

The San Bernardino County

News of Note
from Around the
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in the Lower
48 States

Sentinel

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State Appeals Panel, Like Federal Court, Against AMR Keeping Ambulance Franchise

A three-judge panel in the Fourth Appellate District in California's Court of Appeal has ruled in favor of San Bernardino County in American Medical Response's contesting of the board of supervisors' 2023 decision to end what was that ambulance company's three-decade-long virtual monopoly on emergency transportation in the 20,105-square mile county.

The question has now become whether American Medical Response, known by its acronym and logo AMR, will roll the dice on a further appeal to the California Supreme Court.

Throughout the first six decades and well into the seventh decade of the 20th Century, competition among ambulance companies was wide open, with different providers of emergency medical transport ser-

vice operating whenever and wherever they could. By the 1940s, ambulance company owners were utilizing their access to police and fire dispatch frequencies to send their vehicles to the scenes of accidents, mayhem or medical emergencies, alerted by the communications between fire stations and firefighters or police and sheriff's stations and officers patrolling in the field. Generally speaking, those who

arrived first gathered the prize of delivering the injured party to the hospital, collecting a fee for doing so.

The owners and operators of the ambulance companies sought to locate their stations and garages or to position their ambulances during the day and night at positions that would give them an advantage at arriving first at those places where they were most needed, beating the

competition. Throughout the 1950s, 1960s and into the 1970s, there were thousands of incidents where one ambulance crew working of one company or another would be traveling full tilt in one direction to get to an accident or medical emergency and would pass another ambulance owned by another company going in the opposite direction to get to a different person in need of medical as- See P 2

Tran's Political Tour De Force Blocks Council Majority Move To Eliminating Mayoral Post

In a last-ditch effort, San Bernardino Mayor Helen Tran stemmed yet further erosion in the erosion of the power and prestige she holds as the 34th municipal leader of the county seat.

Tran, the city's one-time human resources director who left the city when she had a run-in with her predecessor as mayor and then gave up a lucrative career as a

municipal administrator to return as a vanquishing heroine and occupy a position that many thought might prove a major step on her way to eventual occupancy of the Governor's Mansion in Sacramento, has learned just as literally a dozen of what were seemingly upward bound politicians before her came to know: the gavel she wields seems

to be cursed.

The power that was once vested in the San Bernardino mayor and what remains of it is of a highly nuanced nature, requiring deliberate, delicate and carefully calibrated maneuvering.

For 111 years, the mayor's influence was more, or was potentially more, administrative than it was political. Nevertheless, during

that era, the post was, if held by a skillful political operator, a powerful political position. Eleven years ago, the mayor's administrative authority was taken away, necessitating that the mayor's political instincts and skills needed to be honed to perfection if he or she was to be an effective leader.

The City of San Bernardino came into be-

ing, more or less, in 1853 with the Mormon migration to California and the establishment of a settlement – at that time a fort – in San Bernardino. It had two mayors in the early days but when Brigham Young called the Mormon faithful back to Salt Lake City in the winter of 1857/58, civic organization was put on hold until the city officially incor- See P 2

U.S. Supreme Court Lets California Congressional Gerrymander Stand

With the February 9 deadline to make a final decision approaching, the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday cleared the way for California to use the gerrymandered congressional map Governor Gavin Newsom and his Democrat cohorts were able to get the state's voters to approve in November which

was drafted to result in five of the 12 California Congressional seats now held by Republicans being filled by Democrats following the November 2026 election.

The only change in the state's electoral map that is likely to impact San Bernardino County consists of the possibility that Repub- See P 3

County Schools Superintendent Rallies To AVUSD's Defense Re: Board Member's Growing Deficit Alarm

A controversy has developed over what officials with the Apple Valley Unified School District and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools' division of business advisory services has acknowledged was the repeated transfer of substantial amounts of money in what are otherwise the

Apple Valley district's sequestered accounts for funds earmarked for specific purposes.

In a recent opinion piece by a member of the Apple Valley Unified School District's Board of Trustees, Renee Longshore, published by the Victorville-based Victor Valley Daily Press, note was made that the

district in some of its financial documentation provided to her, other members of the board and the public, there was a discrepancy between what shown as deficit spending and decreases in the district's reserves.

Additionally, in the opinion piece, which appeared in the paper on January 22, See P 3

was drafted to result in five of the 12 California Congressional seats now held by Republicans being filled by Democrats following the November 2026 election.

The only change in the state's electoral map that is likely to impact San Bernardino County consists of the possibility that Repub- See P 3

Ontario Chaffey Community Show Band To Perform Valentine-Themed Songs February 23

The musicians of the Ontario Chaffey Community Show Band and the Keith Family are proud to present a program entitled "Love Is In The Air" on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will be held in Gardiner W. Spring Auditorium, located on the campus of Chaffey High School at 1245 N. Euclid Avenue

in Ontario.

The Woodwind Celebration Ensemble will present a pre-concert recital in the auditorium lobby at 7:00 p.m. Complimentary coffee and cookies will be served in the lobby prior to the concert. The performance is free to the public.

The February concert will feature many selections related to Valen-

tine's Day and the spirit of love. The show will be highlighted by special guest artists vocalist Skip Cain and jazz saxophonist and vocalist Jeff Waldon. Show Band soloists will include trumpeters Steve Collins and David Grasmick and a vocal by Show Band Director Pat Arnold.

Skip Cain a becoming a regular with the Chaffey Community

Show Band. His vocal repertoire includes songs of joy, romance, and love from yesteryear and today. Skip's repertoire ranges from Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Tom Jones, Lionel Richie, Tony Bennett, James Brown, Wilson Pickett, and Teddy Pendergrass. Skip will perform "I've Got You Under My Skin," "The Way You Look Tonight,"

and the Tom Jones mega-hit "It's Not Unusual."

Jeff Waldon will be making his first appearance with the Show Band. Waldon has been performing at local venues throughout Southern California for more than ten years as a solo artist and as a guest performer with many bands. He will be playing the Burt Bacharach ballad "Here I Am" and the See P 3

Trona Mining Company To Lay Off More Than Half Of Its Workforce

The largest employer in the northwesternmost tip of San Bernardino County is cutting the number of its employees by more than half.

In recent months and years, Trona-based Searles Valley Minerals has been beset on all sides by financial challenges, including steeply rising operational costs including water prices, government regulation, competition in the form of foreign-government subsidized underpricing of one of its primary products by its major international competitors and California's rising energy prices.

Searles Valley Minerals Inc. is a raw materials mining and production operating out of three distinct locations in and around Trona within Searles Valley and overseen by a corporate office in Overland Park, Kansas. Since 2008, it has been owned by the Indian company Nirma. The operations at Trona pertain at this time almost entirely to the mining of natural soda ash and extraction of boric acid, salt cake, sodium carbonate, sodium carbonate and specialty forms of borax and salt from Searles Dry Lake. The mining/extraction process consists of utilizing purified water to soak the earth in the lake to create brine, thereafter liberating the minerals from the solution.

Gold and silver prospector John Wemple Searles came across the borax in the dry lake later named for him in the 1860s and by the 1870s

See P 3

**San Bernardino
Mayors Historically
Had Administra-
tive Reach & Veto
Power, Which, If
Wielded Skillfully
Translated Into Po-
litical Power** *from
front page*

porated in 1869.

San Bernardino had no mayor from 1869 to 1905 because it was incorporated as a town rather than a city during that period, governed by a board of trustees rather than a mayor. The municipality fluctuated between being unincorporated and incorporated as a town or city, formally becoming a city again in 1886 and later, with the adoption of a new charter 1905, returned to a mayoral system.

That 1905 charter, which called for municipal elections in odd-numbered years and provided for a mayor, city attorney, city clerk and city treasurer elected at large and councilmen elected to represent wards, created what in municipal parlance is referred to as a strong mayor form of governance. While the mayor had no voting power as

the presiding member of the city council under normal circumstances, as the presiding officer he wielded the gavel and officiated over the meeting, controlling the ebb and flow of debate, with unfettered freedom to place items for action or discussion before the council. He had the power to break a tie-vote, and veto power on any votes that ended either 4-to-3 or 3-to-2, which in practical terms meant that on any issue where the vote was going against the position the mayor held, he in fact had two votes.

More significantly still under the 1905 charter, the mayor had administrative power equal to or indeed greater than his political power. The 1905 charter endowed the mayor with the power to hire and fire city employees. This made the mayor, in a sense, a co-regent of the city with the city manager. And if the mayor had differences with the city manager, the mayor could fire him.

On one level, the mayor had attenuated political power in that he did not, on most routine items, vote. Yet, on items that went his way, he did

not need to vote. And unless the items that did not go in accordance with his preference passed by what in those days was a 4-to-1 or 5-to-0 vote and later, when the city went to seven instead of five wards, by a 5-to-2 or 6-to-1 or a 7-to-0 vote, he could use his veto to change the outcome. Moreover, if he were skilled and persuasive, he might be able to pull or push, cajole or wheedle, influence or maybe even intimidate a majority of the city council to see things his way.

That level of power was inherent in the position. Some of those who wielded the gavel chose to exercise that power. Some did not.

In 2013, a year after San Bernardino had declared bankruptcy and during the last full year of Patrick Morris's term as mayor, discussion began over the revision of the 1905 charter. A committee of citizen volunteers was formed to adjust city operations, which led to a proposal to eliminate the elected city attorney, city clerk and city treasurer positions and the mayor's administrative authority

and move elections to even numbered years. That change was put on the 2016 ballot as a measure to be voted upon by all city residents, whereupon it passed, 27,478 or 60.57 percent in favor and 17,890 or 39.43 percent in opposition. As a result, San Bernardino was transformed from a city with a strong mayor form of government to a council/city manager model in which the council as a panel set city policy which the city manager carried out, such that the administrative and managerial authority once infused in the mayor was attenuated and his or her power of hiring and firing was discontinued, remaining only insofar as having one of eight such votes on hirings of the city manager, city attorney, city clerk and city treasurer/finance director.

In 2018, John Valdivia, who had been the Third Ward councilman, defeated Carey Davis, who had succeeded Mayor Morris, in Davis's reelection effort, becoming the city's 33rd mayor. Valdivia, who was consumed by overreaching ambition, had

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**Mercy Ambulance
Established A Near
Monopoly In San
Bernardino County
In The 1970s, Which
AMR Eventually
Inherited** *from front
page*

sistance.

The closest thing to an industry leader in San Bernardino County at that time was Cole Schaefer Ambulance, the dominant ambulance service provider in neighboring and far more heavily populated Los Angeles County. Cole Schaefer had approaching 200 ambulances in its fleet, but more than 90 percent of them were devoted to the area west of San Bernardino County and its coverage was limited largely to Chino, Montclair, Upland and Ontario and their surrounding unincorporated county areas.

In the early 1970s,

in what was then the most heavily populated area of San Bernardino County, the east and west San Bernardino Valleys stretching from Redlands and Mentone in the east to Chino and Montclair in the west, four relatively young men in their late 20s and early 30s – Terry Russ, Homer Aerts, Don Reed and Steve Dickmeyer – each owned and operated his own ambulance company. All four had been granted access to local emergency dispatch centers' radio transmissions, and when a call for an ambulance went out, depending on where their vehicles happened to be at the time, they or the other drivers they employed would rush to the scene. In the late 1970s, the four got together and resolved to stop their blind competition and instead coordinate their responses by apportioning the shared geography they

were serving into operating zones. The next step was to merge their separate companies into one – which was called Mercy Ambulance. Fortified by the increased profits that resulted from their merger, the four directors of Mercy Ambulance were able to make political donations to members of the board of supervisors, to the various city council members in the communities where Mercy was entrenched and to the county sheriff. Within three years of its formation, Mercy Ambulance became a major political donor and player, rivaling developers and other holders of the county's various service franchises. Using that influence, it began to squeeze smaller ambulance companies out of the San Bernardino County picture entirely, buying them out, forcing them into bankruptcy or driving them

out of the area. With or without being granted exclusive operating areas, Mercy claimed a virtual monopoly in San Bernardino County, such that its only competitors were the ones willing to run just one or two ambulances in remote locations where it was not profitable for Mercy to operate. Mercy's advantage and profitability had become so overwhelming that it was able to create an air division, consisting of helicopter ambulances which could fly to remote areas of the desert and mountains to retrieve and transport the injured in a fraction of the time it would take to reach them by traditional ground-based ambulances. This put Mercy Ambulance on the cutting edge of the ambulance industry, which over the course of a decade-and-a-half made Russ, Aerts, Reed and Dickmeyer fabulously wealthy. By the

summer and early fall of 2019, he had four and even five members of the council whose votes he could count on. One by one, those votes began to slip away as his administration was beset with political miscalculations or elements of his overbearing personality clashed with one, then two and then three of the members of the council who had been his allies. Even as his ruling council coalition dissolved, the reality of what the 2016 Charter had obliterated the administrative authority that had resided with

Continued on Page 4

late 1990s, the four were in their 50s and 60s and had grown weary of the bustle and intensity of providing a service with life-or-death implications 24 hours a day and 365 days per year. They sold Mercy Air Ambulance to a Japanese company and headed into comfortable retirement. That left a vacuum, which a few companies, including some start-ups and a few with existing operations just outside the county's periphery, sought to fill. Gradually at first and then with greater ruthlessness as it succeeded, Greenwood Village, Colorado-based American Medical Response, Inc. – AMR – took over from Mercy as the county's preeminent emergency medical transport provider. The company took a leaf out of Mercy's playbook and began making substantial political contributions, primarily to in-

cumbent politicians, in an effort to ingratiate the company with the powers that be, in essence solidifying its hold on the exclusive operating zones that had by that point become an intrinsic part of the ambulance industry in California and in San Bernardino County. The smaller ambulance companies competing for a piece of the San Bernardino County pie, like those that two and three decades previously had tried to stay in place while Mercy was taking over, could not afford to buy such influence through political donations. Soon, those companies dried up and blew away, at least in San Bernardino County.

Simultaneous with granting first Mercy and then later American Medical Response the virtual monopolies those companies held, a rationale for doing so evolved

Continued on Page 5

Show Band Performing A Gardiner Spring Auditorium On February 23 *from front page*

Duke Ellington song "In a Sentimental Mood."

Also featured will be songs about the perils of love, including "Love Potion Number Nine" sung by Pat Arnold, and Jeff Waldon singing "Ain't No Sunshine When You're Gone."

Show Band trumpeters Steve Collins will perform "Misty" and

David Grasmick will provide a rendition of "We've Only Just Begun."

The musicians of the Show Band will be featured on the songs "Love Is Sweeping the Country" and the beautiful "Come Rain, or Come Shine."

Concertgoers will also hear "Love Is In The

Air."

Those near and far should feel free to invite family and friends.

Those who want to support the Show Band can do so by visiting and feeding our Hungry Tuba located in the lobby.

The concert will be broadcast on local Ontario cable Channel 3. Check your cable listings for the date and time.

The Ontario Chaffey Community Show Band was founded in 1985 by R. Jack Mercer and is now under the direction

of Mr. Patrick Arnold and assistant directors David Schaafsma and David Grasmick. Band members represent at least two dozen communities throughout Southern California. Adult musicians and students are invited to participate. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 7 to 9:00 p.m. at the Chaffey High School Jack Mercer Band Room. The band performs monthly concerts on the campus of Chaffey High School as

well as at other venues throughout the community. All performances are free to the public.

For more information about the concert visit the Show Band website at www.showband.net or contact Pat Arnold at pat@showband.net. The "Friends of the Ontario Chaffey Community Show Band" is a registered charity under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c)(3); EIN # 46-1422958. Donations are welcomed. Checks

may be made out to: Friends of the OCCSB, P.O. Box 1512, Ontario, CA 91762. Concert goers interested in being included on the Show Band mailing list are encouraged to fill out an information card at our events. Be sure to follow the Show Band on Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and our website at www.showband.net.

Supreme Court Allows Democrat's Gerrymander To Stand *from front page*

lamic Congressman Ken Calvert, whose current 41st District in Riverside County was eliminated in a bid by the Democrats to end his political viability entirely, will now challenge 40th District Congreswoman Young Kim, who represents the southwesternmost portion of San Bernardino County.

At present, forty of

California's 52 Congressional seats are held by Democrats. From the outset of the gerrymander effort which began last summer, the Democrats' intent was to thin the ranks of California's Republican Congressional delegation even further.

That move required voter approval, which Newsom and the Democratic state legislature obtained by placing an initiative on the ballot in a specially-called election, at a cost of \$282.6 million, in November.

A coalition of Republicans challenged the unusual maneuver and the elections outcome, but in a terse, one-sentence order, the justices turned down that request to have the state utilized the electoral map that was drawn in 2021 by a nonpartisan commission using data from the 2020 U.S. Census which was used in the last two federal election in California.

The court's order came two months to the day after the justices, over a dissent by the

court's three Democratic appointees, granted a request from Texas to allow it to use a new map intended to allow Republicans to pick up five additional House seats in that state.

It was that action by the Texas legislature last July which triggered the events leading to the California map change.

Texas's gerrymander favoring Republicans did not go unchallenged by Democrats in that state.

After that map change was made, a suit was reported deficit spending: \$2,474,673.34 in the 18/19 calendar year, \$1,308,535.72 in 19/20, \$2,633,546.27 in 20/21, \$3,524,903.99 in 21/22, \$2,467,852.44 in 22/23, \$3,049,644.15 in 23/24, and \$98,500.18 in 24/25. In fact, over the past seven years, funds were off \$15,459,155.91."

According to Longshore, in the piece appearing in the Daily Press, said the documentation provided to her and the other board members showed "reserves have decreased at a higher rate than the

years as an entity such as a school district receives revenue in excess of its costs, in those years where the revenue diminishes or remains the same while operational costs increase above the amount of money coming in, deficit spending occurs. Deficit spending eats into a district's reserves.

Longshore, in the

piece appearing in the Daily Press, said the documentation provided to her and the other board members showed "reserves have decreased at a higher rate than the

According to Longshore, who came into office in December 2024 after first being elected in November 2024, there is a mystery as to "where this money went." She asked, [W]hat happened to \$15,459,155.91, and

filed alleging the redrafting of the congressional districts would hamper fair representation of Latinos in certain areas of Texas. A court injunction blocked the map but in Governor Greg Abbott, a Republican who had invited the Texas legislature to make the map change to prevent the Democrats from obtaining a majority in the House of Representatives in the 2026 mid-term election and hamstringing President Donald Trump and his administration in the last how long has this gone on?"

Longshore indicated her belief and/or perception that the quality of education in the district was being diminished while district employees, in particular those who are higher up, are making more money. Without saying so directly, she implied that the district's priorities were askew.

Despite past salary increases, Longshore said, teachers are asking for more money, even as revenue to the district is flattening out.

two years of his current term as president, sued to force the Texas redistricting to go forward.

In Abbott v. League of United Latin American Citizens, the lower court agreed with those challenging the new map that the "legislature's motive was predominantly racial."

The court majority on December 4 issued an order putting that ruling on hold. Justice Samuel Alito's opinion, joined by Justices Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch, *Continued on Page 15*

"As AVUSD navigates impasse with certificated staff, school sites have been asked to consider cuts," she wrote in the piece that the Daily Press published. "Unfortunately, classroom spending these past few years has already gone down. The AVUSD School Board has not been clearly informed, according to the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team's (FCMAT, an outside auditor) report presented at a Special Meeting/Workshop of the board of trustees on October 7, *Continued on Page 7*

Apple Valley Unified Board Member Longshore Questioned Hefty Administrative Salaries And School District's Mounting Deficit Spending *from front page*

Longshore noted that district revenue had grown by 57 percent between fiscal year 2018/19 and 2024/25 but that the district had also seen a 39 percent increase in teacher and pupil support staff salaries and a 45 percent increase in what the district pays for books and supplies. She expressed concern that over the same six year period, the district had

sustained a 90 percent increase in the cost of employing supervisors and administrators.

Reserves are the accumulative amount of money an entity such as a school district accrues as a consequence of spending less money in a budget cycle than it receives in revenue during the same budget cycle. While those reserves can be built up over the

who owned the Pacific Coast Borax Company.

The dry lake and its surrounding area are rich in trona and a host of minerals.

In 1914, a joint British/South African company, Consolidated Gold Fields, anticipating the need for potash during what was then called the Great War and now referred to as World War I completed the Trona Railway line from Searles

Station to a junction with the Southern Pacific Railroad. Simultaneously, the American Trona Corporation established the company-owned town of Trona adjacent to Searles Dry Lake, and the production of potash began in 1915. In 1926, after becoming the Trona Corporation became the American Potash & Chemical Corporation, it began producing borax, soda ash, and sodium

sulfate.

The town of Trona during the 1940s during peak production as part of the U.S. war effort, at one point had a population of nearly 7,000, making it the 11th largest city/town in San Bernardino County. Most of its residents were employees of the mining company and those employees were paid in company scrip rather than US currency, which was used to pur-

chase goods at company-owned stores, meals at company-run restaurants or secure entertainment or diversion at company-owned movie theaters, bowling alleys or pool-halls.

In the post World War II-era to the present, there were several innovations in the mining and refining operations with regard to liberating the differing minerals from the dry lake brine includ-

ing the use of a lime kiln and massive industrial boilers, some of which were fired by coal, gas or cleaner-burning coal fired up on a fluid bed. A steam-carrying pipeline was installed. At various times, emphases on

the final product or products being derived shifted among potash, borax and sodium sulfate.

In 1956, the Stauffer Chemical Company ac-

Continued on Page 7

Trona Dry Lake Mine Made A Significant Contribution To Both World Wars' Armament Industries *from front page*

was mining borax under the name of the San Bernardino Borax Mining Company, conveying the product to San Pedro by mule team-pulled wagons. Searles sold his operation to Francis Smith,

Tran Materialized Out Of The Chaos, Dysfunction And Corruption Of The Valdivia Regime

from page 2

the mayor in the original 1905 Charter fully dawned on Valdivia. He found himself in a role that was nowhere near as dynamic, consequential and impactful as what he had envisioned and he was soon flailing about, trying to assert power he did not have, lashing out at members of the council when they failed to coalesce into the ruling majority he needed to build the record of accomplishment as mayor he needed to propel his political career forward. The best he could do was to engage with elements of the business community, promising them the council's support for their projects, licensing applications, franchise bids or service provision/supply vendor contracts he could not truly deliver on in exchange for donations to his electioneering fund which led to the perception that mayoral regime was steeped in a pay-to-play ethos. In his effort to reassume the administrative authority that had been taken from the mayor with the [adopting] of the 2016 Charter, early on in his tenure he orchestrated the forced departure of City Manager Andrea Travis Muller and then sought to broker with her two successors – Teri LeDoux and Robert Field – a deal by which they would retain the title, pay and benefits of being city manager but surrender or defer to him the administrative, ministerial and managerial authority of the city manager's post, in essence undoing the reform in the charter change that had done away with the city's strong mayor form of government. Valdivia's attempt to obtain LeDoux's connivance to remake himself into co-city manager ultimately failed and was only slightly more successful while Field was city manager.

Valdivia's tenure

as mayor was further marred by his efforts to manipulate, order intimidate or otherwise orchestrate city employees, in particular members of city staff working in the mayor's office to engage activity that several of them considered to be harassment, improper or politically motivated. No fewer than five of those employees lodged civil suits against Valdivia and the city over their treatment. Three of those five suits have since ended in settlements favorable to the employees. Caught up in the fallout from the charges brought forth in those claims and lawsuits filed against Valdivia by those employees was the city's human resources director, Helen Tran. As one of the city's top seven administrators/department heads whose duty included ensuring that city employees not be exposed to a hostile working environment, Tran found herself caught between Valdivia, ostensibly the highest ranking and most powerful political figure in the city and at City Hall to whom she was, through the city manager, answerable and the employees, three of whom were women who claimed that Valdivia among other things had been pressuring them to have sex with them. The women – one-time mayoral assistant Karen Cervantes, one-time senior customer service representative Mirna Cisneros and mayoral office field representative Jackie Aboud – maintained that the city administration, most pointedly Tran because she was the head of the human resources division, had failed to protect them from Valdivia. The record shows that Tran, while she was San Bernardino human resources director, expressed concern that Valdivia was insisting upon Cisneros accompany him to after-hours functions that were not part of her job assignment. Tran said she was not informed while she was still a department head with San Bernardino of any sexual harassment on Valdivia's part, instead instituting

Nevertheless, she was convinced that remaining in San Bernardino in the role of human resources director might prove problematic professionally for her, given the way in which city employees were being put upon by Valdivia and the risk she had to run in offending him and potentially put her job into jeopardy by continually writing him memos about it. Toward the end of 2019, after reaching an understanding with David Carmony, then the city manager of West Covina, that he would hire her as human resources director there, she resigned from her position as human resources director in San Bernardino, where she was being provided with an annual salary of \$150,824.47, perquisites and pay add-ons of 17,151.41 benefits of 56,089.73 for a total annual compensation of \$224,065.60.

Except for making the daily 86-mile round-trip commute from San Bernardino, where she lived, to West Covina, the transition was relatively painless for Tran, as West Covina paid her \$144,805 in salary, another \$13,762 in perquisites and pay add-ons, \$109,273.07 in benefits for a total annual compensation \$267,840.07.

Her final year in San Bernardino, where she had begun in 2006 as an executive assistant to the human resources director, stuck in Tran's craw. In many ways, the job in San Bernardino, where she was making very good money and she had to drive just a few miles to get to work, was a dream assignment. She greatly resented that Valdivia had ruined things for her and her family. Moreover, Tran was not without some degree of political ambition herself.

As Valdivia's term as mayor was winding down, a member of the city council, Fourth Ward Councilman Fred Shorette, who had long been at odds with Valdivia, floated a proposal to alter the charter and do away with the elected mayor's post, instead instituting

a policy of rotating the mayoral function among the seven members of the council. Valdivia and others both affiliated with him and his rivals opposed the concept and the Shorette's proposal died quietly, while those displeased with Valdivia redoubled their efforts toward having him removed through the traditional electoral process.

Tran, along with five others, challenged Valdivia in the 2022 mayoral race. Despite the consideration that Valdivia had a campaign war chest that was twice that of all six other candidates combined, he finished third in that year's June Primary. Tran found herself in a run-off against the city's former elected city attorney, Jim Penman. Tran's association with the Democratic Party served her well. Since she was a freshman in high school, she had volunteered on the campaigns of Democrat candidates, including that of a career politician Joe Baca, Sr., who spent 13 years in Congress and seven years in the California Legislature. At present, Baca is the mayor in neighboring Rialto. Throughout high school and into college and beyond, Tran remained politically involved in working for Democrats seeking election or reelection. In the 2022 contest, she had the solid support of the local Democratic Party.

She also had the advantage of the city's experience with Valdivia being the backdrop to the race. Valdivia had achieved his early political success as a Penman protege, but Penman had grown alarmed as the younger man had involved himself in scandal upon scandal when he was mayor. Penman tried to redefine himself as someone who rejected the values Valdivia had gravitated to and rejuvenate his legacy by displacing him as mayor. For much of the electorate, however, Penman was too closely tied into Valdivia, and Tran soundly defeated him 16,869 votes or 62.78 percent to 10,002 votes

or 37.22 percent.

Tran came into office in December 2022. Virtually the entire city council welcomed her into the mayor's office, with the possible exception of Third Ward Councilman Juan Figueroa, who had been selected with Valdivia's backing by the Third Ward's voters during a special election in 2019 to fill out the remaining two years of Valdivia's term on the council following his 2018 election as mayor.

Tran featured a multiplicity of advantages and positive traits. She was a relatively young, attractive, well-educated, well-dressed and articulate Asian woman, indeed the first Vietnamese-American woman to be elected mayor of an American city. Those advantages fed upon themselves and immediately upon her victory over Penman, she was widely perceived among Democrats in San Bernardino County, Los Angeles, Southern California and the entire state as heralding the wave of the future. Instantly, she was being discussed as the Democrats' standard bearer in future races for county supervisor, state Assembly, state Senate and potentially the governorship.

In short order after actually taking on the mayoral role, however, difficulties for and with Tran arose.

Just as had been the case with Valdivia, Tran did not appreciate before she was mayor the degree to which the mayor's actual power under the 2016 Charter had been attenuated. The San Bernardino mayor's position was completely devoid of administrative authority and its political power was entirely dependent upon the personal dynamism of the mayor. A mayor who was ready, willing, able and determined to engage in back-room political horsetrading could, conceivably and realistically, come to dominate governance in San Bernardino. This would require that the mayor study each member of the city council,

or at least a majority of the members of the city council, learn what that council member's hierarchy/priority of needs and goals are, engage in multiple and involved dialogues with those council members and broker deals among them for each of them to realize their goals by agreeing to support each other in what they are looking to accomplish and simultaneously steer the collective into a consensus to simultaneously support the mayor's agenda. Reaching such a consensus is a time-consuming, drawn-out, painstaking process. It soon became apparent that Tran did not have the combination of time, patience, presence, perseverance or commitment to assemble a ruling coalition on the council.

An illustration of how Tran's attitude, approach and personality were incompatible with the ideal qualities of someone in an elected leadership role were her appearances at the meetings of the several joint powers authorities or regional planning entities in which she was enrolled as mayor. Such meetings are ideal forums for elected and appointed officials that take part in them to meet, greet, trade notes, form alliances and bonds and network with their counterparts from other cities and governmental agencies. Tran would be present at the meetings, but, other observed, not there. While government officials from various jurisdictions were interacting with one another or listening intently to a speaker's presentation, she would be engaged with her cellphone. Not only do such meetings feature decision-making sessions and votes on those entities' agendaized action items, but in-depth discussions or exchanges that would go on for many minutes or even hours among some of the participants after the meetings were concluded. Tran never took part in these. By the time the meetings adjourned, Tran was long gone.

She very early on

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Inclusively Benefiting For A Generation Of Exclusive Operating Zones, In 2023, AMR Found Itself Excluded from page 2

among the politicians who were accepting their political donations. The *de facto* restrictions on other companies competing with them were not referred to as monopolies but rather as franchises and then later exclusive operating zones.

The ostensible reason for granting first Mercy and then AMR the freedom from having to compete was that operating ambulances is an expensive proposition, not to mention one that is crucial to public health and safety. Competition between ambulance companies has the potential, so the reasoning went, of driving down the prices those companies charge to the point that their operations would not be profitable enough for them to remain in business. If these ambulance companies were to go out of business, there would be insufficient emergency medical transportation service available to ensure public safety. It was for this reason that those monopolistic arrangements – the exclusive operating zones – were established and perpetuated.

Criticism of both the concept of and actuality of exclusive operating zones did surface from time to time. In one notable case, in 2014, the San Bernardino County's firefighters' union, known as Local 935, suggested the exclusive operating approach had on occasion created critical shortages in the High Desert's ambulance transport system, as AMR had prepositioned none or very few ambulances in certain remote areas of the county, and there were no companies competing with it to provide service in their absence. For years, the county's decision-makers ig-

nored warnings issued by firefighters and others, allowing the AMR contract to be "rolled over" in what the county referred to as "a grandfathered process." Grandfathering is defined as allowing something or someone to continue under old rules or conditions even after new, stricter rules or laws have been established, providing exemptions from the new regulations due to pre-existing status, often to ease transitions or avoid penalizing established practices.

The 2017–2018 San Bernardino County Civil Grand Jury in its final report issued in June 2018 recommended that the county solicit bids for the provision of emergency ambulance support in a wide range of so-called "exclusive service areas" for the first time in 37 years. Obliquely and politely, indeed without directly referencing the degree to which hefty campaign contributions from AMR have bought influence on the board of supervisors, the grand jury report raises the issue of the favoritism shown toward AMR over the years and the way in which the company has been allowed to adhere to older and lower standards that were in place

when it obtained the ambulance service franchise while the county is insisting that the companies that would compete with AMR hew to higher and more expensive standards. This phenomenon in which the government shows such favoritism to a preexisting entity that is not shown to a newer entity is referred to as "grandfathering."

In 2022, in what some called a long-overdue move and others said was a sweeping overreaction, the county initiated a competitive process to improve its emergency medical system, issuing a request for proposals, seeking bids from companies or entities offering ambulance service interested in obtaining a revamped exclusive contract to provide emergency medical service. The request for proposals set forth

three overarching goals for its procurement process, extending to improving service delivery to customers and local public safety agencies, to establish a more efficient emergency medical service system and to make investments back into the system. There were two responses to the request for proposals, one from American Medical Response and another from Consolidated Fire Services, a joint powers authority that provides communications, dispatch, computer information systems support and geographic location information to its nine founding member agencies – the Apple Valley Fire Protection District, Chino Valley Independent Fire District, the Colton Fire Department, the Loma Linda Fire Department, the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department, the Redlands Fire Department, the Rialto Fire Department, the San Bernardino County Fire District and the Victorville Fire Department – and four later-joining contract agencies – the Big Bear Fire Department, the Montclair Fire Department, the Running Springs Fire District and the San Manuel Fire Department.

In its response to the request for proposals, AMR stated it could commit 12,889 weekly unit hours to respond to calls and that it had 111 ambulances stationed throughout the service area available during times of peak system demand, with 39 additional ambulances available to meet surges. It emphasized that it was the current provider of the service with vehicle infrastructure in place and that it employed 10 managers and 18 field supervisors and a medical director familiar with the needs of the service area. The company offered rates of \$3,958 for both basic life support and advanced life support, \$2,834 to carry out an inter-facility transport, and \$4,392 for critical care transport. In its proposal, ConFire said it would subcontract with Priority

Ambulance, which also serves Maricopa County in Arizona and could devote 10,371 weekly unit hours to respond to calls, that it would have 93 ambulances available at peak demand, with 45 additional ambulances available to meet surges throughout the service area, and that it would establish ambulance staging locations, put on-board personnel in place and acquire vehicles upon receiving the contract. It offered an assurance it had sufficient leadership and management personnel to meet the demands of providing the service, including nine managers and 18 operations supervisors, as well as a medical director, noting it currently controlled the regional emergency services communication system. Its proposed rates for its advanced life support service were \$3,547 for non-emergency and inter-facility transfer, \$4,053 for emergency transport, \$2,533 for non-emergency basic life transport, \$3,167 for emergency basic life transport and \$5,067 for critical care transport.

The county impaneled a proposal review committee, the four members of which the county stated would remain anonymous but who were, the county maintained, thoroughly knowledgeable and experienced in emergency medical response and capable of making a fair examination of the proposals.

The four evaluators scored both proposals, utilizing 14 guideposts that included response time, equipment, vehicles, personnel, disaster preparedness, deployment plans, financial and administrative qualifications and the quality, modernity and location of each competitor's emergency dispatch center. AMR overall was given a marginally higher cumulative score than ConFire, scoring 1,519 points to 1,515. One of the evaluators had given a far higher score to American Medical Response than to ConFire which was not in keeping with the other evaluations, as

three of the four judges ranked ConFire higher than AMR. ConFire received individual scores of 383, 384, 363 and 385. American Medical Response scored 373, 419, 346, 381. After considering the competition results, the county in June 2023 sent letters to both AMR and ConFire stating that because the scores for both proposers were "substantially equivalent" it intended to "move forward with negotiations" with both entities.

Over the course of those negotiations, a primary factor influencing the members of the board of supervisors was that Assembly Bill 1705, passed in 2019, allows an ambulance service provider operated by a governmental entity such as the state, a county, a city or fire protection district to receive a supplemental Medi-Cal reimbursement when the patient being transported is a Medi-Cal recipient, in addition to the payment the provider would otherwise receive for that service. By contracting with a government-operated provider like ConFire, the county would be able to capture those supplemental Medi-Cal payments, whereas if the county contracted with a private sector provider such as AMR, it would not be eligible for such reimbursements. Thus, the added "value" of the arrangement involving ConFire dictated that the county contract with it rather than AMR, despite AMR's "marginal" overall superior score by the combined four evaluators.

At the conclusion of those negotiations in late October of 2023, the board of supervisors decided to offer ConFire the contract to provide ambulance service for San Bernardino County from October 2024 through September 2029. AMR was granted a six-month extension of its then-current contract to give ConFire time to prepare to assume its new responsibility in San Bernardino County, but the existing franchise holder nevertheless

lost its bid for the new contract, despite having submitted a proposal that received a marginally superior score from the county's evaluators. AMR lodged a protest, alleging the county had failed to follow the selection procedures, had not adhered to requirements specified in the request for proposal, had awarded the contract to the entity that had lost in the competition, and had otherwise violated state and/or federal law. At its December 5, 2023 meeting, the board of supervisors unanimously passed a motion to deny AMR's appeal and voted to enter into the contract with ConFire and its subcontractor, Priority Ambulance until 2019. Present at the meeting were an AMR spokesman who did not identify himself and Mike Rice, the company's vice president of operations, who made no comments. After the meeting concluded, Rice grew vocal, charging that the board's decision was going to put "29 fewer ambulances a day on the road than what" his company proposed. He said AMR was going to sue the county.

On April 30, 2024, American Medical Response made good on that threat, filing civil suits in both federal court and San Bernardino County Superior Court. In the federal suit, AMR's legal team alleged the county's action ran afoul of the Sherman Antitrust Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1890 to prohibit trusts, monopolies and cartels, promote economic fairness and competition, to regulate interstate commerce and "preserve free and unfettered competition as the rule of trade for the benefit of consumers."

The Federal District Court for the Central District of California dismissed AMR's federal antitrust claim, without leave to amend, based on a precedent arrived at in the *Parker v. Brown* case which was ruled on by the U. S. Supreme Court in 1943. In that decision, the Supreme Court held

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While Highly Presentable In Public, Tran's Backroom Effectiveness & Ability To Engage And Persuade Other Ego Driven Politicians Has Prove Suspect *from page 4*

earned a reputation as a show horse rather than a workhorse. At such joint powers or regional governmental authority meetings, groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings and the like, Tran would show up, be prominently visible when the cameras were present, effectively getting photos of herself with other movers and shakers or elected officials into newspapers or on television, web pages or into social media. Nevertheless, in terms of assembly a voting coalition consisting of, at a minimum, four votes on the council to obtain passage of the items on her agenda, she consistently fell short. There

were recurrent accounts, pertaining to both the first two or three weeks after the 2022 election and then the two or three weeks after the 2024 election where Tran had meetings with one or two of the members of the city council. Those accounts were remarkably similar. Tran was cordial, hopeful and confident, expressing the need for a new beginning in San Bernardino. Her expressed expectation was that her leadership was to be acknowledged and that it was in the best interest of the council members for them to follow her lead. What was presented, essentially, was Tran's presumption that she already in political control, could count on the votes of the other members of the council who were not present and that she was extending an invitation or an opportunity for the council member or council members she was meeting with to join her team, which was represented as intact and in charge. In 2022, every one of the council members she met with following her election, all seven of whom had been in office for at least two years at that point, knew and fully appreciated what Tran did not know or fully appreciate: that the mayor

had no administrative authority, the mayor had no vote on routine matters and the only political authority or power that a mayor in San Bernardino possessed was what he or she earned through hard work and coordination with the members of the council. So, while Tran had in essence given the seven members of the council an ultimatum of sorts - "Join my team or else" - each council member knew the "or else" was merely a bluff and that Tran had no leverage to speak of. Virtually from the outset, Tran was off on the wrong foot with the members of the city council.

In the aftermath of her 2022 election and before she was sworn in to office, Robert Field, who had been the city manager hired by Valdivia in 2020 and who had facilitated, with only sporadic success, Valdivia's effort to recapture as mayor the administrative authority that had been removed from the mayor in the 2016 Charter, tendered his resignation. Field, perhaps correctly, perhaps inaccurately, believed that he would be unable to work with Tran as mayor, given that she had just deposed the mayor he had shown such allegiance to. In this way, Tran found herself in a fix from the moment she became mayor. The City of San Bernardino's ship of state at that point was rudderless, adrift without a captain to steer the ship. There began immediately an effort to find and hire a city manager. Early in Tran's tenure, the city turned to Charles McNeely, who had been the city manager from 2009 to 2012, having come to San Bernardino from Reno, Nevada. Even before McNeely had arrived the first time, San Bernardino was hampered by a structural/institutional fiscal deficit that had existed for nearly a decade. Over the course of three

years, McNeely had been unable to cure San Bernardino's penchant for spending more than it earned, and a mere three months before the city filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection, McNeely had resigned the city manager's post, not wanting to be the city manager of record when that historic event took place. The city had exited bankruptcy in 2017, and in January of 2023 McNeely, who was by that point retired, availed himself of the opportunity to come back for a short time to the city under less dire circumstances than when he had left it, and the city was hoping that it would benefit by having an experienced and competent municipal manager guiding it while the city made conducted a recruitment of candidates to serve as city manager and then evaluated them to select one with the suitable experience, skills and temperament to competently plan, organize, direct and control municipal operations over an extended number of years to provide San Bernardino with the consistency and stability it had lacked going back to the time when Fred Wilson, the city manager prior to McNeely, was in charge of the city.

McNeely had been brought in as the interim city manager with the understanding by all that he was to be there only for the period while the search for a permanent city manager was ongoing and that he was not to be considered as a candidate for the permanent job. Two or three months into that temporary assignment, McNeely began to warm to the idea of returning to San Bernardino as the full-fledged city manager. Some on the council thought that idea had merit. Others, conscious that McNeely had already eclipsed retirement age and was not likely to remain in the post for more than two or three years, did not want to rehire him as city manager, given that there was no prospect of his longevity in the role.

The recruitment effort turned up the prospect that the city might be able to lure Stockton City Manager Harry Black, who had previously been the city manager of Cincinnati, Ohio, to accept the San Bernardino city manager assignment. For a short time in the summer of 2023, it appeared that would take place but when word leaked out, Black withdrew his name to prevent the city council in Stockton from becoming upset and firing him. A few weeks to a month later, the city set its sights on Salinas City Manager Steve Carrigan. Tran and at least four of the city council members were convinced that Carrigan would make a good fit for San Bernardino. A further confidential dialogue with Carrigan ensued, involving city officials, the Berkeley-based executive recruitment firm the city had hired to assist it in the city manager search, Koff & Associates, and Koff & Associates employee Frank Rojas. Tran and four city council members were convinced that the city would not be likely to find someone better than Carrigan to fill the city manager's post, given that he had been successfully wrestling with challenging issues in Salinas such as homelessness and dwindling finances that were dogging San Bernardino. Soon, a fifth council member and then a sixth council member was sold on Carrigan, at which point what was for the time being supposed to be a confidential agreement that he was to leave Salinas and come to San Bernardino was reached in August 2025. Instead of moving at once to close that deal and ratify the hiring contract with Carrigan at its first meeting in September 2025, however, the council postponed doing so and then cancelled its next regularly scheduled meeting for that month so the council members could attend an out-of-town conference. The mayor and council were scheduled to vote on the contract with Carrigan at its October 4, 2023 council meeting, but as a con-

sequence of the delay, Carrigan was subjected to criticism in Salinas over what was seen there as his intention to leave the city in the lurch. On September 28, Carrigan informed Rojas that he was no longer interested in the San Bernardino job and wrote a memo to the Salinas City Council and Salinas staff informing them that he was no longer contemplating working in San Bernardino and was committed to remaining in Salinas as city manager. On October 3, 2025, however, the Salinas City Council, in a specially-called meeting, voted 6-to-0 to terminate Carrigan. Subsequently, Carrigan, citing what he and his lawyers claimed were leaks emanating from San Bernardino, fired a claim against the City of San Bernardino over his firing by the City of Salinas, intimating in doing so that he was going to sue over the matter. Ultimately, to settle the matter with Carrigan, the City of San Bernardino agreed to pay Carrigan \$800,000, despite his not having served in the capacity of city manager at all.

Some three weeks after the Carrigan debacle, which had come about because of imprudent delay, on October 18, 2023, Tran and the city council rushed into a vote, which passed by a margin of 5-to-3, to approve a contract with Charles Montoya, who had previously been the city manager of Watsonville in California and the town manager of Florence, Arizona and city manager of Avondale, Arizona, to serve as San Bernardino city manager. Among the three votes in opposition to Montoya's hiring was that of Sixth Ward Councilwoman Kimberly Calvin. From the beginning of Montoya's tenure as city manager, Calvin pursued questions about his qualifications and what she cited as his outside entanglements, particularly with entities doing business with or to potentially do business with the city. Tran and the majority of the city council initially

dismissed Calvin's concerns. As 2023 gave way to 2024, Calvin pursued those issues, in particular Montoya's unilateral signing of a letter of intent with the San Francisco-based bond underwriting firm Stifel Financial Services in preparation of the issuance of some \$120 million in municipal bonds to be utilized for various improvement and infrastructure projects in the city, action that was taken without explicit approval by the entire city council. Calvin asserted that Montoya had past dealings with Stifel in his previous capacities with other cities that had not been disclosed to Tran and the council. In May 2024, the council and Tran, in a closed session outside the presence of the public, voted unanimously to terminate Montoya. In doing so, the city council agreed to provide him with a severance payout equal to 12 months' salary - \$325,000, which came in addition to the \$182,812.50 in salary and \$40,832.43 in perquisites and benefits that had been paid to Montoya from October 2023 through May 2024.

At the same meeting when Montoya was let go, the city council voted to elevate Rochelle Clayton, who had been hired the previous month by Montoya to serve as deputy city manager, to fill in for him as the interim/acting city manager.

At that point, 18 months after Tran had been elected mayor and 17 months after she had acceded to the post, the city had been languishing, day after day, week after week and month after month in a constant state of discontinuity, instability and uncertainty as to direction and management. Moreover, the best that had been accomplished during that time was simple day-to-day operations without

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Trona Mine Underwent A Series Of Corporate Acquisitions In The 1970s, 1990s & 2000s from page 3

quired the West End Chemical Company plant, located on the south side of Searles Lake in Trona.

In 1974 American Potash and Chemical was acquired by Kerr-McGee. In October of that year, Stauffer sold its West End facility in Trona to the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation in October 1974. In 1982, Kerr-McGee reduced production drastically and instituted massive layoffs.

In 1990, Kerr-McGee sold the Searles Valley production facilities to capital investors D. George Harris and Associates, which formed the North American Chemical Company. In 1996 the production of potash in Trona was discontinued.

Ownership changed hands in 1998 when IMC Global Corporation acquired North American Chemical Company. In 2004, Sun Capital, LLC purchased IMC Global Corporation and the North American Chemical Company facilities at Trona and Westend were renamed Searles Valley Minerals, Inc. In November 2007, Karnavati Holdings, a subsidiary of the Ahmedabad-India-based Indian corporation Nirma Limited

purchased Searles Valley Minerals from Sun Capital Partners for \$200 million.

At present, Nirma's operation in Trona specializes in chemical excavation catering to industrial, agricultural, automobile and other sectors, entailing the extraction and processing of boric acid, soda ash, salt cake, sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate and several specialty forms of borax and salt from Searles Lake.

In 2015, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, a joint powers authority involving the counties of San Bernardino, Kern and Inyo, the City of Ridgecrest, The Indian Wells Valley Water District was formed, taking as its charter a commitment to ensure a sustainable water supply for the region by overcoming the depletion of the groundwater basin and its aquifer which underlies 597 square miles and includes the northwest tip of San Bernardino County, the southwest tip of Inyo County and the northeast corner of Kern County. It undertook to put water use limitations on well owners and the major water users throughout the region. Those included imposing water use charges on entities throughout Indian Wells Valley that went beyond the amount allotted to them by the authority.

In September 2020,

Searles Valley Minerals, represented by Eric Garner, Jeffrey Dunn and Maya Mouawad with the law firm of Best Best & Krieger, filed a lawsuit in Kern County Superior Court against the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority in an effort to protect what Garner, Dunn and Mouawad asserted are the company's groundwater rights within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin, and to stop the collection of what they characterized as an illegal and unfair groundwater replenishment fee and a tax disguised, they assert, as an "extraction fee."

According to Garner, Dunn and Mouawad, "The authority's 'sustainable' groundwater management plan is anything but sustainable – it's a significant new burden on a select few groundwater users that will push many entirely out of operation without any regard to existing water rights." The lawyers said the groundwater replenishment fee was unprecedented and exorbitant, and was increasing the company's water costs by 7,000 percent or \$6 million per year – pushing Searles Valley Minerals out of business.

Over the five years between 2020 and 2025, in large measure because of the increase in water costs, the number of employees at Searles Valley Minerals dropped from 700 to 545 employees.

Alejandro handed the request off to his office's chief business officer, Richard De Nava, who in turn brought in his underling, Thomas Cassida, the county superintendent of schools director of business advisor services.

Cassida generated a letter dated February 3, 2026 to Trenae Nelson, the people Valley Unified School District superintendent. The letter gave a rather dry review of the budget review process that the county superintendent of schools office does of school district budgets and their budgetary process. Included with the letter was an

attachment, the provenance of which was somewhat inexact.

The attachment referenced several transfers out to the district's "special reserve fund, also referred to as "Fund 40." These consisted of \$2,474,673.34 in total transfers out to the "Cafeteria Fund," also referred to as Fund 13, followed by \$2,474,673.34 in transfers in to the "Cafeteria Fund; another \$1,308,536.32 transferred out to the "Cafeteria Fund and another \$1,308,536.32 transferred in to the Cafeteria Fund; \$2,633,546.27 transferred out of the Cafeteria Fund and then

exporting firm to sustain losses while underpricing competitors in the target market. That is what is taking place with regard to Shandong's, Berun's and Tangshan's sale of soda ash and boric acid.

Nirma is being battered to a pulp by the Chinese companies' strategy of undercutting Searles Valley Minerals' prices, the company said in a February 4 press release announcing the layoffs. The Chinese companies are selling their product, Nirma said, "at prices that California-based producers cannot reasonably match."

Moreover the company is being eaten alive by California's operating restrictions as pertain to the environment and energy purchases, such that energy purchases at present account for nearly half of the facility's expenses, putting the company at a disadvantage to producers outside of California.

"Ongoing regulatory compliance costs, fees and taxes have further increased the cost of doing business, making it increasingly difficult for soda ash operations in California to remain economically viable," according to the press release.

The company intends to up its borax mining efforts, it indicated. The U.S. Geological Survey in 2025 added borax to the nation's list of critical minerals.

The company's most valuable asset is one it has yet to tap into and which is being held in reserve. An element that is plentiful in Searles Dry Lake is lithium. Lithium is not currently being produced on a commercial scale from Searles Dry Lake for strategic reasons.

Searles Valley Minerals is continuing its mining of borax, soda ash, and salt cake from the dry lake but has at present deprioritized the extraction of lithium and potash due to a combination of economic, logistical, and technical factors.

The company is focusing waiting on harvesting borax, soda ash, and sodium sulfate, using a complex solution mining and evaporation process involving ponds which is optimized for those products. The extraction of lithium, which is present in lesser quantities than borax, soda ash and sodium sulfate,

requires a separate, specialized chemical process. Lithium was identified as being present in the dry lake in the 19th century, but extracting it has not historically been economically viable. With the recent, rapid rise in lithium demand and prices, the

company is yet waiting from a further escalation in its value before beginning a lithium extraction effort in earnest.

Ed Fund, only to have \$352,319.84 transferred back into the Adult Ed Fund; \$2,101,659.18 transferred out of the Special Reserve Fund and then \$2,101,659.18 transferred in to the Special Reserve Fund; and \$5,495.00 transferred out of the Cafeteria Fund and \$5,495.00 in to the Cafeteria Fund. The document also shows \$2,000,000 of what is labeled "Other Authorized Transfers" in to Fund 01 and \$2,000,000 in transfers out from Fund 14 to Fund 01.

The document offers this "Conclusion," stating, "The \$15.4 million

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District Admits Moving Money Out Of & Into Cafeteria, Deferred Maintenance Adult Education & Special Reserve Accounts from page 3

30, 2025. This has not changed."

The Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team is an independent state agency in California that has been in existence for 35 years that provides fiscal advice and management assistance to school districts.

Longshore wrote, "Even now, we continue to approve an over-projection of expenditures, while allowing the shuffle of excess funds, un-

bridled, into accounts unspent."

In one way or another, Longshore's opinion piece hit a nerve. It appears that district officials contacted the office of Ted Alejandro, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools to see if he or someone from his office could offer an explanation that might assuage those who assigned credibility to what Longshore had written.

Long Hampered By Not Having A City Manager In Place, Tran's Desperation To Find One Made Her Less Discerning Of The Flaws In The Managers She Did Hire Or Wanted To Bring In *from front page*

any concentration on long-term or even medium term planning. In the morning, the lights would get turned on and at night the lights would be turned out, but that was about it. Tran had no accomplishments as mayor to speak of, which might be as expected after only 17 months in office, but there was nothing on the way toward being accomplished. The city, under her watch, had not even been able to settle on hiring a city manager. That was particularly problematic because to the extent that Tran had any municipal expertise, it was in the area of human resources, i.e., finding competent potential employees, vetting them and making sure they are qualified, capable and hardworking and then putting them into place and monitoring their performance and production, incentivizing them to achieve the organization's or municipality's objectives. She had not been able to do that.

Over the next several months, Tran was encouraged with what she was seeing in Clayton. Not only that, the members of the city council, all of them it seemed, were in concurrence with her. Given the city's previous inability to fully hook and reel in Black, follow through with the hiring of Carrigan and its experience with Montoya, the council and existing staff were cautious and deliberate in making arrangement to extend an offer of the city manager's position to Clayton, even as Tran was continuously pushing to expedite the process. At its October 2, 2024 meeting, after a closed executive session at which a unanimous determination among the council was reached as to Clayton's suitability, the city council unanimously indicated it was amenable to hiring Clayton as the full-fledged city manager.

That led to the formulation of an employment contract with Clayton by which she would begin at an annual salary of \$325,000, subject to an annual cost of living increase tied to the consumer price index and capped at 5 percent, another \$11,619.95 in perks and pay add-ons and \$115,693.41 in benefits, for an initial total annual compensation of \$452,313.36.

The city council would have voted to officially promote Clayton into the city manager's post and ratify the contract at its regularly scheduled October 16, 2024 city council meeting, but because the city council on that day was engaged in a League of California Cities convention, that meeting was cancelled. The council action to formally commit itself to hiring Clayton was to take place at its first regularly scheduled meeting in November, on November 6, 2024. In the meantime, an additional provision to the contract was added whereby the city was to provide Clayton with a one-time relocation benefit of \$10,000, if she were to move to a residence within the boundaries of the City of San Bernardino within two years.

In a *déjà vu* scenario, just as the city council's cancellation of its second regularly scheduled meeting in September 2023 delayed and ultimately untracked the hiring of Carrigan, the cancellation, 13 months later of the October 16, 2024 council meeting resulted in the city being failing to close a deal with Clayton. At the end of October, Second Ward Councilman Ted Sanchez, through inquiries using the California Public Records Act, learned that in July 2024, Clayton had been informed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in correspondence

that came directly to the city manager's office that San Bernardino had been selected to receive a \$17 million Homekey grant to pay for a sizeable percentage of a \$24 million homeless shelter the city intends to build on Sixth Street. Clayton had not informed the city council about the state's offer of the money. In his follow-up inquiries, Sanchez learned that Clayton had declined the money on the city's behalf over her concerns that the money had come with "strings attached," and the city was not prepared to meet the state's requirements to accept the money. Again without informing the council, Clayton notified Sacramento that the city was declining the money. Sanchez would also learn that the city had under Clayton's watch failed to lay claim to another \$3 million grant from San Bernardino County to pay for homeless service efforts because the city had not made three adjustments to its planned homeless assistance strategy that would have qualified it to receive the money. When this was brought up for discussion during the closed session prior to the public session at the November 6, 2024 council meeting in which Clayton's hiring was to take place, the council elected at that point to pull the ratification of the city manager's contract from the public portion of the meeting agenda, placing her hiring, or at that point possible hiring, into indefinite abeyance.

There ensued a redoubled effort on the part of Mayor Tran to recapture the council consensus to elevate Clayton into full-fledged city manager status. Joining her in this endeavor was then-Sixth Ward Councilwoman Kimberly Calvin, whose bid for reelection during the city's March 2024 municipal election had come up short. Calvin therefore saw installing Clayton as the city's permanent city manager as a possible enduring legacy that would live beyond her time on the council,

which was set to end in December. Joining with Tran and Calvin in their belief that installing Clayton as city manager would be a sound move was then-Fifth Ward Councilman Ben Reynoso. Reynoso, like Calvin and then-Seventh Ward Councilman Damon Alexander, had failed in his March 2024 reelection attempt, and was due to leave office before the end of 2024. He was ready to join with Calvin and Tran in designating Clayton as the city's top administrator, a development which yet needed the support of two further members of the council. Those votes, however, proved elusive. Alexander was troubled over the city's rejection of the state and county money that could have been put to use in homeless relief efforts and the contretemps that followed. Based on how Sanchez and some of the other members of the council were reacting to what Clayton had done with respect to the grant money that could have been used to get the homeless off the streets, he had become convinced it would be best if no decision on who should be lodged in the city manager's office was made until the three new council members who were to replace Reynoso, Calvin and him – Kim Knaus, Mario Flores and Treasure Ortiz, respectively – were in office so they could weigh in on whom they wanted to work with as the city's top staff member.

Clayton's hiring was put off again and again in November and December and early January 2025. In February 2025, the City of Barstow offered the city manager's position there to Clayton and she agreed to accept, officially moving into the Barstow city manager's post in March 2025.

The episode with Clayton was for Tran's critics another indication of the mayor's inability to assemble a working majority council coalition. San Bernardino has an acute and growing problem with homelessness, such that it has more un-

housed people – 1,535 by the latest count – living within its 62.3-square mile confines than are subsisting in the five cities in the county with the next highest number of destitute. Of the city's list of intractable problems, dealing with its homeless population was one of the few issues about which there was no meaningful division on the council and a ready-made consensus. Yet, by her die-hard advocacy of hiring Clayton as city manager, even after the way in which Clayton had looked the state's gift horse of financing more than 70 percent of the cost of a comprehensive housing facility to assist in getting a large number of the dispossessed off of San Bernardino's streets, Tran succeeded in forcing more of a wedge between her and the at least four of the members of the council.

Another factor in Tran's inability to achieve traction as mayor and command the political reach she needed to succeed in taking charge of the city direction consisted of her moves against the grain of the current political establishment. In the summer of 2024, a collection of city residents undertook a recall effort against Councilman Sanchez and Councilman Shoret. Both efforts bogged down as the proponents were unable to obtain the signatures of 2,517 Ward One voters needed to qualify the recall measure against Sanchez for the ballot or the signatures of 3,576 Ward Four voters to qualify the recall measure against Shoret for the ballot. Tran was working, quietly she had hoped, behind the scenes to assist the recall proponents. Her assistance, however, became known, distancing her further from Sanchez and Shoret.

By the numbers, San Bernardino is an overwhelmingly Democratic city. Of its 108,902 registered voters, 48,788 or 44.8 percent are affiliated with the Democratic Party, while 24,809, or 22.8 percent are regis-

tered Republicans. The city's Republicans are outnumbered by the 25,457 residents or 23.4 percent who are registered to vote but profess no party preference. The remaining 9 percent of the city's voters are members of the American Independent, Green, Libertarian, Peace & Freedom or other more obscure parties. Shoret and Sanchez were Republicans. Shoret is yet affiliated with the GOP but Sanchez has reregistered as a Democrat. Second Ward Councilman Juan Figueroa has declared no political affiliation. Second Ward Councilwoman Sandra, Fifth Ward Councilwoman Knaus, Sixth Ward Councilman Mario Flores and Seventh Ward Councilwoman Treasure Ortiz are Democrats.

Despite their common Democratic partisanship with Tran, Sanchez, Ibarra, Knaus and Ortiz find themselves at odds with Tran. Flores, alone, registers his votes on the council dais faithfully in line with Tran.

While the council on the vast majority of routine and noncontroversial and typical municipal operational matters vote in unison, on the vast majority of items of controversy, the vote generally breaks along a predictable line-up of Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa, Shoret and Knaus forming the council controlling majority, Flores falling in line with Tran and Ortiz unaligned with either side.

In June 2025, the Tran and six of the city council's members reached a consensus to hire Fullerton City Manager Eric Levitt, who had previously served as the top administrator in Alameda, Simi Valley, Janesville, Wisconsin, and Sedona, Arizona as city manager, effective in August 2025. Ortiz alone dissented in that vote.

With Levitt in place, Tran in the intervening months has endeavored to undertake efforts to make up for the municipal malaise that gripped the city through the first two-and-a-half years of *Continued on Page 14*

Public Notices

FBN20260000145

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

ARROW DOG AND CAT HOSPITAL [and] ARROW DOG & CAT HOSPITAL [and] ARROW DOG & CAT VETERINARY HOSPITAL [and] GENERAL DOG & CAT HOSPITAL [and] ADVANCED PET CARE OF MONTCLAIR 5405 ARROW HWY SUITE 108 MONTCLAIR, CA 91763: GENERAL DOG & CAT VETERINARY HOSPITAL, INC. 215 CAMPBELL AVE REDLANDS, CA 92373

Business Mailing Address: 5405 ARROW HWY SUITE 108 MONTCLAIR, CA 91763

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: January 5, 2026.

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/ MARIAN M. HABIB, CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 01/12/2026

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 F3010

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 16, 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

FBN20250011678

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

DESTINY RENTAL 15370 CHOLAME RD #3 VICTORVILLE, CA 92391: ROSINA MENDIOLA

Business Mailing Address: 15370 CHOLAME RD #3 VICTORVILLE, CA 92391

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: December 15, 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/ ROSINA MENDIOLA, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/15/2025

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 K1587 Hesperia

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 16, 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

FBN20260000210

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

THAT SOUL COACH 435 N 12th STREET UPLAND, CA 91786: SOUL LIFE COACHING LLC 435 N 12th STREET UPLAND, CA 91786

Business Mailing Address: 435 N 12th STREET UPLAND, CA 91786

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COM

Public Notices

PANY registered with the State of California under the number B20250352580

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/ LAURIE JENKINS, CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 01/14/2026

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 January 16, 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

FBN20260000153

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

TRUE CARE CHIROPRACTIC CENTER 1525 N D STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405: BARRIGA CHIROPRACTIC, PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 1525 N D STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405

Business Mailing Address: PO Box 1752 RIALTO, CA 92377

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California under the number B20250304400

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/ GEORGINA BARRIGA ORTIZ, President

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 01/16/2026

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 J6733

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 16, 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

FBN20250011867

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

SALSAS MAMA ESTELA 14043 YORKTOWN CT FONTANA, CA 92336: ANGELICA GUTIERREZ

Business Mailing Address: 14043 YORKTOWN CT FONTANA, CA 92336

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DECEMBER 18, 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/ ANGELICA GUTIERREZ, Individual

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/19/2025

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 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 January 16, 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

Public Notices

ty Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/30/2025

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 J6733

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 16, 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

FBN20260000332

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

GLOBAL BEAUTE 11799 SEBASTIAN WAY STE 103 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: PATRICIA R TSAI [and] PATRICK W. TSAI

Business Mailing Address: 11799 SEBASTIAN WAY STE 103 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JANUARY 10, 2026.

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/ PATRICIA R TSAI, Co-owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 01/16/2026

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 K3379

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 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

FBN20250011867

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

1311 E Avenue L Calimesa Ca 92320

Telephone No: (909) 731-0946

Published in the SBCS Ontario on:

01/23/2026, 01/30/2026 , 02/06/2026

Public Notices

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 16, 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

FBN20250011804

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

AVS DESIGN STUDIO 192 DORSET AVENUE UPLAND, CA 91786: ANDREA SAMANIEGO

Business Mailing Address: 192 DORSET AVENUE UPLAND, CA 91786

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 27, 2021

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/ ANDREA SAMANIEGO , Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/18/2025

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 K3379

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 23 & 30 and February 6, 2026.

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will be held in Dept. F2 at 09:00 AM on 02/24/2026 at Superior Court of California,

County of Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino Probate Division, San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, Probate Division

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 delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

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 delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable 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 Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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 Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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 Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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 Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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 Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from

Public Notices

CIVIC CENTER DRIVE SUITE 250/260 RANCH CUCAMONGA, CA 92880

Business Mailing Address: 7056 ARCHIBALD AVE SUITE 102-318 CORONA, CA 92880

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/ ALVARO CRUZ BARAJAS MALDONADO, President

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/21/2026

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 F3010

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 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 23 & 30 and February 6 & 13, 2026.

FBN20260000261

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

SUGAR CLOUD COFFEE CO. 432 N AZALEA AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762: JOHANNA A SANCHEZ MORENO

Business Mailing Address: 432 N AZALEA AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DECEMBER 18, 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/ ANGELICA GUTIERREZ, Individual

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/19/2025

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 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 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 23 & 30 and February 6 & 13, 2026.

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 J9535

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 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 23 & 30 and February 6 & 13, 2026.

FBN20260000146

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

TERRA VISTA DENTAL CARE 7211 HAVEN AVE SUITE D RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701: RAJURKAR DENTAL INC 7211 HAVEN AVE SUITE D RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701

Business Mailing Address: PO BOX 9224 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California under the number B20250426072

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

Public Notices

Record upon filing.
/s/ SEJAL RAJURKAR, President

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/12/2026

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 J6733

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 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 23 & 30 and February 6 & 13, 2026.

FBN20250011867

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

SALSAS MAMA ESTELA 14043 YORKTOWN CT FONTANA, CA 92336: ANGELICA GUTIERREZ

Business Mailing Address: 14043 YORKTOWN CT FONTANA, CA 92336

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DECEMBER 18, 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/ ANGELICA GUTIERREZ, Individual

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/19/2025

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 K4616

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 23 & 30 and February 6 & 13, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GARY FRED HARVEY

CASE NO. PRO-VA2600040

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of GARY FRED HARVEY: a petition for probate has been filed by NORAH ELIZABETH HARVEY in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that NORAH ELIZABETH HARVEY be appointed as personal representative to administer 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 obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held March 17 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana Dis-

Public Notices

dent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held March 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

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 CREDI-

TOR 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 ei-

ther (1) four months from the

date of first issuance of letters

to a general personal represen-

tative, as defined in section

58(b) of the California Probate

Code, or (2) 60 days from the

date of mailing or personal deli-

very to you of a notice under

Section 9052 of the California

Probate Code.

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to a general personal represen-

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58(b) of the California Probate

Code, or (2) 60 days from the

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Section 9052 of the California

Probate Code.

IF YOU ARE A CREDI-

TOR 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 ei-

Personals

\$10,000 REWARD for information regarding girl born August 4, 2001 whose parents (actors) were lost in a theater collapse in Colorado, April 27, 2003. Thomas W. Campbell, Attorney-at-Law 15 Williams St. New York, NY

Civil Service Employee wants to rent suburban detached apartment, 4 or 5 bedrooms 2 baths, will pay cash for the right setting Alfred Willenstein Post Office Box 843 Sempleton, Wis.

PERSONAL Lance Corporal who saw shy governess in rickshaw on the streets of Hong Kong on March 14 would like to meet up with her again. Steve Duvery of St. Louis Missouri.

Public Notices

attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Elizabeth Yang, YLO, P.C.
199W. Garvey Ave., #201
Monterey Park, CA 91754.
T: 877-492-645
e-mail: daniel@yanglawoffices.com

DATE (Fecha): October 10, 2025

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 30, 2026 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER CIVSB2600522

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner SALMA AISHA BELTRAN filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SALMA AISHA BELTRAN to SALMA AISHA GUZMAN

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing:

Date: March 6, 2026
Time: 09:00 AM, Department: S23

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District-Civil Division, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SAN Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 1/23/2026

Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert G. Ochoa
By Nuna Rivera, Deputy Court Clerk

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

Public Notices

Madison Reinhardt-Veldman, filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Corinne Madison Reinhardt-Veldman to Corinne Madison Veldman; Madison Taylor Veldman-Reinhardt to Madison Taylor Veldman; THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing:

Date: 02/27/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: B1The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, Barstow District, 235 E Mt. View Barstow, CA 92311, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SBCS Upland in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 01/16/2026

Judge of the Superior Court: James R. Baxter

Published in the SBCS Upland on 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026, 02/13/2026, 02/20/2026

FBN20250012108

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as WEAR, TEAR, OR REPAIR [and] PI MAISON 14148 CALLE DOMINGO VICTORVILLE, CA 92392: PERFECTLY IMPERFECT MINISTRIES 14148 CALLE DOMINGO VICTORVILLE, CA 92392

Business Mailing Address: 14148 CALLE DOMINGO VICTORVILLE, CA 92392

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California under the number 202463216208. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JANUARY 13, 2026. 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/ SEPTMBER IMPE- RIALBOBIS, President Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/13/2026 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 K6733 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 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

FBN20260000599

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as BEAMCLICKS PHOTO BOOTH COMPANY [and] BEAMCLICKS [and] BEAMCLICKS PHOTO BOOTH CO 16490 BREEZY STREET FONTANA, CA 92336: IMPERIALBOBIS LLC 16490 BREEZY STREET FONTANA, CA 92336

Business Mailing Address: 16490 BREEZY STREET 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/ CHIDIMMARUTEZE, Owner Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/19/2025 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 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 January 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

FBN20260000359

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as BURGER KING #2893 9710 CENTRAL AVENUE MONTCLAIR, CA 91763: LAOC BURGERS LLC 2551 WOODLAND DR ANAHEIM, CA 92801

Business Mailing Address: 2551 WOODLAND DR ANAHEIM, CA 92801 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 202461817048

Public Notices

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JULY 9, 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/ JACOB BRUM- MEL, Managing Member Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/16/2026

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 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 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 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

Public Notices

comes Public Record upon filing. /s/ SEPTMBER IMPE- RIALBOBIS, President Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/26/2026 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 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 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 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

FBN20260000510

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as PURLEND 4195 CHINO HILLS PKWY, SUITE 537 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709: PURPOSE TECHNOLOGY, INC 4195 CHINO HILLS PKWY, SUITE 537 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709

Business Mailing Address: 4195 CHINO HILLS PKWY, SUITE 537 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of Delaware under the number B20260017437. 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/ DAVID KAWATA, Chief Executive Officer Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/23/2026

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 K2885 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 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

FBN20260000180

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as VIBEHIVE FOTONOOK [and] ASHSHY [and] REMIR [and] FRIER AND ICE 16490 BREEZY STREET FONTANA, CA 92336: IMPERIALBOBIS LLC 16490 BREEZY STREET FONTANA, CA 92336

Business Mailing Address: 16490 BREEZY STREET FONTANA, CA 92336

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 202463216208. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JANUARY 13, 2026.

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/ SEPTMBER IMPE- RIALBOBIS, President Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/13/2026

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 K2885 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 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF C.M. HUGHES aka CLARA MAE HUGHES

CASE NO. PRO- VA2600089

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both C.M. HUGHES aka CLARA MAE HUGHES: a petition for probate has been filed by JENNIFER BLISTAN in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARIA M. ALVAREZ be appointed as personal representative to administer 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 obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held March 17, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

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 CREDI-

TOR 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 ei-

ther (1) four months from the

date of first issuance of letters

to a general personal represen-

tative, 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.

IF YOU ARE A CREDI-

TOR 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 ei-

ther (1) four months from the

date of first issuance of letters

to a general personal represen-

tative, 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

Public Notices

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 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

FBN20260000663

The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as PARK PROFESSIONAL PROPERTIES 10710 KING STREET REDLANDS, CA 92374: JOYCE JACOBS

Business Mailing Address: 10710 KING STREET REDLANDS, CA 92374

The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JANUARY 26, 2016

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/ EDWARD JACOBS, Partner Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 1/28/2026 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 K9232 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 30 and February 6, 13 & 20, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ABEL CESAR DOMINGUEZ
CASE NO. PRO-VA2600038

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of ABEL CESAR DOMINGUEZ: a petition for probate has been filed by MARY CARMEN CALDERON in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARY CARMEN CALDERON be appointed as personal representative to administer 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 obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held March 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

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 delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable 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 Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Mary Carmen Calderon:

R SAM PRICE SB 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 attorneys@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 30 and February 6 & 13, 2026.

FBN 20250012036 The following person is doing business as: D/B/A MK TRADING. 1459 S EUCLID AVE APT #24 ONTARIO, CA 91762; MAILING ADDRESS 1459 S EUCLID AVE APT #24 ONTARIO, CA 91762; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MARCELO ZAMORANO LARA 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 on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ MARCELO ZAMORANO LARA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 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 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026 CNBB3202603MT

FBN 20250011577 The following person is doing business as: HIGHLAND GENERAL CONTRACTOR. 1238 TURQUOISE AVE MENTONE, CA 92359; MAILING ADDRESS 1238 TURQUOISE AVE MENTONE, CA 92359; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO HIGHLAND GENERAL CONTRACTOR LLC 1238 TURQUOISE AVE MENTONE CA 92359 STATE OF ORGANIZATION CA 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/ AYAD J. AL-OMRAN Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 07, 2026 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 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026 CNBB3202606MT

FBN 20260000015 The following person is doing business as: SPECTRUM CRANE SERVICE. 322 FELISA COURT REDLANDS, CA 92373; MAILING ADDRESS 322 FELISA COURT REDLANDS, CA 92473; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CHRISTOPHER W ST JEAN; CYNTHIA J ST JEAN 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 on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. /s/ FRANKSHUA MERLOS, CEO 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 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026 CNBB3202601MT

FBN 20260000015 The following person is doing business as: SPECTRUM CRANE SERVICE. 322 FELISA COURT REDLANDS, CA 92373; MAILING ADDRESS 322 FELISA COURT REDLANDS, CA 92473; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CHRISTOPHER W ST JEAN; CYNTHIA J ST JEAN 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 on 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/ MIRIAM GONZALEZ, SECRETARY Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 04, 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 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026 CNBB3202604MT

FBN 20260000068 The following person is doing business as: WOLFPACK CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT. 255 OAK DR LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA 92352; MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 90614 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92427; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JASEN E MATTINGLY The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to

transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JAN 04, 2026 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/ JASEN E MATTINGLY, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 07, 2026 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 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026 CNBB3202602MT

FBN 20260000012 The following person is doing business as: RICARDO V CHAUFFEUR. 12367 4TH ST SPC 28 YUCAIPA, CA 92399; MAILING ADDRESS 12367 4TH ST SPC 28 YUCAIPA, CA 92399; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RICARDO V VERGARA 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/ RICARDO V VERGARA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 02, 2026 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 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026 CNBB3202605MT

FBN 20260000072 The following person is doing business as: SEA MOSS GUMMIES. 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 AYAD J 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/ JOSE SALCIDO RODRIGUEZ, MA CRISTINA SALCIDO 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/ SUSAN E FUENTES, PRESIDENT 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 09/12/2025, 09/19/2025, 09/26/2025, 10/03/2025 CNBB37202502MT CORRECTION DATES 10/31/2025, 11/07/2025, 11/14/2025 & 11/21/2025 CORRECTION DATES 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 01/02/2026 CORRECTION DATES 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026

FBN 20260000072 The following person is doing business as: C&C PLOW. 1513 SHERIDAN RD SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407; MAILING ADDRESS 1513 SHERIDAN RD SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO NEXT LEVEL LEGACY INC 1513 SHERIDAN RD SAN BERNARDINO NO CA 92407 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION B20250177085 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/ AYAD J. AL-OMRAN Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 07, 2026 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 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026 CNBB44202514MT CORRECTION DATES 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026 CORRECTION DATES 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026

FBN 20250011054 The following person is doing business as: HIGHLAND 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/ CHAD E. RATLIFF, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: OCTOBER 27, 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 CNBB49202512MT CORRECTION DATES 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026 CORRECTION DATES 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026

FBN 20250011296 The following person is doing business as: 1123 GLENWOOD. 1123 GLENWOOD COURT SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO 1123 GLENWOOD, INC. 1123 GLENWOOD COURT SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407; STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION B20250364492 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, PRESIDENT 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 11/07/2025, 11/14/2025, 11/21/2025 CNBB44202512MT CORRECTION DATES 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026 CORRECTION DATES 01/16/2026, 01/23/2026, 01/30/2026, 02/06/2026

FBN 2025000068 The following person is doing business as: WOLFPACK CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT. 255 OAK DR LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA 92352; MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 90614 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92427; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JASEN E MATTINGLY The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to

transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JAN 04, 2026 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/ MINGYANG WAN, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: SEPTEMBER 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 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025, 01/02/2026 CNBB5020250

It Looked Like Curtains For Tran, As 6 Of 7 Council Members Appeared Ready To Get Rid Of SB's Elected Mayoral Post *from front page 8*

her tenure, when it was functioning without any clearly defined or uncontested managerial authority.

She, as well as her supporters, have assigned the blame for the manner in which the city had been adrift to the lack of clear administrative leadership. That tentativeness could not be laid at her feet, her supporters insist, but is rather a product of divisiveness on the council.

Tran has sought, at least publicly, to remain upbeat and above the fray, avoiding mudslinging and pointed criticism of the politicians she must work with.

"I'm here to push the positive," Tran has stated publicly. "I am probably the most positive person you've ever met."

When invited to focus on how her agenda has been blocked, primarily by Sanchez and Shorett with the assistance in most cases by Ibarra, Figueroa and Knaus, the mayor has refused to take the bait. "I'm trying to build an image that is no longer negative."

Shorett, who during the last two years of Valdivia's reign had sought to eliminate the elected mayoral position, and Sanchez, are among those who have observed that the strong mayor model of governance represents good government if the people elect a good mayor and disastrous government if they put a bad mayor into office. Shorett and Sanchez have observed that administrative authority was taken from the mayor with the voters' approval of the 2016 Charter. The two mayors voted into office following that reform, both further observed, went to extraordinarily damaging lengths to bypass or overcome that lack of administrative authority. And both of the mayors elected in the aftermath of the 2016 Charter change, they opine, have been bad mayors. Their solution? Follow through

with Shorett's proposal from four and five years ago that faltered, the one to simply get rid of the mayor.

In this go-round, it is Sanchez who led the charge, with the support of Shorett. They believed, at least somewhat reasonably, that the atmosphere for doing so had changed somewhat from what it was in 2021 and 2022, when the previous effort to get rid of the elected mayor failed. It appeared they had, at the very least, the support of Ibarra, Figueroa, Knaus and Ortiz. In 2021, when Shorett had floated the concept, Ortiz, who was not yet in office, said she was in support of jettisoning the elected mayor. In 2022, when she had run, albeit unsuccessfully for

mayor, during her campaign she said she was running so she could be the city's last elected mayor and that during her mayoral tenure, the mayor's post, as one independently elected at-large by the city's voters, would be eliminated, to be replaced by a rotational system that would give the seven members of the city council intermittent responsibility of presiding over the council meetings.

The council was scheduled to take up the proposal, sponsored by Sanchez, at a specially-scheduled meeting on Monday February 1.

At no point during Tran's 1,137 days up to that point as mayor of San Bernardino were her skills as a politician on display as they were that evening. It became absolutely clear as the meeting progressed, with the vast majority of the meeting time taken up by comments from the public, that she had expended a great deal of effort to make sure that those in her camp marshalled arguments against making any change to the city's mayoral arrangement. It was as if it took the existential threat to her existence as mayor to

trigger her fight or flight response. Tran did not run. Instead, she fought, fought with every gram of her slight corporal 105-pound pound being, which was transformed into a display – more like a tour de force – of parliamentary maneuvering.

What was needed for Sanchez and Shorett to lop off Tran's pretty little political head was to publicly preview during the course of the meeting the idea of changing the charter to get rid of the elected mayor and adding to the function of the seven council members the rotating responsibility of wielding the mayoral gavel to preside over the panel's meetings, and posit the rationale for doing so. That was to be followed by giving the public the opportunity to weigh in on the matter, after which the council would dialogue on the issue and vote, presumably, as to whether the voters would be given the opportunity to vote in June or perhaps in November to alter the city's charter accordingly.

The first indication that Sanchez and Shorett were in for some rough sledding that night was that the 286-seating capacity Bing Wong Auditorium within the Norman Feldheim Library, where the city council holds its meetings was flooded with more than 286 people. Arrangements were made for adjusting the accommodations, but the number of those present went beyond the maximum number of people allowed in the room under the city's fire code.

Normally, during public hearings held by the San Bernardino City Council, as with most other city councils in San Bernardino County and Southern California, members of the public are provided with three minutes to address the council with their individual concerns, perspective or what they believe should be relevant to the decision-making process. Those members of the public fill out speaker cards so the city clerk can make an accu-

rate record of who spoke and the mayor or mayor pro tem conducting the meeting can make an orderly call of those who want to address the council to come forward. If the number of those seeking to speak reach or exceed 20, in order to expedite the proceedings and speed things along, the speaking limit will be reduced to two minutes or if the number of those speaking exceeds two dozen, the speaking time will be halved to a minute-and-a half. If three dozen speakers show up, the time each is allowed to address the council will be reduced to a minute. In some cases, the public as a whole will have the time for comments reduced to an hour or an hour-and-a-half, such that when that time elapses, no further input from the public is heard.

Tran made the most out of her mayoral authority that evening. The mayoral gavel put her in control of the meeting, how it was conducted and how the discussion and debate was to flow. Recognizing that the vast majority of those present were intent on railing against the mayoral elimination, she adroitly made a command decision that in order to ensure that the public was given as full of an opportunity to provide the city's decisionmakers with their perception and pieces of their minds, there would be no reduction of the three-minute speaker limitation. Nor was there to be, she decided, a limitation on the overall time for the public to make its collective feelings known.

Throughout the course of the evening, 124 members of the public addressed the council over the course of more than four hours. Of those, 122 made clear they believed the people of San Bernardino should be able to elect their mayor and that the council should not be entrusted to make that decision for them.

Some of those speaking were respectful. Some were not. In surveying that content, the

individual most respected was the mayor. The person least respected was Sanchez, followed by Shorett. Commonly what was heard were harangues, shouts, denunciations and heckling. There were some occasional efforts at reasoning.

Despite the momentum in the room running against taking any action that would deprive the electorate of its elected mayor, Sanchez and Shorett and to a lesser extent Figueroa and Knaus angled the discussion toward the 2016 charter revision having transformed the mayor into a primarily ceremonial post with little voting power, that it was the seven members of the city council setting policy and charting the city's direction with the city manager assisted by department heads having city staff execute carrying out that policy.

Tran, it was pointed out, was continuously angling for greater power than provided for in the charter. Her department had been provided with a 5 percent budget increase yearly while she has been office, it was noted and in the current year, the mayor's office has a \$328,273 annual budget, which includes salaries for herself and her secretary, insurance, travel, car allowance, office supplies and \$3,600 per year for social media communications.

Many of those who had been present to argue against Sanchez's revival of Shorett's proposal were gone by the time the council voted on the motion to place a measure on the June ballot.

Throughout the course of the evening, 124 members of the public addressed the council over the course of more than four hours. Of those, 122 made clear they believed the people of San Bernardino should be able to elect their mayor and that the council should not be entrusted to make that decision for them.

Nevertheless, Tran had managed over the course of the meeting to make inroads against what had previously seemed an ineluctable elimination of the position she holds. Up for election this year, in ad-

dition to Tran, are Sanchez, Ibarra and Shorett. While Sanchez and Shorett are prepared to withstand, or at least try to withstand, anything their critics, opponents and Tran are going to throw against them, Ibarra is not as well-braced. She was first elected in 2018.

In 2022, she was narrowly reelected after the San Bernardino Police Officers Association financed her opponent because she had been critical of the way in which the police department had stood down in the face of looting that occurred during the George Floyd Riots of May 31/June 1 2020. The intensity of expression against the council over the proposal to deprive the community of an elected mayor appeared to unnerve her. She did not vote with Sanchez, Figueroa, Shorett and Knaus to place the proposed measure on the June ballot.

Ortiz is not up for election this year. She is isolated on the council, however, from virtually all of its members, and is hardly on better terms with the mayor. Her intense support of Shorett's proposal to eliminate the directly elected mayor when Valdivia held the post five years ago and the way in which she embraced the concept when she herself ran for mayor in 2022 when she openly campaigned on eliminating the position she was vying for logically would have indicated that she was going to get behind Sanchez's proposal on February 1. Significantly and crucially, however, she did not.

Tran, who was not eligible to vote on Sanchez's motion, seconded by Shorett, stood by idly as the vote was recorded. The motion passed, 4-to-3, with Sanchez, Figueroa, Shorett and Knaus in favor of putting the matter before the city's voters in June, and Ibarra, Flores and Ortiz dissenting. Had either Ibarra or Ortiz voted in accordance with previous expectations, the motion would have passed 5-to-2.

Continued on Page 16

California Has A Districting Commission That Was Bypassed *from front page 3*

usch, stated “it is indisputable ... that the impetus for the adoption of the Texas map was partisan advantage pure and simple.” This discounted any racial or racist element to the motivation for the redistricting. This presaged the reasoning that would be used in the ruling relating to the California redistricting.

Trial Court Judge Erred By Discounting Board Of Supervisors' Authority To Determine Its Own Franchise Standards & Assuming Improper County Intent Without Supporting Evidence, Appeals Court Panel Rules *from front page 6*

that while the Sherman Act clearly forbids anti-competitive conduct by private market players, the law “did not apply to anticompetitive restraints imposed by the states.” The federal court declined to exercise jurisdiction over AMR’s state law claims. American Medical Response appealed the district court’s decision.

In the case filed in San Bernardino County Superior Court, American Medical Response filed a petition for a writ of mandate and brought a motion for a preliminary injunction seeking to enjoin the county and ConFire from proceeding with their contract. Superior Court Judge Jay H. Robinson in February 2025 ruled that the board by awarding the contract through 2029 to CALFIRE disregarded the public bidding process and had prejudicially awarded the ambulance service contract to its favored vendor. Judge Robinson granted AMR’s motion and enjoined the county and ConFire “from performing, proceeding under, or implementing services pursuant to the contract for advanced life support and basic life support ground ambulance services, interfacility and critical care transport services for the exclusive operating areas” while the suit remains pending.

Of note is that in Texas, the argument made against the new map was the intent behind it was to limit Hispanic voting power and in California the argument against the new map there would be that it was aimed at increasing Latino voting power.

California’s map redrafting was more involved, difficult and expensive than the redrawing of the Texas electoral map. Texas law allowed the legislature to on its own initia-

tive or request from the governor to undertake reapportionment. In California, a initiative put in place by a vote of the people required that maps be drawn by a nonpartisan commission and that they can only be altered by a vote of the electorate. Thus, in August, the California legislature, at Governor Newsom’s instigation, consented to the creation of a map drawn up by a political cartologist working at the behest of the Democratic Party.

to McConnell, Irion and Rubin, quoting a precedent case. “As ConFire asserts, the trial court afforded the county ‘no deference, failed to honor the presumptions in their favor, unjustifiably questioned their understanding of their own solicitation, substituted its judgment for that of [the county], questioned the wisdom of their actions, and accused [the county] of improper motivations without any direct evidence.’ This was reversible error.”

McConnell, Irion and Rubin held that “After advancing both proposals, the board heard detailed presentations from AMR and ConFire at a public hearing, followed by many public comments in support of both proposals, before selecting ConFire. AMR has not shown that this decision was irrational or disconnected from the overarching goals of the RFP process to improve service delivery to customers and partners, to establish a more efficient EMS system, and to make investments back into the system. Rather, before the board selected ConFire, each supervisor outlined the reasons he or she believed ConFire provided the best value, including that: (1) ConFire was eligible for supplemental state funding that could support the system and lower the county’s costs; (2) ConFire would improve public safety by closer ‘integration or coordination of services,’ particularly during disasters, by consolidating EMS and fire response;

The legislature did not approve the map but voted to place an initiative – which became Proposition 50 – before the state’s voters in November. Proposition 50 called for amending the California Constitution to allow the use of the new map from 2026 through 2030.

California’s voters on November 4, 2025 passed Proposition 50 with 5,291,908 votes or roughly 63.9 percent in favor and 2,989,022 votes or roughly 36.1

(3) ConFire promised better service with faster response times, and (4) representatives from cities, towns, and fire agencies affected by the decision preferred ConFire.”

It was McConnell’s, Irion’s and Rubin’s determination that “Under the discretion granted to the local agency by the EMS Act and in light of the vagueness in the RFP’s definition of highest score, we cannot hold the county’s action was ‘arbitrary, capricious, entirely lacking in evidentiary support, or unlawfully or procedurally unfair.’ Rather, after the scoring, the county reasonably found that no clear winner emerged from the RFP process. The county’s decision to advance both proposers to negotiate with the board was consistent with the RFP, which stated in subsection 2.13 that more than one proposer could advance, and with the county’s procurement manual, which contains additional guidelines for contract procurement and states the county may issue invitations to negotiate ‘with a short list of proposers to obtain best value during a RFP process.’”

The three-judge panel disagreed with Judge Robinson and American Medical Response in the assessment that the company was on a trajectory to win the case, indicating such a projection was wishful and therefore did not justify the imposition of a preliminary injunction preventing ConFire from moving into place as the county’s ambu-

lance service provider.

On November 7, a coalition of Republicans went to court in an effort to block the use of the map. They argued that the map violated the U.S. Constitution by relying on race in drawing 16 congressional districts that impermissibly favored Latino voters.

A divided three-judge district court – which Congress assigned to hear congressional redistricting cases – rejected the request, leaving the new map in place. Writ-

ing for the majority, U.S. District Judge Josephine Staton concluded “that the evidence of any racial motivation driving redistricting is exceptionally weak, while the evidence of partisan motivations is overwhelming.”

Staton further dismissed the plaintiffs’ contention that even if the voters had partisan motives when they approved Proposition 50, “they were simply dupes of a racially-motivated *Continued on Page 16*

and negotiation. While the RFP stated the highest scoring proposer would be recommended to the board, the RFP did not define the term ‘highest scorer’ and three of the four evaluators on the proposal review committee scored ConFire higher than AMR.”

“In short, the RFP’s plain language provides that the county may negotiate with more than one proposer and that the final determination is left to the discretion of the board based on the scoring, and the board’s determination of the proposer’s ability to meet the needs of the county and provide the best value,” according to McConnell, Irion and Rubin.

At this point, American Medical Response can roll the dice and appeal the appellate ruling to the California Supreme Court.

The California Supreme Court is not required to hear all cases that are filed with it. Rather, the California Supreme Court has discretion about which cases to review and hears about 3 percent of cases that are petitioned for review. Of the three percent reviewed, roughly 50 percent are upheld and 50 percent are reversed, according to a review by the California Constitution Center and the University of California Law Journal.

Using Her Skill At Community Outreach And Her Veto Power, Tran This Week Kept Herself Alive And In A Position To Continue To Electioneer *from page 14*

Such an outcome would have been beyond Tran's reach, and the next major battle in her war for political survival would have become convincing at least 50 percent plus one of the city's voters in June to keep their elected mayor in place. That, however, has proved out to be a battle she will not need fight. With the vote having been logged as 4-to-3, she immediately exercised her veto power, which erased the vote's outcome.

The mayoralty in many cities often serves as a stepping stone to higher political office. Though that has occasionally been the case in San Bernardino, as with James Cunningham,

Supreme Court Balances Texas Republican Gerrymander With California's Democratic Gerrymander *from page 15*

legislature."

The challengers took the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court on January 20, seeking intervention. They maintained the state's goal was "offsetting a perceived racial gerrymander in Texas."

No Misappropriation Going On In The Apple Valley Unified School District, County Schools Official Says *from page 7*

identified as 'missing' is actually the total of documented funds moved appropriately between various district funds over seven years. While these amounts decrease the general fund in the listed amounts, they increase the balances of other funds, including Fund 11-Adult Education, Fund 13-Cafeteria Fund, Fund 14-Deferred Maintenance, and Fund 40-Special Reserve Fund. When the financial statements are viewed in their entirety—including interfund transfers and audit adjustments—every dollar cited is fully accounted for and reconciled to zero."

Left unexplained by

who was San Bernardino's 19th mayor, serving from May 1947 until December 1950, before going on to become a California State Senator from 1951 to 1957, in far more cases, what looked like what might prove to be a promising career in elected office ended problematically, with the holder going no further or history recording some undesirable element that ruined his reputation.

William Carpenter Seccombe was a pharmacist who was a member of the San Bernardino Board of Education before he was elected San Bernardino Mayor, a position he held from 1941 to 1947. When the Mexi-

Additionally, they argued, the lower court should have given more weight to the testimony by the private consultant, Paul Mitchell, who drew the new map—and who "boasted publicly and on social media," they said, that the new map "would maintain, if not expand, Latino voting power in California." They asked the court to act by February 9, the day that the filing period for elective office in California

can American Defense Committee challenged the city's policies on segregation, which included disallowing Mexican Americans to use the Perris Hill Plunge, the city council, including Seccombe, rejected the calls for integration. A class action lawsuit was filed against Seccombe and the city council by Ignacio Lopez, leading to a landmark decision in which a judge ruled that the San Bernardino mayor and city council were acting illegally. The case Lopez v. Seccombe immortalized Seccombe in a way that darkened his name.

Mayor Al Ballard, whose hard-nosed flamboyance played a part in getting him elected, brought him into controversy when he insisted on an aggressive response to 1960s riots,

starts.

The State of California in its response asserted that the lower court considered statements by Mitchell and state legislators, but had concluded the new map was not racially influenced. More broadly, it contended, the challengers were "asking the Court to treat California's map differently from how it treated Texas's map, thereby allowing a Republican-led State to engage in par-

which included authorizing shotguns for firefighters and supporting a controversial figure with alleged Mafia connections.

William Robert "Bob" Holcomb was San Bernardino longest serving mayor, having been in office from 1971 to 1985 and again from 1989 to 1993. The great-grandson of legendary prospector and discoverer William F. Holcomb, he was a World War II B-17 pilot who flew multiple missions over Nazi Germany, an attorney and newspaper founder and publisher who led the successful effort to prevent the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California from subsuming the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, thus preserving local control of the San Bernardino

tisan gerrymandering while forbidding a Democratic-led State from responding in kind."

On Wednesday, February 4, with five days remaining before the February 9 deadline requested by the challengers, the court turned down the challengers' request to intervene.

The Proposition 50 Congressional district map redraft dilutes the number of GOP voters in California Congressional

Valley's water supply.

Holcomb, however, was mayor and leader of the city council that ignored stricter seismic standards enacted after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake and rushed the construction of the San Bernardino City Hall and prevented it from incorporating engineering improvements as a result of its 1972 completion. A 2016 study confirmed that as a result of the use of the outdated standards, the building was unsafe and likely to fail in a 6.0 or greater magnitude quake, leading to its being vacated in 2017 and standing unused ever since.

Patrick Morris, who grew up in Needles, became an attorney and a distinguished prosecutor with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, in which ca-

District 1, where Congressman Doug La Malfa was the representative in before his January death; Congressional District 3 where Kevin Kiley is the incumbent; California Congressional District 22, where David Valadao serves; and California Congressional District 48, where Darrell Issa is the incumbent. The map further extinguishes the 41st Congressional District from Riverside County, where Ken Cal-

pacity one of his earlier cases was that against the infamous husband murderer, Lucille Miller. Later, he practiced law in a firm he formed with his brother, Phillip. Both he and Phillip became San Bernardino County judges and Patrick acceded to the position of presiding judge. One of his accomplishments in that role was the creation of the county's drug court. It was upon his retirement from the bench that Morris successfully ran for San Bernardino mayor. It was his misfortune that as he was nearing the close of his second term, the city's structural deficit left city officials no choice but to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection, marring Morris's otherwise impressive record of accomplishment.

vert is serving, reestablishing the 41st District elsewhere.

What the Democrats might have accomplished with the gerrymander is to ignite hostility between Republicans where previously it did not exist. It appears that Calvert, who has been in Congress since 1993, is contemplating challenging Young Kim, another Republican, in the 40th Congressional District primary in June.

out, audit adjustments, and other restatements," the unattributed district statement says. "It is important to account for these items as they directly impact the fund balance (reserves) and are accounted for separately on the financial statements from revenue and expenditures. It can be compared to moving funds from one bank account to another within a household. The money has not disappeared, but rather it has moved into another account or, in our case, fund."

Cassida's letter concludes, "The county's fiscal oversight process, supported by the district's FCMAT Report and the last three annual audit reports, have not exposed any instances of misappropriation of district funds."

ment assistance, studies, and training to help districts improve financial practices, operational efficiency, and prevent future distress. Those proactive services extend to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, which can request Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team take part in studies or technical assistance to improve management practices, policies, or organizational structure before a crisis occurs. The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team offers professional development for districts' and county superintendents' chief business officials and other staff. It also provides free, voluntary tools for prevention like its so-called Special Education Efficiency Tool

and Projection-Pro software to help districts monitor their financial health. District can also invite the team to review departments or processes to avoid potential future issues.

Nevertheless, that the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team was asked to intervene at the Apple Valley Unified School District is an indication that things had evolved or deteriorated to a point where some level of assistance was needed.

Both Cassida's letter and its attachment, which appeared to have been generated by some unspecified individual or individuals with the Apple Valley Unified School District, revealed the sensitive nature of what Longshore was alluding to in her opinion