

Hesperia's Residents & Politicians Diverge With Regard To City Manager's Competence



**Rachel Molina**  
**By Mark Gutglueck**  
Flooding in at various locations throughout 73.4-square mile Hesperia over the holidays,

scores of the city's residents say, has betrayed that the city's infrastructure deficit, legacy of corruption and managerial incompetence continues as a reality into the Third Millennium, 71 years after the modern communities founding, 37 years since its incorporation as a municipality and three years following the city's hiring of a woman city officials said would be able to overcome the greed

and neglect of the men who had been entrusted with running municipal operations previously. In contrast to the time of Rachel Molina's appointment as city manager when Mayor Brigit Bennington in her first go-round as mayor leapt to her defense when it was suggested Molina did not have the experience or mettle to handle the challenges the county's most physically problematic cities pres-

ents, Bridget remained pre-silent as resident after resident expressed anger, disappointment and frustration with City Hall's inability to provide its citizens with the most rudimentary of modern necessities and municipal services. No city official was willing to contest what the city's residents and others have been saying for more than forty years: that the county local agency formation

commission acted prematurely and irresponsibly in allowing Hesperia to incorporate as a city. Hesperia is marred by what is, hands down among all 22 cities and two incorporated towns in San Bernardino County, the most intensive of infrastructure deficits. That deficit came into being with the transition from historical Hesperia to modern Hesperia in 1954 and has never relented, as the **See P 2**

Elkadi Said To  
Be Leaving  
As Ontario  
International  
Airport Chief  
Executive



**Atif Elkadi**  
Reports are circulating that Atif Elkadi, the chief executive office at Ontario International Airport since 2022, will be leaving that post no later than March.

While the airport's chief information officer, Charles Miwa, has declined to clarify Elkadi's status, one of its contract public spokesmen, Steve Lambert, said that reports of Elkadi's imminent departure was merely a manifestation of Elkadi being the target of a headhunting firm that was looking to fill a top managerial position at another major airport in Southern California during an position he has The airport

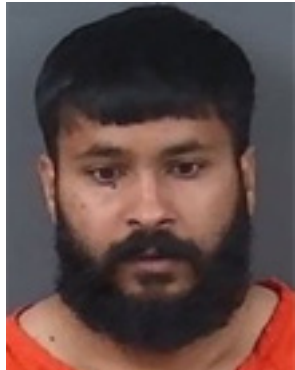
There are a multitude of indicators that Elkadi, who began at Ontario International in November 2017 as the facility's deputy chief executive officer and stepped into the top spot at the airport four years and four months later, is on his way out as the top administrator at the airport or has already departed.

Though the airport's official website yet identifies Elkadi as the chief executive officer with the airport and the Ontario International Airport Authority, early this week word emanating from the headquarters airport head- **See P 2**

Feds Say SBC Law Enforcement Let 2 International Drug Dealers Slip Away In December

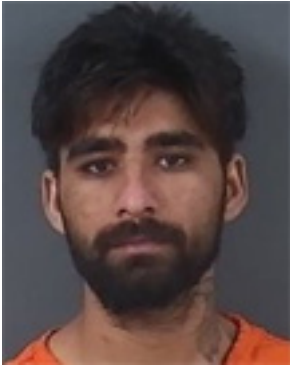
A San Bernarino County law enforcement agency allowed two international drug dealers who were utilizing a big rig semi-truck and their assumption of the roles of interstate truck drivers as a cover for their operation to slip through their fingers, according to the United States Department of Homeland Security.

On January 3 at



**Jasveer Singh**  
around 1:30 p.m., an Indiana state trooper made a routine stop of a blue

International semi that was headed from Joplin Missouri to Richmond, Indiaa for a standard Department of Transportation compliance check on I-70 near the 41-mile marker in Putnam County. In the vehicle were two Indian nationals residing in California, Jasveer Singh, 30 of Santa Clara, and Gurpreet Singh, 25 of Fresno. According to Indiana State



**Gurpreet Singh**  
Police, while the trooper was speaking with the driver, he detected

"criminal indicators," after which a police canine brought to the scene alerted to possible drugs inside. This was used as probable cause to search the truck. Inside the sleeper berth, according to Indiana State Police, troopers found 309 pounds of cocaine.

On January 4, the U.S. Department of Homeland Secu- **See P 3**

Civil Liberty Advocates Decry Local Police Agencies' Intensifying Reliance On AI-Based Data Analysis

Local law enforcement agencies' growing reliance on artificial intelligence-based data reduction and presentation programs is alarming civil liberties advocacy groups.

In recent weeks and months, the Redlands and Rialto police departments have renewed and intensified their existing contracts with Axon En-

terprise Inc. to replace and expand their body-worn camera programs, digitized evidence storage, logging, retrieval, sharing and management systems, add new digital evidence capabilities and outfit them with drone surveillance equipment and operational technologies and virtual reality applications.

At present, the Bar-

stow, Chino, Colton, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Redlands, Rialto and, San Bernardino, Upland police departments have Chino contracts with Axon as does the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Both the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department and the San Bernardino **See P 2**

Sophisticated Theft Ring Making Off With Cars In The Dead of Night

A sophisticated car theft ring, apparently based in Los Angeles County, has been operating well across county lines into San Bernardino County, stealing cars generally in the dead of night.

Targeted by the thieves are late model luxury cars and Toyota and Chevrolet trucks.

The operations in-

volve what can be described as a scout who seems to be spotting the vehicles to be taken and reconnoitering to determine that the circumstance for a quick hook-up and getaway can be effectuated, whereafter a tow truck arrives to execute an efficient and speedy expropriation and instantaneous departure. **See P 3**

Stater Bros. Reducing Its Presence On Main Street In Hesperia From 3 To 2 Stores

The Stater Bros. Market at 15757 Main Street, which opened more than 45 years ago and is one of three Stater Bros. grocery stores all located on Main Street in 103,411 population Hesperia, will close later this month.

"This store will permanently close on Sunday, January 25, 2026. We apologize for the

inconvenience," according to a sign outside the store, which is referred to as Store No. 97 by the San Bernardino-based company.

Hesperia was home to three Stater Bros. markets, all located on Main Street.

According to the company, now headed by CEO Greg McNiff and Executive Chairman

Peter Van Helden, who was until last September the CEO, the lease on the 29,120 square feet of space where the store has been functioning continuously since 1980, is set to expire, and it does not make financial sense to continue to operate at that location and perpetuate the lease arrangement when there is a 56,586 square foot Stater

Bros. Market at 16904 Main Street, opened in 2012, within the space of the abandoned Albertsons grocery store at 16904 Main Street, and a 19,732 square foot Stater Bros. Market at 14466 Main Street.

The savings the corporation will make in shuttering Store #97 will be devoted and the resources there diverted,

the corporation said, "towards initiatives and projects that provide greater long-term benefits."

According to the company, all 62 employees working at the 15757 Main Street location are being offered continuing employment at other Stater Bros. stores, where they will retain their current **See P 3**



## With Its Founcing In 1954, Modern Hesperia Accrued An Overwhelming Infrastructure From The Outset

*from front page*

one-time town that has now grown into a city of 103,411 has never been able to overcome a reflexive and prideful embrace of size, growth, self-importance and politicians ready to personally advance and profit by assisting those fleecing their constituents.

On April 22, 1954, while he was yet serving as the vice-president and director of Standard Federal Savings and Loan Association of Los Angeles, M. Penn Phillips consummated what was billed as the largest private land sale in Southern California in 35 years when his corporation, the Omart Investment Company, purchased a 36-square mile tract seven miles south of Victorville, representing roughly 90 percent of the entire township of Hesperia, for \$1.25 million from the Appleton Land and Water Company and the Lacey Estate, which had owned the land jointly since 1888. Phillips, who during the Second World War served as the executive vice-chairman of the U.S. Treasury Department War Finance Committee for Southern California,

signed, in his capacity as the president of Omart, the land transfer documents at Pioneer Title and Insurance Company in San Bernardino.

Phillips simultaneously announced his intention to spend \$8.25 million through the Hesperia Land Company, a subsidiary of Omart Investment Company, to prepare the property for development, indicating 1,000 acres of the property was to be allocated to industrial development, 8,000 acres for agriculture and that 5,000 homes would be built along with a two-and-one-half mile-long-and-one-quarter-mile-wide artificial lake, and a resort section. Involved with Phillips in the Hesperia venture were Jack Dempsey, the one-time heavyweight champion, as well as Charles Allen, vice-president of E.F. Hutton and Company of New York City; Fresno-based attorney Milo E. Rowell, Nat Mendelsohn of Riverside; Philip J. Farrar of Fresno; along with Los Angeles investment brokers, Dan Christy and Henry Paul Willis. Within a week Phillips and Dempsey announce plans to renovate the Hesperia Hotel, which had been dormant since 1926.

Phillips, born in Parsons Kansas on June 13, 1887, was an intense and

dynamic man who left his mark on the world as he founder of the M. Penn Phillips Company, and as a result of his operations in the Western states from the 1920s through the 1970s. Starting in the 1920s, he undertook the development of Clear Lake Highland in Lake County, and completed Frazier Mountain Park near Bakersfield in 1924, and a development known as the Avocado Farms near Vista in 1926. He developed large tracts in the Las Vegas basin in 1927, the development of 5,800 lots and 18,000 acres of land in the area around Coos Bay, Oregon between 1929 and 1933. He built, in association with Dempsey the famed Hotel Del Pacifico in Ensenada Mexico in 1931. From 1929 to 1932 he bought and sold more than 60,000 acres of undeveloped land in the Colorado River basin.

Despite his accomplishments, he was also a charlatan who left crippled communities, often ones of his own creation, in his wake as he went on to the next place where he would ply his schemes to intensify his wealth. In 1954, Phillips created the Hesperia Land Development and Hesperia Sales Corporation, which worked to promote his concept of the U-Finish Home, mass-produced housing units

that were completely finished on the outside, leaving the buyer to complete the interior. He secured water rights to support the modern community of Hesperia through the newly created Mojave Water Agency, of which he was a founding member. The formula Phillips applied in Hesperia was much like the one he used with his developments elsewhere: secure land, build homes on it, put in the minimal amount of public improvements to make the neighborhoods habitable, bring in a population that creates the basis for a community that includes momentum for establishing some form of a jurisdictional governmental agency, sell all of the parcels acquired, take a profit and move on to the next development elsewhere.

After he was gone, those communities would be as lacking in completed and adequate infrastructure as U-Finish Homes were minus kitchen sinks or toilets or bathtubs. Phillips built roads for Hesperia that were of a decidedly low standard, consisting of a mixture of desert sand used as aggregate and bitumen to create a road that was no more than one-and-a-half inches thick. The roads, when new, looked good, but under the withering sun and

cameras during the pilot program's survey period, dozens, then scores, followed by hundreds and now thousands of police departments around the country were sold on the concept of outfitting their officers with bodyworn cameras. This has led to Axon being a very profitable company. While Axon stock was selling for \$8.94 a share on January 2, 2013 and \$15.88 a share on December 31, 2013, one share today goes for \$612.98. While the cameras are Axon's leading product, it also offers software and service to augment the video those cameras provide to allow the footage to be put to use, primarily as evidence in a prosecutorial setting, as well as

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use, began to deteriorate within three to four years. The flash floods the desert is prone to further washed out these roads over the following decades, leaving many of Hesperia's streets in poor condition, including some that eventually returned to being nothing more than dirt roads. Phillips was equally irresponsible in the creation of the town's water system. Though he started with the tremendous advantage of Hesperia being blessed with a world-class water supply, he squandered that asset in his headlong pursuit of a profit. Hesperia lies near the headwaters of the Mojave River, the watershed area north of the San Bernardino Mountains, a pristine and perpetually recharged water supply created by melting snow and overflowing rain-

water from the heights southeast of Hesperia. The water system Phillips created for Hesperia consisted in large part of pipes cannibalized from a petroleum conveyance operation from depleted oil fields. Thus, the Hesperia Water Company, capturing water at the foot of the mountain before it rushed forward to become the Mojave River and wend out into the desert, used substandard pipes, which compromised the quality of the product provided to Hesperia for domestic use.

In this way, Phillips created what would become Hesperia's initial infrastructure deficit. In the nearly sixty-five years since Phillips took his final leave of Hesperia, the city has struggled to overcome its inferior infrastructure founda-

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## Law Enforcement Agencies & Information Technology Companies Have Formed Symbiotic Relationships

*from front page*

Police Department have contracts with Palantir Technologies, Inc.

Palantir Technologies and Axon Enterprise are both significant players in the technology sector in the realm of data analytics. The two companies have products or services relating to the application of data processing in the realm of public safety applications.

Shortly after Donald Trump became president, federal officials approached Palantir, which

had landed its first contract with the U.S. Government in 2008 and had obtained over \$1.8 billion in governmental contracts over the next sixteen-and-a-half years, about creating a "master databank" for the U.S. government to be accessible to a multitude of agencies, including the Department of Defense [since renamed the Department of War], the Justice Department, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Amidst reports that Palantir was being commissioned to centralize and organize data relating to Ameri-

cans' bank accounts, student debt, medical histories, disability statuses.

Axon's provision of bodyworn cameras to The Rialto Police Department and the department's willingness to utilize them went a good distance toward establishing Axon as a leader in the bodyworn camera industry.

Famously, beginning in 2013, Rialto was offered the opportunity to participate in a pilot program involving Axon body cameras. When an analysis of the results of that program, in which it was demonstrated that there was an 88 percent decline in civilian complaints and a 59 percent reduction in use of force by the 54 Rialto police officers wearing body

for internal departmental purposes, such as departmental higher ups, uniformed commanders and administrators monitoring the performance of the officers wearing those cameras. The company has thus evolved and/or expanded into divisions which provide data storage and retrieval capability, along with the capability of analyzing that data as well as cataloging it so it can be distinguished from the millions, indeed billions, of files accumulated on a continuous basis. In 2018, Axon moved into the provision of drone aircraft to law enforcement agencies. In 2019, Axon introduced its Axon Fleet 3 in-car video system, which featured automated license

plate recognition capability. A sideline to the Fleet 3 and later license plate readers developed by the company was the data storage, analysis and retrieval system that made the information being accumulated by the cameras useful to the department's in applying it to investigations and solving cases or apprehending suspects and getting convictions against them in a court of law.

What Axon was doing in this venue mirrored, approximated, overlapped and paralleled much of what Palantir was doing within the sphere of servicing its law enforcement and public safety agency clients.

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## Stater Bros. Presence In Hesperia Being Reduced From Three To Four Stores *from front page*

positions, seniority and pay scales.

Just as Stater Bros., which began as a small grocery store in Yucaipa operated by twin brothers Cleo and Leo Stater in August 1936 after they purchased their original market from W.A. Davis before moving its headquarters and main warehouse to Colton and ultimately to San Ber-

nardino on the grounds of the now shuttered Norton Air Force Base, is a San Bernardino County mainstay, Hesperia has been a key element of the company's progression to become the 59th largest food retailer in the United States.

In September 1977, Stater Bros. opened its first Hesperia store near G Avenue. In 1980 it

opened its second store, Store #97 at 15757 Main Street, the one being closed later this month. At that time, the industry standard for grocery stores was different than it is now. Toward the middle and end of the first decade of the Third Millennium, major grocery outlets, which Stater Bros. had become, were becoming far larger, featuring ovens for bakeries and preparation of ready-to-eat meals. In 2012, the company opened the

56,586-square foot Stater Bros. Market at 16904 Main Street in keeping with the new standard. At present, Stater Bros. operates nearly 167 supermarkets in seven counties in California, 51 of which are in San Bernardino County, and has approximately 18,000 employees with annual sales of over \$4 billion. At the end of the month, the number of total stores will drop to 166, with 50 in San Bernardino County.

sion, and the tow truck pulled the car out of the driveway. The entire removal was effectuated in 18 seconds.

Roller filed a police report on December 4. A week later, after the vehicle was spotted by license-plate scanners, the car, stripped of its interior and multiple parts, was found in a Compton tow yard.

On December 31, at 1:36 a.m., the white tow truck swooped into the residential neighborhood on White Ash Road in

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Roller was parked in his home's driveway. Video shot from a neighbor's security camera shows the tow truck backing up to the threshold of the driveway at around 6 a.m. Without the driver of the tow truck exiting the vehicle, a lift is mechanically inserted beneath the car's chassis between its two back wheels, which were then raised five to six inches off the ground. Another mechanism then hooked the axle or the framing beneath the transmis-

sion, and the tow truck pulled the car out of the driveway. The entire removal was effectuated in 18 seconds. Roller filed a police report on December 4. A week later, after the vehicle was spotted by license-plate scanners, the car, stripped of its interior and multiple parts, was found in a Compton tow yard.

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administration or individuals who may or may not be directly involved with the airport. The Sentinel was unable to get through to either Elkadi or his secretary. Elkadi's unavailability has fueled speculation that his official departure has taken place or is imminent.

Elkadi has begun applying for management positions with other airports. One of these was San Diego International Airport, where Kimberly Becker is due to leave as

cial drivers licenses by the State of California and were arrested for trafficking a whopping 300 pounds of cocaine inside a semi-truck. Gavin Newsom and his fellow sanctuary politicians even refused to honor an arrest detainer on one of these criminal illegal aliens in December. Sanctuary policies put American lives at risk. ICE law enforcement lodged arrest detainers to ensure these drug traffickers are not allowed back into Amer-

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the chief executive two months on March 18. Further information available to the Sentinel is that Elkadi was among six individuals with extensive airport administrative experience who applied for the top executive officer's post at San Diego International Airport and was ranked sixth on the evaluation list of those competing for the job. The ultimate decision on which candidate is to be hired is to be determined on pending further inter-

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## Philosophically Speaking



### The Case Against Cars

If we really feared the crash, most of us would be unable to look at a car, let alone drive one.

--writer J. G. Ballard, author of the novel Crash

By Phill Courtney

For many years my father was a general practitioner attorney, doing some, yes, homicide cases (two), but also wills; probates; divorces; and personal injury lawsuits, one of which involved a woman whose sciatic nerve was hit by a needle injection from a poorly trained nurse, resulting in a leg paralysis and a substantial settlement.

Another of my dad's cases that was memorable for me came along during a short period when I worked for my dad (a mistake—but that's another story) and involved a young woman who'd been the victim of disabling physical injuries including severe brain damage shortly before her wedding. She'd survived the auto accident, but her fiancé, who was driving, died when he lost control of the car, while her life was forever altered.

Occasionally, she'd shuffle into the office with her partially paralyzed left side in the company of her caregiving aunt in order to consult with my dad about the conservatorship he was handling for her family. Although she could grasp some of what was happening through the fog of her damaged brain, it was also heartbreaking to see what a single moment of inattention behind the wheel had done to the life of one young woman who was looking forward to a happy life with her husband and perhaps a family.

I've never forgotten her. But then my experience with her and that case is hardly unique, and I can say with a fair degree of confidence that basically no one in this country has gone through life without being either injured in an auto accident themselves, or knowing someone who has, or also killed; a toll that includes members of my own family and a close friend.

One of my younger brothers had his elbow badly mangled in a rollover auto accident in high school (yes—an old story: teenagers out for a joy ride), while my other brother (who'd actually lost a friend in another high school joyride accident) suffered from some lifelong back and neck trouble after he's been broadsided at an intersection by a woman who'd run a red light.

As for one of my best friends: he was almost killed while walking down a roadside when a man driving a van after, as they say: he'd had "a bit too much to drink," had struck and thrown him some 150 feet, resulting in broken bones; a lengthy hospital stay; and a lifelong limp. He was lucky to be alive, and although, like my dad's client, he'd survived, his life was never the same after he became addicted to pain killers and eventually died of a drug overdose.

Sadly, the stories are endless and all because of our car culture and our affection and even love for the auto, which has been going on now for well-over 100 years. Of course, besides the many victims of accidents that we've personally known, the list also includes many famous people, including writers like Albert Camus (The Stranger) and Nathaniel West (Day of the Locust), as well as some actors like James Dean (Rebel Without a Cause) and Jayne Mansfield (Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?)

Hollywood trivia buffs may remember that Playboy playmate Mansfield (who'd made "Hollywood

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## California's Criminal Alien Toleration Policy Allowed Indian Drug Dealer To Import & Distribute Drugs *from front page*

ity announced U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on January 4 lodged arrest detainers for both Jasveer Singh and Gurpreet Singh, characterizing them as "two criminal illegal aliens from India."

Both Singhs were issued commercial drivers licenses issued by the State of California.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, "Jasveer Singh

illegally entered the U.S. on March 21, 2017 near Otay Mesa, California. He was arrested on December 5, 2025 for receiving stolen property in San Bernardino, California. ICE lodged an arrest detainer. Due to Governor Newsom's sanctuary policies, the detainer was not honored, and this criminal illegal alien was released back into American communities."

Gurpreet Singh, ac-

On Wednesday, the Sentinel made extensive efforts to contact Elkadi at the airport headquarters. It did not appear that he was present.

The Sentinel made multiple phone calls to what was formerly Elkadi's direct phone line at the airport, the office phone for the airport administration and the airport authority office, all of which were routed to automated service desks or answering services for offices which were unrelated to the airport ad-

## Ontario Airport's Top Administrator Has Applied To Work Elsewhere *from front page*

quarters located at 1923 East Avion Avenue in Ontario was that he was on the brink of departing as chief executive officer, and that his leaving is to be finalized no later than March. There were further unverified indications that he had already left.



## Generation After Generation Of Hesperia's Leaders, Enabled By City Staff, Have Sold Out Their Constituents To Developers

from page 2

tion.

When Hesperia became a city in 1988, it was poorly served by the incorporation committee that had succeeded in obtaining that milestone. The incorporation committee, partially as a consequence of its members' lack of sophistication, shortsightedness and haste, failed to hold its own in hard-nosed bargaining with county representatives and other competing entities during the process for arriving at the property tax allocation formula for local governmental entities in the Hesperia community, including the city, post incorporation. Previous to Hesperia's incorporation, when the county directly provided many of the services to the community along with the previously existing Hesperia Recreation and Park District, the Hesperia Fire District and the Hesperia Water District, that formula was somewhat less arcane. Upon incorporation, city officials failed to broker a very favorable split of property taxes with the county. Like many of the cities that incorporated after the passage of Proposition 13, Hesperia was given a less-than-generous allotment of the diminishing property tax stream. This was a particularly harsh circumstance for Hesperia, which at its roughly 73 square miles, had over 473 miles of roads, many of them neglected and deteriorating. The city was allotted a mere 1.59 percent of the property tax revenue — \$1.59 of every \$100 collected. That was the second smallest allotment of any of the cities in the county at that time and it is now the paltriest property tax share of any of the county's current incorporated cities. At present, the county

of San Bernardino keeps 14.23 cents of every property tax dollar collected in Hesperia. Indeed, in Hesperia there is a fifteen-way split of property tax. The other thirteen beneficiaries of the property tax rolls are the Hesperia Unified School District, which is given 29.5 percent; another 21.41 percent goes to the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund, most of which comes back to the school district; the Hesperia Fire Protection District pulls in 15.3 percent, nearly ten times what the city receives; The Victor Valley Community College District claims 6.4 percent; the Hesperia Recreation and Park District is given 4.3 percent. The county's flood control district claims 2.2 percent for operations and 0.09 percent for administration; the county library system takes 1.38 percent; the Hesperia Water District is provided 1.03 percent; Community Services Area 60, which lies at the city's periphery, is entitled to 0.99 percent; the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools accroaches 0.97 percent; the Mojave Water Agency abducts 0.50%; and the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District nabs 0.02 percent. Hesperia was not the only city in the county which formerly found itself shortchanged with regard to the division of property tax. Chino Hills, which incorporated in 1991; Apple Valley, which like Hesperia incorporated in 1988; Highland, which incorporated in 1987; Victorville, which incorporated in 1962; Rancho Cucamonga, which incorporated in 1977; Fontana, which incorporated in 1952; and Adelanto, which incorporated in 1970, found themselves in similar circumstances, with Victorville at that time being allotted no return in property tax at all. In no case were any of those cities formerly experiencing more than a 5.2 percent return of property tax collected within their

respective borders. In 2003, the county agreed to allot all of those cities 7 percent of the property tax on any land annexed into those cities after that point. Also, several of the cities, individually and collectively, pursued litigation and legislation sponsored by local state lawmakers aimed at upping those cities' property tax revenue. Hesperia participated in those efforts. The first legislative effort in this regard, Assembly Bill 1057, failed on the Senate floor in 1999. Subsequently, then-Assemblyman Phil Wyman introduced Assembly Bill 1378, which was designed to give Hesperia a larger share of property taxes collected by the county, such that Hesperia at that time stood to be the recipient of \$2 million more per year if Assembly Bill 1378 passed. But the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to oppose AB 1378 and a key member of the board, former Assemblyman and then Chairman of the Board Fred Aguiar, lobbied in Sacramento against it. Wyman than dropped the legislative try, saying "I killed the bill because we'd rather do it together at the local level." Hesperia officials abandoned the legislative approach and pulled out of litigation the city was engaged in as a co-plaintiff with other cities after assurances were provided that then-Hesperia Mayor Jim Lindley would be able to use his entrée with his then-political ally, then-supervisor Bill Postmus, to amicably negotiate with the county an increase in Hesperia's share of the property tax return. That came to naught, however, when there was a falling out between Postmus and Lindley, whereupon Postmus ceased his intercession on behalf of the City of Progress. For Chino Hills, Rancho Cucamonga, and Fontana, the litigative/legislative approach succeeded and by 2006, those cities saw an increase in their end of the formula for property tax splits.

Victorville saw its share of property tax pass-through upped from zero to 4.72 percent, with 6 percent going to its fire district and 5 percent going to its park district. Apple Valley was granted 9.4 percent of the property taxes its residents pay, and another 9.2 percent was handed over to the town's fire district. The city of Rancho Cucamonga now gets 5.11 percent and its fire district is provided with 12.48 percent. A deal was brokered with the city of Chino Hills such that it continues to get a 3.9 percent return on property tax paid for property that was previously within the city and ten percent of taxes from new development. The city of Chino Hills' fire district also receives 15.15 percent of the property tax paid by Chino Hills residents. In Fontana, the city receives a 3.8 percent property tax return, while its fire department is granted an 18.55 percent return. The city of Highland is given 24.4 percent of the property tax collected within city limits. Hesperia remains as the forlorn stepchild of the county when it comes to the distribution of property tax, receiving receives 1.75 percent of the property tax the residents living within its city limits pay. The infrastructure deficit Phillips saddled Hesperia with was compounded by a series of decisions made by the fledgling city council shortly after the city was incorporated in 1988 and doubled down upon by the councils that succeeded the first. Looking southward at the upwardly mobile population of Rancho Cucamonga, a city which had incorporated a mere eleven years before in 1977, the newly formed city council, led by mayor Bruce Kitchen and council members George Beardsley, Mike Lampignano, Percy Bakker and M. Val Shearer, lured Rancho Cucamonga Deputy City Manager Robert Rizzo to town to serve as the city's first city manager. Deluded

into thinking that cityhood would instantly transform their city into an economically dynamic hotbed of upscale development similar to Rancho Cucamonga, the city council empowered Rizzo to cut deals with developers to convince them to begin building aggressively and soon. Rizzo took the council's somewhat naive instructions too literally, pushing his planning staff to approve projects as proposed by developers, entailing projects with sketchy or inadequate infrastructure, both in the immediate vicinity of the neighborhoods which were springing up as well as throughout the city in general.

In some cases, Rizzo, to meet payroll, diverted bond money intended for the provision of infrastructure into the general fund, where it was eaten up by the day-to-day expenses of running the city. In time, many of the landowners inveigled into the assessment districts created to debt service those bonds lost those properties in tax foreclosures as the promised increases in the value of their properties failed to materialize because the infrastructure those bonds were supposed to pay for was never built. Correspondingly, the sales tax producing commercial development that was to accompany the improvements to those properties in question never materialized, depriving the city of revenue that could have been converted into infrastructure improvements. The centerpiece of Hesperia's developmental fixation was the Rancho Las Flores project, which was being pushed by the Dana Point-based ARC Las Flores Corporation and was originally projected to result in the construction of 9,100 residential units in Summit Valley on 10,000 acres at the city's extreme south end that consisted of the 490-acre Las Flores Ranch and several adjacent parcels, including Bureau of Land Management property obtained through a series of land

swaps. Rizzo convinced Bakker, Beardsley, Shearer and Lampignano and Kitchen that the project would generate economic development and create neighborhoods to rival those in upscale Orange County. Within two years, the scope of the project grew and in 1990, the city approved the Rancho Las Flores specific plan, which called for development of 15,540 housing units in eight phases. Rizzo, however, was manipulative and dishonest, exploiting the very city council members who hired him, enabled him and directed him to develop the city at any cost. During the 1990 election, he arranged with developmental interests to get scores of residents in Orange County to write \$99 checks in blank and entrust them to him. He then distributed those checks to the candidates up for election in the city council race that he deemed to be most accommodating of the pro-development agenda, including Percy Bakker, M. Val Shearer and planning commission member Donna Roland. In this way, Rizzo was seeking to obtain leverage over those to whom he was answerable. No one on the council objected until press accounts in early 1992 revealed what had occurred. Even then, the council sought to minimize the transgression. But public outrage over the corruption of the electoral and governmental process forced the council's hand and in April 1992, Rizzo left the city. Some 18 years later, Rizzo's corrupt manipulations of the elected city officials who hired him came home to roost when a series of legal, financial, managerial and governmental transgressions he had engaged in as city manager with the City of Bell came to light and he was arrested, criminally charged, convicted and given a 12-year sentence in state prison.

The Rancho Las Flores project never got off the drawing boards, *Continued on Page 6*



**With The Breadth & Depth Of The Data Available To Law Enforcement Agencies & Their Ability To Cross Reference It, Analyze It And Freedom To Interpret Or Misinterpret As Is Seen Fit, Anyone Can Be Made A Suspect And Be Investigated, Charged And Convicted, Irrespective Of Guilt Or Innocence** *from page 2*

Palantir, however, was not oriented to simply serving law enforcement or a combination of law enforcement and the military, but a whole host of both public sector and private sector customers that were not only involved in accumulating seemingly unlimited volumes of data but in need of storing the information digitally and then being able to manage it and wield it by analyzing the data and filtering from it something that is usable for in the context of whatever objective that entity – be it a government or government agency or large corporation or medium or small sized company – was pursuing.

Both Palantir and Axon over the years have developed several iterations – or generations – of data storage and data analytical programs, with each succeeding one growing more comprehensive and sophisticated, with ever greater capacities for enlargement, merging and cross-referencing of databases.

One such highly evolved program from Palantir is its Gotham software platform designed to integrate, manage, and analyze massive datasets for law enforcement agencies and enable them to uncover hidden patterns and relationships to make data-driven decisions. Another Palantir program developed for specific law enforcement application is its Laser program intended to make “predictive policing” possible by identifying chronic offenders and hot spots through the compiling of gang databases.

Axon Enterprises most advanced program in this vein is its Axon’s Draft One which utilizes formulas, algorithms and artificial intelligence applied to data to link it all together and generate police reports.

Given that they are separate companies and to some degree are in competition with one another. Palantir and Axon do not directly share data. Nevertheless, both are involved in with multiple law enforcement agencies. In some cases, those law enforcement agencies have an exclusive relationship with just one of the companies. In other cases, a law enforcement agency may have a contract with both of the companies. In such cases where a law enforcement agency has a contractual arrangement with both companies, that agency at least with regard to some investigative matters and enforcement undertakings stands to benefit from integration of the data held by both Palantir and Axon and the analysis of that data once it has been integrated or merged. In this way, at least within the context of such specific law enforcement agencies that contract with the two companies, the Palantir and Axon databases have been merged.

Moreover, given the common protocol of cooperation between police departments and law enforcement agencies in general – a principle referred to as agency-to-agency privilege – the merging of the respective databases that are managed by Palantir-provided or Axon-provided software or software provided by any supplier can and does take place.

Civil liberties advocacy groups, which have weighed in with regard to the threats the integration of databases and the use of algorithms and artificial intelligence police departments in New York City, Chicago, New Orleans, San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland and Los Angeles to analyze the data and draw conclusions which are then presented as reliable probable cause to pro-

ceed to the next step in the investigative or legal process represent to citizens’ constitutional rights, are now expressing similar concerns with regard to the way police departments and the sheriff’s department in San Bernardino County are similarly combining available datasets in a way that is comprehensively invasive, such that not only are the everyday comings and goings of virtually everyone living in the county’s 22 cities, two incorporated towns and 87 unincorporated communities virtually instantaneously knowable by working law enforcement officers, but, potentially, their banking records, credit card expenditures, medical records and associations, including those who are and are not involved in illegal or suspicious activity.

While the U.S. Constitution prohibits governmental entities from eclipsing the rights of American citizens to obtain information pertaining to them deemed private and confidential without agents of the government first obtaining a warrant from a court to access that information, there is nothing in the Constitution to prohibit the government from monitoring or gathering information, images or sounds in public spaces using photographic, videographic or other technical means or capturing in the open ether through which cell-phone communications propagate radio signals. The government is not enjoined from purchasing from entities in the private sector data those companies have accumulated within a commercial context from other companies or service providers which are involved in providing both services and commodities to the public.

In response to articles that appeared in the New York Times last year detailing the company’s construction of a “master database” for surveillance in service of the federal government during the Trump Administration, Palantir characterized reports that it

was serving as a means for government officials to access citizens’ banking, medical, interpersonal interactions, online communications, travel and telecom data as “fiction... blatantly untrue [and] reckless.” According to Palantir, in providing the government the means and technology to integrate a myriad of databases to be able to draw accurate conclusions based upon multiple points of information and contexts is a service to the general public. Palantir said its algorithms protect rather than violate while remaining in compliance with ensuring the company does not trample on civil liberties and adheres to all applicable legal standards.

According to the federal government, its contractual relationship with Palantir represents a substantial boon to U.S. citizens and will expedite the speed with which they obtain any benefits they are eligible and apply for, simplifying their tax payments, improve the fair and judicious employment of the justice system against the innocent and guilty alike and lead to the uncovering of waste, fraud and abuse in and of governmental programs.

Critics, however, point out that Palantir’s first loyalty is to its bottom line and stockholders, its second loyalty is to its customers and clients and any concerns beyond that are tertiary. Palantir’s paying customers are purchasing services that the company can provide and it would be grossly naïve to believe that Palantir would withhold information from a client that was paying hundreds of millions or tens of millions of dollars to ensure that it has access to information that Palantir has access to.

The American Civil Liberties Union in 2024 published a report outlining its organizational concerns with regard to the use of artificial intelligence in the data selection and data reduction process that goes into the production of inte-

grating data and drafting police reports. Palantir’s Laser program renders “data visualization documents” as well as “predictive alerts” and Axon’s Draft One program uses ChatGPT to translate body camera recordings into initial report drafts. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, law enforcement agencies use these artificial intelligence driven systems to engage in predictive policing and deliver reports that are machine written rather than composed by officers.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union’s senior policy analyst Jay Stanley, artificial intelligence systems are prone to unpredictable errors and biases, which can be compounded by poor-quality audio from body cameras. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the use of artificial intelligence systems to bypass the time-consuming process of having officers write their own reports deprives the justice process of the actual version of events that can be provided by those officers, including particular nuances that might escape the parameters of an algorithm. The American Civil Liberties Union maintains that officers’ memories should be memorialized in a traditional report before those officers’ memories are influenced by artificial intelligence-generated narratives.

The American Civil Liberties Union also objects to the opacity of the programming of artificial intelligence-driven integration, management and analysis of datasets acquired by law enforcement agencies and the logic that leads to the conclusions relating to investigative direction and probable cause assertions or assumptions leading to warrant issuing or further investigative action, and how those investigative workings can be scrutinized fairly with regard to constitutional issues in legal proceedings subsequent to an arrest or in a civil action following the dismissal of criminal charges following an arrest.

es following an arrest.

In addition, the American Civil Liberties Union has privacy concerns, with questions about the handling and storage of sensitive police data used to form the basis of the artificial intelligence models used or to train officers in utilizing them. Because police reports represent a central element in criminal proceedings, often serving as the primary official account of incidents, the American Civil Liberties Union has expressed misgivings that artificial intelligence-generated reports could omit important details or even provide cover for potential misconduct not captured on camera in cases growing out of reports based primarily on bodyworn camera footage.

A number of problems have surfaced with regard to Palantir’s programs, at least a partial element of which relates to the high cost of the service Palantir offers. Because of the cost, at least some departments have purchased only what amounts to a “partial” service, such that the departments “fill the gap” with non-Palantir backed conclusions or algorithms or the departments’ own makings, in which the case the reliability of this hybrid is completely unknown and virtually unchartable.

The Los Angeles Police Department utilized Palantir’s Laser program for predictive policing, seeking to identify chronic offenders and crime hot spots. The department abandoned the program in 2019 due to civil rights concerns, criticism that the system was reinforcing racial bias, and questions about its effectiveness and oversight.

The New York Police Department utilized Palantir’s Gotham system to integrate vast and separate databases such as arrests, tickets and social media postings into a searchable network, enabling complex analysis that led to legitimate arrests and breakthroughs in solving some crimes,

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## In Hesperia, Using The Authority Of Government To Protect Residents Gave Way To The Development Imperative Time & Again from page 4

though it remained active, on paper, under succeeding city managers and the guidance of community development director Tom Harp and principal planner Dave Reno, suffering setbacks with the revelations of Rizzo's illicit efforts to filter money from Orange County development interests into the campaign coffers of council member candidates amenable to the aggressive development proposal that would have doubled the city's population. The project's prospects were damaged as well by other significant challenges that retarded its progression, such as the economic downturn of 1991 and 1992 and the listing of three species that inhabited the property – the arroyo toad, the Least Bell's Vireo and the willow flycatcher – as endangered. Even without Rizzo at the helm, the developmental imperative that the city council embraced pervaded other project proposals and inescapably resulted in the city waiving requirements that those projects given approval entail the foundational framework and both on-site and off-site improvements such as roads, wastewater treatment capability, water and sewer lines and stormwater facilities to handle the impacts and consequences of that construction and the inhabitation of what was being built. When objections were made to allowing projects to proceed without the needed supporting improvements to accommodate them, project proponents or members of the council themselves would respond by saying that insisting on such requirements would impede progress and economic opportunity. Continued growth would generate prosperity and a larger local economy, which ul-

timately would lead to the enhancement of property values and commercial development, and thus future property tax and sales tax enhancements, the growth proponents insisted. Redressments of inadequate infrastructure could come later, they said. With that attitude prevailing, the city's infrastructure deficit continued to compound. Rizzo was replaced by D.J. Collins, who for years had been the general manager of the Hesperia Water District. Under Collins, the water district in short order was subsumed by the city. Collins made little headway in dealing with the city's infrastructure problems, and though he succeeded in diverting some of the money available from the city's water operations to shore up the city's inadequate road system, he and the council were strongly criticized for having broken a commitment to strictly devote water revenues to maintaining the city's water system.

Collins' administration was severely challenged by "the revolt of the Young Turks" in the fire department, which came about when many of the fire department's personnel, most of whom were a generation to a generation-and-a-half younger than Collins, objected to the city overriding efforts by the fire marshal to strictly enforce the state and municipal fire code with regard to new development as City Hall sought to liberalize regulations and encourage building. Collins would be succeeded by a succession of relatively short-lived city managers – David Berger, Steve Dukett, David Bentz and Steve West. Following West's departure, the city council temporarily elevated assistant city manager Rod Foster to the city manager's position. In 2000, Western Water made an overture to Hesperia with regard to purchasing the city's municipal water division. Making that pitch for Western Water was Robb Quincey. Quincey, who had a Bachelor of Arts degree in public admin-

istration and political science from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of South Dakota and a doctorate in public administration with an emphasis in economics and organizational development from the University of La Verne, left quite an impression on the city council, though they did not accede to his suggestion that they sell the city's water system to Western Water. Nevertheless, in October 2000 they offered Quincey a position as city manager. He accepted the offer. Titularly, Foster returned to his assistant city manager's post. Quincey, however, had no actual experience in managing a governmental organization. He proved no more effective in holding in check the developmental imperative embodied by the city's political leadership than any of the previous city managers and, in actuality, embraced it in his effort to remain in good standing with the city council.

In terms of overseeing the day-to-day municipal operations, Quincey, the show horse, proved highly dependent upon Foster, the workhorse, who in essence served as the de-facto city administrator during Quincey's more than four-year tenure as city manager in Hesperia. In March 2005, Upland Mayor John Pomierski succeeded in convincing Quincey to jump ship and take on the managerial duties in the City of Gracious Living. For twenty days after Quincey's departure, Foster again served as interim city manager in Hesperia. In Upland, where like in Hesperia his reputation exceeded his skill level, Quincey soon recognized he was in over his head. He convinced Pomierski to hire Foster to serve as his assistant city manager. Foster then followed Quincey to Upland. Over time in Upland, events would overtake Pomierski and Quincey, with both criminally charged and convicted of corruptions of the political process, based on graft, monetary

diversions and conflicts of interest, with Upland reflecting what had occurred in Hesperia, mainly the developmental imperative having been sustained by the development community's payment of bribes and political contributions to the elected decision-makers who approved development proposal after development proposal without requiring that the project proponent accompany each succeeding addition to the community with adequate infrastructure to keep up with the impact of the new growth let alone replace, refurbish or redo the crumbling or non-existent infrastructure from previous rounds of overdevelopment. Because of Upland's higher profile than Hesperia and the greater level of sophistication of its citizenry, Pomierski and Quincey were caught out in relatively short order and prosecuted, whereas in Hesperia, similar depredations, while not entirely unnoticed, continued without being effectively checked, prevented or prosecuted. With Quincey's departure to Upland in 2005, the city had an opportunity to promote Foster, a committed municipal managerial professional who was perhaps the most qualified and talented employee in that role the city ever had, but Quincey prevailed upon his political masters in Upland to offer Foster a contract to serve as his assistant city manager there, and Foster departed. Hesperia turned to Mike Podegracz, who had served as Hesperia's contract engineer/director of public works before he was hired in 1999 outright as the director of development services. Podegracz would remain in the city manager's post for just over a decade, making him the city's longest serving city manager. Despite the adherence of a majority of the city council to the development imperative, there was hope that under Podegracz, an engineer by training and profession, the city would adopt some semblance of a

policy by which the new growth would be balanced with sufficient infrastructure. That promise was lived up to only to the extent that through much of Podegracz's tenure as city manager – that is from late 2007 through 2013, the local, state and national economies were dealing with what was at first a severe downturn followed by a sluggishness of several years' duration that sharply reduced development. The pro-growth forces that had driven Hesperia's population to increase from 48,373 at the time of its incorporation in 1988 to 50,819 in 1990 to 62,582 in 2000 to 90,173 in 2010 to 100,200 in 2020 had never abated, paralleled by Bill Holland and Russ Blewett being elected to the city council in 2010 and Paul Russ being elected to the council in 2014.

In 2012, the council voted to reduce its development impact fees as a ploy of encouraging further expansion and it extended those reductions in 2014. Also in 2014, the Texas-based Terra Verde Group, led in California by its director of development, John Ohanian, signaled its intention to revive the Las Flores Ranch project, which had lain dormant for some two decades, after having acquired the 10,000 acres near Summit Valley previously controlled by then-bankrupt ARC Las Flores for roughly \$45 million. Podegracz's term as city manager drew to a close in 2015 when he voluntarily retired.

Rather than seek out a career municipal management professional to replace Podegracz, one who would take the infrastructure deficit bull by the horns and prevent any further development from taking place unless those undertaking it matched it with public improvements to mitigate the impacts of having to accommodate tens of thousands more people living, driving and adding to the discharge of effluent that development would ultimately entail, the city council, dominated by the stridently pro-development Hol-

land, Blewett and Russ, opted to hire Nils Bentsen, who over the previous three-and-a-half years had been the commander of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Hesperia Station – serving in the capacity of what was essentially Hesperia's chief of police, as the city has from its inception contracted with the sheriff's department for law enforcement services. Holland, who was then the mayor, had previously worked as a sheriff's deputy and personally knew Bentsen. While for some, the challenges and extraordinary issues Hesperia faced as a city presented a strong reason for relying upon a seasoned city manager steeped in the arenas of either financial organization, civil engineering, land use policy or urban planning, Holland, Blewett and Russ felt having a manager who would not obsessively focus on the barriers to further development would better allow them to pursue the economic growth in the city that those who had bankrolled putting them in office were looking to achieve. In that way, Bentsen's lack of expertise and experience in ensuring adequate roads, bridges, sewers, utilities, flood control and other infrastructure and public improvements registered as an advantage rather than a disadvantage, a quality that recommended him insofar as the then-ruling coalition on the city council was concerned. Once in place, Bentsen proved himself to be in line with the council's expectations, an accommodationist rather than an obstructionist. Moreover, he was willing to install into a key position relating to Hesperia's welcoming of the building industry – that of development services director – not a traditional municipal professional committed to the standards of best practices and land use standards but rather someone not unlike himself, a law enforcement professional who had no formal training with

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**Key To Elkadi's Rise To The Airport CEO Post Was To Ensure Wapner's Donors Are Taken Care Of** *from page 3*

views by members of the San Diego International Airport Authority Board of Directors of candidates deemed suitable and salary negotiations, the Sentinel was told. The board of directors has opted to limit those follow-up interviews and salary discussions to the top three-ranked applicants, meaning Elkadi is no longer in the running for the job.

In Ontario, there have been varying accounts as to whether Elkadi has acted openly or surreptitiously in attempting to make the jump from Ontario International to wherever it is he is to land next.

One version, which in much of its aspect is virtually indistinguishable from promotional materials put out by the airport is that he is doing so with the full knowledge of the five members of the Ontario International Airport Authority Board – Board President Alan Wapner, who is also a member of the Ontario City Council; Wapner's council colleague, Ontario City Councilman Jim Bowman; San Bernardino County Fourth District Supervisor Curt Hagman; Ron Loveridge, who was formerly mayor of Riverside; and Judith Gouw, the former president and chief operating officer of East West Bank.

By this version of events, Elkadi is a top-drawer airport manager who can essentially write his own ticket, such that he is long past due to move upwards. It is assumed by some of those working with him that after he moves on to a larger airport on the order of San Diego International Airport, San Francisco International Airport or Detroit Metropolitan Airport, it is a virtual inevitability that he will close out his career overseeing one or the other among the world's largest and most

heavily-utilized airports, such as King Fahd International in Saudi Arabia, Dulles International in Washington, D.C., Suvarnabhumi International in Thailand, Denver International, Dubai International, Heathrow in London or New Delhi International in India. According to at least some of those affiliated with him at Ontario International, everyone in Ontario recognizes what an extraordinary talent Elkadi is, and the members of the airport authority board recognize that having Mr. Elkadi as the airport's chief executive for nearly four years has been most fortuitous, and it is only natural that he is now progressing toward a more prestigious assignment. Wapner, they say, understands that Ontario International cannot possibly hope to keep Elkadi much longer.

By contrast, there are reports that Elkadi has been attempting to keep his intention to leave under wraps, such that the board was to not find out about his departure until he has secured another post comparable to Ontario International chief executive officer. Accordingly, several individuals in the know say that Airport Board President Wapner's attitude with regard to Elkadi's move is anything but positive. Those long familiar with the political relations among Ontario's officeholders and the halls of governance say there is no way Elkadi would openly seek employment elsewhere because if he did, Wapner would perceive any such move as a demonstration of disloyalty. According to them, the only saving grace for Elkadi that would prevent Wapner from moving to terminate Elkadi consists of information Elkadi possesses with regard to backroom maneuvering Wapner has engaged in which, if publicly revealed, would greatly complicate Wapner's public life and continuation as a politician. Wapner, after 31 years on the city council, has announced that he intends to run against Mayor Paul Leon in the upcoming

November election. Elkadi is privy, those currently and formerly involved in airport operations say, with regard to specific actions taken by the board in which relevant information was withheld from the remaining members of the board prior to votes being taken. He also has knowledge, they said, about directions to airport staff relating to airport options meant to benefit individuals or companies with personal, political or financial ties to Wapner, having himself conveyed those directions as the airport CEO at Wapner's behest.

Elkadi was able to land the chief executive officer positions, which is now provides him with a yearly salary of \$402,495.91 and another \$139,720 in perquisites and benefits for a total annual compensation of \$542,215.91 in essence because he was willing to subjugate the airport's and airport authority's functions to assist in Wapner's political advancement, those close to the situation in the city and at the airport relate. Elkadi in this way substituted political pliability within the encompassment of Ontario for mastering the development of relationships with airlines.

While he has developed a virtual sixth sense with regard to recognizing what business operations articulate with and feed off the airport and

whether those companies have checked in as supporters in Wapner's electioneering efforts, Elkadi has cultivated very few relationships or lasting contacts among airline executives. In the nearly four years he has been in place as CEO, he has had only a handful of meetings with the CEO, presidents or vice presidents of airlines, almost all of which took place in formalized or ceremonial settings involving dozens of others and none that involved one-on-one, two-on-one, two-on-two or similar small-scale meetings. In the handful of circumstances where intercession with the senior staff of airlines that fly into and out of Ontario International Airport with regard to some sudden, pressing or intractable problem that had cropped up, Elkadi did not know who to call and was entirely dependent on others to initiate and handle any type of high-level intercessions, those who worked in the airport's administrative office related. Knowledgeable sources dismiss the suggestion that Elkadi is a devoted and fully-engaged aviation enthusiast who has nurtured relationships with industry heavyweights in a way that distinguishes the world's top airport executives from those who are less committed. They say he is an affable marketer who is focused primarily on, and has accumulated skill at, pleas-

ing the powers that be.

More than 13 years has elapsed since the Ontario International Airport Authority was formed in anticipation of Ontario reassuming oversight of the airport from Los Angeles and its Department of Airports and the corporate entity it has for doing so, Los Angeles World Airports. Wapner, who has been the only president of the airport authority board during those 13 years, is now intent, in his run for mayor, to demonstrate that Ontario's control of the airport has been a boon to the community. While Elkadi had value to him in assisting him in using the airport for enriching his campaign donors, the time for the airport to have been transformed into an economic engine for the betterment of the community as a whole is past due. Part of Wapner's success in his role as airport board president has been attributable to his ability to isolate and compartmentalize function and information pertaining to the airport. That has involved hiring promotional expertise and even promoting promotional experts such as Elkadi into top executive positions to be able to propound his narrative with regard to the success of the airport. This approach has also involved keeping the public and other members of airport board in the dark as to the actual goings-on

at the airport. Wapner's current run for mayor now means that promotion of the airport and self-promotion will no longer suffice under the scrutiny of the intense campaign he must wage against an entrenched mayor who has been in office for two decades.

Representations of Elkadi's managerial expertise as being anything beyond ordinary are generated internally at the airport and airport authority and are overblown, the current and former airport employees say, noting that Elkadi's initial function with Ontario International Airport and aviation altogether was in marketing. Elkadi's rise with the airport authority was based primarily upon his readiness when he was moved into the position of assistant executive officer to ensure that airport operational and managerial decisions favored a host of donors to Wapner's political campaign, including contracts for goods and services secured by those donors as a result of no-bid or sole-source arrangements.

Wapner, who is the most prolific fundraiser among San Bernardino County's elected municipal officials, having raised more than \$3.3 million throughout his time in office and counting, finds any assistance Elkadi can lend him in terms of raising money

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**Bold & Quick Nighttime Vehicle Thefts Plague Southland** *from page 3*

Devore at the outskirts of San Bernardino, driving past a 2024 Toyota Tacoma owned by Brandon Hurtado. It too the tow truck eight seconds to deftly back into place behind the truck, and another four seconds to effectuate the connection and begin moving out. The movement of the truck resulted in the truck's warning mechanism to engage, with the headlights flashing and the horn blaring, but the thief just coolly

continued on. Other videos from various homes around the neighborhood caught the spectacle of the Tacoma, protesting loudly with the intermittent horn blasts and flashing headlights as it was being driven backwards, but the theft was completed without the perpetrator being caught.

Two similar thefts occurred in Rancho Cucamonga within day of one another. In one case, the vehicle was found stripped in Hesperia.

In some cases, it appears that the thief or thieves to access the inside of the stolen cars had to break a window. In others the windows

remained intact. In all known cases, trackers on the vehicles, when they were present, were disabled.

There are reports, perhaps speculative and perhaps supported by fact, of some of the vehicles going to Victorville. Further speculation, i.e., statements made without any marshaling of specific information. Is that the ring is based somewhere in Los Angeles County and that some of the cars have been worked on in chop shops, been sent overseas or were driven to Mexico.

There were two well documented cases involving the tow truck in

Carson. The omnipresence of security cameras in one specific neighborhood there showed a black car first coming into the area as if its driver or passengers are reconnoitering. The black car stops and parks and stays in place for about 90 seconds, proximate to the car or truck that is being towed. This is followed by the white tow truck arriving. Once the truck makes the hook up, the black car leaves.

In some cases, the stolen vehicles were parked on the street. In other cases, they were in the driveways of their owners.



## In Land-Rich Hesperia, Successive City Councils Did Not Want City Managers Steeped In Land Use & Urban Planning *from front page*

regard to municipal or governmentally-imposed building standards, Michael Blay, a former sergeant with the sheriff's department with whom he had once served. An object demonstration of the pro-growth orientation of the Bentsen administration was made on January 26, 2016, not even a month after he had assumed the city manager's post, with staff's presentation of the Tapestry development proposal, the follow-on to the unrealized Las Flores Ranch Development.

Terra Verde Group, it turned out, never intended to build the homes but merely obtain the entitlement to build, intending to have the actual construction handled by established home builders in the region. Issues with the availability of water, which always existed but were never cogently addressed, became an existential threat to the undertaking, entailing delay upon delay for more than four years. What eventually became clear was there was never any intention that the proponent would provide the infrastructure a 15,663-home planned development would need, and that the game plan that had existed for the Las Flores Ranch property and the surrounding acreage since Rizzo had been city manager had never changed: the developers who stood to profit by the conversion of the land would manipulate the pro-growth politicians they had bankrolled into office to force the city's staff to machinate having infrastructure costs for the project defrayed through a combination of public financing and homebuyer fees that are to be applied to the Tapestry neighborhood homes, with each homeowner who buys into the subdivision taking take on the respon-

sibility, on top of his/her annual mortgage and normal property taxes, a yearly \$4,000 to \$5,000 Mello-Roos assessment.

After a relatively short duration as Hesperia's development services director, particularly one who had no previous experience in municipal management or the issues pertaining to urban planning and development, Blay was promoted by Bentsen to assistant city manager. Having spent the their twenties, thirties and much or all of their forties patrolling streets and fighting crime, collaring armed and strongarmed robbers and drug dealers, Bentsen and Blay knew frightfully little about land use, regional planning, urbanism, zoning or what constituted adequate infrastructure. Nor did either have the skill set to redress or undo three generations of compounding infrastructure inadequacies. Instead, they defaulted to meeting the expectations of their political masters on the city council, who were demanding that the developmental imperative continue.

In 2021, Blay left Hesperia following a falling out with Bentsen and surfaced later that year as the Upland City Manager. In 2023, Bentsen, having accumulated more than 38 years across two of California's public retirement systems and thereby qualifying for what was a pension at more than 100 percent of what his salary had been as a sheriff's captain, retired.

Selected to replace him was Rachel Molina, whose experience with city consisted of serving as the Podęgracz's senior office assistant in Podęgracz's office from 2007 to 2009, as public information officer from 2009 to 2016, assistant to the city manager from 2016 to 2020, deputy city manager from 2020 to 2021 and assistant city manager in 2021.

There were misgivings galore about Molina's ability to take on the position. While she has a bachelor's degree in organizational lead-

ership from Chapman University and a master's degree in public administration from California Baptist University, her background as a municipal employee consisted of what was essentially clerical work in the city manager's office and serving as a public information officer before being moved into her deputy and assistant city manager assignments, a deviation from the traditional route into city management or senior administration, which typically involves extensive experience in municipal finance, public works or land use/planning. More concerning about Molina was the situation she was taking on with the city's overwhelming dearth of infrastructure.

An overwhelming issue in this regard is the Santa Fe railroad track's bifurcation of the city.

In the 1880s, the California Southern Railroad, a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, undertook the construction of the rail system between Barstow and Colton, entrusting oversight of that effort to civil engineer Jacob Nash Victor. Victor laid that line through what is today Hesperia, in so doing creating the community. The township of Hesperia grew up around the rail line, rather than to one side of it, and in the fullness of time, that rail line became a division in the city, a very real physical barrier. With a slight degree of curvature and variance mostly at the north end, the rail line runs essentially on a straight line through the city south-south-south-west moving south or north-north-northwest moving north, such that it divides the city east from west. The railroad tracks can be forded only at Bear Valley Road on the city's extreme north end, by means of the Myra McGinnis Bridge on Main Street in the central part of the city and the Ranchero Road Underpass at the city's south end. Santa Fe Avenue West and Santa Fe Avenue East closely par-

allel the rail line through much of the city. The east-west streets Sequoia, Pitache, Capri, Donert, Manzanita, Trinity, Sycamore, Alder, Birch, Catalpa, Hackberry, Eucalyptus, Lilac, Deodar, Mesa, Lemon, Mauna Loa, Mojave, Hercules, Willow, Vine, Live Oak, Pine, Cajon, Chestnut, Smoke Tree, Spruce, Juniper and Yucca, all of which lie between Bear Valley Road and Main Street, are divided east from west by the railroad track corridor. Walnut, Orange, Olive, Sultana, Muscatel, Lime, Palm, Elm, Joshua, Sage, Cactus, Allthorn, Mesquite, Bodart, Ash, Mission, Fremontia, Fir, Adelia, Larch and Rodeo streets and El Centro Road lying between Main Street and Ranchero Road are all prevented from meeting one another east and west of the railroad tracks. In this way, Hesperia is a city that is largely divided from itself, such that going from the east of the city to the west or vice versa often entails a commuting rigamarole and delay. Overcoming this problem is expensive, as the most recent fix to the dilemma, consisting of the Ranchero Underpass completed and opened in 2013, cost \$27 million in 2006 dollars. Thus, the entity that might be credited with being most responsible for creating Hesperia – the Santa Fe Railroad – is equally responsible for saddling Hesperia with an intractable problem, a physical and geographical division that it has yet, despite the best minds available to it during its prehistory and its 35 years as a city, been unable to solve. While certainly this is not a problem of Molina's creation nor one which can be laid at her feet, she is at this stage the one individual personally responsible for seeking a solution. As it stands, the railroad is not amenable to allowing grade crossings at any of the 51 prospective spots where traffic might move from the east side of the city to the west or vice-versa but cannot do so because of the obstruction, and

Molina has not taken the initiative to begin that dialogue.

A second serious issue is that only about 22 percent of the development in the city is serviced by sewer facilities, leaving more than 77 percent of the city reliant upon septic systems.

Hesperia, at present, has a total of 538 miles of roads, with 498 miles of paved roads and 40 miles of unpaved roads. Of those 498 miles of paved roads, 195 linear miles, give or take – roughly 39 percent – qualify as being in what is defined as good or fair condition by TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit. That leaves 303 miles of the city's paved roads in "poor" condition. Of those 303 miles of the city's poorly paved roads, 138 miles of those roads are in such an abysmal state that they are said to do more damage to the cars that drive them and represent a greater hazard – primarily because of the substantial unevenness of the roadway and the differential in traction – than they would if they were unpaved. In an untallied number of miles around the city, the foundation beneath the existing pavement is substantially eroded to the point that the pavement is prone to, or in more than passing danger of, giving way under the weight of standard passenger vehicles.

Topping all of this is the quadruple whammy of the consideration that the entirety of the city lies within a flood plane complete with nightmarish contours of the land's natural drainage, the inadequacy of the municipal storm drain system, exacerbated by the failure of the city to insist upon the elevation of all foundations to a rationale and prudent level above the flood plane level, taken together with the failure of the city post incorporation and the county pre-incorporation to insist upon barriers – something as simple as curbs – being erected between roadways and residential properties.

What many of the

city's residents recognized was that Molina, like virtually all of the men who served as city manager before her, lacked the strength of character and force of will to 1) stand up to the monetary, business and developmental interests who were intent on achieving a profit by furthering the city's infrastructure deficit and 2) the ability to husband the city's existing limited financial resources and/or enhance its revenues and direct them into an efficient and effective effort to redress the infrastructure deficit. Those residents were unable to prevent the city council from extending a \$240,000 per year salary, \$64,308.50 per year perquisites and \$127,129.86 benefits contract to Molina, which provided her with \$431,438.36 in total annual compensation contract to Molina.

Over the course of two years, events bore out the Hesperia residents who had misgivings about Molina. Development in Hesperia continued apace, particularly in the city's southeasternmost quadrant, where the Tapestry project's first phase has progressed toward completion and further phases have begun construction without crucial infrastructure in place and no clear understanding or contractual clarity on which entity is to construct it and how it is to be financed.

During the just concluded holiday season, thousands of Hesperians were given ample illustration that what many of their fellow and sister residents already recognized as Molina's dearth of both fortitude and clarity with regard to the need for communal facilities is matched by sheer ineptitude and incompetence.

Going back to 2013, California was hit with a drought which persisted for more than 12 years. The parching conditions were alleviated in December when heavy rains in general resulted in virtually every reservoir in the state aside from those under repair

*Continued on Page 12*







Public Notices

SBN#166858  
Piering Law Firm  
775 University Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
T: (916) 446-1944  
F: (916) 446-1222  
DATE (Fecha): 5/22/2025  
Clerk (Secretario), by Sa-  
brina Jamison, Deputy (Ad-  
junto)

Published in the San Ber-  
nardino County Sentinel on  
December 26, 2025 and Janu-  
ary 2, 9 & 16, 2026.

FBN20250011864  
The following entity is doing  
business primarily in Sacramento  
County as

NEXUS HORIZONS 3400  
COTTAGE WAY, STE G2 #16093  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825:  
WEALTH HEALTH LLC 3400  
COTTAGE WAY, STE G2 #16093  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

Business Mailing Address:  
3400 COTTAGE WAY, STE G2  
#16093 SACRAMENTO, CA  
95825

The business is conducted by:  
A LIMITED LIABILITY COM-  
PANY registered with the State of  
California.

The registrant commenced to  
transact business under the ficti-  
tious business name or names listed  
above on: APRIL 25, 2023.

By signing, I declare that all  
information in this statement is  
true and correct. A registrant who  
declares as true information which  
he or she knows to be false is guilty  
of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am  
also aware that all information on  
this statement becomes Public Rec-  
ord upon filing.

/s/ WANYA CASILAN, CEO  
Statement filed with the Coun-  
ty Clerk of San Bernardino on:  
12/19/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is  
a correct copy of the original state-  
ment on file in my office San Ber-  
nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy  
K9277

Notice-This fictitious name  
statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the county clerk. A new fictitious  
business name statement must be  
filed before that time. The filing of  
this statement does not of itself au-  
thorize the use in this state of a ficti-  
tious business name in violation of  
the rights of another under federal,  
state, or common law (see Section  
14400 et seq., Business and Profes-  
sions Code).

Published in the San Bernar-  
dino County Sentinel on December  
26, 2025 and January 2, 9 & 16,  
2026.

FBN20250011947  
The following entity is doing  
business primarily in San Bernardi-  
no County as

ENLIGHTENED LEARNING  
CENTER [and] ENLIGHTENED  
CHINESE CULTURE CLUB  
10722 ARROW RTE 610 RAN-  
CHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730:  
ENLIGHTENED LEGACY CEN-  
TER LLC 10722 ARROW RTE  
610 RANCHO CUCAMONGA,  
CA 91730

Business Mailing Address:  
10722 ARROW RTE 610 RAN-  
CHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

The business is conducted by:  
A LIMITED LIABILITY COM-  
PANY registered with the State  
of California under the number  
202566011815.

The registrant commenced to  
transact business under the ficti-  
tious business name or names listed  
above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all  
information in this statement is  
true and correct. A registrant who  
declares as true information which  
he or she knows to be false is guilty  
of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am  
also aware that all information on  
this statement becomes Public Rec-  
ord upon filing.

/s/ YI HU, CEO  
Statement filed with the Coun-  
ty Clerk of San Bernardino on:  
12/23/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is  
a correct copy of the original state-  
ment on file in my office San Ber-  
nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy  
K4616

Notice-This fictitious name  
statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the county clerk. A new fictitious  
business name statement must be  
filed before that time. The filing of  
this statement does not of itself au-  
thorize the use in this state of a ficti-  
tious business name in violation of  
the rights of another under federal,  
state, or common law (see Section  
14400 et seq., Business and Profes-  
sions Code).

Public Notices

Published in the San Bernar-  
dino County Sentinel on December  
26, 2025 and January 2, 9 & 16,  
2026.

FBN20250011863  
The following entity is doing  
business primarily in San Bernardi-  
no County as  
COSMOSCOPE 9431 HA-  
VEN AVENUE SUITE 100 RAN-  
CHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730:  
DIEGO RAMIREZ [and] CALON  
HIGGINS  
Business Mailing Address:  
10307 STRONG AVE WHITTIER,  
CA 90601

The business is conducted by:  
A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP.

The registrant commenced to  
transact business under the ficti-  
tious business name or names listed  
above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all  
information in this statement is  
true and correct. A registrant who  
declares as true information which  
he or she knows to be false is guilty  
of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am  
also aware that all information on  
this statement becomes Public Rec-  
ord upon filing.

/s/ DIEGO RAMIREZ, Part-  
ner

Statement filed with the Coun-  
ty Clerk of San Bernardino on:  
12/19/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is  
a correct copy of the original state-  
ment on file in my office San Ber-  
nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy  
K8168

Notice-This fictitious name  
statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the county clerk. A new fictitious  
business name statement must be  
filed before that time. The filing of  
this statement does not of itself au-  
thorize the use in this state of a ficti-  
tious business name in violation of  
the rights of another under federal,  
state, or common law (see Section  
14400 et seq., Business and Profes-  
sions Code).

Published in the San Bernar-  
dino County Sentinel on December  
26, 2025 and January 2, 9 & 16,  
2026.

FBN20250011997  
The following entity is doing  
business primarily in San Bernardi-  
no County as

ONCE UPON A CAKE 6416  
EAGLE PEAK PL RANCHO CU-  
CAMONGA, CA 91737: MARIO A  
ARROYO

Business Mailing Address:  
6416 EAGLE PEAK PL RANCHO  
CUCAMONGA, CA 91737

The business is conducted by:  
AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to  
transact business under the ficti-  
tious business name or names listed  
above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all  
information in this statement is  
true and correct. A registrant who  
declares as true information which  
he or she knows to be false is guilty  
of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am  
also aware that all information on  
this statement becomes Public Rec-  
ord upon filing.

/s/ MARIO A ARROYO,  
Owner

Statement filed with the Coun-  
ty Clerk of San Bernardino on:  
12/26/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is  
a correct copy of the original state-  
ment on file in my office San Ber-  
nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy  
K7326

Notice-This fictitious name  
statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the county clerk. A new fictitious  
business name statement must be  
filed before that time. The filing of  
this statement does not of itself au-  
thorize the use in this state of a ficti-  
tious business name in violation of  
the rights of another under federal,  
state, or common law (see Section  
14400 et seq., Business and Profes-  
sions Code).

Published in the San Bernar-  
dino County Sentinel on December  
26, 2025 and January 2, 9 & 16,  
2026.

FBN20250011967  
The following entity is doing  
business primarily in San Bernardi-  
no County as

JYNX DESIGN STUDIOS  
11250 RAMONA AVE SPC 510  
MONTCLAIR, CA 91763: MAN-  
UEL A ARIAS

Business Mailing Address:  
11250 RAMONA AVE SPC 510  
MONTCLAIR, CA 91763

The business is conducted by:  
AN INDIVIDUAL.

Public Notices

The registrant commenced to  
transact business under the ficti-  
tious business name or names listed  
above on: December 17, 2025

By signing, I declare that all  
information in this statement is  
true and correct. A registrant who  
declares as true information which  
he or she knows to be false is guilty  
of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am  
also aware that all information on  
this statement becomes Public Rec-  
ord upon filing.

/s/ MANUEL A ARIAS

Statement filed with the Coun-  
ty Clerk of San Bernardino on:  
12/26/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is  
a correct copy of the original state-  
ment on file in my office San Ber-  
nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy  
K4616

Notice-This fictitious name  
statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the county clerk. A new fictitious  
business name statement must be  
filed before that time. The filing of  
this statement does not of itself au-  
thorize the use in this state of a ficti-  
tious business name in violation of  
the rights of another under federal,  
state, or common law (see Section  
14400 et seq., Business and Profes-  
sions Code).

Published in the San Bernar-  
dino County Sentinel on December  
26, 2025 and January 2, 9 & 16,  
2026.

FBN20250011907  
The following entity is doing  
business primarily in Riverside  
County as

HB SOLUTIONS 1600 S  
SAN JACINTO AVE SPC#135  
SAN JACINTO, CA 92583: HUGO  
GALVAN

Business Mailing Address:  
1600 S SAN JACINTO AVE  
SPC#135 SAN JACINTO, CA  
92583

The business is conducted by:  
AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to  
transact business under the ficti-  
tious business name or names listed  
above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all  
information in this statement is  
true and correct. A registrant who  
declares as true information which  
he or she knows to be false is guilty  
of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am  
also aware that all information on  
this statement becomes Public Rec-  
ord upon filing.

/s/ HUGO GALVAN  
Statement filed with the Coun-  
ty Clerk of San Bernardino on:  
12/22/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is  
a correct copy of the original state-  
ment on file in my office San Ber-  
nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy  
K8168

Notice-This fictitious name  
statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the county clerk. A new fictitious  
business name statement must be  
filed before that time. The filing of  
this statement does not of itself au-  
thorize the use in this state of a ficti-  
tious business name in violation of  
the rights of another under federal,  
state, or common law (see Section  
14400 et seq., Business and Profes-  
sions Code).

Published in the San Bernar-  
dino County Sentinel on December  
26, 2025 and January 2, 9 & 16,  
2026.

FBN 20250009924  
The following entity is doing  
business primarily in San Bernardi-  
no County as

I LUV THREADS 13980  
VALLEY VIEW LANE CHINO  
HILLS, CA 91709: YVETTE H  
SCAMPERINO

Business Mailing Address:  
13980 VALLEY VIEW LANE  
CHINO HILLS, 91709

The business is conducted by:  
AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to  
transact business under the ficti-  
tious business name or names listed  
above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all  
information in this statement is  
true and correct. A registrant who  
declares as true information which  
he or she knows to be false is guilty  
of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am  
also aware that all information on  
this statement becomes Public Rec-  
ord upon filing.

/s/ YVETTE H SCAMPERI-  
NO, Owner

Statement filed with the Coun-  
ty Clerk of San Bernardino on:  
10/17/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is  
a correct copy of the original state-  
ment on file in my office San Ber-  
nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy  
K7326

Notice-This fictitious name

Public Notices

statement expires five years from  
the date it was filed in the office of  
the county clerk. A new fictitious  
business name statement must be  
filed before that time. The filing of  
this statement does not of itself au-  
thorize the use in this state of a ficti-  
tious business name in violation of  
the rights of another under federal,  
state, or common law (see Section  
14400 et seq., Business and Profes-  
sions Code).

Published in the San Bernar-  
dino County Sentinel on November  
7, 14, 21 & 28, 2025. Corrected on  
December 26, 2025 and January 2,  
9 & 16, 2026.

FBN 20250011054  
The following person is do-  
ing business as: MONTEREY  
MORTGAGE. 8608 UTICA  
AVE STE 220MM RANCHO  
CUCAMONGA, CA 91730:[  
MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX  
7614 REDLANDS, CA 92373];  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
CALIFORNIA HARD MONEY  
LENDER INC 8608 UTICA AVE  
STE 220MM RANCHO CU-  
CAMONGA CA 91730 STATE  
OF INCORPORATION CA  
The business is conduct-  
ed by: A CORPORATION.  
The registrant commenced to  
transact business under the  
fictitious business name or  
names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all infor-  
mation in this statement is true and  
correct. A registrant who declares  
as true information which he or she  
knows to be false is guilty of a crime  
(B&P Code 179130). I am also aware  
that all information on this statement  
becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ SUSAN E. FUEN-  
TES, PRESIDENT  
Statement filed with the Coun-  
ty Clerk of San Bernardino on:  
NOVEMBER 26, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a  
correct copy of the original state-  
ment on file in my office San Ber-  
nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy  
Notice-This fictitious name state-  
ment expires five years from the  
date it was filed in the office of  
the county clerk. A new fictitious  
business name statement must be  
filed before that time. The filing of  
this statement does not of it-  
self authorize the use in this state  
of a fictitious business name in  
violation of the rights of another  
under federal, state, or common  
law (see Section 14400 et seq.,  
Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino  
County Sentinel 12/05/2025,  
12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025  
CNBB49202503MT

NOTICE OF TRUST-  
EE'S SALE

APN: 0226-651-38-0-  
000, 0581-201-21-0-000,  
0271-523-63-0-000

T.S. No.: 2024-1860  
Order No. 2503078CAD

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S  
SALE YOU ARE IN DE-  
FAULT UNDER A DEED OF  
TRUST DATED 7/19/2023.  
UNLESS YOU TAKE AC-  
TION TO PROTECT YOUR  
PROPERTY, IT MAY BE  
SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.  
IF YOU NEED AN EX-  
PLANATION OF THE NA-  
TURE OF THE PROCEED-  
ING AGAINST YOU, YOU  
SHOULD CONTACT A LAW-  
YER. A public auction sale to  
the highest bidder, payable at  
time of sale in lawful money  
of the United States, by a cas-  
h-ier's check drawn on a state  
or national bank, check drawn  
by a state or federal credit  
union, or a check drawn by a  
state or federal savings and  
loan association, or savings  
association, or savings bank  
specified in Section 5102 of the  
Financial Code and authorized  
to do business in this state; will  
be held by the duly appointed  
trustee as shown below, of all  
right, title, and interest con-  
veyed to and now held by the  
trustee in the hereinafter de-  
scribed property under and  
pursuant to a Deed of Trust de-  
scribed below. The sale will be  
made, in an "as is" condition,  
but without covenant or war-  
ranty, expressed or implied,  
regarding title, possession, or  
encumbrances, to pay the re-  
maining principal sum of the  
note(s) secured by the Deed  
of Trust, with interest and late  
charges thereon, as provided  
in the note(s), advances, under  
the terms of the Deed of Trust,

Public Notices

interest thereon, fees, charges  
and expenses of the Trustee for  
the total amount (at the time  
of the initial publication of the  
Notice of Sale) reasonably es-  
timated to be set forth below.  
The amount may be greater  
on the day of sale. Trustor:  
BASEL HADDAD AND RA-  
FAH MANSOUR HADDAD,  
HUSBAND AND WIFE AS  
JOINT TENANTS, AFFECTS  
PARCEL 1; BASEL HAD-  
DAD, A MARRIED MAN  
AS HIS SOLE AND SEPA-  
RATE PROPERTY AFFECTS  
PARCEL 2; BASEL HAD-  
DAD, A MARRIED MAN  
AS HIS SOLE AND SEPA-  
RATE PROPERTY, AFFECTS  
PARCEL 3 Duly Appointed  
Trustee: S.B.S. TRUST DEED  
NETWORK, A CALIFOR-  
NIA CORPORATION Deed  
of Trust recorded 8/7/2023 as  
Instrument No. 2023-0193210  
in book XX, page XX of Of-  
ficial Records in the office  
of the Recorder of San Ber-  
nardino County, California,  
Date of Sale :1/26/2026 at 1:00  
PM Place of Sale: NEAR THE  
FRONT STEPS LEADING  
UP TO THE CITY OF CHINO  
CIVIC CENTER, 13220 CENT-  
RAL AVENUE, CHINO,  
CALIFORNIA 91710 Amount  
of unpaid balance and other  
reasonable estimated charges:  
\$608,181.69 Street Address  
or other common designation  
of purported real property:  
9662 LANNING LANE, MO-  
RONGO VALLEY, CA 92256  
AND 14101 VAI BROTH-  
ERS DRIVE, RANCHO CU-  
CAMONGA, CA 91739 AND  
3700 NORTH MOUNTAIN  
AVENUE UNIT 9C, SAN  
BERNARDINO, CA 92404  
A.P.N.: 0226-651-38-0-000,  
0581-201-21-0-000, 0271-523-  
63-0-000 The undersigned  
Trustee disclaims any liability  
for any incorrectness of the  
street address or other com-  
mon designation, if any, shown  
above. If no street address or  
other common designation is  
shown, directions to the loca-  
tion of the property may be  
obtained by sending a written  
request to the trustee within 10  
days of the date of first publi-  
cation of this Notice of Sale.  
NOTICE TO POTENTIAL  
BIDDERS: If you are consid-  
ering bidding on this property  
lien, you should understand  
that there are risks involved  
in bidding at a trustee auction.  
You will be bidding on a lien,  
not on the property itself. Plac-  
ing the highest bid at a trustee  
auction does not automatically  
entitle you to free and clear  
ownership of the property. You  
should also be aware that the  
lien being auctioned off may  
be a junior lien. If you are the  
highest bidder at the auction,  
you are or may be responsible  
for paying off all liens senior  
to the lien being auctioned off,  
before you can receive clear  
title to the property. You are  
encouraged to investigate the  
existence, priority, and size of  
outstanding liens that may ex-  
ist on this property by contact-  
ing the county recorder's office  
or a title insurance company,  
either of which may charge  
you a fee for this information.  
If you consult either of these  
resources, you should be aware  
that the same lender may hold  
more than one mortgage or  
deed of trust on the property.  
NOTICE TO PROPERTY  
OWNER: The sale date shown  
on this notice of sale may be  
postponed one or more times  
by the mortgagee, beneficiary,  
trustee, or a court, pursuant  
to Section 2924g of the Cali-  
fornia Civil Code. The law re-  
quires that information about  
trustee sale postponements  
be made available to you and  
to the public, as a courtesy to  
those not present at the sale. If  
you wish to learn whether your  
sale date has been postponed,  
and, if applicable, the resched-  
uled time and date for the sale  
of this property, you may call  
FOR SALES INFORMA-  
TION, PLEASE CALL (855)  
986-9342 or visit this internet

Public Notices

web-site www.superiordefault.  
com, using the file number as-  
signed to this case 2024-1860.  
Information about postpone-  
ments that are very short in  
duration or that occur close in  
time to the scheduled sale may  
not immediately be reflected in  
the telephone information or  
on the internet web-site. The  
best way to verify postpone-  
ment information is to attend  
the scheduled sale. NOTICE  
TO TENANT: You may have a  
right to purchase this property  
after the trustee auction if con-  
ducted after January 1, 2021,  
pursuant to Section 2924m  
of the California Civil Code.  
If you are an "eligible tenant  
buyer," you can purchase the  
property if you match the last  
and highest bid placed at the  
trustee auction. If you are an  
"eligible bidder," you may be  
able to purchase the property if  
you exceed the last and high-  
est bid placed at the trustee  
auction. There are three steps  
to exercising this right of pur-  
chase. First, 48 hours after the  
date of the trustee sale, you can  
call FOR SALES INFORMA-  
TION, PLEASE CALL (855)  
986-9342, or visit this internet  
website www.superiordefault.  
com, using the file number as-  
signed to this case 2024-1860  
to find the date on which the  
trustee's sale was held, the  
amount of the last and high-  
est bid, and the address of the  
trustee. Second, you must send  
a written notice of intent to  
place a bid so that the trustee  
receives it no more than 15  
days after the trustee's sale.  
Third, you must submit a bid,  
by remitting the funds and af-  
fidavit described in Section  
2924m(c) of the Civil Code,  
so that the trustee receives it  
no more than 45 days after the  
trustee's sale. If you think you  
may qualify as an "eligible ten-  
ant buyer" or "eligible bidder,"  
you should consider contacting  
an attorney or appropriate real  
estate professional immediat-  
ely for advice regarding this po-  
tential right to purchase. Date:  
12/16/2025 S.B.S. TRUST  
DEED NETWORK, A CALI-  
FORNIA CORPORATION.  
31194 La Baya Drive, Suite  
106, Westlake Village, Cali-  
fornia, 91362 (818)991-4600.  
By: Rita Terzyan, Trustee Sale  
Officer. (TS# 2024-1860 SDI-  
36029)

Published in the SBSC  
on 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026,  
01/16/2026

NOTICE OF PETI-  
TION TO ADMINISTER  
ESTATE OF: SUNANDA

A. ABEYSEKERA  
CASE NO.  
P R O V A 2 5 0 1 0 0 0  
To all heirs, beneficiaries,  
creditors, contingent credi-  
tors, and persons who may  
otherwise be interested in the  
will or estate, or both of SU-  
NANDA A.

ABEYSEKERA: a peti-  
tion for probate has been  
filed by SAHAN ABEY-  
SEKERA in the Superior  
Court of California, County  
of SAN BERNARDINO.  
THE PETITION for Probate  
requests that SAHAN ABEY-  
SEKERA be appointed as per-  
sonal representative to admin-  
ister the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests  
authority to administer the  
estate under the Independent  
Administration of Estates Act.  
(This authority will allow the  
personal representative to take  
many actions without obtain-  
ing court approval. Before  
taking certain very important  
actions, however, the personal  
representative will be required  
to give notice to interested per-  
sons unless they have waived  
notice or consented to the pro-  
posed action.) The indepen-  
dent administration authority  
will be granted unless an in-  
terested person files an objec-  
tion to the petition and shows  
good cause why the court

Public Notices

should not grant the authority.  
A hearing on the petition will  
be held February 5, 2026 at  
9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County  
Superior Court Fontana Dis-  
trict

Department F1 - Fontana  
17780 Arrow Boulevard  
Fontana, CA 92335  
IF YOU OBJECT to the  
granting of the petition, you  
should appear at the hearing  
and state your objections or  
file written objections with  
the court before the hearing.  
Your appearance may be in  
person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR  
or a contingent creditor of  
the decedent, you must file  
your claim with the court and  
mail a copy to the personal  
representative appointed by  
the court within the later of  
either (1) four months from  
the date of first issuance of  
letters to a general personal  
representative, as defined in  
section 58(b) of the California  
Probate Code, or (2) 60 days  
from the date of mailing or  
personal de-livery to you of a  
notice under Section 9052 of  
the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes  
and legal authority may af-  
fect your rights as a credi-  
tor. You may want to consult  
with an attorney knowledge-  
able in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file  
kept by the court. If you are  
a person interested in the estate,  
you may file with the court  
a Request for Special Notice  
(form DE-154) of the filing of  
an inventory and appraisal of  
estate assets or of any petition  
or account as provided in Pro-  
bate Code section 1250. A Re-  
quest for Special Notice form is  
available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Sahana Abeysekera:  
Mathew Alden (Califor-  
nia Bar Number 288429)  
255 North D Street Suite 200  
San Bernardino, CA 92401  
(909) 414-0797  
mra1den123@gmail.com  
Published in the San Bernardi-  
no County Sentinel on January  
2, 9 & 16, 2026.

A tactic most people have  
never heard of is to file a UCC-  
1 lien against your own as-  
sets through an LLC that you  
control. On paper, it looks like  
your assets are already pledged  
as collateral. Creditors check  
records and see secured debts  
so that suddenly your wealth  
isn't worth chasing. It's a legal  
mirage the wealthy use to keep  
predators away.

FBN20260000060  
The following entity is do-  
ing business primarily in San  
Bernardino County as

HELLO VISIONARY  
SERVICE 12686 N BEND  
CT RANCHO CUCAMON-  
GA, CA 91739: PEI CHEN  
YEH

Business Mailing Ad-  
dress: 12686 N BEND CT  
RANCHO CUCAMONGA,  
CA 91739

The business is conducted  
by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced  
to transact business under the  
fictitious business name or  
names listed above on: Janu-  
ary 5, 2026.

By signing, I declare that  
all information in this state-  
ment is true and correct. A  
registrant who declares as true  
information which he or she  
knows to be false is guilty of  
a crime (B&P Code 179130). I  
am also aware that all informa-  
tion on this statement becomes  
Public Record upon filing.

/s/ PEI CHEN YEH,  
Owner

Statement filed with the  
County Clerk of San Bernar-  
dino on: 01/06/2025

I hereby certify that this  
copy is a correct copy of the  
original statement on file in my  
office San Bernardino County  
Clerk By:/Deputy K7325

Notice-This fictitious  
name statement expires five



Public Notices

years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026.

FBN20250011999  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as LOOMIS 1715 CAPRI AVENUE MENTONE, CA 92359; CHERYL M ROGERS Business Mailing Address: 1715 CAPRI AVENUE MENTONE, CA 92359  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ CHERYL M ROGERS  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/26/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy K8168

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026.

FBN20250011746  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as MILEY’S ANGEL HOME CARE 16510 GALA AVE FONTANA, CA 92337; MILEY’S ANGEL HOME CARE LLC 16510 GALA AVE FONTANA, CA 92337  
Business Mailing Address: 14649 DEER DR FONTANA, CA 92336

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ MILAGROS AZUALA  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/16/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy J1808

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was

Public Notices

filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026.

FBN 20250011396  
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as GLOBAL INVESTMENTS [and] GLOBAL WEALTH BUILDERS [and] COREWISE ACADEMY [and] CORNERSTONE GROUP [and] ASPIRVION [and] AFFLUENTOPIA 4195 CHINO HILLS PARKWAY, SUITE E-420 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709; GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION INVESTMENTS, INC. 4195 CHINO HILLS PARKWAY, SUITE E-420 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709  
Business Mailing Address: 4195 CHINO HILLS PARKWAY, SUITE E-420 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ ALISHA CHEN, CEO  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/08/2025

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy K4616

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 12, 19 & 26, 2025 and January 2, 2026. Corrected on January 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026

XXXXXXXXXX  
FBN 20250010315

The following person is doing business as: PSALMS COFFEE. 14025 IVY AVE FONTANA, CA 92335;[ MAILING ADDRESS 311 W CIVIC CENTER DR STE B SANTA ANA, CA 92701]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LESLYE J GAZCON MUNIZ; JAIR F ZAMORANO PAZOS  
The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ LESLYE J GAZCON MUNIZ, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: OCTOBER 29, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 11/07/2025, 11/14/2025, 11/21/2025, 11/28/2025 CNBB45202501FA CORRECTION DATES 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025,

Public Notices

12/26/2025, 01/02/2025  
FBN 20250010258  
The following person is doing business as: ALEXI’SNACKS. 1524 MARJORIE AVE CLAREMONT, CA 91711;[ MAILING ADDRESS 1524 MARJORIE AVE CLAREMONT, CA 91711]; COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES RUBEN MALDONADO OLIN  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ RUBEN MALDONADO OLIN, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: OCTOBER 28, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 11/07/2025, 11/14/2025, 11/21/2025, 11/28/2025 CNBB45202504MT CORRECTION DATES 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2025

FBN 20250011422  
The following person is doing business as: RE/MAX TIME COMMERCIAL. 10535 FOOTHILL BLVD STE #460 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730;[ MAILING ADDRESS 10535 FOOTHILL BLVD STE #460 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO HOUSEKEY REAL ESTATE CORP 10535 FOOTHILL BLVD STE 460 RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91730 STATE OF INCORPORATION 2955814  
The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ELVISAORTIZ-WAYLAND,CEO  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 08, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202501MT

FBN 20250011459  
The following person is doing business as: LMI LOEZA MECHANICAL INC. 24638 REDLANDS BLVD LOMA LINDA, CA 92354;[ MAILING ADDRESS P.O BOX 492 YUCAIPA, CA 92399]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LOEZA MECHANICAL, INC. 24638 REDLANDS BLVD LOMA LINDA CA 92354 STATE OF INCORPORATION 4228150  
The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ OCTAVIO S. LOEZA, C.E.O  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 09, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Ber-

Public Notices

nardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202502MT

FBN 20250011494  
The following person is doing business as: MARIPOSA TIRE & AUTO. 12011 MARIPOSA ROAD HESPERIA, CA 92345;[ MAILING ADDRESS 12011 MARIPOSA ROAD HESPERIA, CA 92345]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MRE FAMILY LLC 12011 MARIPOSA ROAD HESPERIA CA ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION 202358316214  
The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ SHAWN EMMINGER, MANAGING MEMBER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 10, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202503MT

FBN 20250011497  
The following person is doing business as: MWM TRANSPORTATION. 10449 CALIENTE RD HESPERIA, CA 92344;[ MAILING ADDRESS 10449 CALIENTE RD HESPERIA, CA 92344]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MWM TRANSPORTATION, LLC 10449 CALIENTE RD HESPERIA CA 92344 STATE OF ORGANIZATION 202358011717  
The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ WENDY BAUTISTA, MANAGING MEMBER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 10, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202504MT

FBN 20250011580  
The following person is doing business as: COLONIAL GARDENS. 88 W 9TH ST UNIT #31 UPLAND, CA 91786;[ MAILING ADDRESS P.O BOX 2193 ROSEMEAD, CA 91770]; COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES LE VOS 88 LLC 8111 NEWMARK AVE 2193 ROSEMEAD CA 91770 STATE OF ORGANIZATION 200501310174  
The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all infor-

Public Notices

mation in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ LISA D. CHAN, MANAGING MEMBER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 11, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202505MT

FBN 20250011632  
The following person is doing business as: IRISH SEA MOSS. 9668 MILLIKEN AVE STE 104-253 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730;[ MAILING ADDRESS 9668 MILLIKEN AVE STE 104-253 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ZAINALABIDEEN A AL-OMRAN  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ ZAINALABIDEEN A AL-OMRAN, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 12, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202506MT

FBN 20250011785  
The following person is doing business as: BENSON LIQUOR & MARKET. 5685 RIVERSIDE DR STE H & J CHINO, CA 91710;[ MAILING ADDRESS 5685 RIVERSIDE DR STE H & J CHINO, CA 91710]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MG CHOHAN BROTHERS INC 5685 RIVERISDE DR STE H & J CHINO CA 91710 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA  
The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DEC 12, 2025  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ MANINDER CHOHAN, SECRETARY  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 17, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202507MT

FBN 20250011620  
The following person is doing business as: MARIA VICTORIA HOME CARE-A. 11523 PEMBROKE STREET LOMA LINDA, CA 92354;[ MAILING ADDRESS 11523 PEMBROKE STREET

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LOMA LINDA, CA 92354]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MELITA D CACHAPERO  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/MELITADCACHAPERO,OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 12, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202508MT

FBN 20250011161  
The following person is doing business as: FONTANA FAMILY MEDICAL URGENT CARE. 9717 SIERRA AVE FONTANA, CA 92335;[ MAILING ADDRESS 9717 SIERRA AVE FONTANA, CA 92335]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO FONTANA FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER, INC. 9717 SIERRA AVE FONTANA CA 92335 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION B20250209409  
The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ MAUREEN N. ARCENA, SECRETARY  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 02, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 CNBB51202509MT

FBN 20250010701  
The following person is doing business as: ROOTER FLUSHERS PLUMBING & DRAINS; ROOTER FLUSHERS SEWER & DRAINS; ROOTER FLUSHERS HYDRO JETTING & PLUMBING; ROOTER FLUSHERS HYDRO JETTING SERVICES; ROOTER FLUSHERS & PLUMBING SERVICES; ROTER FLUSHERS PLUMBING & DRAINS TRENCHES; ROOTER FLUSHERS JETTING & DRAINS; ROOTER FLUSHERS DRAINS & HYDRO JETTING; ROOTER FLUSHERS 8162 FRANKLIN ST BUENA PARK, CA 90621;[ MAILING ADDRESS 8162 FRANKLIN ST BUENA PARK, CA 90621]; COUNTY OF ORANGE ROOTER FLUSHER INC 8162 FRANKLIN ST BUENA PARK CA 90621 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 4823909  
The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ IGNAIN PEREZ, PRESIDENT  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 14, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name state-

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ment expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 11/21/2025, 11/28/2025, 12/05/2025, 12/12/2025 CNBB47202503CV CORRECTION DATES 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026

FBN 20250011799  
The following person is doing business as: HORN COLLISION WORK. 10937 S. CENTRAL AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762;[ MAILING ADDRESS 10937 S. CENTRAL AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LEANG D. HORN  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ LEANG D. HORN, PRESIDENT  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 18, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026 CNBB1202501MT

FBN 20250011854  
The following person is doing business as: PUMP CHECK. 24325 SHOSHONE ROAD APPLE VALLEY, CA 92307;[ MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 5646 RIVERSIDE, CA 92517]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JON R LEE  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JAN 01, 1999  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ JON R LEE, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 19, 2025  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
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FBN 20250011853  
The following person is doing business as: IT WORKS “ YOUR SMALL BUSINESS BUDDY “! & HANDYMAN SERVICES. 56202 TAOS TRAIL YUCCA, CA 92284;[ MAILING ADDRESS P.O BOX 168 YUCCA VALLEY CA 92286]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LARRY C CATALDO  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A  
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.  
s/ LARRY C CATALDO, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino



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on: DECEMBER 19, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026 CNBB1202503MT

FBN 20250011913 The following person is doing business as: GALICIA'S ICE CREAM & MORE. 1819 N E ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405;[ MAILING ADDRESS 1819 N E ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MAROS O RUIZ GONZALEZ The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she

knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ MAROS O RUIZ GONZALEZ, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 22, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026 CNBB1202504MT

FBN 20250011914 The following person is doing business as: GALICIA'S WATER & ICE CREAM. 8922 BEECH AVE # F FONTANA, CA 92335;[ MAILING ADDRESS 8922 BEECH AVE # F FONTANA, CA 92335]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ELSY E SALAMANCA

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ ELSY E SALAMANCA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 22, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026 CNBB1202505MT

FBN 20250011054 The following person is doing business as: MONTEREY MORTGAGE. 8608 UTICA AVE STE 220MM RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730;[ MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 7614 REDLANDS, CA 92373]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CALIFORNIA HARD MONEY LENDER INC 8608 UTICA AVE STE 220MM RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91730 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ SUSAN E. FUENTES, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 26, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that

time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/05/2025, 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025 CNBB49202503MT CORRECTION DATES 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026

FBN 20250011056 The following person is doing business as: CALIFORNIA HARD MONEY LENDER. 8608 UTICA AVE STE 220MM RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730;[ MAILING ADDRESS P.O BOX 7614 REDLANDS, CA 92373]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CALIFORNIA HARD MONEY LENDER INC 8608 UTICA AVE STE 220MM RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91730 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware

that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ SUSAN E FUENTES, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 26, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/05/2025, 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025 CNBB49202502MT CORRECTION DATES 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026

FBN 20250010417 The following person is doing business as: DAILY HOPE. 11155 FARGO CT VICTORVILLE, CA 92392;[ MAILING ADDRESS 11155 FARGO CT VICTORVILLE, CA 92392]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO VIRGINYA JOHNSON The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 8/22/2025 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ VIRGINYA JOHNSON, DIRECTOR Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 03, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/05/2025, 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025 CNBB49202505MT CORRECTION DATES 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026, 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026

# Hesperia’s Hodgepodge Development Without Regard To Drainage Has Altered The Natural Water Flow And Created Nightmarish Floods During Downpours

from page 8

being above their historic average storage, with a handful brimming at or near total capacity.

With the exception of a heavy rain season in 2011, the entirety of Molina’s time as an employee in Hesperia was unmarred by flooding of any serious consequence in the city. Moreover, the positions she held did not being her face-to-face with the engineering issues inherent in having to practically deal with how sheet flow – the shallow, thin, and broad movement of water such as that typical in storm-water runoff over a plane surface such as a field, street or parking lot without a defined channel – is to be collected and safely diverted before it converges into rills or streams and, as a consequence of volume and gravity, becomes a potentially or actually destructive force.

Because of the drought during that portion of her time with the city when she was moving into higher and progressively more responsible positions, she, like much or the rest of the employees at City Hall were lulled into a state of complacency with regard to the acute dangers of flooding – and in particular flash flooding – that is a hidden but very real element of existence in the normally very dry desert.

While at one time, particularly when the city was headed by Podgracz, there was a degree of sensitivity at City Hall to the problematic nature of inadequate drainage generally in the city and critically at specific locations, Molina, by the time she was made city manager, was removed in both a temporal and bureaucratic sense from such considerations. Rather than riding herd on Director of Public Works/ City Engineer Cassandra Sanchez, Deputy City Engineer Kevin Sin or Associate Engineer Enrique Villalobos, she simply deferred to them with regard to any engineering issues or the responsibilities and duties of the public works department. Her utter lack of appreciation of the importance of such issues, let alone possession of the experience, expertise and hard knowledge with regard to engineering issues, she was not in a position to or capable of ensuring Sanchez, Sin or Villalobos were tending to the matters that would, if not prevent flooding from ensuing if the Victor Valley was hit with a deluge, at least mitigate its intensity and impacts on particularly vulnerable areas of the city.

In more mature cities and some other regional drainage related [assets] in the Victor Valley. More recently with regard to the area and Hesperia in particular, the Army Corps of Engineers has been doing studies and planning with regard to the long planned-for and long-delayed Bandicoot Flood Control Basin and other risk assessments and feasibility studies for basins and water transfer channels to upgrade protection for Hesperia.

In this way, the community of Hesperia has in large measure needed to rely upon itself in dealing with its flood vulnerability.

In practical terms, this has come down to the city making use – and the most – of what is already at its disposal. There are some limited means of protection available to the city, both in the form of some facilities that exist for water-related purposes but which have flood control or flood diversion capability and in taking practical steps in a timely manner to either impede/divert water to a less damaging route of flow or, at the least, relocating those people and other movable assets out of harm’s way.

Among water department-related or water use-related facilities are percolation ponds, where water on the surface filters through porous earth into the aquifer – the water table underneath the ground; basins; reservoirs; pipelines; pipes; channels; flumes; culverts; and other physical means of conveying water in some order of a controlled fashion. If these facilities are in working order and have available capacity, they can be of some assistance in mitigating a flood situation by reducing the volume of water by temporarily holding it or absorbing it, moving water to another location or allowing it to escape; limiting the amount or flow of water on roads or land, diverting it to a holding facility or away from the surface and reducing the pooling of water or allowing it to flow beneath the surface of road or street without undermining it.

The functionality of these various facilities must be maintained, sometimes on a constant basis and sometimes intermittently. A crucial issue in this regard is that the flow, drafting and course of the water into them, through them, permeating them or past them consistent with the way they are designed is crucial to their functionality.

These various facilities must be maintained, sometimes on a constant basis and sometimes intermittently. The flow, drafting and course of the water into them, through them, permeating them or past them consistent with the way they are designed is crucial to their functionality.

The introduction of mud or silt into the settling or percolation ponds presents a problem. For a time, the presence of dirt or other forms of earthy soil will have a minimal impact on the percolation of water into the ground, but as fine sand, clay or dirt accumulates and settles to form a sediment, through which water will not permeate. When debris - consisting of leaves and other organic matter, twigs, branches, sticks and trash - collect in pipes, pipelines, troughs, culverts and the like, with the continued force of water in one direction and the eventual addition of sand, gravel and rocks, flow can be diminished or obstructed entirely.

The lay of the land in Hesperia presents a hodge-podge of property that has been graded or otherwise altered to accommodate improvements and development and expanses here and there that remain, basically, in their natural state, as Mother Nature birthed them. In some spots, the contour of the earth was partially a product of wind and water erosion over time, which had created arroyos, gulleys, rivulets and washes, over which water would flow with the guidance of gravity and remained in place. In others, the natural course of water flow had been altered by man’s machinations. In some cases this changed the direction of sheet flow. In other cases it resulted in the water pooling in spots it otherwise would have left. In other cases still, the water continued in the direction it had moved previously,

*Continued on Page 15*



## Why Would Elkadi Consider The \$421K San Diego International Job When He Is Making \$542K In Ontario? *from front page*

for his upcoming mayoral campaign to be superfluous, indeed irrelevant. What he needs at this point is ultracompetence in the individual running the airport, someone who can truly transform it into the nation's and arguably the world's most successful subregional

airport. He is said to recognize that Elkadi does not fit that bill, and he has therefore outlived his usefulness. According to airport insiders, Elkadi recognizes he is not long for Ontario and that he will be gone as soon as Wapner finds an airport manager who is suffi-

ciently connected to, and has an established record of successfully dealing with, the airline industry.

The strongest evidence that Elkadi is on the outs with Wapner is that he so much as considered applying for the San Diego International position. If he had succeeded in making that jump, he would give up the total compensation package of \$542,215.91 he has at Ontario Inter-

national for something substantially less, given that the published starting salary range for the San Diego International chief executive officer position is \$250,000 to \$300,000 with benefits of roughly \$120,839.75 for a total annual compensation of \$420,839.75, tops.

The Sentinel was told that when Elkadi was questioned by one of the members of the San Diego International

Airport Authority board members about why he was willing to leave Ontario, he said he wanted to remove himself from a very corrupt environment at Ontario International Airport.

Wapner and those with whom he is connected reject all such talk.

Officially, no one at the airport was willing to openly state that Elkadi is leaving or that there is even a hint of bad blood

between him and Wapner.

Lambert in a proscribed statement, wrote, "There is no truth to the rumor that Atif is looking to leave Ontario International Airport. He and his team are focused on accomplishing the board's vision as we celebrate 10 years of local control as one of the global aviation industry's great success stories."

*-Mark Gutglueck*

## The Automobile Has Upsides And Downsides *from page 2*

history" by becoming the first mainstream movie star to go the "Full Monty" in a 1963 film) was being driven in a car that rear-ended a tractor-trailer rig late one night in 1967, killing her; her manager; and the young man driving. She was 34 years old. (Her children, sleeping in the back, lived, and, despite the urban myth, no, she was not decapitated.) Her death did have one beneficial outcome however when metal bars were mandated on the backs of trucks to help prevent such "drive-under" casualties.

Now, before I step onto my soapbox for some "Philosophizing" about motor vehicles, I have two more personal stories of interest. During the latter part of the previous decade, a friend of my wife engaged in a one-woman battle against both the car culture and the Redlands city bureaucracy. She lives off one of our cross-town thoroughfares which was often used (and probably still is) by local speed-demons as a drag strip, usually late at night.

Several of those dragsters had lost control at a cross-street culvert, crashing into her house—one of which completely penetrated her study; destroyed her piano; and probably would have killed her grandchildren had they been sleeping there that night as they sometimes did. My wife and I went over shortly thereafter, and it looked like a tor-

nado had hit the house.

A long battle ensued to convince officials of the danger, and finally a flashing stop sign was installed. But it wasn't until she took proactive action; bought several huge, and almost VW Bug-sized boulders and had them placed around the front perimeter of her house, that she could sleep soundly at night.

Another friend in Redlands is fighting a battle to calm the traffic on Pioneer St. where she lives, which only has one stop sign on an almost two-mile stretch between Orange and Judson, and, like our other friend's street, is now a delight for those drivers determined to make an uninterrupted cross-town dash. She's spoken to the city, and although several permanent solutions are now being considered, in the meantime she's terrified of exiting her driveway.

Tellingly—after my friend began complaining to me about the problems on Pioneer—two young men died on that stretch when they lost control while speeding late one night and hit a lamppost. I talked to a nearby neighbor shortly thereafter and he was still profoundly shaken after his one and only experience of being the first on the scene at a fatal accident.

Although most of us have been spared that experience (one night I did see a man lying on the side of a freeway near some stopped cars, but never found out if he was alive or dead), like I've noted, almost all of us have known at least one person injured or killed in a motor vehicle acci-

dent—a toll now heading towards four million dead Americans since the first fatality in 1899, when pedestrian, Henry Bliss, was crushed by an electric taxi in New York City. Nowadays, deaths total over 100 every 24 hours. Yes, that's right: over 100.

Sometimes I wonder if anyone (and there must have been some) noticed those early casualties during the cusp of the 20th century's "auto age," and said: You know what? If we go with a transportation system consisting primarily of all these uncoordinated vehicles moving about willy-nilly, there's bound to be hundreds of deaths. Now, of course, it's millions, during which time stop lights did help, but some 120 years of exhorting drivers to "slow down and be careful," has not made much of a dent—if you'll pardon the expression.

However, there have been some noteworthy downticks to the toll, and what's done it? For one: safer cars with first seatbelts and then airbags (which saved a friend of mine when her car was broadside at over 100-miles-an-hour by a knucklehead fleeing police), both of which were fought tooth and nail by the auto industry until legislators wised up, thanks in no small part to consumer advocate Ralph Nader. But it wasn't easy.

For years it was hoped that educating the public might do the trick, with many public service commercials on TV (which some of us remember) urging seatbelts. The one I remem-

ber the most featured actors portraying people opposed to the belt, one of whom was a woman with a wrinkled nose and apparently some wrinkled dresses as well who said she didn't like seatbelts because "they wrinkle my dress."

Just before the rates of seatbelt use rose, not because of learning their benefits, but because of the laws, they'd only gotten compliance up to some 15 percent nation-wide (so much for education—and I've been an educator), but now only one state does not mandate their use for adults—New Hampshire—where their state motto is: "Live free or die." Well, I guess they still are.

But now, at a time when we're well into the second century of cars, the "Faustian bargain" with our vehicles still prevails. In exchange for the "freedom" of our cars, we've been willing to risk losing our lives; the lives of our loved ones; and friends, a list which for me now also includes a hugely talented writing colleague whose life was snuffed out one night by a driver running a red light as my friend was returning home from comforting his daughter during a crisis.

The problem is this: since those early 20th century days when we first traded our love of life for our love of cars, we've designed our culture's physical infrastructure for motor vehicles, not people, and I've always resented the fact that we didn't decide to provide alternatives for those who didn't

want to drive (or people who can't drive, like the elderly and children) that are more convenient (which rules out buses); less expensive; and, yes, far more safe.

Of course, the Los Angeles megalopolis and even many parts of the Inland Empire were once serviced by the electrically powered and far less polluting Red Cars, which both my parents would recall with fondness, but, in a well-known story, a conspiracy between oil and tire companies, plus other "vested" interests like Triple A, saw to it that all the tracks were torn up by the 1960s.

I once read somewhere that the motor vehicle is, essentially, the greatest invention yet for the consumption of natural resources—someone's wry definition that's difficult to argue with since that breathtaking consumption is fairly impossible to estimate once you consider all that's been devoured by our car culture in the last century: all the rubber; all the metals; all the oil; all the gasoline; and all the other raw materials which we've squandered.

And if you want a stark visual reminder of that statement about resources, just go to some natural area—or some back road empty fields, or a ravine—and view all the used tires left there because they're not profitable for individuals to recycle, and then weep at the waste.

In the final analysis, the car culture's proven to be a profoundly selfish; tragic; and colossal blunder both for humans; the many animals killed;

and the environment itself since the decision that our "convenience" is more important than even the air we breathe, which has been turned into a common dumping ground for toxic gases that destroy our lungs; the atmosphere; and even life itself.

Yes, perhaps it might take another 100 years or more to build the infrastructure for the sort of close-knit communities that inspire walking, biking, jogging (or low-speed electric vehicles for those who need them), where no one dies, and we vastly improve our physical health in the bargain, but it needs to be done.

Many more lives have been lost or brutally diminished in the years since I saw my father's client limping into his office some four decades ago, and it remains to be seen if we'll commit to a transformation of our transportation systems where another future is possible. Or will we continue with the status quo, destroying both all those lives in "accidents," and our life-giving atmosphere with tailpipe pollution, rendering any possibility for a healthier tomorrow a moot point.

It will be done either the painful way: when we're forced to do it, or the easy way: voluntarily, but, either way, the choice, as always, is ours.

*Phill Courtney was a high school English teacher, and while he still drives his 1970 VW Bug, he tries to run to as many places as he can. His email is pjcourtney1311@gmail.com*



# Redlands Police Department Going All In With Axon Systems *from page 5*

but also provoked major concerns about privacy, racial bias from historical data, and the lack of transparency in giving a private company access to public data. Palantir's performance in conjunction in connection with the NYPD contract was subject to criticism over the company's alleged misuse of the data entrusted to it amidst debates about data ownership and expanding public and private surveillance, issues which have not been fully resolved, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

The Chicago Police Department used Palantir's Laser (Law Enforcement Analysis and Reduction) program and predictive model software to manage its gang database and create "chronic offender scores," identifying individuals for focused police attention by analyzing criminal history, social media, and vehicle data. The department claimed that this proactively prevented violence, which was to some extent true. Nevertheless, critics assailed the department for unfairly targeting minority communities, which led to controversy and scrutiny with regard to the program's actual effectiveness and fairness. The department's efforts at predicting crime, those chastising the department said, were actually racial profiling. The effectiveness of the data analysis was vindicated by the number of arrests, though detractors said that no matter how well data points were connected and suspects rounded up, the operations did not result in sufficient evidence being obtained as a consequence of the arrests to get court convictions and most cases ended in reduced pleas.

The New Orleans Police Department used early versions of Palantir's data mining service beginning in 2012,

doing so secretly such that members of the city council did not know the predictive policing program, referred to as Project Nimbus, existed. Project Nimbus utilized software hashing through a variety of data such as ties to gang members, criminal histories, and social media to predict the likelihood that a select group of roughly 3,900 potential victims and perpetrators would commit acts of violence or become victims. Palantir's prediction model consisted of evaluating social network exchanges and postings, individuals, places, vehicles, weapons, addresses, and information contained in field interview cards, references to which were previously were held in separate databases. The program, which was extended three times through February 21, 2018 corresponded to a temporary drop in violent crime, though the department and the district attorney's office have said it's not clear that Palantir's program was responsible for that reduction. When the existence of the project was revealed, there was widespread outrage over what were perceived as undue secrecy and violations of privacy.

Palantir undertook a predictive policing pilot program in Santa Cruz in 2011, utilizing data to predict and reduce property theft and gang activity. After an early show of success in which officers received timely alerts relating to car theft, controversy ensued as there was scrutiny and concern with regard to alleged algorithmic bias and the perpetuation of racial profiling and inequality, ultimately leading, after a prolonged debate, to the city banning such technology.

In the course of all of this, the term "predictive policing" has become an undesirable label. As a consequence, Palantir and the agencies with which it contracts substitute terms such as "intelligence-led policing" or "data-driven analysis."

All of this debate about potential viola-

tions of citizens' privacy and civil rights has not prevented local agencies from entering into or intensifying their contracts with Axon and Palinter.

On November 25, 2025, the Rialto City Council approved having the city enter into a nine-year, \$14.3 million augmentation contract with Axon Enterprise Inc., which is also known as TASER International, to increase an existing contract it had for supplying the police department with surveillance, video, information processing and storage, software, and artificial intelligence technology. The package the city purchased, Axon's Officer Safety Plan 10 (OSP 10), includes making upgrades to the body-worn and in-car camera system that has long been deployed by the department, the company's next generation of digital information storage and retrieval system, automated video analysis, license-plate readers and the Rialto Police Department's first Drone-as-First-Responder program.

Rialto since 2012 has had a contractual relationship with Axon for the provision of body-worn cameras used by the police department's officers.

While the Drone-as-First-Responder fleet is to consist of unmanned surveillance craft provided through the company's Axon Air division, the department already had in place three drones as part of the department's unmanned aircraft system, which has been referred to by using the nomenclature "UAS/Drone."

According to the department, it has in its inventory a single DJI Mavic 2 PRO remote-controlled aircraft, purchased at a cost of \$1,500, and two EVO 11 PRO remote-controlled aircraft, purchased for a total cost of \$3,750, which are "utilized to enhance the safety of the community and officers." Each of those drones, equipped with video cameras, have come into use, according to the department, "when its view would

assist officers or incident commanders with the following situations, which include but are not limited to 1) major collision investigations; 2) search for missing persons; 3) natural disaster management; 4) crime scene photography; 5) SWAT [special weapons and tactics] tactical or other public safety and life preservation missions; 6) in response to specific requests from local, state or federal fire authorities for fire response and/or prevention."

On December 16, 2025, the Redlands City Council approved a \$3,544,704 agreement with Axon to replace city police department's existing body-worn camera and drone programs with two different vendors and include digital evidence, drone and virtual reality technologies to the follow-on arrangement it is entering into with Axon.

Included in the \$3.54 million package was the next generation of body-worn camera equipment and software, a drone program, virtual reality training tools and Axon's Justice Suite. The vote included an appropriation of \$708,940 from the general fund and the police department's asset forfeiture fund to cover a portion of the costs.

The agreement dispenses with the department's body-worn camera system, secured in 2022 under a five-year lease with another company, LensLock, for 110 cameras. The new system, according to the department, does not have limitations in the evidence uploads of the previous cameras and accompanying software, which require that officers dock cameras at the police station to upload video. This could entail a two-week delay in getting evidence to the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, officials said. The footage could not be reviewed or shared immediately, and was difficult to share both with the district attorney's office and other entities entitled to view such footage, such as federal agencies

and defense attorneys. The district attorney's office uses Axon Justice for its digital evidence management, compiling, transcription and redaction. The department's LensLock body-worn camera system was incompatible with that platform, requiring prosecutors to manually import data. City officials said the new agreement will allow evidence to be shared securely within hours rather than weeks and reduce the time department personnel must devote to manual processing of the data.

The Redlands Police Department justified the transition by noting it processes roughly 1,441 video evidence or discovery requests per year, and spends on average 1.25 hours of personnel time handling each request. The transition to Axon Evidence will automate that workflow and reduce overtime, the city maintains. The new body-worn cameras include a real-time translation feature, automatic dictation of recorded audio, and geo-positioning system tracking, along with automatic activation.

The Redlands Police Department elected to go all-in with Axon, canceling its previous contract with LensLock for the body worn cameras, its contract with DJI for drones and its contract with Flock/Motorola for license plate readers in favor of the comprehensive contract with Axon. Axon will use Skydio drones to supplant the DJI drones. The Skydio drones, which have live aerial and thermal imaging capability, will be stationed in enclosed docking units on city-owned rooftops. They are to be used for so-called first response to reconnoiter situations when officers are en route to incidents that could be dangerous.

"No other vendor offers a comparable integrative solution with the same level of interoperability," said Redlands Police Department Chief Rachel Tolber. "Axon's platform is widely adopted across law enforcement agencies and is considered the industry

standard amongst localized partners and agencies."

The agreement extends to the employment of the Axon Fusus platform, which integrates live data from body-worn cameras, drones, license plate readers and other systems into a single interface, supporting current operations and potential future real-time information center capabilities.

It was not clear how the city will settle up with Flock, Motorola, DJI and LensLock upon leaving them in the lurch.

The San Bernardino Police Department has a contract with Palantir to use its Gotham platform for the integration and analysis of various data with regard to city residents, allowing it to build intelligence profiles and identify individuals and rank their likelihood to be involved in criminal activity and whether they might be chronic or serious offenders even if they do not have criminal records, using characteristics such as tattoos, immigration status, bank account information, place of residence and whereabouts on a constant basis or within a certain timeframe.

The San Bernardino Police Department also has a \$750,000 drone first responder program, funded with \$562,500 allocated to the city by the County of San Bernardino and \$187,500 provided to the city by a Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) grant.

The Ontario Police Department's Real Time Information Center utilizes drones to improve police department response and increase department members' understanding of the circumstances they are about to encounter.

-Mark Gutglueck

## Foreign Drug Transporters Caught *from page 3*

ican communities."

Governor Newsom's office made no response to McLaughlin's statement.



**Molina Referred To The Fifth Or Sixth Worst Flood In The Last 90 Years As A “1,000-Year Storm Event”** *from page 12* but with an intensification of force.

Rachel Molina officially became Hesperia’s city manager in June 2023. That gave her not quite two-and-a-half years to make sure that Jeremy McDonald, who was serving in the capacity of public works director in 2023 and subsequently moved into the position of water operations manager in 2024 and Sanchez, who succeeded McDonald as public works director in February 2024, utilized the city’s public works staff to clean the debris out of all of the city’s pipes, pipelines, troughs, culverts and water passages and remove the mud and silt from the percolation ponds, basins and reservoirs in the city. That did not occur and neither did Molina, as forecasters in mid-December were predicting an “atmospheric river” was going to hit Southern California in such a way that the Mojave Desert was to have a very wet Christmas, call upon the public works department to utilize excavators, backhoes, bulldozers, loaders scrapers, graders, trenchers and dumptrucks at its disposal or obtainable at short notice from the San Bernardino County Flood Control District to undertake trenching along the side of those roads without curbs where doing so would provide prevent the sheet flow from transforming streets into raging rivers or to create at crucial locations in the city impromptu water holding basins to mitigate the flash flooding that ultimately occurred on December 24.

Homeowners at various locations around the city were overwhelmed with water inundating their homes and property, encountering what were repeatedly described as “tidal waves” when they came outside and then encountering streets that were likened to rivers which made driving away if not impossible,

highly advisable, leaving them stranded. Many others who were not at home when the storm touched down experienced the converse, being unable to approach their homes, in some instances from a single direction, in others from two directions and in others still, from four directions.

There is some debate as to which area of the city was hardest hit. A strong case in that regard is the environs of the intersection of Maple Avenue and Muscatel Street, where Hesperia’s subregional water recycling facility is located. The basin there filled entirely and began overflowing. At a relatively early point after the downpour began, the wall around the facility failed sending a violent sheet of water east on Muscatel and north on Maple.

Competing for first in the category of the greatest show of irresistible force by out-of-control water in the city was the raging river that formed on Sultana Street, making transit on the road virtually impossible and leaving some motorists at several spots stranded when they attempted to ford it and the water level reached above the car’s ignition and exhaust systems. The situation on Sultana was exacerbated by the failure of a bubbler, a device used to measure water level and water pressure as well as the air flow rate through a piping system and prevent water backup, which resulted in more water being added to the flow. There was a report that, additionally, a subsurface water main on Sultana broke, resulting in hundreds of thousands of gallons of water being interjected into the excessive water. The city did not confirm this report. There have been previous instances of failure involving Sultana Street water mains.

Aspen Street and Pionon Avenue between Olive Street and Aspen Street were both described as “raging rivers” by local residents at certain times during the storm.

It was remarked that had school been in ses-

sion, which it was not because of the holiday vacation, the lives of students at Cottonwood Elementary School would have been in danger because of the flooding of the campus and on Cottonwood Avenue.

The flooding was so intense along Aspen that the water tore a gorge between Maple Avenue and Cottonwood Avenue that exposed multiple below-ground utilities.

Elsewhere in the city, the water created havoc.

A drainage watershed at Farmington and Coyote Trail that intersects with the California Aqueduct at that point was carrying so many tons of water with unchecked force that the aqueduct, part of the State Water Project was damaged.

A low-lying area in the south of the city near Ranchero Road rapidly filled with water, overflowing and creating water flows that made passage extremely challenging.

In multiple locations across the city the earth beneath the city’s already compromised roads was undermined by the torrents of water passing through.

Mud drifts of one to two feet were general throughout the city. In some cases mud drifts nearing five feet overwhelmed streets and properties. One resident reported that water and mud that exceeded a level higher than one foot had sloshed into over 200 homes in the area south of Main Street and west of the Santa Fe Railroad tracks.

A multitude of residents reported being unable to reach anyone at City Hall when they phoned to report road outages or request assistance. Other who did get through related that the requests for help went unheeded.

On January 6, the city council convened a special public meeting to allow the city council to receive and file an update from Molina on the city’s response to the December 2025 storm. The meeting’s public comment period turned into a forum at which the city’s residents had an opportunity to express their

views with regard to what virtually all of those who showed up characterized as the city’s inadequate measures to mitigate the impacts of the flooding. Molina used the meeting to defend the way in which she and city staff had reacted to what she said was for the city an unprecedented challenge.

“Public works did prepare for the storm,” Molina asserted, insisting city staff members “prepared signage across the city, inspected construction sites, ensured that basins were clear.” Moreover, she and other members of the city’s leadership team had “identified staffing that would be local in town during the holiday and staged equipment across the community.”

It was the intensity of the storm that undid all of that responsible preparation, she said.

“By mid-day on Christmas Eve, as our residents have shared, it was evident that the storm was significantly larger than we’ve experienced in several years,” she said. “The city’s emergency operations center was activated on Christmas Eve. Staff has been working in response to that event ever since.”

In making her presentation, Molina relied upon a report that had been prepared for her by Public Works Director Sanchez, which Molina said would “help put structure around the kind of storm event that we experienced just two weeks ago.” Sanchez’s “analysis of the magnitude of the storm” supporting her contention that the city had done the best it possibly could in a very difficult and overwhelming situation.

In this way, she suggested that what Hesperia had sustained on December 24 was something between a 500-year flood and a 1,000 year flood.

A 500-year flood is defined as the maximum amount of water flow statistically likely to occur during a single storm over a 500 year period. A 1,000-year flood is defined as the maximum amount of water flow statistically likely to oc-

cur during a single storm over a 1,000 year period. Of relevance in such comparisons and predictions is the concept of a 100-year flood. A 100-year flood is defined as the maximum amount of water flow statistically likely to occur during a single storm over a given century. The longer the time period in the flood calculation, the greater the level of flooding. Thus, statistically, a 500-year flood would result in greater, indeed significantly greater, flooding than a 100-year flood and a 1,000-year flood would represent greater anticipated flooding than a 500-year flood.

There are, Molina said, quoting from Sanchez’s report, “various watersheds across the city.”

One of these watersheds, Molina said, was the “H-01 drainage course, which she said “saw almost 5.7 inches [of rain] in less than 12 hours duration, meaning that it saw between a 500-year and 1,000-year storm event. This resulted in the basin at Maple Avenue and Muscatel becoming overwhelmed by flows and debris. And it did cause that wall to fail. This breach resulted in neighboring streets becoming damaged as flows traveled east and large amounts of sediment reached the bubbler on Sultana.”

Molina continued, “Regarding the basin at Maple and Muscatel: It is intended to percolate water and it had been successfully doing that the last couple of rain events. Again, it would not be able to take in that much water that it experienced. All the basins were clear prior to this event. And so, while some people don’t believe that to be true, many of the basins have an earthen bottom. Each basin was visited prior to this event and had been successfully working. Now, with the damage, sediment and mud in the basins, yes, that has to be cleaned out. That’s not going to just soak in and go away. That’s part of one of the projects that we’re actively working on. We had staff working across

the city on cleanup and also contractors working on Third Avenue, so the work is happening and thankfully with better weather we’re able to do it a bit more quickly.”

According to the city manager, “Further down the watershed at the end of H-01 line, there is a basin there near Third and Fourth and Mauna Loa, so this overtopped and washed out part of Third Avenue.”

Without directly stating so, Molina came across as suggesting that part of what occurred in December could be attributed to a decision more than a decade ago by the Jerry Brown Administration to do away with redevelopment agencies, thereby depriving Hesperia of funding needed to complete some flood control projects.

“With respect to a break in the water main, I am not aware of a water main break,” Molina said. “We are not aware of a break. There has been no water main break in Hesperia.” She immediately adjusted that statement, however, acknowledging, “There has been a minor break but not a major break. While that is something that is circulating, the water department says no, that is not the case.”

Referencing stormwater infrastructure that was constructed prior to 2010, the year Brown was elected to his third term as governor after he had previously served two terms as governor from 1975 to 1983, Molina said, “This infrastructure was constructed using redevelopment monies, which is a funding source that used to be available to cities in California before Governor Brown eliminated that funding source. This storm drain system has two ten-foot diameter pipes that inlet at Hickory and they run just under two miles. In 2008-ish, the construction of that project was about \$11 million, using redevelopment money. Where that basin outlets is where we saw a massive amount of stormwater flow, again a 500- [to] 1,000-year storm event.”

Molina said, “The

*Continued on Page 16*



## Molina's Remarks Left The Impression Her Sense Of Hesperia Geography Is Somewhat Imperfect *from page 15*

DOT [Department of Transportation, i.e., freeway] watershed saw approximately six inches in less than 12 hour duration, meaning it saw a 1,000-year storm event that hit Ranchero Road. And so, when we're talking about rain in a community that on average sees between five and ten inches [of rain] per year, to receive that amount in one 12-hour period or 24-hour period – none of these basins were designed to capture that. It is maybe a once-in-a-lifetime type of event. According to statistical information available to engineers, the Christmas Holiday hasn't seen a storm event like this in our region since the 1970s."

What delays did occur were understandable and defensible, Molina said, given that city staff was serving in multiple roles during the storm.

"As access is becoming easier it's allowed us to do more of that reaction [inspections in field and work on damage assessment]," she said. "With the storm still happening, with water still standing and some of the streets undrivable, we didn't send assessment teams out in the middle of that. A lot of the teams we have are wearing multiple hats. We are managing this with the staff we have available."

The city acted promptly, decisively and properly to the storm, Molina said.

"In response to this event, we did declare a state of emergency and robust storm cleanup has been under way across the city," she said. "We had people working in the city every single day. When there is water flowing, sometimes there's not a lot of work that can be done in those moments, but work has been happening every single day, throughout the holidays, throughout the weekends. We appreciate hearing from

residents who have been impacted by this event because we do want to hear those individual stories and we want to say that. 'Yes, we are not blind to what is happening in the community.'"

A substantial cross section of the city's residents were unaccepting of Molina's contentions. Her narrative was harmed by the manner in which she adhered to the script of Sanchez's report, during the reading of which she stumbled repeatedly, which betrayed that she had at best an imperfect conception of the lay of the land of the city she oversees.

Among the water-drenched landmarks in the city she referenced was what she referred to as the "H-01 drainage course." Molina said, "This watershed begins near Farmington and Coyote Trail and crosses the aqueduct and before it passes through the basin at Maple and Muscatel, this pipe discharges at the basin near Fourth Avenue and Mauna Loa."

The intersection of Farmington Street and Coyote Trail is southwest of the Maple Avenue and Muscatel Street intersection. According to Molina's skewed directional reckoning, at least as she verbally presented it on January 6, she places the Fourth Avenue and Mauna Loa intersection southwest of the Maple Avenue and Muscatel Street intersection.

Molina on January 6 betrayed more than her geographical disorientation during her presentation, showing she was challenged with regard to mathematical calculations pertaining to the intensity of the rainfall on December 24 and 25.

She repeatedly stated that the rain that fell on Hesperia over that roughly day-and-a-half period on Christmas Eve and Christmas to have exceeded the volume of water in a 100-year flood, while emphasizing that this exceeded the capacity of the city's existing drainage systems.

"A lot of our infrastructure is constructed to withstand a 100 year storm event," she said. The implication was that the downpour she described as somewhere between a 500-year flood and a 1,000-year flood overwhelmed the system in place.

Contained within her statement was evidence that the December 24/25 storm was nothing approaching a 100-year flood, let alone a 500-year flood or 1000-year flood. With one of her statements, Molina acknowledged that similar flooding had occurred in the 1970s. At another point, she referred to the Christmastime deluge as a "once in a lifetime type of event." The 1970s occurred a half century ago. Based upon the reference to the storm in the 1970s, what occurred last month was a fifty year storm. Using the Biblical life span quantification of "three score and ten," it was a 70-year storm and it would be reasonable to expect that a storm of the magnitude that occurred over the Christmas holiday would occur not just once in 500 years but somewhere between seven or eight times and somewhere between 14 and 15 times every thousand years.

The Hesperia residents attending the January 6 meeting let both the city council and Molina know they were not buying her claim that it was Mother Nature and former Governor Jerry Brown who were to blame for them being washed out of their homes and unable to drive on their streets.

One resident after another came before the council to inform the council that city staff members had failed to do their jobs and had failed those who lived in the city.

Contrary to Molina's after-the-storm claims, residents said, the city had neglected to carry out upkeep of the city's flood control basins ahead of time, causing them to overflow.

Virginia Whelan spoke for many when she suggested that it was not just city employees who were at fault but the

politicians ultimately in charge at City Hall who were pursuing the developmental imperative and employing city staff members who abide by and perpetuate a culture in which infrastructure goes unbuilt or neglected so those bankrolling the elected officials can profit at the community's expense.

"Everybody has been failed in Hesperia because of laziness, lack of care," Whelan said. "You are forgetting about us. You are getting money. You're signing off on all of those housing tracts, not caring where that extra water flows because you've ruined the whole natural flow of the water. Nobody can tell me that I have a river flowing through my yard every time it rains. It was swift running water. Several times I almost got knocked off my feet."

Houses were inundated with water and the city did nothing to prevent it ahead of time or while it was ongoing, Whelan said. "The city manager is accountable for that," Whelan said. "She's in control of everything that goes on – with public works, with the water district. And what about the water main? Did that really blow? That's what I've heard. That's an ongoing issue because it's happened several times at that location. I have proof of that because I've made several calls on that before when it caused a river going down Sultana."

City officials could not credibly say they did not know what was coming, Whelan said. "It's a problem they knew about every time it rains," Whelan said.

It was apparent Molina is in trouble.

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey tried to rally to her defense.

"I heard that you were going to have a flood meeting and I thought I should be here to own up to some of the responsibility on the responses during the flood," Munsey said. "It is my responsibility to provide fire rescue and EMS [emergency medical services to your city. The

night of the 24th, [there] was significant rain. It was devastating. I'll say God is good, because no one lost their lives. But I'll also say God is devastating in this county. We are the third-rated disaster county in the United States. We are going to see floods over and over again in our beautiful deserts. There's only so many dollars in the world we have to apply to the needed infrastructure. When we live in this desert community where can have the amount of rain we had the 24<sup>th</sup> [and] the 25<sup>th</sup> that comes so quickly, it's hard to keep up."

Munsey said, "I think the city did a couple of good things: Rachel making sure that the council declared that disaster declaration. That local disaster declaration's going to bring needed dollars into the city to help restore the infrastructure. It's going to suspend some of the California Environmental Quality Act that we have to abide by, unfortunately, that keeps us from doing our job and keeping the citizens safe. It's going to allow us to bypass that."

Munsey added, "Rachel, I also want to offer the full resources in these cleanup efforts. We have heavy equipment. We have hand crews. We are absolutely willing to get in the flood control basins and even get into residents' houses. If you have severe flooding in your house, we want to send our hand crews in to help you clean that mud out and that debris. That's what your fire department's for."

The city council cannot openly criticize Molina, since doing so would bring its own judgment into question. Still, support for Molina on the council or lack thereof at present has a degree of political import. In November, Mayor Bennington, who represents the city's District 4, Councilman Cameron Gregg, who represents District 3 and Councilwoman Allison, who represents District 2, are up for reelection. With a substantial element of the city's electorate less than pleased with the way city staff

reacted to the storm and many of those convinced it was Molina's responsibility to coordinate that response, standing firmly behind the city manager could result in any single council member or two or all three being voted out of office.

On January 6, Gregg proved to be the most aggressive of the council members questioning Molina.

In 2023, Bennington was the member of the city council as it was then composed who was most strongly in favor of promoting Molina into the city manager's post. In addition, as a former city employee, Bennington is the council member most sympathetic to staff generally and elected official in Hesperia ready to stand up for employees and decide issues in their favor. That she was, during the January 6 meeting, at best lukewarm in her defense of staff generally and Molina specifically, appears as a belwether.

On January 6, District 5 Councilman Josh Pullen, who was first elected to the council along with Chris Ochoa, representing District 1 in 2024, conveyed that he was not swallowing Molina's representations that staff had come through the test of the December storms with flying colors, saying that he yet wanted an "after action review" of the storm response, such that "we take an honest look at what we did right and what we did wrong." He expressed the view that "We're always quick to fund response and recovery but we don't fund preparedness."

While there are no issues that would provide the basis to terminate Molina with cause, her contract, under the terms expressed in the contract, allows the city, upon 30 days notice, to terminate her without citing cause, as long as the termination takes place at least 120 days prior to or 120 days after a city council election, whereupon Molina would be due a severance payout equal to six months of her salary, which at this point is equal to \$127,308.