



As of June 2021, Northern California's Lake Oroville, the second largest water reservoir in California and a major source of the state's drinking water, is holding only 27% of its historic average. *Source: NASA*

It's time to reconcile a continuing major drought with an aggressive state-led push for new housing

Opinion

By Board of Directors, WPRA

Pasadena, according to its 2015 General Plan, encourages "sustainable development that promotes energy conservation, protects the environment, and facilitates production of affordable housing." As for natural resources, such as water, Pasadena's 2015 General Plan concluded that "adequate water supplies are available to meet the projected level of growth."

However aspirational the city's statements may be, it's reasonable to assume that our statewide drought, which many believe is less about short-term weather cycles and more about long-term climate change, can be expected to strain our water supply.

Tale of two visions

The state Department of Water Resources proclaims that droughts are cyclical, but readily admits that no one can predict when they'll begin or end. Nevertheless, it continues to believe we'll emerge from the current crisis — eventually.

The state Water Resources Sustainability report, however, suggests a slightly more cautious approach. "Water resource issues in California are complex and dynamic, and the planning we do as a department must ensure that Californians will enjoy clean water and thriving ecosystems far into the future."

And there's the rub. Along with global warming and wildfires, an equally challenging issue is ensuring Californians have access to sufficient clean water. And this challenge has been made even more

difficult to solve by Sacramento-led policies that are designed to encourage new housing growth at all costs. Simply put, an increasing number of thirsty urban and rural Californians may not have the luxury of waiting out the current and protracted drought until the next wet cycle.

Time to face facts

The WPRA Board of Directors believes that Pasadena (and the state) must confront this possible — even probable — existential water problem now. We can no longer assume that somehow, someday, we will always have an adequate water supply.

We believe this for a number of reasons, not least of which is that much of Southern California, including Pasadena, imports

Continued on page 13

"It's going to be harder and harder to build new housing without an adequate water supply. How many developments can you afford if you don't have water?"

— *Richard White, professor of history, Stanford University*

"Oakley, Utah, imposed a construction moratorium on new homes that would connect to the town's water system. It's one of the first towns in the US to stall growth for want of water in a new era of megadroughts."

— *Chicago Tribune, July 21, 2021*

Time for us to face uncomfortable truths

By Dan Beal
President, WPRA

Water, water nowhere?
Just in case you skipped the front page to go directly to my column (Hey, it could happen!) please go back to read the article about the conflict between continued housing construction and our limited supply of water.

The WPRA Board of Directors believes that Pasadena (and the state) must confront this existential water problem now. We simply can't assume that we will always have an adequate water supply. And although the water usage reduction rules recently implemented are welcome, we fear they are not nearly enough.

The WPRA strongly urges City Council to expand the 2021-2029 Housing Element to include a fully articulated strategy for dealing with the very real threat of inadequate water supply and the demand for more housing. This isn't a passing fad. It may be the precursor to an existential crisis

for Californians and beyond. The time to act is now.

Attack of the killer SBs

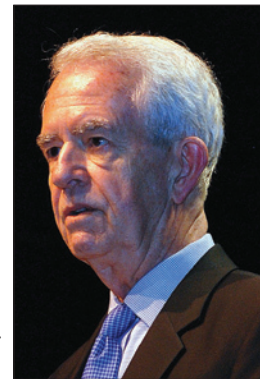
You may recall our prior coverage of the state legislature's continuing attack on the rules that permit cities to control their own land use. The tips of the spear are SB 9, which would require cities to approve duplexes and/or lot splits on single family-zoned lots, and SB 10, which would require cities to approve apartment buildings of up to 10 units on single-family lots. If this isn't enough to find objectionable in both bills, we find it remarkable that for all the talk about the lack of affordable housing, neither bill requires those possible new units to be affordable.

Gov. Newsom signed both bills on Sept. 16, in spite of widespread opposition from city planners, local elected officials and the public. However, both a grass-roots initiative and an Assembly bill seek to amend the state constitution to bring a halt to the centralized zoning and land-use directives coming out of Sacramento. Their intention is to place a

proposition on the November 2022 ballot.

For the record

State Sen. Anthony Portantino voted "yes" on SB 9 and "no" on SB 10. Assemblymember Chris Holden voted "yes" on both.



Dan Beal

Fab jabs

Just over 85% of eligible Pasadenans are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as of the beginning of September, and 93.4% have received at least one shot, according to our Public Health Department. That's far ahead of the state of California, as a whole, (56.3% and 69.4%, respectively) and, for that matter, any other state. Keep up the fight, everyone. We're nowhere near out of this yet.

About us

2021 – 2022 officers

President: Dan Beal
president@wpra.net

Vice President/Administration: Evan Davis
adminvp@wpra.net

Vice President/Communications: Avram Gold
commvp@wpra.net

Treasurer: Blaine Cavena
treasurer@wpra.net

Secretary: Kenyon Harbison
secretary@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.

Service 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.

2021 – 2022 board of directors

- Geoffrey Baum, *Rose Bowl & Central Arroyo Seco*
- Dave Bise, *Public services*
- Pete Ewing, *Land use & transportation*
- Mic Hansen
- Joan Hearst
- Susan Kinney
- Mark Mastromatteo
- Nancy Walker, *Public safety & traffic*
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All WPRA activities are funded through membership dues and contributions. The WPRA receives no public funding and has no paid employees. The WPRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation. Contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.

BRIEFLY

THANKS TO A \$10 MILLION DONATION from UCLA alumni Tod Spieker and his family, the Rose Bowl Stadium playing field will be called Spieker Field for at least the next 25 years. The financial contribution kicks off a fundraising campaign that hopes to raise \$40 million in the next five years. *Source: ESPN*

PASADENA CITY COLLEGE RECEIVED A \$30 MILLION GIFT from MacKenzie Scott, former spouse of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. It represents the largest single philanthropic gift in PCC's nearly 100-year history. *Source: Pasadena Now*

NEWLY APPROVED FEDERAL FUNDS will help delinquent Pasadena Water & Power residential and commercial customers (from March 4, 2020 to June 15, 2021). Also, PWP will not impose late fees or penalties and will not disconnect service for past due accounts while the program is being implemented. *Source: City of Pasadena*

PASADENA EXPECTS TO RECEIVE \$4 MILLION from the state to help retrofit and repair the central Pasadena Public Library. The city closed the library in May after a structural assessment revealed that the building has unreinforced masonry. *Source: Pasadena Now*

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED \$900 MILLION OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022. The budget — including city-affiliated agencies and capital improvement project allocations — is \$20 million more than last fiscal year's budget. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE PASADENA CENTER OPERATING COMPANY (PCOC) HAS RECEIVED A \$1.43 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT to offset losses suffered during the pandemic. The PCOC, which operates the Pasadena Civic Auditorium and Pasadena Convention Center, was ineligible for many pandemic business assistance programs. *Source: Pasadena Now*

CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH PASADENA HUMANE to continue providing animal services for a total not to exceed \$8.5 million over the five-year term of the contract. The new contract cost is 57% above the previous year's cost. *Source: city of Pasadena*

CITY COUNCIL in August granted a time extension for a conditional use permit (CUP) for rehabilitation of the Julia Morgan YWCA building. Late last year City Council directed staff to enter into exclusive negotiations with HAI Properties, LLC, for development on the site. *Source: Pasadena Now*

No consensus on suicide deterrent barriers for bridge

By David Bise
Director, WPRA

For the past few years, Pasadena residents have sought a way to deter suicide attempts from the Colorado Street Bridge. Several vertical barrier design concepts have been developed with input from the Bridge Task force, West Pasadena Residents' Association, Pasadena Heritage, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Design Commission and others.

This past March, the city's Public Works Department hired a contractor to install full-scale mock-up panels on the bridge so the public could view the various design options, provide feedback and vote, through an online survey, for the design option they preferred.

Some residents favored option B, a curved mesh design, while others preferred no barrier be installed and the bridge be returned to its original state because none of the vertical barrier options would fit with the character of the bridge and its distinctive Beaux Arts architecture.

On August 18, Kris Markarian, acting director of Public Works, presented a detailed staff report to the Public Safety Committee. The report makes clear that the temporary 10-foot-tall chain link fencing, although unsightly, has been very effective

at deterring suicides and suicide attempts over the past few years. *See chart below.*

During the Public Safety Committee meeting, other options were also presented for consideration. Donald MacDonald architects, the firm hired by the city, presented alternative concepts for fully enclosing the bridge. Also discussed was the idea that the city position security personnel on the bridge. While District 1 Councilmember Tyron Hampton and Mayor Victor Gordo thought this idea deserved some consideration, others, including District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, questioned the idea's feasibility.

To date, City Council has spent just over \$1 million for temporary fencing, mock-up panel design and installation, and a preliminary environmental assessment. Public Works estimates that the cost for completion of design and construction of vertical barriers could be between \$4-\$6 million.

Feedback from members of the Bridge Task Force, which includes Pasadena Heritage, is that there is no clear consensus on any of the options presented, and all task-force members agree that the "right" solution has not yet been found.

The Public Safety Committee agreed to explore alternative measures and seek additional community input.

How successful have 2015-2021 suicide deterrents on Colorado Street Bridge been?

| | Didn't climb, but stood near fence | Attempted to climb over fence | Climbed over fence | Suicides |
|------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 2015 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 2016 | 10 | 2 | 17 | 2 |
| 2017 | 14 | 5 | 13 | 10 |
| 2018 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| 2019 | 14 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 2020 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2021 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

WPRA comments on PDs, revisions to housing elements

It's time to reevaluate (and end) PDs

A Planned Development (PD) is a special zoning district under the General Plan that requires City Council's discretionary approval. Developers request it to achieve a certain mix of uses. And as indicated in the zoning code, PD designation requires a minimum 2-acre parcel, typically resulting from an aggregation of several parcels. A PD plan outlines specific development standards and potential conditional uses within the PD boundaries.

Since their institution in 1977, PDs have been designed to provide benefits to both developers and the city. Developers would save time, benefit from an easier approval process, and gain flexibility for size and design. In return, the city would have a better fit into the area's design context; enhanced amenities and open space (either residential or commercial); and superior design and quality of materials.

However, in practice this is not always the outcome. PDs, prior to the recent multiplicity of state land-use mandates, benefitted from appropriate oversight management by the city's Planning and Community Development staff. But due to recent state legislation and regulations, local oversight has become much more difficult.

In fact, this kind of redevelopment has the potential to erode stable neighborhoods and lead to gentrification that undermines the affordability of low-density affordable family neighborhoods, be it single- or multi-family, or retail.

Moreover, the scale and density of these projects may create concrete canyons in the city, and the PD approval process may not require an environmental impact report or public input. And although PDs are designed to be consistent with the General Plan (GP) and Specific Plan (SP) zoning, assuming the project is within SP areas, inconsistencies between SPs and the GP give greater latitude to deviate from the SPs. Given the scale and intent of PDs, context becomes immaterial, and the design and massing may conflict with its surrounding area.

In the 44 years since PDs were introduced in Pasadena, 40 PDs have been submitted — five in the last year or so. In recent years, the use of PDs has become more prevalent, a tool now used by developers to maximize density and circumvent city zoning plans, which could negatively affect neighborhoods.

It's time to reevaluate the uses and benefits of PDs. We now have an array of new housing incentives and state zoning mandates that have changed the equation of urban planning. Consequently, it's time for the use of PDs to end.

A good start to a difficult task

The West Pasadena Residents' Association believes that the July 26, 2021 draft of the 2022-2029 Housing Element is a good start to a difficult task and provides a platform for further engagement and revision. One overarching message from this effort seems clear: We can enhance our city and provide for, facilitate, and accelerate the housing that all Pasadenans need and deserve, without disruption and degradation of the extraordinary and special fabric of Pasadena.

The WPRA Board of Directors is grateful to our elected and appointed officials, staff, consultants, community leaders and hundreds of residents who have contributed so far. We also commend the thoughtful contributions made by the Linda Vista~Annandale Association and Madison Heights Neighborhood Association.

The WPRA:

- Acknowledges the need for additional housing, especially affordable housing, so that individuals and families of all income levels can live in Pasadena. Affordable housing should be the primary focus.
- Encourages the city to pursue housing solutions tailored to Pasadena's unique characteristics by adhering to its own design guidelines as well as the Land Use Goals and Policies of the Land Use Element of the General Plan and Specific Plans stressing architectural compatibility and excellence in design and materials.
- Urges the creation of more incentives for the development of 100% affordable housing projects and supports the city's concessions menu, while discouraging use of the excessive state density bonus.
- Advocates a priority for adaptive reuse to convert vacant or underutilized commercial and industrial properties to dwelling or multi-use units. Adaptive reuse conserves resources and land, and produces less environmental impact.
- Supports maximizing the benefits of public transit accessibility by concentrating additional residential construction in proximity to rail and high-capacity bus service.
- Recommends requiring upgrades or increases to existing infrastructure capacity for the construction or conversion of additional residential units in a given area, including adequate street, driveway and parking capacity and traffic impact assessment and mitigation.
- Urges the city to promote the replenishing and maintenance of our dwindling urban forest footprint and encourage the care and expansion of public green spaces. Street trees and protected trees on private land must be sheltered from construction encroachment and neglect.

BRIEFLY

HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL HAS OPENED THE HELEN AND WILL WEBSTER HEART & VASCULAR CENTER, a comprehensive and innovative facility for cardiac care. From research and diagnosis to treatment and recovery, the center's wide range of cardiovascular services — along with the latest medical technologies — are now together under one roof. *Source: Huntington Hospital*

PASADENA HAS PARTNERED with the San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity and the Pasadena Community Foundation to build a 534 square-foot accessory dwelling unit (ADU) in the backyard of an existing home, which the city owns, on Waverly Drive. The ADU will have one bedroom, one bathroom, a kitchen and a small living area. Funding came from the Pasadena Community Foundation, while Union Station Homeless Services is providing supportive services at the site. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION has allocated more than \$32 million for Los Angeles County transportation projects. About \$5.6 million of the total allocation will go to Pasadena's Union Street Cycle Track Project to install a 1.5-mile, two-way, protected cycle track on Union Street from Hill Avenue to Arroyo Parkway. *Source: Pasadena Now*

AN AC HOTEL, THE BUSINESS-FOCUSED BRAND of Marriott Hotels group, will likely soon rise from a parking lot on the of Colorado Boulevard and Madison Avenue, instead of the five-story medical office building that the Pasadena Design Commission had earlier approved. The plan, as of this writing, seeks approval for construction of a hotel with 195 rooms and 5,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space. *Source: Pasadena Now*

CITY COUNCIL AWARDED A FIVE-YEAR \$125,000 CONTRACT to provide cost-recovery services for false fire-alarm billing. About 65% of dispatched fire alarm incidents come from false alarms, unintentional activations, and system malfunctions. *Source: Pasadena Now*

SIX PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT FIREFIGHTERS were deployed to two separate wildfires burning in mountainous areas of Northern California. One was deployed to the McFarland fire and five were deployed to the Dixie fire, according to Fire Chief Chad Augustin. *Source: Pasadena Now*

THE PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY PROMOTED two new deputy fire chiefs: Tim Sell and Anthony James. Both had previously served PFD as battalion chiefs. *Source: city of Pasadena*

Pasadena Heritage postpones Blinn House celebration

By Sue Mossman
Executive Director

A grand opening of Pasadena Heritage's recently acquired historic home, the 1905 Edmund Blinn House, has been postponed due to the upsurge in COVID and the aggressive Delta variant. We are planning an outdoor garden party, but won't be able to host the event until the pandemic eases. Concerns for the safety and well-being of our guests, volunteers, and staff drove the difficult decision to delay the party, but the planning for a truly festive and entertaining event continues. We appreciate the support of all our sponsors, including WPRA, as well as the hard-working event-planning committee. We will continue to celebrate them as we wait for the right time to party on!

Colorado Street Bridge fence discussion continues

At a meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the City Council in August, commissioners decided that the search will continue for a fencing design that would be effective as a deterrent to suicide, but have less impact on the historic Colorado Street Bridge. With the contract for the current consultants at an end, it is unknown as of this writing exactly how this work will go forward, but we hope the path includes more public input, perhaps new ideas, and more consideration. The current temporary fencing is proving to be effective, so we have time to explore this further, as Pasadena Heritage, the WPRA and others have urged. *See related story on page 3.*

Pasadena Central Library

Closed suddenly due to seismic concerns, the central library is one of Pasadena's most beloved and most significant historic buildings. An extensive engineering study by KPFF to assess necessary improvements for the 1925 Myron Hunt-designed building in the Civic Center determined that the original construction of the building includes unreinforced masonry walls that support the concrete floors.

Although this information has been available for decades, it came into sharp



focus and caused the city to immediately close the building.

The Public Works Department is said to be drafting a request for proposals for a team of specialists to take the next steps in analyzing the building and identifying specific issues and strengthening solutions. Pasadena Heritage advocated for this approach weeks ago, and were joined by a group from the Pasadena/Foothill AIA in calling for experts in unreinforced masonry buildings. We remain hopeful that the right team can assess the building and recommend solutions fairly quickly. Special funding from California will fortunately provide funds for this work. *See related brief on page 3.*

'Closed suddenly due to seismic concerns, the Central library is one of Pasadena's most beloved and most significant historic buildings.'

Pasadena Avenue's historic district officially listed

The S. Pasadena Avenue Historic District has now finally been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (A premature announcement of the listing was inadvertently released by Pasadena Heritage before the designation was officially approved in Washington D.C.) This district is the southern portion of the former 710 freeway route and encompasses a variety of early Pasadena residential architecture.

With the formal listing of the district, the homes within it, as well as the Markham Place Historic District immediately to the north, will be better protected from demolition or drastic remodeling under the city's updated Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Q&A | with Chad Augustin

Chief, Pasadena Fire Department

Chad Augustin, in February of this year, succeeded Interim Fire Chief Bryan Frieders, who retired. Most recently Chief Augustin served as deputy fire chief of the Sacramento Fire Department. He rose through the ranks since joining that department in 1999. While in Sacramento, Augustin helped fine-tune the department, which became one of just three fire agencies in the state to earn a “Gold Plus” rating from the American Heart Association.

To get better acquainted with the new chief and inquire about his approach to firefighting, disaster planning and leadership, the WPRA Board of Directors invited him to its July board meeting, convened online. What follows is an abridged version of that conversation.

How did you end up here, in Pasadena?

I spent 23 years with the Sacramento Fire Department and held nearly every position there, starting out as a firefighter paramedic. This experience gave me many wonderful opportunities and challenges that, I believe, will enable me to be successful here in Pasadena. And so, when Pasadena started recruiting for a new chief, my wife Sandra and I discussed the possibility. She is originally from Huntington Beach and had always wanted to come back to Southern California. So, she said, “You better get this job!”

How would you assess the PFD so far?

Pasadena has a wonderful department. One thing most attractive to me about Pasadena is that it provides all of the services of a large metropolitan fire department. Pasadena’s residents have come to expect these services, but, as an outsider, it’s really impressive. You name it, this department does it. And they do it because they’re committed to doing more than just the minimum.

What are your priorities?

One of my top priorities is to increase and improve our staffing. Recently we’ve had a staffing deficit. I also hope to continue making some timely promotions to create stability for the department. Disaster preparation is also a priority. We recognize that our 161 firefighters cannot protect this entire community and meet every risk and threat. The only way we can meet our mission is by making the most of our 140,000 plus residents and community partners.

Do the drought and our diminishing water resources impact your conversations about disaster preparedness?

Yes. Especially on the heels of last year’s fire season, the worst in its history and its massive water requirements. A lot of factors come into play on that, but more and more we’re going to use technology such as aerial assets to slow fire spread, while protecting that precious commodity of limited water. And as water gets even more scarce, it’s going to be more of a challenge. To at least partially address this, we’ve just purchased a pump pod to recycle water



Pasadena Fire Chief Chad Augustin during July Zoom interview with WPRA Board of Directors

when performing training and other non-emergency operations. We acknowledge that we’re in a severe drought, and want to be a role model by limiting the amount of water we use.

Does the department have a clearly defined evacuation plan?

Yes, given the level of risk in the area, whether it’s from earthquakes, wildfires or mudslides. But I’d like to encourage greater community involvement so we can refine our evacuation plans. You’ll see us engaging heavily in disaster preparation through the community to ensure we’re all working together.

Does PFD have a well-defined mutual-aid agreement with other jurisdictions?

California has the best mutual-aid system in the world. One reason it’s so good is that we exercise it every year. In this area we have multiple mutual-aid agreements with departments throughout our county. We also have the ability, through the Offices of Emergency Services, to request additional resources. And those resources are available at any time. However, PFD’s primary responsibility is to the community of Pasadena. This means before we send

“At this point my goal is to create good partnerships. I want to focus on education and prevention, rather than enforcement. I’d much rather sit across the table over a cup of coffee with you and talk about the areas of hazard. I respect homeowners, especially if they live in a wildland-urban interface. So, it’s a delicate balance.”

resources out to help others, we must ensure that our own fire stations are fully staffed. We're also fortunate because we have access to a tremendous amount of help — in the air and on the ground — from large departments including LA County and the National Forest Service. The aerial angle, by the way, is very important for us since we have hilly areas that are difficult for fire personnel to access on foot or in a truck. I anticipate that we'll spend the rest of the year working on evacuation plans and then share them with the community.

Is the PFD or Public Works responsible for identifying and removing dry grasses and brush that could be fire fuel?

It should be both. PFD has conducted 4,000 inspections in our high-risk areas. We started in April and finished at the end of June. And when necessary, we went door-to-door to point out high hazards. We're trying to help residents help themselves, so that in the event of a fire they have defensible space to protect their home and possessions.

How about public land, such as in the Arroyo Seco at the casting pond, archery range and along the bridle paths?

I believe that's Public Works. However, the fire department helps determine hazards.

Do you have the legal authority to force residents to follow your guidance if their land poses a threat to other properties?

We do. And while we have used this authority in about 20 cases, the vast majority of our residents are happy to do what's necessary. As I'm sure you know, we have a constant dynamic between those who want the city to be as natural as possible and those who would attempt to make it fireproof. At this point my goal is to create good partnerships. I want to focus on education and prevention, rather than enforcement. I'd much rather sit across the table over a cup of coffee with you and talk about the areas of hazard. I respect homeowners, especially if they live in a wildland-urban interface. So, it's a delicate balance.

What about fireworks and its real potential to start fires?

As you know, fireworks are illegal in Pasadena. This year we started our



Fire Chief Chad Augustin and spouse Sandra celebrate Chief Augustin's swearing in ceremony at City Hall. Missing from the photo is a recently adopted 7-year-old black rescue lab, Roxie.

proactive enforcement for July 4 in early June. The fire department partnered with the city prosecutor and the police department, and we set up fireworks task forces. We also sent fire personnel door-to-door to distribute flyers, shared our message on social media, and posted banners. We also partnered with other cities and counties to prevent fireworks from even

coming into the county and our city. And although we saw a tremendous decrease in illegal fireworks activity in the month leading up to July 4, that was not true on July 4. Fortunately, we had no fires or injuries attributed to fireworks, but we handed out a lot of citations. My goal for next year is to continue doing things we did well, and then build on them.

A thank-you and a reminder to our members!

The WPRA appreciates the financial support we receive from our members. Since it is our only source of funding, we depend on it to achieve our organizational objectives. The member-donors listed below have contributed \$100 or more between **June 1, 2020 and June 1, 2021**. If your name is not listed or is incorrectly listed, please contact me. As always, we thank you for your generous support.

- Linda Zinn, Membership chair, membership@wpra.net

Don't see your name?

Because our 2021 spring membership appeal was sent out later than usual, the following list does not reflect memberships/donations received after June 1 of this year. Those donations (and those received through December 31, 2021) will be reflected in our Spring 2022 issue.

We need your continuing support

To make it easier for you to help fund WPRA services and initiatives, we have enclosed an envelope within this issue. Just insert (1) the completed form on the envelope flap and (2) a check (made out to WPRA) into the preaddressed envelope, add a stamp and mail it. You may also donate securely online using a credit card by visiting wpra.net and clicking on "Donate," at the top of our home page.

Platinum \$500+

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BRIEFLY

A LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROJECT TO REMOVE 1.7 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF SEDIMENT from Devil's Gate Reservoir in the Hahamongna Watershed Park has been completed more than a year ahead of schedule. According to a report during the City Council Public Safety Committee agenda from earlier this year, sediment was removed in 112 hauling days last year. The original plan was scaled back after the Arroyo Seco Foundation and Audubon sued LA County and won court-directed concessions. *See article to the right. Source: LA County Public Works*

PASADENA'S CITY COUNCIL APPROVED A \$247,359 CONTRACT for work on the Annandale Canyon Open Space Trail Access Improvement Project. The project site at 1420 Wierfield Dr. was previously known as Annandale Canyon Estates, a proposed development of 24 single-family homes on 20.6 acres. A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in 2006 failed to receive certification. Three years later, the city acquired the property comprising 37 separate parcels and an additional 31,000 square-foot property located at 1410 Wierfield Ave. for \$6.4 million. *Source: Pasadena Now*

PASADENA'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS on Earth Day released its fiscal year 2020 State of the Urban Forest report. The report provides a snap shot of commonly asked tree-related information. Visit the city's Urban Forestry website. *Source: city of Pasadena*

PASADENA WATER AND POWER HAS RELEASED ITS FISCAL YEAR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT, which summarizes key achievements and progress, and the utility's financial position. In FY 2020, PWP generated over \$280 million in operating revenues, and invested more than \$50 million in capital utility infrastructure improvements. PWP also contributed almost \$17 million to support other city municipal services such as police, fire, parks and libraries. *Source: city of Pasadena*

PASADENA BROKE GROUND IN EARLY AUGUST FOR A NEW PARK AND PARKING LOT located at 701 E. Union St. in Playhouse Village. In 2012, City Council approved the purchase of the Banner Bank property, and appropriated \$3.15 million of Residential Impact Fees for development of the park. The transfer of up to one-half of the Union and El Molino parking lot parcel was approved in 2019 by City Council for park use. *Source: city of Pasadena*

Lessons learned from controversial 'Big Dig'

*By Tim Brick
Managing Director,
Arroyo Seco Foundation*

As the nation reeled with climate-driven catastrophes, raging wildfires throughout California and the West and unprecedented hurricane conditions in the eastern U.S., Los Angeles County in August had some good news for local residents: The Flood Control District completed the massive sediment excavation program behind Devil's Gate Dam in Pasadena's Hahamongna Watershed Park.

"The County's goal of restoring flood protection to communities downstream of Devil's Gate Dam has been achieved with a level of robust community engagement that makes the project a model of collaboration, safety, sustainability and innovation," LA County District 5 Supervisor Kathryn Barger said.

The Flood Control District trucked out 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment in a 3-year period, one year shorter than originally planned. Their \$100 million project, dubbed the "Big Dig" by critics, has been controversial from the start, soon after the 2009 Station Fire.

After ignoring the sediment buildup for several decades, the district announced that it would clear the buildup on an emergency basis without any environmental review. That engendered a tremendous amount of community concern until then-Supervisor Michael Antonovich led the call for a full environmental assessment.

Pasadena established a sediment management working group that developed a plan to substantially reduce the impact of the county's proposed program while protecting the habitat, wildlife and neighborhoods in the Hahamongna area.

In 2014, when the resulting environmental impact report ignored Pasadena's plan, the Arroyo Seco Foundation and Pasadena Audubon Society filed a lawsuit challenging the project and then filed another suit in 2017. Our goal was to persuade the county to develop a program that would be more sensitive to the nature of the Arroyo Seco

and have less impact on neighboring communities. We wanted the county to treat the Arroyo Seco as a river and not just a maintenance zone. Our two successful lawsuits substantially improved the county's program.

Hahamongna is that rare spot in the Arroyo Seco at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains where the mountainous watershed meets the urban plain. Periodically floods roar into this basin. In the era of climate change, those floods are likely to be less frequent but more torrential. Devil's Gate Dam and the concrete flood control structure that lines most of the Arroyo Seco stream were designed 100 years ago to rush the flood waters out of our area.

Little thought was given to sediment buildup or to the impact on fish, wildlife and the natural character of the Arroyo Seco.

While drought and extremely dry conditions have plagued the Arroyo Seco for the last 10 years, floods are an ever-ominous threat. The system crafted 100 years ago is not adequate to deal with the erratic conditions expected in the era of climate change.

The Arroyo Seco is ideally suited for a more nature-based approach to flood and stream management. More than 30 parks and open spaces, mostly in public ownership, line the canyon between the mountains and the Los Angeles River just above downtown LA. The zones that would be seriously impacted by floods are identifiable and defensible. Recapturing some of the flood plain and restoring more natural habitat and hydrology in the Arroyo Seco is the sensible approach for the future.

Los Angeles County is now moving ahead to complete a long-delayed ecosystem study of the Arroyo Seco that will seriously consider the flood threat and the re-naturalization of the Arroyo Seco. We who treasure the environmental values of the Arroyo Seco are pleased to be working in partnership with the county on that grand venture.

Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy launches butterfly project

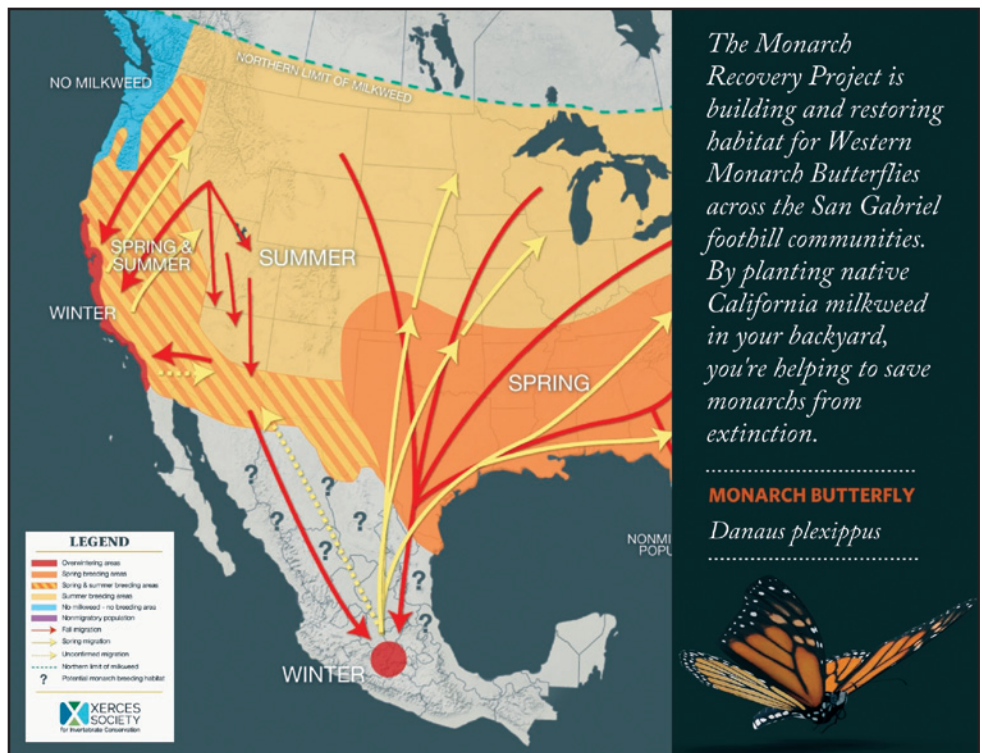
by John Howell

Chief Executive and General Counsel,
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

Monarch butterflies, with their distinctive black and orange wings, are a familiar subject to many of us from elementary school. Learning about butterfly life cycles, caterpillars, and the magical transformation that happens inside a chrysalis is a staple of childhood science, and it's a delight to recognize these familiar butterflies when they flit by.

But what you may not know is that the western monarch butterfly, which once migrated across California in the millions, is on the verge of extinction. Western monarch populations in California have crashed by a shocking 99.9% since the 1980s, and annual butterfly counts at overwintering sites puts the current population well below the 30,000 butterflies needed to continue the species. Sadly, this trend is also true for the eastern monarch butterfly, whose migratory population has declined by more than 80% since tracking started in the 1990s. Why? A dramatic loss of habitat and the impacts of climate change have combined to push them to the brink.

While efforts are underway to designate western monarchs as an endangered species, the most critical action we can take right now to save these beloved butterflies is to plant and restore native butterfly habitat — and more specifically, native milkweed. That's why the Arroyos



& Foothills Conservancy, in partnership with other conservation organizations, has launched the Monarch Recovery Project, building and restoring habitat for western monarch butterflies across the San Gabriel foothill communities.

The project kicks off this fall by collecting 1,000 native milkweed plants growing on AFC preserves, in backyards and on patios by the end of 2021. In addition to providing free milkweeds for you to replant, we've also developed a scientific tracking process that will help scientists see where that milkweed has been planted, how much has survived, and how it impacts monarch populations.

If you'd like to participate in the project, visit arroyosfoothills.org/monarch-recovery-project and pre-register for one of the milkweed adoption events this fall. You'll get a hands-on opportunity to learn about planting and sustaining milkweed plants with AFC experts, and you'll also receive three native milkweed plants to take home with you, for free.

Once you plant them, you'll receive a follow-up survey to provide location information on your plants. The AFC will remove personal information, process the data,

and then aggregate it into large maps and datasets, so that biologists and scientists can use this first-in-the-nation pilot program to track milkweed plantings, survival rates, and what impact habitat restoration has on monarch butterflies.

Did you know?

- Monarch butterflies don't sleep: instead, they rest at night or when temperatures are cool in dense canopy trees like oaks and sycamore, which help regulate heat and humidity.
- Monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on native milkweed plants, and those are the only food that Monarch Caterpillars eat.
- Monarch butterflies need moisture but can't land on water, so they sip liquid from muddy soil. This is called "puddling," and in addition to water, provides essential salts and dissolved minerals.
- Adult monarch butterflies drink the nectar of native flowering plants to survive — that includes milkweed but also a wide variety of other flowers that bloom throughout the year.



BRIEFLY

PASADENA CITY COUNCIL:

■ UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

IMPLEMENTATION OF A LEVEL 2 WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE PLAN and a voluntary water reduction target of 15%. The Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Plan restricts outdoor watering to two days per week from April to October (even-numbered addresses on Mondays and Thursdays; odd-numbered on Tuesdays and Fridays) and one day per week from November to March. *Source: city of Pasadena*

■ **AWARDED A \$1.7 MILLION CONTRACT** with Weber Water Resources to provide labor and materials for drilling, construction and testing of the Garfield replacement well. The existing Garfield well, located in Villa Parke off of North Garfield Avenue, was drilled in 1921 and removed from service in 2015. *Source: city of Pasadena*

■ **APPROVED A \$218,000 CONTRACT** (part of a combined \$3.5 million grant) for the preparation of environmental documentation and permitting for the San Rafael Treatment and Stormwater Capture Project. Water in the Arroyo Seco/Upper Los Angeles River regularly exceeds the total maximum daily load for bacteria. The discharge must be diverted from the Arroyo Seco or eliminated by September 2023. *Source: city of Pasadena*

THE BOARD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S REGIONAL WATER WHOLESALER (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California) and other water agencies across the Southwest have announced a short-term agricultural land fallowing program in California. The program should conserve up to 180,000 acre-feet of water over the next three years, amounting to about a 3-feet increase in Lake Mead's water level. Participating farmers in the Palo Verde Irrigation District will be paid **NOT** to plant anything in a portion of their land. *Source: Business Wire*

PASADENA-BASED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ADEPT URBAN HAS HIRED FORMER PASADENA PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR ARA MALOYAN as its director of construction. Maloyan came to Pasadena in 2015 after a stint as the Long Beach Public Works director. *Source: PR Newswire*

PASADENA'S SALES RECEIPTS FROM JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2021 WERE 22.4% ABOVE the first sales period in 2020. However, significant adjustments for delayed payments, and other reporting modifications resulted in actual sales that were down 0.1%. *Source: city of Pasadena*

PASADENA'S BASE 1% SALES TAX RECEIPTS for the fourth quarter 2020 were down 7.3%, and Measure I was down 13.9%, as compared to the same period in 2019. *Source: city of Pasadena*

City takes step to reduce waste, slow climate change

By Cheryl Augur

The city of Pasadena recently passed an Accessories Upon Request ordinance. The ordinance requires restaurants to provide customers with accessories, such as straws, napkins, condiments and utensils, only when the items are specifically requested. Currently, accessories are provided whether requested or not.

Besides saving restaurants money, the ordinance can help the city meet its zero-waste plan objectives. The ordinance will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing demand for raw materials, such as trees, water and fuel, used to manufacture the products — mostly single-use plastics.

City Council's Municipal Services Committee will soon reexamine the city's zero-waste plan. Approved in 2013, the city's plan set as a goal to achieve zero waste by 2040. Unfortunately, at the last assessment, in 2018, the city was generating

nearly twice as much waste as it had been in 2012 or 2013. Also, the city has since downgraded its one zero-waste program employee from full- to half-time.

In statewide news, several related bills, as of this writing, are awaiting Gov. Newsom's signature. They include:

- AB 1200 to eliminate PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) in single-use foodware
- AB 881 to block exportation of mixed plastic waste to foreign countries
- SB 343 to require only recyclable plastics to bear the "chasing arrows" logo if the plastic is actually recyclable
- AB 1346 to ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers
- AB 525 to help jumpstart power-generating off-shore wind farms
- AB 1276 to require restaurants statewide to provide accessory utensils only upon request

Available by Request

The following single-use items are only available upon request



Straws



Stirrers



Condiment Packages



Utensils

Thank you for being intentional about single-use item consumption

BRIEFLY

METRO RECENTLY VOTED TO FIX THE UNSAFE 210 FREEWAY CONDITIONS that since 2008 have resulted in 11 freeway truck crashes that disrupted operations on the Gold Line light rail tracks in Pasadena. The plan, projected to cost \$425 million, will replace existing 32-inch tall barriers with 56-inch tall ones. Metro anticipates that the project will cost a total of \$425 million. *Source: Streetsblog LA*

Continued from page 1

Reconcile housing demand with ...

the majority of its water from many of the same sources including: the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, fed by the Sierra Nevada range; and the Colorado River, fed by the central Rocky Mountains from Arizona's Lake Powell and through Nevada's Lake Mead.

Grateful for some action, but

We're gratified that City Council has implemented a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Plan and established a voluntary water reduction target of 15%, which aligns with state and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's reduction objectives. We also welcome the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's first-ever mandatory water cutback for Arizona, Nevada and Mexico. Lake Mead (along the Colorado River) is at its lowest level since the Hoover Dam was completed in 1936. And as the water crisis deepens, Southern California, too, will have to deal with cutbacks in water from the Colorado River. These, however, are thimble-full fixes for a rapidly diminishing supply of water amid continued legislative demand for additional market-rate and affordable housing.

WPRA recommendation

We strongly urge City Council, its Planning & Community Development Department and its Housing Task Force to expand the 2021-2029 Housing Element to include a fully articulated strategy for dealing with the very real threat of inadequate water supply and the demand for more housing.

Zoom: the silver lining of COVID

In an era of masks, social distancing, hospitalizations and worse, a website most people never heard of before has brought loved ones, friends and others together worldwide.

The Pasadena Senior Center took advantage of Zoom as early as March 2020 when fee-based classes went virtual. By June 2020 nearly everything was presented via Zoom to members and nonmembers, regardless of their cities of residence. Many activities are free and some are fee-based.

"I have taken French classes, creative writing and even a live conversation with one of my heroes, Rosie Casals," said PSC member Martha Easley. "These Zoom offerings pulled me out of the loneliness and doldrums of isolation. I hope Zoom will continue to be part of the senior center even after it fully opens again."

PSC's Zoom activities have gone national and even international! The center keeps track of locations from which participants log in, and they include cities all over the U.S. plus Australia, Canada, France, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Romania and the U.K. There's power in word of mouth! Even instructors and other presenters and moderators have signed in from locations far and wide.

Sam Eisenstein, a retired instructor with the English Department at Los Angeles Community College, is the instructor for PSC's free Virtual Writers Club every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom.

"The group shares personal experiences, fiction and non-fiction, from long lives full of fascinating events," he said. "No subject is out of bounds. The group always responds with interest and compassion. No creative writing experience is necessary."



Annie Laskey, director of events at the Pasadena Senior Center and the person responsible for much of the Zoom programming, says the plan for the future is to offer more hybrid activities – online via Zoom and onsite at the center.

Even though most activities are available to nonmembers as well as members, membership at PSC will keep you young at heart when you discover all the discounts on fee-based classes and activities, including The Masters Series, free membership to Armory Center for the Arts and much more.

For more information about PSC's Zoom offerings or to register for activities, visit www.pasadenaseniorcenter.org and click on Events, Clubs and Lectures, then Online Events or call 626-795-4331. For more information about activities onsite at the center, which has reopened its doors on a limited basis, visit the website and click on Events, Clubs and Lectures, then At the Center or call the phone number.

If you're 50 or older, stay active and join the fun! Whether you're interested in just about any activity from astronomy to Zumba Gold, you'll find it presented live by the Pasadena Senior Center via Zoom.

For more information about any or all of these activities, visit pasadenaseniorcenter.org or call (626) 795-4331.



West Pasadena in three dimensions

By Kirk Myers
Assistant Archivist
Pasadena Museum of History

The first effect of looking at a good photograph through the stereoscope is a surprise such as no painting ever produced. The mind feels its way into the very depths of the picture. The scraggy branches of a tree in the foreground run out at us as if they would scratch our eyes out... Then there is such a frightful amount of detail, that we have the same sense of infinite complexity which Nature gives us."

So wrote Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., father of the Supreme Court justice, in the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine in 1859. A well-known physician and poet, Dr. Holmes was fascinated by the vistas opened up by the new process of stereoscopy, and he wrote enthusiastically about its wonders.

"By 1859 stereo mania was in full blossom in the United States, with local photographers and major publishers making scenes for a hungry public. Holmes was swept up in the stereo view excitement and saw the need for a stereoscope for the masses that was lighter and cheaper than the cumbersome and expensive Brewster models then being offered." (Stereo Views, by John Waldsmith, pp 6-7).

Holmes came up with a crude design,

which was improved by Joseph L. Bates. "Bates refined the Holmes design by adding the familiar sliding focusing stage with wire holders for the view. The Holmes-Bates stereoscope was an immediate success, and the lower cost brought stereoscopy to the masses. Although inexpensive, the stereoscope was confined almost entirely to middle- and upper-income families until the 1880s, when further price reductions, competition, mail order, and door-to-door sales began. The stereoscope became a fixture in the home, much like television is today. Like television, stereoscopes and views were relatively expensive for the first few decades." (Waldsmith, p. 7)

To a public accustomed to seeing flat photographic prints, the immersive experience of viewing faraway places in three dimensions was very exciting, and the stereoscope was a popular form of entertainment for all ages. It would remain so for decades, until the Great Depression.

The Pasadena Museum of History has four boxes of stereo views. All of the stereo views have been donated, as the museum has never had a budget to purchase historical items. Most were probably from the collections of early Pasadena residents. There is also a photograph of three kindergarteners at the Garfield School, at 133 W. California Blvd., using stereoscopes.

Although European cities and the Middle East were popular topics of that time,



A stereoscope from the Pasadena Museum of History.

there are only a few foreign views in the museum's collection. There is a "Tour of the United States of America" – 100 stereo views in sequence, starting at the Washington Monument in D.C. – and a "Tour of South America" with more than one hundred images.

A box of stereo views of the Pasadena area contains images mostly from the 19th century. Categories are agriculture, Busch gardens, canyons, hotels, houses and general views of Pasadena. Most are in sepia or black and white; only a very few have been hand-colored.

One local photographer making stereo views was "E.S. Frost & Son, Colorado St. west of Fair Oaks Ave." The back of a stereo view titled "Orange tree with fruit and flowers" lists it as number 94 in a sequence of 69 to 95 of "Pasadena Views." Many of the early stereo views of Pasadena in the 19th century are in the area of west Pasadena.

What impression of early Pasadena would be gained by others across the country seeing these stereo views at the time? Which local businesses, if any, would have sold these stereo views, other than E.S. Frost & Son? Several other companies were also producing stereo views of early Pasadena. Were the stereo views mailed



A stereo view of Colorado Street west of Fair Oaks in the mid-1880s.

to relatives in other states? Or were they primarily for local residents and tourists? A lot of questions can be asked, but they may remain a forgotten part of the story of early Pasadena.

What do we learn specifically about west Pasadena from these stereo views of the 19th century? Although the beauty of early Pasadena was proudly promoted by the Board of Trade and other civic boosters, and visitors wrote genuine and glowing praises of the city, the stereo views in sepia show a different side of the story. They are not very glamorous, for the most part. There is a lot of dust and dirt, and not much grass, which was noted by one early visitor.

Helen Hunt Jackson, famed author of the novel *Ramona*, wrote about her first visit to Pasadena in the winter of 1881: "As I drove past house after house, all surrounded by orange trees in fruit, lemon trees with both fruit and flowers on them, lime hedges fresh and green, roses, scarlet geraniums, heliotropes, callas, and dozens of other plants in full bloom; through avenue after avenue of tall trees, I did not know whether to disbelieve the evidence of my eyes, or the testimony of the almanac. Front doors wide open, windows thrown up, verandas vine-shaded as in midsummer, and people sitting bare-headed on them — a picture not to be forgotten. "I drove up one street and down another, in and out of everybody's grounds. The only lack in its beauty is that of grass, and this, to the eye of one used to green lawns and meadows, is a lack, for which all the vivid verdure of the orange and the lemon and vine cannot quite atone." (The Youth's Companion, September 18, 1886)

Although Pasadena is noted for its trees, the extensive urban canopy is the result of a tree-planting program that began after the turn of the century. Early stereo views of west Pasadena show a barren plain, devoid of trees.

And although Orange Grove and Grand avenues would later be extolled for impressive architectural wonders, it was a different story in 1881, according to Helen Hunt Jackson: "The houses in Pasadena are all of wood, mostly small, and without any pretense of architectural finish or adornment; mostly painted white, also, which is a sad blemish to the landscape.



From the corner of Pleasant and Marengo in the left foreground, a view of west Pasadena in the late 1870s shows a barren plain, before the orchards and other trees were planted.

If the houses were of dark reds and olives, the beauty of the picture would be incomparably heightened, and the lack of green lawns be much less conspicuous a feature in the place. All this will come later." (The Youth's Companion, September 16, 1886).

And it did come later. The rich and varied architecture, the lavish green lawns, and the elegant atmosphere of the Millionaires' Row area of west Pasadena were not evident in the 1880s. Pasadena was then a work in progress.

The stereo views in the collection of the Pasadena Museum of History are an immersive window into that earlier, less glamorous time in west Pasadena. It's still fascinating to see early west Pasadena in three dimensions, using imagination to try

to understand more of the atmosphere of that time. As Dr. Holmes wrote in 1859, "the mind feels its way into the very depths of the picture."

Written accounts by early visitors to Pasadena indicate that the environment and charm often had much more effect than anticipated. Those who came were very impressed by their immersion into a place of wonder. Stereo views are immersive, but they do not capture that atmosphere fully. But they remain a part of the window into that era, a time when Pasadena was, according to the Pasadena Star, "the subject of travelers' tales wherever they go."

Pasadena Museum of History |
pasadenahistory.org



An early view of the live oak at the intersection of Orange Grove and California in 1884, according to the handwritten comment.



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