



# THE NEWS

Pasadena, California

Celebrating 63 years  
of community service

Winter 2026

WPRA IN MOTION

CITY IN MOTION

EDUCATION

PUBLIC SAFETY

LAND USE/PLANNING

OPEN SPACE/CONSERVATION

COMMUNITY

## OPINION

# UCLA exploring options to leave Rose Bowl

By Dave Bise  
Director, WPRA

Whenever I've heard anyone say, "it's not about the money," it's always about the money. College football is all about money now. That's the reason UCLA and USC joined the Big Ten Conference last year. The Big Ten had a much more lucrative media rights deal that now generates more than \$1 billion a year and bringing a major media market like Los Angeles only made the deal stronger. So, they blew up what was 100 years of tradition and legacy of the Pac-12, the "Conference of Champions." One can question how Larry Scott's leadership of the Pac-12 had a role in its eventual demise, but the fact is that this move was about money.

Now UCLA wants to throw tradition and legacy aside again by leaving the Rose Bowl for SoFi Stadium in Inglewood and breaking its long-term lease. The Bruins started playing in the Rose Bowl in 1982. I was there that first season and got to see John Elway and Stanford play in a great game that UCLA won 38-35. Early on, UCLA was very successful winning three Rose Bowl games in its first four years playing in the Rose Bowl under legendary coach Terry Donahue. This was a great time for the UCLA football program.

Times have changed. After their 0-3 start to the 2025 season, UCLA fired head coach DeShaun Foster and finished the season with a 3-9 record. Over the last 10 years, UCLA has had a losing record so it's no surprise that attendance at the Rose Bowl might be cause for concern.



The ticket from UCLA's first season in the Rose Bowl in 1982

UCLA has been talking with SoFi Stadium officials since at least March of this year to move its home games there. After the alleged claim that UCLA informed the Rose Bowl counsel that it was "moving on" from the Rose Bowl, the City and the RBOC filed a lawsuit against UCLA and the UC Regents, accusing the university of a "profound betrayal of trust" by secretly negotiating a move to SoFi Stadium. The October

29 lawsuit seeks a court order to compel UCLA to honor the remaining 19 years of its lease which, signed and restated in 2010 and amended in 2014, obligates UCLA to play all of its home football games at the Rose Bowl through June 30, 2044. In 2010, when the City entered into the Agreement, it issued bonds totaling over \$150 million to fund renovations to the Rose Bowl Stadium, relying on UCLA's commitment to play at the Rose Bowl through the end of the lease term. The City of Pasadena has invested over \$180 million in renovating and upgrading the stadium based on UCLA's requests.

*Continued on page 11*

## When it rains, it pours?

The Tournament of Roses, starting in 2027, expects to lose as much as \$5 million each year from ESPN, its single largest source of revenue. The current contract with ESPN to broadcast the recent Rose Bowl game has expired.

Under the new structure going forward, the Tournament will receive a standardized management fee from the College Football Playoff, rather than negotiate its own media deal, as it has in the past. Tournament revenue from the game has represented about 25% of its operating budget. How this change would impact Rose Bowl Stadium revenue is uncertain. *Source: Pasadena Now*

# Our first look at a 710 ditch land-use and mobility plan

By Pete Ewing  
President, WPRA

West Pasadena has lived with the huge 710 interchange for more than 50 years. That interchange was designed to accommodate thousands of cars and trucks every day. And now, with the return of that land to the City of Pasadena, we are left with the traffic patterns dominated by commuters looking for connections to other freeways. This amounts to a massive invasion of high-speed commuter traffic onto the streets of west Pasadena.

## The lowest traffic impact plan

Master Planner, Perkins Eastman, has presented its optimal land-use plan that would result in the lowest impact from traffic. Titled the "Boulevard and Paseo," it's a starting point. This plan is designed as a phased-in vision to be managed over time to avoid chaos.

Examples include using new traffic management concepts, rather than those employed in the '60s, or testing ideas such as temporary closing of one of the 710 ramps to evaluate the impact. In evaluating the traffic impacts, four areas must be included: the project

itself, west Pasadena, the other affected parts of cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena, and the region ... all of which have considerable stakes in the development.

## Traffic data suggests the plan will increase traffic

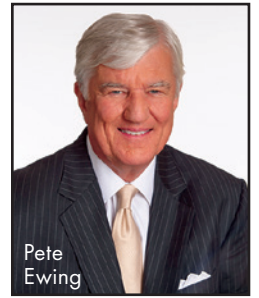
To properly analyze the "Boulevard and Paseo" plan, we should start by evaluating traffic data from the surrounding area. Unfortunately, we have very little contemporary traffic data for the area. This is a critical and immediate need. However, we do have some approximate data points to consider.

There are several versions of the project. Estimated project trips from the proposed land uses are expected to generate a net 23,100 trips a day, which includes an AM/PM peak hour net trips of 5,700. For comparison, the only available contemporary traffic counts of the impacted ditch area are specifically for North/ South Orange Grove Boulevard, which is not a bad proxy. These amount to approximately 27,000 cars per day, with approximately one-half being cut-through commuters seeking a freeway connection. Further, the chosen project

is not expected to substantially change the congestion pattern on Orange Grove.

So, the project, without further consideration, would bring a significant amount of new local and commuter traffic. As the main source of our traffic comes from the 710 interchange, we could, however, see significant reductions in traffic, if the 710 connecting ramps were reduced or eliminated entirely.

There are still four remaining focus areas of the Master Planner hasn't yet addressed, but the WPRA believes ...



Pete Ewing

Continued on page 4

## The WPRA needs you!

Want to make a real difference in your community? By contributing as few as three hours a month you can help the WPRA be more efficient and effective — and no special skills are required. If we've piqued your interest, please send an email to [president@wpra.net](mailto:president@wpra.net)

## 2025 - 2026

### Officers

**President: Pete Ewing**

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[vp@wpra.net](mailto:vp@wpra.net)

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- Lynne Sullivan

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- Dan Beal
- Gretchen Brickson
- Annette Bull
- Blaine Cavena

**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.

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.

## THE NEWS

The News is mailed each quarter to more than 9,000 homes and businesses in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes and beyond.

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Visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/westpasadena](https://www.facebook.com/westpasadena)

**MIGUEL MÁRQUEZ HAS**

**RETIRED** as as City Manager “so he can focus on his family during a time of significant personal need.” Márquez joined the City in August of 2022, following his most recent role as chief operating officer of Santa Clara County and associate justice of California’s Sixth District Court of Appeals. He is expected to continue to serve until a permanent successor is appointed. *Source: City of Pasadena*



Miguel Márquez

**PASADENA WATER AND POWER (PWP)**

**FACES A \$67.9 MILLION REVENUE SHORTFALL** over the next two years. PWP officials are recommending phased in rate increases of 9.5% annually for fiscal years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. New rates would take effect March 1, 2026, if approved. The reasons for the projected shortfall include rising costs of equipment and material expenses. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL:**

- **approved** the creation of a new standing committee focused on planning, housing and homelessness. The committee, which will review land-use and transportation planning issues, housing policy, and homelessness-related matters, will comprise up to four City Council members appointed by the mayor. *Source: Pasadena Now*
- **amended** a contract with LA County that adds nearly \$500,000 in Measure H funding to support homeless services in Pasadena including prevention, rapid rehousing, housing navigation and emergency shelter programs. *Source: City of Pasadena*
- **extended** by an additional 22 months an interim urgency ordinance exempting from SB 9 rebuilding efforts from the Eaton wildfire that, by increasing housing density, would otherwise have increased the existing threat to

public health, safety, or welfare.

*Source: City of Pasadena*

- **authorized** a contract of up to \$4.8 million to advance the design of the Pasadena Avenue and St. John Avenue Roadway Network Project, which is funded through Measure R Mobility Improvement Project. *Source: Pasadena Now*
- **approved** a \$754,258 contract for extensive sewer-line cleaning and closed-circuit television inspections of one-third of the city’s aging wastewater system. *Source: Pasadena Now*
- **reversed course** on a policy change that would have lowered quorum attendance requirements for its standing committees. *Source: Pasadena Now*
- **appointed Karin Schneider** as its next director of finance. She is an ICMA credentialed manager with more than 20 years of experience in municipal finance, operations and strategic planning. *Source: City of Pasadena*
- **voted** to increase City Council monthly stipends and create new allowances for childcare and security, effective July 1. Also, the councilmember pay will rise to \$3,000 a month (from \$1,941), and the mayor’s monthly pay will rise to \$6,000 (from \$3,600). *Source: Pasadena Now*
- **approved** updates to the City’s bicycle regulations to reflect new state laws, including official definitions for electric bicycles and the elimination of outdated registration and licensing requirements. *Source: Pasadena Now*
- **reauthorized** the Pasadena Police Department’s use of “military-grade” equipment. *Source: Pasadena Now*



Karin Schneider

- **amended** the City’s Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget by \$7.2 million (a Measure M grant from LA Metro) to fund the Mobility Hubs and First/Last Mile Improvements project related to the agreement to bring the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games to Pasadena. *Source: City of Pasadena*
- **approved** a Local Roadway Safety Action Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and reduce serious injuries within the city by 2035. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**THE CITY OF PASADENA WILL INSTALL ITS FIRST** major battery energy storage system after securing a \$9.66 million state grant. Construction, at the Glenarm Power Plant, begins in 2026 and should be operating in 2027. The 25-megawatt system will store 100 megawatt-hours of electricity, enough to power the grid for four hours during peak demand. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL HAS AMENDED CONTRACTS** with two local nonprofit providers to add more than \$1.1 million in Los Angeles County Measure A funding for rapid rehousing, shelter, and homelessness prevention programs. Two contracts with Friends In Deed were also amended by \$168,587 and \$106,310. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**THE PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY** has launched an email newsletter platform featuring general library news with tailored content for all age groups. Subscribe to your preferred newsletters – at [cityofpasadena.net/library/library-news](http://cityofpasadena.net/library/library-news) -- to identify upcoming events, new programs, special announcements and more. *Source: Pasadena Public Library*

**THE CITY’S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS** has begun installation of new cantilever poles and protective netting along designated sections of the Brookside Golf Course perimeter. *Source: City of Pasadena*

Screened Water Color Painting by Joseph Stoddard

# Pasadena grows as a hub for innovation

By David A. Klug  
Director, City of Pasadena Economic  
Development



"TEMPUS

Pasadena continued in 2025 to strengthen and evolve its reputation as a hub for technology and innovation. The City's Economic Development Division supported a wave of new business activity, including both high-growth startups and business expansions.

Among the standout developments, **Virtualitics**, a Pasadena-based AI and data visualization company, launched a new generative AI toolkit aimed at defense and logistics applications. **Deep 6 AI**, specializing in clinical trial acceleration through big data, also expanded its operations, reinforcing Pasadena's strength in health technology. **Motiv Space Systems**, a robotics firm supporting NASA missions, cut the ribbon at its new, expanded facility in east Pasadena to accommodate new research and business contracts.

Pasadena's tech ecosystem was further energized by the City's "**Build It in Pasadena**" advertising campaign, which positions the city as a destination for serious science and



Casa Nova

Build It In Pasadena

tech discoveries. The campaign has reached over one million impressions to date and highlighted Pasadena's unique mix of research institutions, talent, and quality of life. In October, in partnership with Innovate Pasadena, the City hosted a series of events as part of LA Tech Week, titled LA Tech Week in Pasadena, gathering hundreds of entrepreneurs and scientists from Pasadena, the southern California region, and as far as Luxembourg.

Pasadena tech companies like **Casa Nova Studio** emerged as key contributors in the Eaton Fire recovery. Located in Pasadena's **Idealab**, Casa Nova is redefining post-disaster housing with its tech-integrated **Cozy Cottage™** units — compact, rapidly deployable homes equipped with smart systems for energy, water, and maintenance monitoring. Casa Nova became the first to receive in-person planning approval in the LA County burn area,

demonstrating how innovation and design can accelerate recovery and resilience.

Beyond tech, the city also saw exciting new business activity across sectors. **Wedbush Securities**, a major investment and brokerage firm, relocated its headquarters from Downtown Los Angeles to Pasadena's South Lake Avenue district. Meanwhile, beloved Taiwanese restaurant **Din Tai Fung** announced plans to relocate its company headquarters to Old Pasadena.

Overall, Pasadena is home to world-class medical and education institutions, a highly skilled talent pool and offers a quality of life second to none.

Continued from page 2

## Our first look ...

the most important of the four is the economic impact of the entire project. This, of course, will determine if we can even afford this project. We'll provide additional guidance once we have reviewed the analysis, hopefully very soon.

After the Master Planner has completed its work in early 2026, two City departments — Transportation and Planning & Community Development — will get involved in the more granular planning, which hopefully will include west Pasadena.

As the traffic issue heats up, both the WPRA and other groups are considering a January meeting with residents to develop ideas on the foregoing, but also to develop plans to mitigate speeding, reckless driving and noise from the Orange Grove traffic corridor. Stay tuned.

For more information about the plans for the 710 ditch, visit: [tinyurl.com/bdwt7vm8](https://tinyurl.com/bdwt7vm8). Scroll through the first four pages of the agenda to view 38-page presentation.

**THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS** has begun installation of new cantilever poles and protective netting along designated sections of the Brookside Golf Course perimeter. Work is anticipated to continue through January. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**THE CITY OF PASADENA INVITES RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE** in a citywide survey, "Build Pasadena's Future With Us" [tinyurl.com/4kds79tk](https://tinyurl.com/4kds79tk) [tinyurl.com/4kds79tk](https://tinyurl.com/4kds79tk), to better understand local workforce capacity and connect the community to upcoming opportunities tied to major construction projects — including the Central Library retrofit and Rose Bowl improvements. *Source: City of Pasadena*

## OPINION

# How did we get to this point? What do the cuts mean? What happens from here? The PUSD budget, operational dilemmas

By Mark Mastromatteo  
Director, WPRA

During a tense set of November meetings, the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education made decisions to cut or find revenue to cover a \$30 million deficit from the 2026-27 budget, to comply with requirements placed on it by the LA County Office of Education. These cuts staved off the need for the LACOE to take over management of the district, which would otherwise have been in default.

How did we get to this point? What do the cuts mean? What happens from here? All good questions, especially for the roughly 137,500 students and their families who are enrolled in the 23 operating PUSD schools right now.

How we got here is a function of both macro trends in real estate value, population shifts, and the unique characteristics and history of this particular school district. In most years, the state allocation per public school student in California is less than \$9,000 per student, roughly one third of that of top performing states such as Massachusetts. Second, the promise of Prop 13 and other voter passed measures since 1978 to cover such gaps never quite reaches the schools, as Sacramento has regularly funneled taxpayers funds away from these mandates and to other priorities instead. In addition, PUSD has to cover the cost of several state ordered mandates, some of which are partly funded or unfunded.

PUSD has been buffeted with two disasters in its recent history — the Covid pandemic and the Eaton Fire. Each has profoundly affected long-term funding by impacting attendance and, therefore, the underlying funding. While state and federal governments have provided short-term funding for each crisis, both



San Rafael Elementary School unveiled a new 100 feet wide mural that celebrates biodiversity. The project was made possible through funding from the Cygnet Foundation to local nonprofit ActiveSGV, along with the strong support of the school's administration, the PTA, and the creative talents of the art team at Mustard Beetle. (Photo by Wesley Reutimann)

funding sources are ending. The Trump administration, in its effort to decimate or eliminate the U.S. Department of Education, is attempting to end funding for special education programs. Since special education support is particularly expensive, and since those programs are not afforded even in the vast majority of private schools, losing that funding has a cascading effect across the region, hitting both PUSD and the area's private school families with special-needs students particularly hard.

Then there is the uniqueness of the Pasadena system itself. Since before the 1970 desegregation order took effect and Pasadena became that second "northern" U.S. city to institute forced busing to achieve equity in education, white flight took effect, which downsized PUSD and helped create a matrix in which over 70 schools operate as competing educational options for area residents, most of which are private schools or charter schools.

Lastly, we have the macro trends, which

have impacted cities up and down the California coast. Soaring real-estate prices have driven families east to lower housing costs and better affordability balance, and the downward trend in birth rates has impacted public schools as the current generation features smaller family sizes and, therefore, fewer school-aged children.

As a result, PUSD, a district schooling over 24,000 students just 20 years ago, is now enrolling fewer than 14,000 ...

*Continued on page 11*

**TALLIES FROM 2024'S PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** open enrollment indicate that more applicants selected San Rafael Elementary School as their first choice, as compared to other district elementary schools. The school also kicked off its first year of having a transitional kindergarten class on campus.  
*Source: Neighbor Friends of San Rafael*

Your input can help make the plan more effective

# City, residents reassess local hazard mitigation plans

By Gretchen Brickson  
Director, WPR

**W**est Pasadena residents know about natural risks — fire, floods and earthquakes come to mind. But do you know about our official Pasadena Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)? And do you know how you can play a role in making it more effective?

Pasadena's LHMP, which is updated every five years, serves as an "access key" to federal support, and profiles of 17 hazards to life, property and infrastructure. Residents — through surveys, public workshops and comments — can help improve public understanding and strengthen citywide collaboration. Adoption of the updated LHMP is expected early in 2026. View the 2025 draft LHMP on the City of Pasadena's website: [tinyurl.com/38jtmx6](http://tinyurl.com/38jtmx6).

Implementation is ongoing. Continued approval from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX, maintains Pasadena's eligibility for federal hazard mitigation funding.

The LHMP identifies 17 hazards: civil disturbance, climate change, cyber-attack, dam failure, drought, earthquake, extreme weather, fire, flooding, hazardous material release, landslide, natural gas pipeline failure, oil spills, power outage, public health incidents, terrorism, and transportation incidents. Each hazard is ranked according to estimates of probability, magnitude, warning time and duration. Rankings put fire (defined as a wildfire or wildland-urban interface fire) as the foremost threat, followed by earthquake and extreme weather.

Vulnerability drives each hazard's assessment, considering the multiple risks posed to Pasadena and the city's existing

capabilities to manage those risks. Prior mitigation actions are reviewed for completeness or continuation before setting broad goals and objectives. Detailed actions for the new implementation plan include information on funding sources, responsible department, relative cost, time frame, and priority.

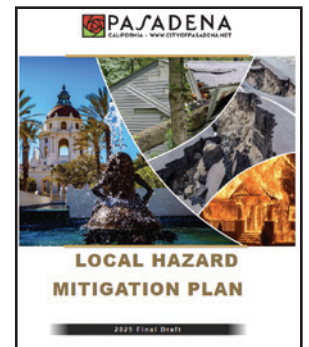
A combination of federal hazard mitigation grants, budget, and bonds, fees and assessments provide capital and operating funds. Nallely Procopio, Emergency manager for the Pasadena Fire Department, serves as the principal liaison. She leads the City's disaster preparedness efforts, manages the Emergency Operations Center, coordinates resources during emergencies as well as the city's FEMA recovery after disasters. "The Pasadena LHMP," Procopio says, "focuses on mitigation and outlines the City's long-term strategy to eliminate physical risk to human life, property, and infrastructure from future natural and human-caused disasters. As a driver of city priorities, the plan gives Pasadena

residents and businesses an important reference to gain awareness of their surroundings and plan for private property mitigation."

## Your input matters.

You live here, and you have invaluable knowledge about west Pasadena's hazard risks and vulnerabilities. Sharing this information can help City officials better identify hazards and include resident concerns and local expertise in the plan's strategy. The City Council-adopted LHMP will be "live" and recommendations for additions or changes to the LHMP will be considered for inclusion ongoing.

To submit comments by email, send a message to [PreparedPasadena@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:PreparedPasadena@cityofpasadena.net).



Pasadena City Council has approved a measure to strengthen wildfire prevention and vegetation management in the Lower and Central Arroyo Seco and Hahamongna Watershed Park. The measure combines workforce training, habitat restoration and sustainable goat-grazing practices through May 2026. A State grant funds the California Conservation Corps' oversight role as goat wranglers, and the One Arroyo Foundation is raising \$84,500 to fund the goat rental. (Photo by Steve Keen, ABC Gold Coast, Wales, UK)

Meanwhile, the State buys time

# New strategy to reduce wildfire risk proves controversial

By Jacky English  
Director, WPR

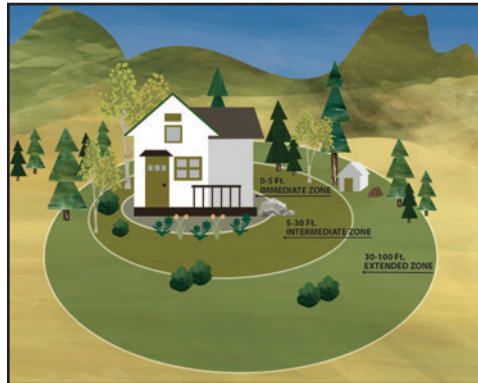
Recent wind-driven wildfires like the Eaton and Palisades, have devastated entire communities. Despite this fact, some residents have struggled to balance aesthetics with safety. They feel torn between the desire to maintain lush, inviting landscapes and the urgent need to reduce wildfire risk. This tension has led to spirited debates at neighborhood meetings, during which personal preferences often clashed with expert recommendations.

In response to the increased frequency and intensity of wildfires in California over the last decade, the State legislature passed two bills that require the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish an ember-resistant defensible zone in the first 5 feet around a structure, referred to as Zone Zero. Gov. Gavin Newsom required the board to complete rules no later than Dec. 31, 2025, an expectation it won't meet given the continuing disagreement on how strictly to enforce the rules.

## A new way of thinking

Transitioning to Zone Zero, as it stands now, would require a fundamental shift in how we think about home safety and landscaping in wildfire-prone areas. Those who oppose this new rule contend plants provide much needed shade, a buffer and add to the beauty of their home's exterior. They also consider the 5 feet surrounding their home to be personal space.

On the other hand, supporters of the rules cite 60 years of history that shows embers as the primary cause of wind-driven home fires, often igniting dry leaves, grasses and plants vulnerabilities within the critical 5-foot perimeter. However, not all the homes destroyed in the Eaton fire were ignited by embers; some caught fire due to heat from adjacent burning houses. The experts concluded that Zone Zero methods could



reduce property loss by up to 50% or more.

## What the current strategy requires of homeowners

Zone Zero currently calls on residents and business property owners to focus on that 5-foot perimeter around each structure:

- Remove dry leaves, pine needles, plant debris, mulch, wood chips, and any other flammable ground cover
- Trim and maintain trees in the zone
- Move firewood, lumber, and stored items away from the house
- Replace flammable mulch with noncombustible alternatives such as gravel, stone, concrete, or pavers
- Strive to avoid planting oily species such as juniper, pine or eucalyptus
- Keep gutters, roofs, and vents clear of leaves and debris
- Install a 1/8-inch wire mesh within roof in vents to block a potential ember access point
- Ensure fences, trellises, and outdoor furniture are constructed from noncombustible materials
- Repair or replace damaged siding and screens
- Regularly inspect and maintain the area to keep it clear throughout the year, with special attention during red flag days.

## Developing implementation and enforcement policies

Fire experts are still figuring out how to implement and, even more important, enforce the rule. Compliance with Zone

Zero may eventually affect insurance availability, which alone could drive enforcement. As a result of increasing wildfire damage, some insurers have raised premiums or left the state's market, and some are now offering discounts to homeowners who proactively create defensible space.

## Arriving at final language

While most California residents likely believe that some action is necessary to protect their community from the threat of wildfires, the devil, as they say, is in the details. What at one time seemed like a clear path to implementation has proved to be anything but. As a result, the board has postponed work on the regulations until at least March. And this means that the rules in some form may not take effect until mid-2029 or later.

**GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM SIGNED SENATE BILL 610**, which stipulates that when natural disasters cause damage to rental housing it is the duty of the a landlord to remove "hazards arising from the disaster, including, but not limited to, the presence of mold, smoke, smoke residue, smoke odor, ash, asbestos or water damage."

Source: LAist

**THE FIRE AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM** has launched a California Vegetation Burn Severity online viewer, an interactive public mapping tool that shows how wildfires have impacted vegetation across the state. The viewer displays burn severity data for all wildfires over 1,000 acres in California from 2015 to 2023. With this information easily accessible, landowners, planners, scientists, and the public are empowered to better understand postfire conditions, support ecological recovery, and plan for future fire resilience.

Source: Cal Fire

## A preservation perspective

# Observe the three A's and P's for critical preservation issues

By Sue Mossman  
Former Pasadena Heritage executive director

**W**hen Pasadena Heritage was founded in 1977, community activists who created the organization also coined the “Three A’s of Preservation” — **Awareness, Assistance, and Action.** Those Three A’s symbolized the activities the organization was designed to accomplish: raise Awareness (through tours, lectures, publications, and more), provide Assistance for people and their historic properties (through referrals, consultations and reference materials), and take Action to protect historic places.

The Three A’s were subsequently adopted by several other fledgling preservation organizations, a flattering tribute to those who coined them nearly 50 years ago. They have remained relevant for nearly 50 years.

Looking back now, from a bit of a distance, I think perhaps those inspired Three A’s should be supplemented by Three P’s — **Passion, Patience, and Persistence.** Why? Because some critical preservation and planning issues in

Pasadena have taken so long!

**50+ years and still counting.** A prime example is the 710 Freeway extension, which was finally abandoned by Caltrans after more than 50 years of community opposition. The story continues as we are still working on reimagining the “ditch,” restitching community fabric in the former freeway corridor, and finding new owners for the historic homes that have long suffered under Caltrans ownership.

**Eight+ years and still counting.** It has been eight years since chain link fencing was installed on the Colorado Street Bridge, a temporary measure until a permanent barrier could be designed. The process has taken much longer than anticipated, but a decision may come soon as so many options and trial runs have been explored and rejected. No one imagined it would take so long and, as discovered, no solution is going to be perfect.



Sue Mossman

**20+ years and still counting.** The former YWCA was acquired by the City nearly 20 years ago and still sits vacant. Although a second hotel proposal was approved about two years ago, the design of a new building remains in limbo. One can only hope that a project will be finalized soon, as the Julia Morgan building remains in danger. This should have happened long before now!

So, while Passion to protect historic places and find successful outcomes remains strong, Patience has been required and has been sorely tested. Unprecedented events, especially the pandemic and then the devastating Eaton fire obviously needed to take precedence.

Persistence on the part of those participating in the evolution of these projects has been critical. Repeatedly asking, raising questions, calling City staff for updates, checking in with developers, and urging progress — all these actions come from the community and from organizations who care and keep caring despite the long delays.

This is an essential role for neighborhood associations like the WPRA and for Pasadena Heritage and other organizations that have a stake in the eventual outcomes. We need to hold on to our passion to preserve and protect places that matter; be patient, yes, but be persistent and never give up.

**THE PASADENA PLANNING COMMISSION** has recommended a sweeping update to the North Lake Specific Plan, laying out new rules for housing, height, storefronts and the public realm along the corridor from Elizabeth Street to Maple Street. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**THE LAND ON WHICH VROMAN'S BOOKSTORE** sits has been sold to Beverly Hills-based GD Realty for \$15.6 million. Vroman's owner Joel Sheldon also signed a long-term lease for the business as he seeks a suitable buyer who would preserve the site as a bookstore. *Source: LA Daily News*

**THE CITY IS PLANNING TO CONVERT** a vacant lot next to Eaton Blanche Park into a multi-use green space with a dog park, community gardens and walking paths — part of the Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project. The underground infrastructure will capture and treat stormwater from a 10,294-acre drainage area. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL HAS APPROVED** an amendment to a lease with Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) that will allow the installation of solar parking canopies at the west Arroyo lot, at 4800 Oak Grove Dr. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**AFTER A LENGTHY LEGAL BATTLE,** the La Cañada-Flintridge City Council has approved plans for a “Builder’s Remedy” project at 600 Foothill Blvd. The proposed five-story building will include 80 homes, 13% of which would be deed-restricted, affordable units, as well as 16 short-term rental units, offices, and a two-level subterranean parking garage. Approval comes nearly two years after an LA Superior Court judge concluded that La Cañada Flintridge had violated state law in denying the project. The City declined to appeal the decision when faced with the prospect of having to post a \$14 million bond. *Source: Urbanize LA*

# Flood of State housing legislation demands much of City planning staff

By Martin Potter, Principal Planner, City Planning and Community Development Department

In response to the declaration of a housing crisis in California (Senate Bill 330 — The Housing Crisis Act of 2019), laws to accelerate housing production have been passed with increasing frequency, complexity, and compounding effects. Many override local zoning requirements, requiring City staff to continually monitor and analyze new legislation, review projects for consistency with State standards, provide guidance, and develop zoning code amendments.

The following is a brief summary of significant bills that have affected City Planning Department operations:

- **SB 330** (2019) establishes replacement provisions for projects that demolish existing residential units (often referred to as “no net loss” since they are intended to prevent a net reduction in housing capacity).
- **SB 9** (2021) allows up to four units on single-family zoned properties and “urban lot splits”, which permit splitting one parcel into two, each

with two units allowed. It was amended by SB 450 (prohibiting cities from imposing SB 9 standards more restrictive than the underlying zone) and AB 1061 which permits SB 9 in historic and landmark districts, provided that there is no demolition or alteration of contributing historic resources, but prohibits SB 9 on parcels individually listed on the State Historic Resources Inventory, the California Register of Historical Resources, or individually designated at the local level.

- **AB 803** (2021) requires cities to ministerially allow the subdivision of multifamily zoned parcels into small-lot, single-family parcels. It was amended by SB 684 (2023), which allows up to ten residential units to be developed on lots no smaller than 600 square feet.
- **AB 2011** and **SB 6** (2022) both focused on allowing housing in commercial zones. AB 2011 permits 100% affordable by right on underutilized commercial sites, as well as mixed-income housing projects along commercial corridors. SB 6 permits residential development in commercial zones.

- **SB 79** (2025) takes effect on July 1, 2026 and establishes new development standards within ¼ and ½ miles of “transit-oriented development (TOD) stops” on land zoned for residential, mixed-use, or commercial development. It provides density, height, and floor area ratio requirements that supersede local zoning and are scaled based on the type of TOD stop and the project site’s proximity. The bill permits cities to adopt “TOD alternative plans” that allow some flexibility in allocating densities near a TOD stop (provided there is no net reduction in capacity) and the ability for the City to reduce capacity in very limited circumstances (such as areas within a Very High Fire Hazard Zone and partial exemptions for historic resources).

The continuous pace of new and revised housing legislation requires significant effort by the City’s Planning & Community Development Department to analyze bills, provide guidance to decision-makers, applicants, and the public, and develop targeted amendments to the Zoning Code.

**A NEW HISTORICAL STUDY REVEALS** the extent of community displacement caused by preparations for the construction of the 710 freeway in Pasadena. That study documented the loss of 188 buildings that once housed families and businesses, 117 of which were single-family houses and multi-family structures, 50 commercial buildings, and eight industrial facilities. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED** California’s 2025 Building Standards Code, which further restricts the City’s ability to tailor the rules under Assembly Bill 130. The bill sharply limits Pasadena’s power to

amend building standards for residential units. The restriction remains in effect through June 1, 2031. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**CITY COUNCIL APPROVED ZONING CODE** amendments that will require neighborhood notification earlier in the development review process. The amendments, which are likely to take effect once an implementing ordinance is adopted within about 90 days, also require more information about preliminary consultation along with changes to design review thresholds and the review of signs and awnings. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**A SURFACE PARKING LOT AT 601 S. FAIR OAKS AVENUE, JUST SOUTH** of the 110 Freeway in South Pasadena, is slated to be redeveloped for senior housing. Dubbed The Raymond, after South Pasadena’s lost Raymond Hotel, the proposed development calls for the construction of a seven-story building featuring 287 senior apartments. *Source: Urbanize LA*

**CITY COUNCIL TOOK ANOTHER STEP TOWARD** unveiled two competing design concepts for the 50-acre 710 stub corridor: “Gardens and Terraces,” and “Boulevard and Plazas.” *Source: City of Pasadena*

# We need trees, and trees need us

By Emina Darakjy  
Past president, California  
Urban Forests Council

Trees should be planted for the many socio-economic reasons and health benefits they provide, and not just for their esthetic beauty.

Trees are called the “lungs of the earth,” for good reasons. Their leaves absorb carbon dioxide, as well as an array of other harmful pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and ozone, and release oxygen making the air around us so much cleaner. Studies have also shown that a presence of trees could reduce the number of asthma cases that are the result of pollution by as much as 25%.

The roots of trees capture water and store it to reduce stormwater runoff and urban heat islands, and cool our homes during the summer months resulting in lower energy bills.

Trees serve as a noise barrier especially when planted along freeways. They work much better at blocking the traffic noise than concrete soundwalls do.

Studies have shown that patients in hospital rooms with windows overlooking trees tend to recover faster, and children in schools with trees outside their classroom windows tend to absorb what they are being taught much better.

Large specimen trees are said to increase property values by 10% or more. And research has shown that customers tend

to spend more money and time shopping at businesses on a tree-lined street.

Trees serve as habitat and a source of food for several species of wildlife.

For all the above-mentioned benefits that trees unselfishly provide us, we must care for them and make sure they receive proper early pruning, staking, mulching and deep-root watering especially during the summer months.

Sprinklers don't provide deep watering. Rather, consider installing bubblers around your trees.

Remove the grass from around your trees creating a large tree well and cover the area with a layer of good mulch making sure to keep the mulch away from the tree trunk, and never use arroyo stone or gravel around the base of your trees as it tends to cause soil compaction and encourages fungus to grow.

When deciding what to plant, especially when it comes to public trees, diversity is very important and serves a major purpose — preventing an entire neighborhood or even worse, an entire region from being wiped out when a deadly disease attacks a particular species.

The most important thing is to decide what you want in a tree is will it be an evergreen one, a flowering one, a deciduous one, or one that dazzles you with fall color this time of the year? If the latter is what you are after, consider the



The Chinese pistache tree can bring a wealth of fall color to any yard

Chinese pistache, the Crape myrtle, the evergreen flowering pear, the Ginkgo, the Chinese flame tree, and if you insist on an oak try the *Quercus rubra*, commonly known as the northern red oak.

Once you make that important decision, don't waste time — follow the advice of this Chinese Proverb: “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now.”

*Emina Darakjy is also chair of the Pasadena Beautiful Tree Program and engaged with other tree organizations, including California Re-Leaf, the Arbor Day Foundation and American Forests. She is also a past president of Pasadena Beautiful and Street Tree Seminar, Inc.*

**MORE THAN 30 PUBLIC TREES** were removed or slated for removal in Pasadena last year due to disease, storm damage and poor health conditions. Most of the removals occurred at Brookside Golf Course, where 12 white birch trees died from root disturbance during landscaping work. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**A NUMBER OF PASADENA RESIDENTS VOICED SHARP OPPOSITION** to the planned removal of mature eucalyptus and canary pine trees in the Arroyo Seco, warning that the cuts would destroy a well-known owl. During the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee meeting on May 14, city staff had submitted the proposal to remove the eucalyptus and pine trees, citing their higher flammability risk. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA WATER AND POWER REACHED** a milestone this summer in its goal to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by the end of 2030 through a newly upgraded wind-energy facility in Tehachapi. The project, developed through a long-term agreement with CalWind Resources, delivers approximately 60,000 megawatt hours of clean, carbon-free energy. *Source: Pasadena Water and Power*

*Continued from page 5*

## The PUSD budget, operational dilemmas ...

and trending lower. Currently, PUSD operates 23 schools on 20 campuses, down from over 30 in 2005.

The November cuts were arrived at through meetings of the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee, which was made up of those representing all stakeholder groups, plus community forums and Board of Education workshops. In the end, by a 4-3 vote, the board decided on cuts that were as far away from the classroom as possible, while instead decimating the ability of the district to administer or support the schools and their programs.

Incoming Board of Education President, Tina Fredericks, is a champion of the teachers' union and has made every effort to lead the charge to increase pay for PUSD teachers, which, in theory, will discourage teachers from jumping to higher paying positions in neighboring districts.

The split vote in November by the board relating to the cuts shows an underlying division in approach that has been characteristic of recent board makeup. Part of the board tends to seek greater support systems for the school and outreach to those groups who are currently not enrolling in PUSD. The competing outlook tends toward seeking a complete reset of PUSD, with fewer, but modernized, large campuses that focus on the student who is enrolling in PUSD, regardless of what alternatives may exist.

One opportunity that exists is to drive revenue from existing resources. The 11 campuses vacated since 2005 present such an opportunity. Some are being used by charter schools, or are used for administrative purposes. Others are being leased, including the recently vacated Jefferson Elementary School, where the City of Pasadena currently operates a satellite public library, two youth programs, and a training center for the Fire Department.

The vacant campuses that are rented have generally been leased at well below market value, and with the current budget crisis, PUSD is looking at raising those rents. Other properties,

such as the former Roosevelt Elementary campus, is being remodeled and repurposed into housing for teachers and classified employees.

This repurposing could spread to other PUSD properties, such as the former Linda Vista Elementary campus, where both PUSD and the neighbors there are hoping to keep the park as part of the remodel. Critics of PUSD and affected neighbors of the campuses are wary that such changes will not be managed well by PUSD.

Meanwhile, PUSD has an asset management plan now in place which includes a dedicated asset manager. While the possibility of selling PUSD property can be lengthy and complex, there are some who see a benefit in PUSD consolidating further and selling off some of its prime real estate in order to meet its financial obligations.

While these 2026-27 cuts have created a path to short term stability, more deficits loom, so prudent financial management and revenue generating strategies are necessary to keep PUSD moving forward as responsible stewards of our public schools.

*Continued from page 1*

## UCLA 'moving on' ...

UCLA must be thinking it could get more favorable terms and more revenue from SoFi on premium seating, luxury suites, sponsorships, concessions, merchandise and parking than it has under the current Rose Bowl lease. But if UCLA's move to SoFi is an attempt to increase attendance, fans may be disappointed. Many fans enjoy tailgating at Brookside golf course nestled under the majestic beauty of the San Gabriel mountains. The "fan experience" as UCLA is supposedly concerned about will be much different in an NFL stadium. The Rose Bowl, although 26 miles from UCLA's campus, is a National Historic Landmark and a shrine to college football.

This is an interesting business decision for UCLA. It says its mission is to "evaluate its strategic goals." Translation: It needs more revenue to pay players and their new head coach, Bob Chesney. But getting out of their lease is going to prove costly. The City says monetary damages alone would be inadequate and they would incur significant harm, including economic loss, consequential damages, and other general and specific damages which, according to the City, could exceed one billion dollars. On December 4 the City amended the complaint by adding Kroenke Sports & Entertainment and SoFi Stadium as defendants in their lawsuit against UCLA and two new claims: "An equitable claim and a claim for lack of good faith and fair dealing."

UC Regents have filed separate motions asking a judge to compel arbitration of the Rose Bowl Operating Committee's three contractual claims in the lawsuit. Those claims allege that UCLA is wrongfully exploring options for a new home football venue. The Regents are also seeking to pause the case while the arbitration request is decided. A hearing on the motion to stay proceedings is scheduled for Jan. 8, and the motion to compel arbitration is set for Jan. 22.

UCLA wants to generate more excitement and better attendance at the Rose Bowl. If you build it (a winning program), they will come.

# Get to you know your wild neighbors: squirrels

**W**hen it comes to the wildlife in our region, some species are immediately admired, while others are labeled nuisances. But every animal, whether majestic or mischievous, plays a role in our ecosystem. When AFC talks about saving land for wildlife, we mean all native wildlife. That's why we want to shine a light on one animal that is often overlooked: squirrels.

Here in the LA region, we have three commonly seen squirrel species: the California ground squirrel, western gray squirrel, and eastern fox squirrel. The California ground squirrel is found across the state and thrives in human-disturbed areas. These social creatures live communally in burrows and you're likely to see them skittering across the ground.

## Engineers of ecosystems

They are important engineers of ecosystems: their digging aerates the soil and provides habitat for other animals



like rodents and snakes, who move into empty burrows. They also help regulate insect populations through their diet, and support seed dispersal when they forget about seed caches. We've documented them at all six of our preserves.

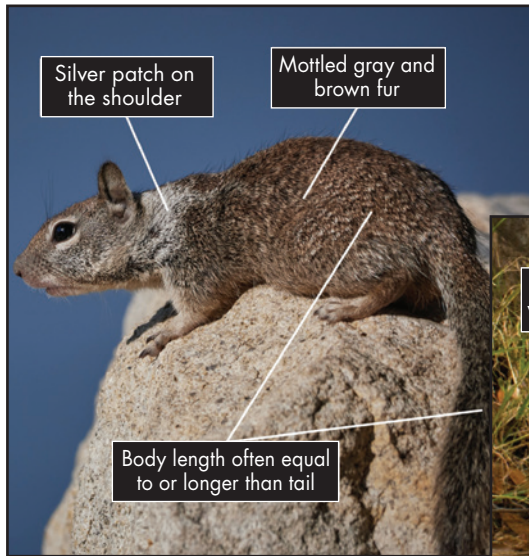
Leaping through canopies, you'll spot our two tree squirrels. The western gray squirrel is a native species — and they're struggling. Urban development and the fragmentation caused by roads, freeways and housing have dramatically reduced their numbers. They mostly survive in the San Gabriel Mountains, as well as the open spaces of the San Rafael Hills, Verdugo Mountains, and Griffith Park. Their presence signifies a healthy, connected habitat which makes

them a valuable indicator species for our conservation work. Though they once could be found at all of our preserves, we've documented them at only four: Rubio and Millard Canyon in Altadena, Rosemont in La Crescenta, and Sycamore Canyon in Glendale.

Where the western gray squirrel disappeared, the non-native eastern fox squirrel moved in. Adaptable and bold, these squirrels thrive in city parks and neighborhood trees but they're steadily encroaching into foothill habitats. Biologists are still trying to determine this squirrel directly competes with or threaten our native species, so there's more to learn about how these two interact.

## Connecting, saving open space is vital

What we do know is this: Connecting and saving open space is vital. By linking areas of habitat and planting native vegetation at home and in community green spaces, we can support our native squirrels. Small actions add up — when you opt for native plants in your garden you create a stepping-stone of habitat that can make a real difference for urban wildlife.



California ground squirrel (Photo by Tom Mills)



Western gray squirrel (Photo by Johanna Turner)



Eastern fox squirrel (Photo by Pippi Saya)

**PASADENA  
RESIDENT DIANNE  
PHILIBOSIAN, PhD,**

passed away on Oct. 13 at the age of 79. She is survived by her husband, Tom Seifert, former WPRA



Dr. Dianne Philibosian

president and board member. Her record of public service reflects a lifetime of commitment to children, families and her community. Dr. Philibosian received a bachelor's degree in theater and French literature from the University of the Pacific as well as a master's degree and a Ph.D. in early childhood development and curriculum and instruction from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. She served on numerous local and state boards, commissions and nonprofit organizations including the Arroyo Seco Foundation, Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena City College Foundation, Caltech Children's Center, and PCC Foundation Mother's Club. Philibosian



Philibosian served for more than four decades in a number of roles at California State University and served as the first female to chair the University of the Pacific's Board of Regents.

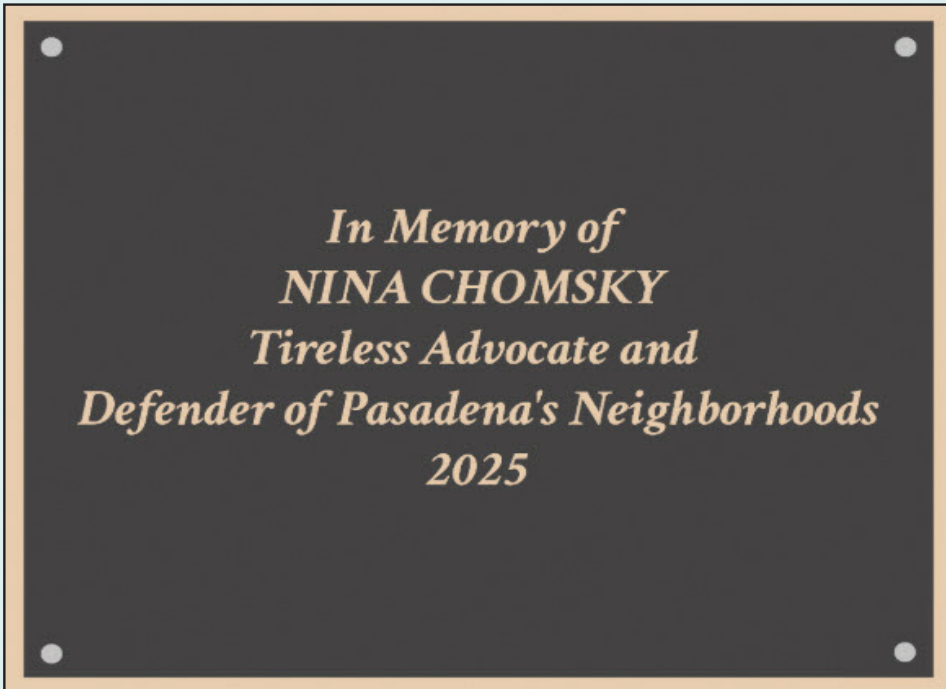
served for more than four decades in a number of roles at California State University and served as the first female to chair the University of the Pacific's Board of Regent. Pasadena District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison credited her with "shaping City Hall's focus on early learning." Pasadena Mayor Victor

Gordo said "her leadership was rooted in compassion, collaboration and purpose." Through her scholarship and mentorship, she helped prepare the next generation of educators, public health professionals, and community leaders. *Sources: University of the Pacific and Pasadena Now*

**UNION STATION HOMELESS SERVICES** has received a \$5 million grant from Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez Bezos to expand its family support programs. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**THE PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** in 2025 has distributed \$2.5 million to more than 120 local nonprofits this year — funding that's fueling everything from youth programs to housing support. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**IN 2023, THE LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER** generated 39.5% of its power from eligible renewable sources. This includes a mix of biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind power. In addition to renewables, LADWP's 2023 power mix also included nuclear, hydroelectric, and natural gas. In 2015 14% of the County's electricity generation came from renewable energy. While this represents an increase from years prior, it is equivalent to less than 5% of the County's electricity consumption. *Source: LA County.*



PASADENA SAYS GOODBYE TO NINA CHOMSKY: Despite the rain, almost 100 community members, City officials, and friends gathered on Sunday, Nov. 16 in Linda Vista Park to bid farewell to Nina Chomsky. She would have found it ironic that the rain was heavy enough to sometimes obscure the words of the speakers. Mayor Victor Gordo, District 6 Councilmember Steve Madison, CEO of Pasadena Community Access Corporation George Falardeau, and WPRA President Pete Ewing each described their recollections of Nina's tenacity, humor, and accomplishments. The WPRA and Pasadena Beautiful co-sponsored the event, and planted an oak tree with a plaque embedded on a boulder beneath as a memorial to her decades-long efforts to improve the quality of life in Pasadena. It is fitting that the tree was planted along the John Crowley Trail in Linda Vista, in the neighborhood that Nina served as president (LVAA), for almost a decade and a half.

# There's something for everyone at the PSC

Looking for a place where you can feel accepted by the community — a warm and welcoming place where you feel valued, recognized and emotionally connected? Pasadena Senior Center (PSC) is that place for adults aged 50+ in the greater Pasadena community, whether you're a member or not!

While the PSC offers a plethora of activities and opportunities to engage our 2,600 official members, here's a not-so-hidden secret: the Center also offers many enriching and fun opportunities to belong for older adults who are NOT members as well.

PSC membership costs \$45 a year and provides community members with everything that the Center has to offer. If you're not sure you want to become a member but still want to participate, you are welcome to try PSC's myriad opportunities to belong, including free Friday afternoon movie matinees, legal and mediation services, bilingual tech help, lectures and workshops to engage your mind and support emotional health.

Looking for something more active? The Senior Games is an annual event that invites anyone 50+ to compete in a myriad of sports, including cycling, swimming, softball and tennis.



Participants in one of many informational lectures offered by PSC

The PSC has been at the forefront of providing support — both physical and emotional — to Eaton fire survivors and community members who were affected by it. In the year since, PSC has provided workshops to the public focused on everything from rebuilding options, how to work with insurance companies to ensure that you receive the most reimbursement, and how to find and work with legitimate contractors. All completely free of charge.

"The PSC is proud to be able to offer these services to the Pasadena/Altadena community, so many of whom were devastated by the fire," noted Akila



Gibbs, executive director. "As we navigate through these difficult moments, it is our strength and supportive spirit that defines our community."

It's this sense of belonging and community that permeates Pasadena Senior Center. Dinora Quinteros, a member since 2022, was initially unsure if joining would be a good fit for her. "When I first came to the Center, I almost left it because I didn't know anyone, and I wasn't sure that I belonged," she noted. "But slowly I met people and began attending activities. Now I have many friends, and I love the variety of opportunities to exercise, play games and volunteer."

Stanford researcher Geoffrey Cohen noted that "Belonging is the feeling that we're part of a larger group that values, respects, and cares for us — and to which we feel we have something to contribute." At the Pasadena Senior Center, you'll find all these things — and more — whether you're a member or not!

For more information about the Pasadena Senior Center's opportunities to belong, visit [pasadenaseniorcenter.org](http://pasadenaseniorcenter.org).



Tap Club, a PSC favorite for those who want to keep moving

# Wilson's Ditch

## The 1867 engineering project that transformed Rancho San Pascual

By Christian Rodriguez  
Manager, Pasadena Museum of History,  
Visitor Services and Outreach

All early development in Southern California can be traced to one resource: water. In the 1860s, the future of what was then Rancho San Pascual — and what would later become Pasadena — shifted dramatically thanks to a modest, but transformative, engineering project now remembered as the Zanja, or Wilson's Ditch.

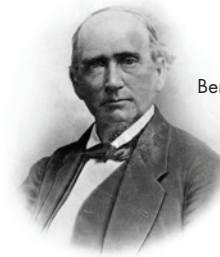
When Benjamin "Don Benito" Wilson and his real-estate partner, Dr. John Strother Griffin, acquired Rancho San Pascual in 1863, they quickly confronted the rancho's greatest obstacle: its lack of accessible water. The Arroyo Seco bordered the property, but its stream lay deep in a canyon, seemingly too low to irrigate the elevated mesa where Pasadena now stands. Without water, large-scale farming and settlement were nearly impossible.

Determined to make the land viable, Wilson and Griffin commissioned an irrigation system to divert water from the Arroyo Seco. This effort brought another key figure into Pasadena's origin story, Griffin's brother-in-law, Benjamin

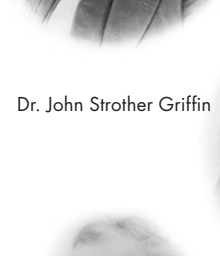
S. Eaton. A lawyer, engineer, and future civic leader, Eaton oversaw the surveying, grading and construction of the system. His design allowed water to travel what appeared to be "uphill" toward the mesa. In actuality, it was simply an optical illusion achieved not through pumps, but through precise calculations and the steady pull of gravity.

Completed in 1867, the Zanja (Spanish for "ditch") was not simply an open trench. Much of the water moved through wooden pipes before reaching a reservoir near today's Pasadena Museum of History at Orange Grove and Walnut. For the first time, the mesa had a dependable water supply.

The impact was immediate. Wilson and Griffin planted vineyards, orchards, and crops, proving that Rancho San Pascual could sustain profitable agriculture. Land once considered marginal suddenly became valuable. When Griffin later sold much of his portion of the rancho to the group that would form the Indiana Colony in the early 1870s, the existence of the Zanja — and Eaton's continued oversight — was essential in attracting settlers. Eaton went on to expand local irrigation systems and shape Pasadena's



Benjamin "Don Benito" Wilson



Dr. John Strother Griffin



Benjamin S. Eaton

earliest water infrastructure, eventually serving as the city's first mayor.

Despite its importance, the Zanja is not widely memorialized today, beyond Zanja Street, named for the spot where the water reached the mesa. The Arroyo Seco Foundation has mapped the historic route, available at [arroyoseco.org/zanjawalk.htm](http://arroyoseco.org/zanjawalk.htm), and a short, dramatized film about its creation, Eaton's Water, can be found on YouTube.

The Zanja may be largely forgotten, but its impact endures. Long before boulevards, bungalows, or city planning, Pasadena began with quiet infrastructure that changed the fate of a landscape.

**SEVERAL LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SERVING** Pasadena and Altadena received a combined \$175,000 in grants through the 2025 LA2050 Grants Challenge, which was funded by the Goldhirsh, Los Angeles Dodgers, Snap, Brunswick, and John N. Calley foundations. Over all, the grants totaled \$3 million awarded to 55 community groups across LA County. Among the San Gabriel Valley organizations receiving grants included Altadena Community Garden, Pasadena Educational

Foundation, Red Hen Press, and Union Station Eaton Fire Housing Assistance Program. *Source: Pasadena Now*

**PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVED** the 2025 California Library Association (CLA) PRExcellence Award in the Event/Campaign category. This distinction was awarded for the library's "Celebrating 140 Years – Past. Present. Future" campaign to promote and communicate its message. *Source: City of Pasadena*

**PASADENA HUMANE** has named **Chris Ramon** as its new president and chief executive officer. He has served as interim leader since February. Ramon has years of nonprofit leadership experience, including positions at Michelson Found Animals and on the boards of several animal welfare organizations. *Source: Pasadena Now*



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## Pasadena: city on call

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Pasadena Crime Stoppers..... (800) 222-8477  
Non-emergency..... (626) 744-4241

### City services

Full listing of city phone numbers:  
[cityofpasadena.net/contact](http://cityofpasadena.net/contact)



One Call to City Hall  
**626.744.7311**

**Submit service requests — Get answers**  
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**Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

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ANDROID



IPHONE

## Express yourself

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Senator Adam Schiff  
[schiff.senate.gov/share-your-opinion](http://schiff.senate.gov/share-your-opinion)

Senator Alex Padilla  
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Representative Judy Chu (D-28):  
[chu.house.gov/contact](http://chu.house.gov/contact)

Representative Laura Friedman (D-30):  
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