respect in our communities, one meal at a

### Has served 35,000 meals

time," represents a promise that everyone waiting in line will get a hot meal, says Robin.

"Those who have never felt hunger," says Robin, "can never fully understand how important it is for those who are hungry. Fighting hunger is not hopeless, but its worst enemy is apathy. Community groups and neighborhood organizations that volunteer

their time to serve those in our community who are in need are vital to our success and will help make our city a better place for all who live or visit here.

Robin is quick to thank everyone who has so generously given their time to help. "Never doubt," he says, "that a small group of thoughtful, committed and caring residents can change people's lives and can improve the quality of life for all of us. In my opinion this should be the 'Pasadena Way.'"



**Carrot duty.** WPRA Board member Priscilla Taylor, who helped organize the WPRA participation, prepares to dish out some tasty carrots to an appreciative diner during a December installment of the weekly Hot Meals program. (Photo by Chuck Hudson)

# City marks Colorado Bridge's 100th anniversary

**T**he Colorado Street Bridge was the tallest – and the first curvilinear – concrete bridge when constructed over an eighteen-month period that began in July 1912. The Bridge was undeniably beautiful, but what excited most travelers was its role in connecting the physically isolated Pasadena community with the “other side” of the Arroyo, the greater Los Angeles area.

Although already unable to accommodate the ever-increasing automobile traffic by the 1930s and trumped in usefulness by the Pasadena Freeway (1940) and by its “sister bridge” (1953), which would become part of the Ventura Freeway, the Colorado Street Bridge's hold on the hearts, minds, and visions of Pasadena was strong. This early twentieth-

century engineering marvel survived diminished relevance as a thoroughfare, increasing deterioration, and proposals for demolition to become a prime example of civic preservation.

On the occasion of the Colorado Street Bridge's centennial, the Pasadena Museum of History is hosting a comprehensive exhibition that features the work of local artists, photographers, writers, and designers who have portrayed the iconic structure over the past 100 years. The exhibit will pay homage to the people who built and preserved a beloved local landmark: the architects, the engineers, the builders, the civic leaders, and the community organizers who worked tirelessly to make it possible.

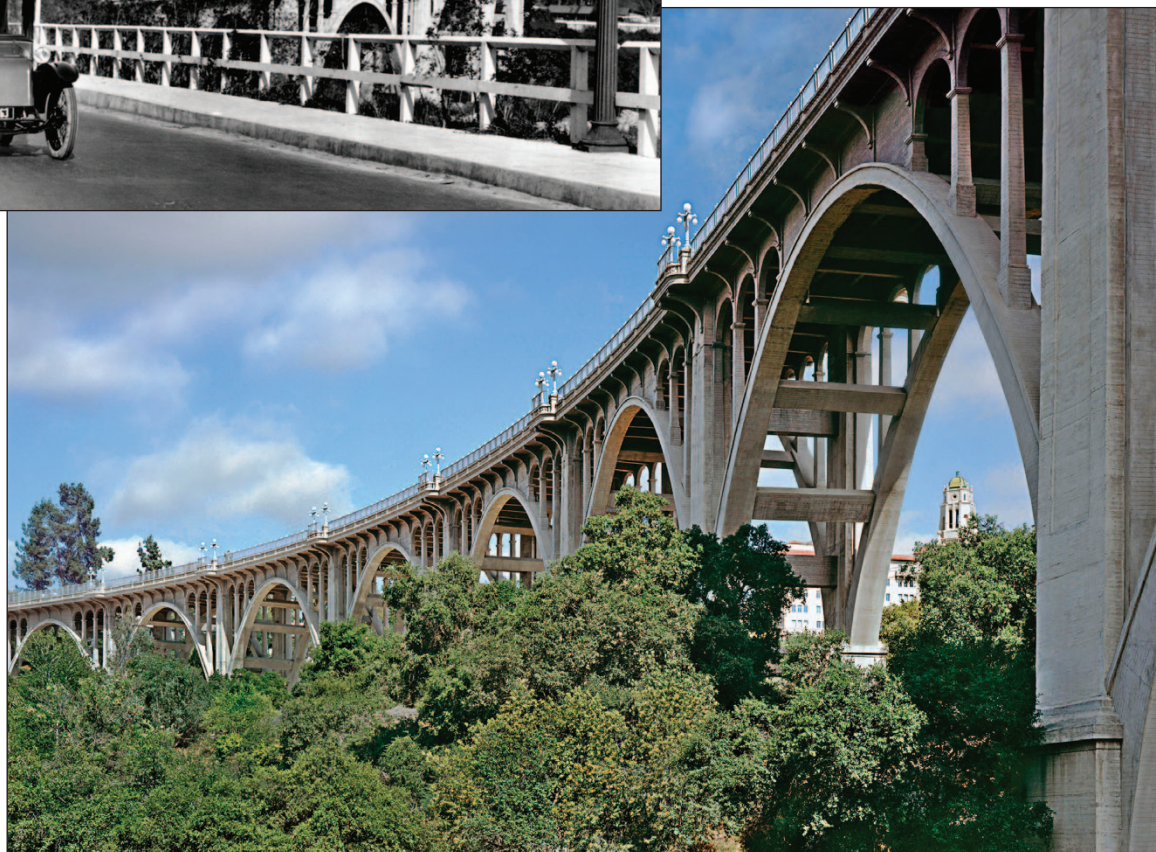
The Colorado Street Bridge Centennial Exhibition is sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Los Angeles Section and Andrew Machen.

*Hours and Admission: The exhibition will be on view from 12:00 to 5:00 pm Wednesdays through Sundays from November 20, 2013 through April 19, 2014. Gallery admission (includes admission to the Kites, Wings, and Other Flying Things exhibition in the adjacent gallery): \$7 General; \$6 Students & Seniors; Members & Children under 12 Free. Pasadena Museum of History is located at 470 W. Walnut St., Pasadena 91103. Phone: 626-577-1660. Free parking is available in the Museum lot and on Walnut St.*



Colorado Street Bridge, c. 1930  
(Image courtesy of Pasadena Museum of History (B5-1-w))

Colorado Street Bridge today  
(Photo by Tavo Olmos)



Gone, but not forgotten

# A tale of two trees

[Editor's note: The Pasadena Museum of History graciously provides WPRA News readers with historical vignettes that reveal our city's past and inform our future.]

BY KIRK MYERS  
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST  
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Pasadena has long been noted for its beautiful tree-lined streets, but the original landscape was a largely treeless plain, with a few native live oaks. The location of two of those trees determined the course of Orange Grove Avenue, when the land that later became West Pasadena was subdivided in early 1874.

Unlike the north-south direction of Fair Oaks Avenue, which then formed the eastern boundary of the settlement, Orange Grove Avenue inclined several degrees to the west. It was laid out to include two native live oak trees in the middle of the street, one at California and another one further south near State Street.

Both of the trees were often photographed, but the one at the intersection of Orange Grove and California seems to have achieved more recognition. On October 11, 1884, the Pasadena & Valley Union carried the following in the "Local News and Notes" section:

"Mr. E.F. Hurlbut has forwarded \$5.00 to Thos. Nelmes, as his donation towards the rustic seat around the grand old Oak



A view of West Pasadena in 1877, from the corner of Pleasant Street and Marengo Avenue, shows a landscape with few native trees.

Tree on Orange Grove avenue. Mr. Nelmes informs us that he now has more than enough funds to erect this seat, which will be forty feet in circumstance [sic] and an attractive accommodation to travelers. ... We presume this spot will some day be like unto the ancient forum at Rome, where the philosophers and orators of Pasadena may come to discuss the questions of the day."

In the book, Talking about Pasadena, early area resident Benjamin McAdoo recalled how the tree was viewed by the community:

"In the middle of the street, California and Orange Grove, there was a large oak tree. It

was right in the middle of the intersection. That oak tree was pampered and petted for years and years. They tried to keep it alive. It became very famous. It was written about and 'poemed' about all over the country, that oak tree that stood there."

*The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of N. Orange Grove and W. Walnut. Parking is free in the museum's lot. The Research Library & Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursday-Sunday from 1-4 pm. For additional information, please visit the Museum's website, PasadenaHistory.org, or call 626/577-1660, ext. 10.*



A view looking north from the live oak in the middle of Orange Grove Avenue near State Street. This tree was surrounded by plants or flowers, within a circular curb.



A postcard view looking north from the live oak tree at the intersection of California and Orange Grove. The Pasadena & Valley Union predicted in 1884 that the circular seat would be the site of lofty discussions.



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RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
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## Pasadena: city on call

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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 Bill Bogaard

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

#### City Manager Michael J. Beck

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

#### Jacque Robinson, District 1 (vice mayor)

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

#### Margaret McAustin, District 2

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

#### John Kennedy, District 3

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#### Gene Masuda, District 4

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#### Terry Tornek, District 7

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