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Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

MAY 8, 2020

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FORPD Board Approves Amphitheatre Remodel



Don Langford, a member of the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival Board of Directors, is excited about the Amphitheatre renovation, which will now be funded through Measure J. Photo by Shaunna Boyd.

Story by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Residents approved the Measure J general obligation bond in November 2018 to improve parks and recreation in Fair Oaks. The bond identified four major projects within the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD): improvements at Village Park, Plaza Park, and the Community Clubhouse; construction of two new softball fields at Phoenix Park; construction of a new recreation center serving youth and seniors; and district-wide improvement projects to increase safety, develop new parks, and protect open spaces.

The District also hoped to fund some ambitious renovations at the Veteran's Memorial Amphitheatre,

applying for Prop. 65 funding through the state. The Amphitheatre renovations were planned to coincide with the Measure J improvements scheduled for Village Park, Plaza Park, and the Community Clubhouse. However, the Prop. 65 application was not approved by the state.

But the District had already put a lot of time and money into designs for the Amphitheatre project and had gathered extensive input and support from the Fair Oaks community. Mike Aho, district administrator for the FORPD, said, "We had the plan ready to go; we had all the public outreach done." So, with the approval of the Measure J citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, District staff recommended the Board use some of the \$29.5 million Measure J bond

funds for the Amphitheatre remodel. The Board agreed with the recommendation, voting at the April 15 meeting to allocate \$5.9 million to the Amphitheatre project.

The Amphitheatre wasn't specifically listed in the bond language, since the District planned to fund the project through Prop. 65. When asked if the Measure J bond allows for use on improvements to paid recreation facilities like the Amphitheatre, Aho said that the bond language specifies that the funds can be used to "upgrade, construct, renovate, and expand parks/facilities."

Along with upgrades to the exterior and updated ADA accommodations, the Amphitheatre renovations will include additions of a lobby, dressing

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VA NorCal Encourages Veterans to Access Mental Health Support from Home

By Will Martin,
VA Northern California
Health Care System

MATHER, CA (MPG) - Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, VA NorCal Health Care System asks that Veterans use VA's online resources for non-urgent mental health care and questions. Not only will this help protect Veterans from contracting COVID-19, but it will enable VA providers to focus their in-person care on Veterans with acute needs.

"Out of concern for our Veterans, we are honoring COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines," said VA NorCal David Stockwell. "Through VA's virtual care tools, we are able to leverage technology to make sure that our patients and staff are as safe as possible during this time."

VA offers Veterans a variety of at-home mental health resources, including:

Telephone or Video Appointments - Veterans should maintain their existing mental health appointments using VA Video Connect (mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect) at home on their computers, smartphones, or tablets. To set up telephone or video appointments, Veterans can send their health care provider a secure message by visiting myhealth.va.gov.

Prescription Refills and Safety - Veterans should continue taking all medications as prescribed and talk to their mental health provider if they have concerns. Veterans may request prescription refills and order shipments of medications to their homes using My HealtheVet or the Rx Refill mobile app, which can be downloaded at mobile.va.gov/app/rx-refill. VA's Safe Home Environment handout provides information on safely storing medications in the home.

Mental Health Information and Resources - VA provides information on ways for Veterans and their families to maintain and enhance their mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 outbreak. Information about managing stress and anxiety, as well as mental health resources, are available at www.mentalhealth.va.gov/coronavirus/resources.

For more information about VA NorCal's use of mental health care technology in response to COVID-19, please e-mail Will Martin, Chief of Public Affairs, at William.Martin6@va.gov. ★

Rotary - People of Action!

By Pete Schroeder,
Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Every year, the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks is approached by quite a few local (and not-so-local) charities, organizations and other worthy causes. They all could use assistance in terms of Time, Talent and/or Treasure from our Club in their endeavor to serve their chosen population.

One of the worthiest local causes is the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank. Considering the unique conditions and consequences of the current Shelter-In-Place, it is no wonder that the lines at the Food Bank are longer than ever!

Keith Wright is the Food Bank's Executive Director, and a member of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks. Keith has kept the Club abreast of



One of the worthiest local causes is the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank. Photo courtesy Bruce Vicent

the severely increased needs of the Food Bank, and also their projected needs, as the coronavirus situation lingers. The normal 1200 families per month served by the Food Bank has doubled since the health and economic turmoil began. Projected figures are estimated to be 5x normal! Imagine 6000 families in need of food every month!

The 2020 project for the

Rotary Club of Fair Oaks will be aimed at reducing the impact that Covid 19 has on the Sacramento Region. Our club will be working in partnership with Food Bank to increase outreach and provide groceries for more families that are struggling at this difficult time.

The program aims to add a new day of operation, Friday, to the Food Bank's current service days

- Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Additionally, Rotary would add a monthly Saturday shift. Rotary will step up to provide the funding (Treasure) and all the volunteers (Time & Talent) necessary to allow the Food Bank to open this additional day every week, plus the monthly Saturday. Keith says that could translate into serving an additional 20% or 240 suffering families!

Rotary International's motto is Service Above Self, which best explains the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service.

(Of course, anyone reading this - that means YOU! - who is so moved as to want to contribute, please contact the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank at <https://orangevalefoodbank.org/> or the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks at <https://www.rotaryfairoaks.org/page/contact-us>) ★

KP International: The Quiet Heroes

By Paul Scholl

RANCH CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - In a time where things appear to be so uncertain on a national level, looking for certainty in our own neighborhoods brings a feeling that we and our neighbors can overcome the current crisis together.

In these challenging times neighbors and shoppers want to be sure where they are shopping and visiting are serious about battling the possibility of the spread of the virus. They want to be sure that regular cleaning and precautions are in place.

One local grocery center, KP International Market, has been stepping up to create an even safer and cleaner environment. Lead by their management team, the store has adhered to all the government guidelines for social interactions while keeping the store open for business daily.

KP staff regularly clean, disinfect and sanitize the entire store, grocery carts, and all service areas. They are quietly and professionally dedicated to making every patron feel safe about their visit.

All staff are wearing face masks and gloves, changing them after each use. All checkers are wearing face shields while in the checkout stands. All checkout stands are being wiped down with disinfectant every few minutes. The entire store is quarantined and completely sanitized weekly.

The store management is providing masks and gloves for all shoppers when they enter the store. They are making every effort possible to have all protocols in place.



Mr. Hyowan Kim, Community Relations Director, gives the thumbs-up to the clean checkout area. Photo by Paul Scholl

A great resource for many items you can't normally find at other stores, this store is remaining nearly fully stocked of the items regularly purchased by their international shoppers.

They are now selling hand sanitizers for their shoppers. BJ Yu, the store owner, reported that getting the sanitizer for sale to their shoppers had been

extremely difficult and they are grateful they were now able to provide it.

The Food Court, always a favorite lunch venue for shoppers and local business people looking for a quick and tasty meal, is also open daily for take-out.

KP International is one of the community's more supportive companies. They donate to many local

non-profits and to many annual events put on by the city and local organizations.

The store has had to cancel a few of their own events that normally would draw large crowds to the center. These events were cancelled out of an abundance of caution for their attendees.

Owner BJ Yu said in our interview; "These are

difficult times, but we must keep working hard and be considerate of each other. We must keep going and we will get through this together as a community."

He and his entire staff have a big heart for the community and they are showing it again with all the extra pre-cautions being taken to clearly put the safety of their

shoppers first.

KP International is located at 10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, just across the street from the local post office in the big shopping mall. They are open from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday through Sunday. You can find out more by visiting their web site at sac.kpinternational-market.com ★

KP International MARKET
 FOOD COURT NOW OPEN
 10971 Olson Drive
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 916.853.8000
 Market - 7 Days 8am - 10pm
 Food Court - 7 Days 11am - 9:30pm
 (Chinese: 11:30am - 8:30pm)
 PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 6 - MAY 12, 2020

To Our Valued Customers.
 We will continue to offer the best prices possible during these challenging times. Our KP team is working very hard and have your families and our communities in mind. Please honor "social distancing" and be patient in your shopping experience and courteous to all in the store.
THANK YOU for shopping at KP International Market.

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

	REG. \$12.99/EA \$8.99 /ea Filipino Style Lumpia Shanghai 3 Kinds • 2 lb		REG. \$6.99/EA \$6.99 /ea Yellow Croaker Fillets 14 lb Bag
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WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS *SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

	\$4.79 /lb Beef Ribeye Roast Boneless Chuleton de Ternera Asado		\$4.29 /lb Beef Cross Rib Shoulder Steak 2 1/2" Thick Corte y Asado de Salsado de Carne		\$4.59 /lb Beef Cross Rib Shoulder Steak 2 1/2" Thick Corte y Frito de Bistec de Carne
	\$1.59 /lb Boneless & Skinless Chicken Thigh Meat Corte y Frito de Bistec de Carne		\$1.99 /lb Pork Leg Roast Boneless Corte y Frito de Bistec de Carne		\$2.99 /lb Pork Tenderloin Corte y Frito de Bistec de Carne
	\$4.99 /lb Beef Ribeye Steak Boneless Filete de Chuleton de Ternera		\$2.99 /lb Pork Tenderloin Lomo de Cerdo		\$2.99 /lb Country Style Pork Ribs Corte y Frito de Bistec de Carne

Advised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 6 - MAY 12, 2020.

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

	\$2.39 /ea		\$10.99 /ea		\$2.99 /ea		\$12.99 /ea		\$2.29 /ea
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ASIAN GROCERY

	\$1.99 /ea		\$1.99 /ea		\$5.99 /ea		59c /ea		\$3.99 /ea
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EUROPEAN GROCERY

	\$5.99 /ea		\$4.99 /ea		\$1.79 /ea		\$5.99 /ea		\$1.99 /ea
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KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

	2.99 /ea		4.99 /ea		1.99 /ea		5.99 /ea		7.99 /ea		4.99 /ea
	4.99 /ea		2.99 /ea		2.49 /ea		3.99 /ea		8.99 /ea		1.59 /ea

HOUSEWARES

	\$19.99 /ea		99c /ea		\$29.99 /ea		\$25.99 /ea
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FROZEN & FISH DEPT

	\$4.99 /ea		\$5.99 /ea		\$8.99 /ea
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Advised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 6 - MAY 12, 2020.

FORPD Board Approves Amphitheatre Remodel

Continued from page 1

rooms, recreation rooms, new restrooms, an outdoor raised stage facing Plaza Park, and an enclosed Black Box theater. The improvements will allow year-round use of the Amphitheatre, regardless of weather.

The District had originally earmarked a large portion of Measure J funds for a new recreation center. When asked if that project was now off the table, Aho said, "We have other funding opportunities we're looking at." After completion of all the Measure J projects currently planned, Aho explained that the District expects to have another \$3 or 4 million in Measure J funds that could be put toward a recreation center—a total that could be bolstered by grants and donations. The recreation center is only in the initial concept phase, and a location has not even been secured. So, moving some funds to the Amphitheatre project doesn't actually delay plans for a recreation center.

Funding the Amphitheatre project at this time will benefit the Village, said Aho: "If we wait, we disrupt the Village twice. ... We want to keep disruption to a minimum. It's better for everybody." The Village enhancements are expected to take at least a year and a half. So, if the District waits for other funding sources for the Amphitheatre, vendors and visitors in the Village would be dealing with an extended construction schedule.

Aho said that the parks and facilities in the Village essentially "are the center of recreation for Fair Oaks." The District plans to break ground on the Plaza Park, Village Park, Community Clubhouse, and Amphitheatre improvements on October 8, 2020, as part of the District's 75th anniversary celebration.

While the District owns the Amphitheatre, theatrical operations are managed by the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival

Board of Directors. Don Langford, a member of the Board, said he viewed the plans for renovation as a "hopeful dream." After learning that the District's Prop. 65 application was denied, Lanford said, "We assumed we wouldn't be touched." He never expected the project would be funded through Measure J: "It wasn't part of the bond measure as we had read it."

The Theatre Festival Board was busy planning the upcoming 2020 season, which would have run from May through September, before the coronavirus pandemic forced a cancellation. Upon hearing that the District planned to move forward with the Amphitheatre renovation, Langford said he was "surprised and pleased." Although the change is a pleasant surprise, Langford said they are now faced with the task of removing all their lighting, equipment, props, and costumes to an offsite storage location to make room for the renovation.

Shutting down the Amphitheatre for almost two years of construction is a daunting prospect for the Theatre Festival Board; Langford said, "We weren't prepared for that." He said it could be a challenge to maintain support for the Amphitheatre while it is shut down for the remodel, but he hopes they can continue holding events at alternative locations — although that isn't currently feasible due to the public health crisis.

Langford is looking forward to the eventual reopening of the new-and-improved Amphitheatre: "The concept of being year-round is very exciting for us." Holding large-scale musicals and concerts in the outdoor Amphitheatre during the summer and closing into a smaller facility during the winter months for more intimate productions offers a way of "keeping theatre alive year-round," said Langford. "It's very exciting, and it's very out-of-the box thinking." ★

Another 1,200 Care Packages Shipped!

Move America Forward Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Move America Forward staff worked through the day to ship another 1,250 boxes of care packages to the troops. This great news comes after we recently shipped about 2,500 boxes last week. MAF staff took care of this shipment instead of utilizing volunteers, due to coronavirus. Because we take the threat of coronavirus seriously and want to ensure the safety of our troops, we are using only a minimal crew of volunteers for these projects.

Our warehouse was so full of boxes, we couldn't get through to our offices without having to snake through corridors of boxes stacked high above your head! We asked for your help to get these boxes out of our building so we can clear a path through and you answered the call!

While it's nice to reclaim a little bit of office space, we're not slowing down on our efforts to support the troops! Easter just passed and we are very thankful that with your help we reached our goal of \$10,000 for the troops for Easter. So stay tuned to see what comes next from Move America Forward! I can promise it will be exciting!

As the devastating effects of the COVID19 epidemic show up all over the world, and so many states, including our own



Check out some photos below of this huge shipment that took all day to complete!

California enforcing "shelter in place" orders, we want all our supporters to know that Move America Forward takes this virus threat extremely seriously.

While we considered shutting down all operations, as many businesses have done, we were reminded that our troops NEVER take a day off.

Whether it's a threat from terrorist groups or coronavirus, our troops still put their lives at risk every day to accomplish their missions and keep our country safe. We have so much respect for their service, we knew that we simply MUST keep supporting them, sending care packages, and

sending the troops much needed supplies even now. Our staff have taken great precautions to maintain the utmost possible cleanliness and safeguard the health of our troops while continuing our mission to send them support.

We take as many protective measures as possible to protect our staff and troops from the possibility of infection, but we want to make it clear that our troops will still get the support they need from us, and we thank YOU for YOUR continued support during these troubling times.

To donate or for more information visit: <https://carepackages.moveamericaforward.org/> ★

VA NorCal Offers Hope of Recovery to Sexual Trauma and Harassment Survivors

By Will Martin, VA NorCal Health Care System

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - VA NorCal Health Care System has been at the forefront in delivering Military Sexual Trauma (MST), sexual harassment, and domestic violence support to Veterans across Northern California. It is important Veterans know that those programs remain available even amid COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

"Our goal is nothing short of eliminating sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence, not only in our health care facilities, but across the Northern California Veteran community," said VA NorCal Director David Stockwell. "We didn't hit pause on that goal because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we're finding ways to ensure Veterans can still access support even as they practice social distancing."

Using telehealth technology, VA NorCal is able to deliver counseling and resource support to Veterans in their homes over the phone or on their computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Domestic Violence: As many as 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men are impacted by intimate partner (domestic) violence in their lifetimes, and Veterans may be at a higher risk than the civilian population. Understanding this need, VA NorCal has joined other VA facilities in launching the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Assistance Program. To explore services and resources, e-mail Diane.Weber@va.gov or visit <https://www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Index.asp>.

Military Sexual Trauma (MST): VA NorCal provides free, confidential counseling and treatment to male and female Veterans for mental and physical health conditions related to experiences of sexual assault or harassment that occurred while a Veteran was serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Call 925-372-2554 or visit <https://www.northerncalifornia.va.gov/services/mst.asp>.

For more information about VA NorCal's use of virtual health care technology in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please e-mail Will Martin, Chief of Public Affairs, at William.Martin6@va.gov. ★

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Fair Oaks Cemetery
 Saturday May 23, 2020 at 10:00am
 7780 Olive Street, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Due to COVID-19, celebration will be limited to drive by in your vehicle. Come and enjoy our flags display and music!

This Memorial Day weekend Americans everywhere are reflecting on those that gave their lives in service to our country. In the American public's consciousness, WWII was the apex of the U.S. military's glory. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and supporting military had saved the world from pure evil.

Over the intervening seven-plus decades, the United States has become entangled in less popular conflicts where the enemy and the objectives have been more elusive. While the reasons for these wars and the outcomes have seemed less tangible and more distant, the sacrifices of the men and women of the U.S. military are every bit as courageous and selfless as those in World War II.

When duty has called, American military personnel have answered with determination, grit and bravery. Memorial Day is designated to honor those who perished in the efforts. From the American Revolution in 1775 through ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere, more than 1.3 million members of the U.S. military have died in war. Please join us in our twenty second annual Memorial Day Avenue of Flags Ceremony remembering those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

For more information:
 Guillermo Barron, District Manager
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We Support Our Military

Society for the Blind Receives \$25K from Granite Bay Whitmire Foundation

By Kristin Thébaud, Thébaud Comm.

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Society for the Blind recently received \$25,000 from M&M Whitmire Family Foundation in Granite Bay to provide classes and training for seniors with vision loss and blindness. The grant will fund the group's Senior IMPACT Project that empowers people age 55 and older with alternative, non-visual techniques and skills that enable them to perform day-to-day tasks and activities so they can maintain or increase independence.

"Our Senior IMPACT Project is life-changing for the growing number of seniors in the Sacramento region who find themselves losing their vision and are unsure of how to continue living independently," said Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind. "Increasingly, more seniors are still working and need to learn how to do their jobs using non-visual techniques. Thanks to this funding from the M&M Whitmire Family Foundation, hundreds of seniors with vision loss can live life to the fullest."

The Senior IMPACT Project includes an eight-day retreat offered monthly at Society for the Blind that gives seniors an immersion experience where they learn alternative techniques and skills to travel safely, efficiently and independently. They practice alternative techniques and use adapted tools to perform tasks of daily living including cooking, cleaning, shopping, home maintenance, organization, personal finance and more. They learn how to use



Students in Society for the Blind's Senior IMPACT Project enjoy a meal after learning to cook in the group's new teaching kitchen, one of the skills funded by a grant from M&M Whitmire Family Foundation. Photo: Thébaud Communications

the latest in assistive technology to operate computers and mobile devices for home, school and work, and they learn Braille. Participants receive individualized attention from instructors and mentors who are blind or low vision, and they have the opportunity to join in discussion groups with peers on issues around vision loss and participate in community activities. For those unable to attend retreats, Society for the Blind sends instructors to their homes to teach skills and offer resources. The Senior IMPACT Project includes monthly peer support groups for English and Spanish speakers and workshops throughout the year.

"On behalf of the M&M Whitmire Family Foundation, I would like to thank Society for the Blind for letting our foundation be a part of such a great organization," said Jessika Cano, director of senior outreach at the foundation. "Blindness comes in various degrees and knows no discrimination. It is something that all can experience in some degree, and something we can adapt to and still have productive and great lives. Society for the Blind makes this possible by

having amazing programs and a wide range of tools with great employees and volunteers willing to teach. Thanks again to Society for the Blind for continuing their support and care within our community now and in the years to come."

For 66 years, Society for the Blind has created innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of northern California. The nonprofit provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for nearly 6,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. For more information or to make a donation, visit SocietyfortheBlind.org.

M&M Whitmire Family Foundation's mission is to assist children in need and senior care within the Sacramento area. ★

New Measure for Transferring Property Tax Base Eligible for California's November Ballot

Secretary of State Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced that an initiative became eligible for the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot yesterday.

In order to become eligible for the ballot, the initiative needed 997,139 valid petition signatures, which is equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2018 General Election.

A measure can become eligible via random sampling of petition signatures if the sampling projects that the number of valid signatures is greater than 110 percent of the required number. The initiative needed at least 1,096,853 projected valid signatures to become eligible by random sampling, and it exceeded that threshold yesterday.

On June 25, 2020, the Secretary of State will certify the initiative as qualified for the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot, unless it is withdrawn by the proponents prior to certification pursuant to Elections Code section 9604(b).

The Attorney General's official title and summary of the measure is as follows:

CHANGES REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFERRING PROPERTY TAX BASE TO REPLACEMENT PROPERTY. EXPANDS BUSINESS PROPERTY REASSESSMENT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Removes the following requirements to transfer property tax base to replacement

residence for homeowners over 55 or severely disabled: that replacement property be of equal or lesser value; that replacement property be in eligible county; and that transfer occur only once. Allows three such transfers. Removes location and replacement-value requirements for transfers of contaminated or disaster-destroyed property. Adjusts replacement property's tax base, based on market value. Limits tax benefits for certain transfers between family members. Expands circumstances requiring business property reassessment. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Local governments could gain tens of millions of dollars of property tax revenue per year, likely growing over time to a few hundred million dollars per year. Schools could receive similar property tax revenue gains. Other local and state revenues each could increase by tens of millions of dollars per year. County property tax administration costs likely would increase by tens of millions of dollars per year. (19-0003.)

The proponent of the measure, Alexander Creel, can be reached c/o Kurt Oneto of Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross & Leoni, LLP at (916) 446-6752. The address for Nielsen et al., LLP is 1415 L Street, Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For more information about how an initiative qualifies for the ballot in California, visit <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/how-qualify-initiative/> ★

Court Issues Injunction in Rhode v. Becerra

National Rifle Association Press Release

FAIRFAX, VA (MPG) - A major victory was secured recently when a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction in the NRA-supported case, Rhode v. Becerra. The case challenges the constitutionality of a California law that puts draconian restrictions on ammunition acquisition and transfers as a result of Prop 63 and SB 1235 (2016).

As the court said, 'The right to keep and bear arms is the insurance policy behind the right to life ... a shield from the tyranny of the majority.' California wasn't just obstructing the people's fundamental right to defend

their families and lives – it was encouraging unlawful hostility toward an individual, "Constitutional right," said Jason Ouimet, executive director, National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action. "The NRA funded this case for the same reason the court struck down the laws: enough was enough."

The law required law-abiding citizens to undergo background checks when purchasing ammunition and for all transactions to occur in-person through a licensed ammunition vendor.

Thursday's injunction means the law cannot be enforced while the case is active unless the decision is stayed.

Visit <http://nra.org>. ★

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Sm. Size #00201 or #000A1 with any purchase of pet, fish food or supply. Limit 1. 99¢ Value PLU 338 CHM Limit: 1 Coupon Per Family Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20

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<p>BLUE BUFFALO DRY DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chicken (Reg. \$11.00 Off) 30 Lb Bag •Chicken (Large Breed) •Fish & Oatmeal (Reg & Lrg Breed) •Puppy (Reg & Large Breed) •Senior (Reg & Lrg Breed) •Lamb & Rice •Healthy Weight <p>\$8 OFF Our Regular Low Prices! Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20</p>	<p>NATURAL BALANCE DRY DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ultra Grain Free 26 Lb. •Potato & Duck 26 Lb. •Fat Dog 28 Lb. •Vegetarian 28 Lb. <p>\$5 OFF Our Super Low Prices Limit 2 Bags Per Family Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20</p>	<p>MERRICK'S GRAIN FREE DRY DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chicken/Sweet Potato •Duck/Sweet Potato •Buffalo/Sweet Potato •Salmon/Sweet Potato •Venison/Sweet Potato <p>25 Lb Bag \$10 OFF Limit 2 Bag OUR REGULAR LOW PRICE! Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20</p>	<p>PURINA KIT N' KABOODLE DRY CAT FOOD</p> <p>16 Lb Bag</p> <p>Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$9.49 Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20</p>															
<p>FRISKIES BUFFET CANNED CAT FOOD</p> <p>5.5 Oz All Varieties</p> <p>Limit 2 Cases Per Family ON SALE Everyday Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20</p>	<p>FUSSIE CAT PREMIUM CANNED CAT FOOD</p> <p>Black Label Gold Label 2.8 Oz.</p> <p>Limit 2 Cases Per Family ON SALE Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20</p>	<p>TIDY CATS SCOOPABLE CAT LITTER</p> <p>20 Lb Jug</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regular •Unscented <p>Limit 2 Jugs Per Family ON SALE Everyday Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20</p>	<p>HI-COUNTRY WILD BIRD SEED</p> <p>20 Lb Bag (Kaytee, 20 Lbs - \$8.99) (Audubon Friends, 20 Lbs - \$5.99)</p> <p>Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$6.99 Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20</p>															
<p>MERRICK'S GOURMET CANNED DOG FOOD</p> <p>13.2 Oz All Varieties Limit 2 cases On Sale</p> <p>30 Lb Bag IAMS DRY DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mini-Chunk \$27.99 •Large Breed \$28.99 •Lamb Meal & Rice •Weight Control 	<p>EVERE CLEAN PREMIUM CAT LITTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ES Unscented •US Ever Fresh •Light Weight (22 Lb.) <p>25 Lb. Box Limit 2 Boxes \$12.99</p>	<p>PESTELL CLUMPING CAT LITTER</p> <p>40 Lb. Bag Limit 2 Bags \$8.99</p>	<p>28.5-33 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags SCIENCE DIET DRY DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lite \$44.99 •Sensitive Stomach \$49.99 •Perfect Weight \$51.99 															
<p>CAT COUNTRY PREMIUM ORGANIC CAT LITTER</p> <p>Limit 2 Bags 20 Lb \$7.99 40 Lb \$14.99</p>	<p>HEINZ PUP-PERONI DOG TREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Beef •Lean •Bacon •Prime Rib <p>25 Oz Pkg Limit 2 Pkgs \$8.99</p>	<p>AVODERM CANNED DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regular •Grain Free (Avoderm Canned Cat Food) <p>13 Oz Limit 1 Case \$1.69</p>	<p>IAMS DRY CAT FOOD</p> <p>7 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags \$11.99</p>															
<p>FRESH STEP CAT LITTER</p> <p>21 Lb Bag (14 Lb Bag - \$4.49) Limit 2 Bags \$6.49</p>	<p>CORE GRAIN FREE DRY DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ocean •Reduced Fat <p>22-24 Lb Bag \$64.99</p>	<p>OKOCAT CLUMPING WOOD LITTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regular •Soft Step <p>11-13 Lb \$3.00 OFF 16.7 Lb \$4.00 OFF 19.8 Lb \$4.00 OFF</p>	<p>MARINELAND POWER FILTER SALE</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>MODEL</th> <th>TANK SIZE</th> <th>PET CLUB SALE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>PENGUIN 100B</td> <td>20 Gal.</td> <td>\$17.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PENGUIN 150B</td> <td>30 Gal.</td> <td>\$24.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PENGUIN 200B</td> <td>50 Gal.</td> <td>\$29.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PENGUIN 350B</td> <td>75 Gal.</td> <td>\$39.99</td> </tr> </table>	MODEL	TANK SIZE	PET CLUB SALE	PENGUIN 100B	20 Gal.	\$17.99	PENGUIN 150B	30 Gal.	\$24.99	PENGUIN 200B	50 Gal.	\$29.99	PENGUIN 350B	75 Gal.	\$39.99
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PENGUIN 350B	75 Gal.	\$39.99																
<p>HAMILTON PET LEASHES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collars •Harnesses All Varieties •Leads •Nylon •Leashes •Leather <p>20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>CADET RAWHIDE SALE</p> <p>28 oz. \$16.99</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chicken Breast •Duck Breast •Sweet Potato & Chicken •Sweet Potato & Duck 	<p>CHUCK IT FETCH GAMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ball Launchers •Flying Squirrel •Tennis Balls •Glow Balls •Ultra Balls •Fetch Toys All Varieties <p>20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>REPTILE SUPPLY SALE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo Med Reptibark 5 Oz. \$5.49 Tetra Reptomim 3.7 Oz. \$3.79 Tetra Reptomim 10.5 Oz. \$8.49 															
<p>EARTH-RATED WASTE PICK UP BAGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unscented •Lavendar Scent •Standard •Handle <p>20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>PET AG ESIBAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Puppy Milk Replacer Weaning Food KMR •Kitten Milk Replacer Weaning Food <p>20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>AQUEON BOXED 10 GALLON TANK With Economy Kit</p> <p>Just add Heater For Tropical Fish \$36.99 Limit 1 Per Family</p>	<p>MARINELAND PREMIUM FISH FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All Varieties •Goldfish •Cichlids •Tropical •Wafers <p>20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>															
<p>BONUS COUPON</p> <p>JONNY CAT PREMIUM CAT LITTER</p> <p>10 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20 \$1.79 CHM PLU 365</p>	<p>BONUS COUPON</p> <p>WHISKAS TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All Varieties 3 Oz. <p>Limit 2 Pkgs With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20 \$1.25 CHM PLU 569</p>	<p>BONUS COUPON</p> <p>FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Oz - All Varieties Except Elegant Medley Limit 1 Case Per Family Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon <p>Effective 5/6/20 - 5/12/20 ON SALE Everyday CHM PLU 361</p>																



MOM ALWAYS

When you look up the definition of mom or mother, it says a female who has borne offspring. But that is pretty simplistic, isn't it? Mom means so much more. Remember the times she sat up with you when you weren't feeling good? How about the times you came home from school in tears because of some silly thing that happened, but she didn't feel it was silly and she held you close till the trauma subsided? Motherhood is so many things, and I can remember so many of them as I was growing up. My mom has been gone almost two decades now, but my memories of her loving and caring for me will always be with me. The times you got frustrated with her or disagreed with her or dismissed her advice just doesn't seem to matter. It's the times she sat in the front row of my performances and smiled with love as I sang my heart out. I remember the pride she had when she

POPPOFF!

with **Mary Jane Popp**

could sneak in a statement to anyone who would listen about how her daughter was on radio and TV and how proud she was.

Yes, I got frustrated at times with her, but I real-



ized it was all done for love of me. Was she perfect? No! Was I perfect? Heck no! But we were family and that's all that mattered.

With all that is going on in the world today with the covid19 pandemic, we need to cherish every moment we have with our mother...whether that is live or in spirit. We have to be a little more creative, don't we? Yes, you can still send a card or candy or flowers and that's fine. But I have a feeling she would much more appreciate a call. I know you can email or text, but believe me, the sound of your

voice will carry so much more. The voice cannot hide your feelings. It represents them. I know. I tell folks listening to radio it will really tell you about the person broadcasting... so much more than TV. On TV, the pictures and body language help, but on radio or a call, it is the voice that says everything. Tell her you love her. Tell her you understand...even if you don't. You will someday. You may not have another Mother's Day opportunity to say those words. The world today is taking so many wonderful people away from us, and we don't know who will be next.

Perhaps this is a time that will resonate in our hearts instead of our pocketbooks. Flowers will wilt, candy will get eaten, a card will stay on the shelf for a while and then recycled, but love is forever! Please call your mom and share your love with her and let it be from your heart. I only wish I could hug that beautiful woman with gorgeous blue eyes and blonde hair just one more time. If your mom is still with you, give her a hug for me. Love you mom and

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!



By County Supervisor Sue Frost

Friends,

It has been well over a month since the County, and the State issued stay at home orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time, the curve has "flattened" significantly - well beyond any of the early projections. But as the initial two-week "shelter in place" stretched into two months, the economic sacrifice has grown by leaps and bounds.

My office has been inundated with calls and emails from constituents and businesses seeking help or at least some clarity on how the order impacts them. For executives and workers still getting their full paycheck, two months might not feel like a big deal - just a paid "staycation." For most people, however, two or three months of not being able to work, earn a living, go to school, access daycare, or get (non-covid) medical treatments is back-breaking.

The Governor laid out his vision for "re-opening

Orangevale Community Update

the state." But it is arbitrary and lacks any real specifics or timelines. Businesses still have no idea when they can expect to open - or whether they will be able to find workers when they can re-open.

Sacramento County has extended its public health order to May 22nd and reduced certain restrictions put in place with previous orders. The reduction in restrictions is so that a sense of normalcy can be restored while still promoting social distancing and promoting public health. The flexibility to make those reductions is contingent on the Governor's determination that the County can do so, however.

Efforts to support small businesses have helped ease the pain of forced closures, but they are totally inadequate compared to the economic sacrifice workers, and small businesses have made. \$1200 cannot replace two or three months of salary, and the vast majority of small businesses were left out of the Paycheck Protection and SBA loans because most of the money was gone in hours - going to the LA Lakers, Harvard University, and the Kennedy Center (although after some bad press, all three decided to return the funds.)

I do not disregard the threat of COVID-19 to health and safety is not a

matter that can just be dismissed - but neither can we continue to trivialize the impact the shutdown has had on the lives of nearly every resident. Two weeks was a struggle for many - three months will be a disaster that will linger for years.

Instead of extending or escalating shutdowns further, the Governor needs to focus on creating a more sensible approach to let businesses open safely. We need a plan that considers more than just the concerns of whatever interest group has the loudest voice. Certainly, the majority of financial assistance (that we as taxpayers will have to pay for) has gone to big corporations, unions, and governments - not to small businesses or workers.

The voices I hear from the most are the small business owners and the employees who cannot access assistance and do not know how they will survive if forced to go another month or more without income. I am going to be their voice.

Two weeks was a sacrifice - we did our part to "flatten the curve" and ensure hospitals had the capacity to handle the surge. Now it is time for the government to do more than just order people to hide.

Sincerely,

Sue Frost

Sacramento County Supervisor, District 4

SJWD Should Stop Delaying Its Move to District Elections

Commentary by **Ray Riehle and Gary Page**

Rate payers from the Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks Water Districts represent over 60% of the San Juan Water District's wholesale water service connections; however, four of the San Juan Water District Board's five members are from the community of Granite Bay - where over 70% of households have income of more than \$100,000 annually with an average household income of \$145,000. Compare that to the more racially diverse communities of Citrus Heights with \$54,000 and Fair Oaks with \$75,000 average annual income. Our customers are NOT being well-served by this imbalance which is the point of the California Voters Right Act.

On March 30, 2020, the San Juan Water District (SJWD) received a letter from attorney Kevin Shenkman threatening a lawsuit alleging that the District's at-large elections violated the California Voting Right Act passed in 2001. The law protects against voting systems that limit minority and disadvantaged population's political voices and seeks to allow more representatives of their choice. SJWD has known about potential litigation and ignored it for over a year.

On February 8, 2019, the SJWD Legal Affairs Committee, and on September 25, 2019 the full SJWD Board, discussed the District's vulnerability to a claim, and the likely requirement to pay at least the \$30,000 in fees provided for in AB 350. Despite these clear warnings from SJWD staff, the Board declined to start the process.

At its April 15th Special Meeting, SJWD staff presented scenarios



Ray Riehle, President of Citrus Heights Water District. Photo: Regional Government Services



Gary Page, President of Fair Oaks Water District. Photo: Regional Government Services

for transitioning to "by district" elections for the 2020 election or waiting for transitioning until the 2022 election. SJWD staff indicated that the cost of transitioning now would result in substantial cost savings in legal fees and transition costs. These savings could exceed \$50,000 to the wholesale agency. In fact, based on these cost savings, an initial motion was made and seconded to complete the process for the 2020 election. Oddly, a substitute motion was made and approved by a 3-2 vote (Board Members Ted Costa, Ken Miller and Pam Tobin in favor, and Marty Hanneman and Dan Rich against) to delay compliance until 2022. At its April 22nd Special Meeting, the Board opted to delay its decision again to a special meeting in May. This decision compounds the lack of action from 2019 and increases costs by at least an additional \$50,000. These cost increases will occur during this period of significant economic disruption, negatively affecting our ratepayers.

District-wide at-large elections tend to produce Boards that fail to represent all neighborhoods, particularly disadvantaged ones. This is certainly the case with the SJWD. The communities of Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks have been historically underrepresented on the wholesale SJWD

Board, and our customers have been directly and significantly impacted by the Board's decisions regarding cost allocation, water supply, and operational considerations.

Both the Citrus Heights and the Fair Oaks Water Districts are moving to district-based election in 2020, and have recently adopted resolutions committing to assist SJWD in 2020 as it moves through this process. Together, we can ensure a robust public outreach process. There is no impediment to conducting timely and meaningful public outreach in spite of new meeting protocols due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, many agencies have been able to complete the outreach process in six to eight weeks. Agencies throughout the State and the Country have successfully shifted to online and mail-based outreach to continue serving their constituencies.

We urge the SJWD Board to move toward compliance with the CVRA for the 2020 elections cycle. There is no excuse for delay, and we urge our ratepayers to contact the Board via its website at <https://www.sjwd.org/board-members>, phone (916) 791-0115, email the SJWD's Board Secretary Teri Grant at tgrant@sjwd.org and/or attend its special meeting on Wednesday, May 13th at 6:00 PM via GoToMeeting and demand compliance in 2020. ★

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Ask Toni Past 65 and Receiving The Medicare Part B Penalty ... Why?



Toni King

Toni:

My Medicare Part B enrollment nightmare began when I was laid off from my job on March 10th. I was given inaccurate information when I left my job and enrolled in COBRA to have knee surgery when I turned 67.

I am a 69-year-old female who has been employed by 3 different companies, and no one ever informed me that I needed to have a special form CMS-L564, "Request for Employment Information" signed by each company I worked for since turning 65.

I spoke to the district manager of my local Social Security office and she asked me why I never enrolled in Medicare's Part B when I left the company and enrolled in COBRA. I was informed that my penalty is 40%, which is 69-65 or 4 years. The penalty is not for 1 year, but forever!! Because I did not enroll in Part B at the right time.

Toni, please inform your readers how important it is to enroll in Medicare Part B when enrolling in when leaving or losing your employment or applying for COBRA after 65.

~ Cathie from Tulsa, OK

Cathie:

Last week, the Toni Says® Medicare office had repeated phone calls regarding this matter. Many that have been laid off and losing benefits were never told that they needed to have the CMS-L564 "Request for Employment Information" signed by every company they worked for since turning 65 and covered by employer benefits.

Americans do not realize how important it is to enroll the right way. At the Toni Says office, we inform those who come to the office for Medicare planning to be sure that Part B begins the day you lose your company benefits or the day your COBRA plan starts. Many try to enroll in Part B like you did Cathie with a BIG SURPRISE discovering they are penalized 10% each year or 12-month period, you could have had Part B. The penalty goes all the way back to the day he/she turned 65 or the day Part A began.

Cathie, your penalty is for 40% and the average Part B premium for 2020 is \$146.40. Your penalty will be \$146.40 + \$58.56 = \$204.96 per month for 2020. The amount will change each year.

The process to enroll in Medicare Part B past 65 whether laid off or retiring is the same:

Write in red letters **Special Enrollment Period** on each form for the Social Security agent that is processing them to know that you are signing up at the right time and keep from

giving you a penalty. You are applying for a SEP (**Special Enrollment Period**). (These forms are also available at the Toni Says office by emailing info@tonisays.com or calling 832/519-8664.

1) Form #1 Request for Employment Information (CMS-L564) for proof of group health care coverage based on current employment. This information is needed to process your Medicare enrollment application. *If you have had 2 or more jobs since turning 65, then each company will have to sign this form. Be sure to have forms signed for both you and your covered spouse.*

2) Form #2 Application for Enrollment in Medicare Part B (CMS-40B): Social Security fills out this form.

****Currently, all Social Security offices are closed due to COVID-19 situation and both forms must be faxed or mailed together when sending to the Social Security office for yourself and/or spouse when applying for Medicare Part B. Please be sure to keep a copy for yourself.****

Confused ... you are not alone! America is confused about Medicare rules!

Toni King, author of the *Medicare Survival Guide®* is giving a \$5 discount on the *Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book* to the Toni Says Medicare column readers at www.tonisays.com ★

Over 150 Ph.D. Economists and Political Scientists Call for Governor to Suspend AB 5

By Joshua Hoover, Office of Assemblyman Kevin Kiley

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As Governor Gavin Newsom tweeted that "SCIENCE - not politics - must be California's guide" in its economic recovery, over 150 California economists and professors sent the Governor an open letter calling on him to suspend AB 5.


Using their training in economic and political science, these experts, including Nobel Laureate Vernon Smith, concluded AB 5 is causing "substantial, and avoidable, harm to the very people who now have the fewest resources and the worst alternatives available to them." The letter explains:

Employment decisions hinge on the costs of distributing risk. While employers are not hiring, gig workers could shoulder myriad tasks that are needed to flatten out the effects of the temporary

emergency. It doesn't really matter how great the pay is, how predictable are the hours, nor how generous the benefits may be, if the law prevents a job from existing in the first place...Blocking work that is needed and impoverishing workers laid-off from other jobs are not the intentions of AB-5, but the law is having these unintended consequences and needs to be suspended.

Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) has introduced legislation to suspend AB 5 and has urged the Governor to use his emergency powers to do so.

"If Governor Newsom believes in putting science before politics, he should listen to our state's leading economists rather than special interests and political allies," Kiley said. "Keeping AB 5 in place while Californians remain at home defies expert opinion, common sense, and basic decency." ★




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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Flowers in the _____
 - Emergency responders
 - Peacock's pride
 - Life force in Sanskrit
 - Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
 - The Beast's problem
 - Happen again
 - Freudian topic
 - In a fitting way
 - Hopkins' Lecter to _____'s Starling
 - McGillis' Charlie to _____'s Maverick
 - Unagi
 - Undesirable row
 - Stuff in a tray?
 - The Tramp's love interest
 - Hairy vertebrate
 - Best _____ schemes o' mice an' men
 - Be inclined
 - City in Belgium
 - Debussy's "Clair de _____"
 - D'Artagnan's weapon, pl.
 - Speed on water
 - "This _____," on a box
 - The Chapin School, e.g.
 - €
 - Post-roller coaster ride state
 - The Coen brothers' "True _____"
 - _____ Diego
 - Deuce topper
 - Lamb's mother
 - Clark's Rhett to _____'s Scarlett
 - John's Danny to _____'s Sandy
 - Continually annoy
 - Matterhorn, e.g.
 - Cooler clime conifer
 - Do like phoenix
 - Tiger's peg
 - "My Own Private _____"
 - Thou _____, or you have
 - Bajillion years
- DOWN**
- 2020 Easter mo.
 - Not kosher
 - Meal in a shell
 - Occupied, two words
 - El Chapo's organization
 - "What _____ Happened to Baby Jane?"
 - Billy's Harry to _____'s Sally
 - Investor's asset
 - Guarani languages
 - Liberal pursuits
 - Archipelago unit
 - Bovine hangout
 - Posterior, anatomically speaking
 - Fill with optimism
 - Basketball target
 - Two heads are better than one, e.g.
 - Keaton's Annie to _____'s Alvy
 - Sweating room
 - Hinduism follower
 - Knightley's Swann to _____'s Sparrow
 - Cameron's Fiona to _____'s Shrek
 - List of options, pl.
 - Ancient Greeks' assembly area
 - Pretend, two words
 - _____ ex machina
 - Doe, e.g.
 - Sales pitch
 - Smallest at the clothing store
 - Second person of be
 - Lighted by twilight
 - Related on mother's side
 - Avoid, as in taxes
 - Designer Bradley
 - Osiris' wife
 - One third of a three-piece suit
 - Welcoming sign
 - A Flock of Seagulls' hit, 2 words
 - Soreness
 - "_____ humbug!"
 - Kate's Rose to _____'s Jack
 - "Some Like It _____"

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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Solutions on Page 6

Find Puzzles on Page 6

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8	2	1	3	7	6	5	4	9
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5	3	9	2	4	8	7	1	6
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SacRT Purchases New Low-Floor Light Rail Vehicles

By Jessica Gonzalez, SacRT

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) announced a major replacement of their aging light rail fleet by issuing a notice to proceed on the purchase of 20 low-floor light rail vehicles from local manufacturer, Siemens Mobility, Inc. This is the first time in 20 years that SacRT has purchased new light rail vehicles.

"We are committed to providing innovative mobility solutions in our region and these new low-floor light rail vehicles are one step forward," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "The purchase of these new vehicles is long overdue and will begin the transition to a modern, low-floor fleet."

The purchase of the new vehicles is part of SacRT's overall light rail modernization plan, which also includes converting light rail stations to accommodate the new low-floor design and adding a passing track at two locations to provide 15-minute frequency to Folsom stations.

SacRT was awarded \$150 million in funding from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capitol Program and Proposition IA to modernize the light rail fleet, including the purchase of the 20 low-floor light rail trains, which will provide better accessibility for passengers with disabilities, bicycles and strollers. In addition, it will save SacRT money in high maintenance and repair costs that are associated with keeping light rail cars in service past their 30-year useful life.

The 20 new trains will be manufactured by Siemens Mobility, Inc. at their Sacramento factory and the first vehicles are expected to be delivered in 2022. The contract, including the 20 trains, spare parts and tools is approximately \$100 million.



S700 interiors feature many safety innovations, including low-level boarding doorways for improved accessibility. Photo: SacRT

The remaining funding will be used for the modernization of the stations and supporting infrastructure.

"The award of this contract is a win-win for Sacramento. Not only will SacRT receive much needed replacement light rail vehicles to modernize and improve the reliability of their fleet to serve the entire Sacramento region, but this contract will also support hundreds of high-skilled manufacturing jobs at Siemens Mobility here in Sacramento," said Congresswoman Doris Matsui. "Given the state of this current crisis, this deal comes at a critical time for the recovery of our economy."

"I'm excited about the addition of 20 low-floor light vehicles to SacRT's fleet," said Congressman Ami Bera, M.D. "These modern cars will allow increased capacity for passengers with disabilities and will better-serve the greater

Sacramento region for years to come."

"This SacRT purchase using Proposition IA money for new low-floor Light Rail vehicles will upgrade and modernize our regional public transit system in the Sacramento region," said Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento). "This step forward will ensure our public transit system better serves Sacramentans by offering more frequent and accessible services to its riders."

The SacRT Board of Directors voted to proceed with the contract, which includes the option to purchase up to 76 light rail vehicles. SacRT continues to pursue all funding sources with the plan of exercising the option for all 76 light rail vehicles.

"These new light rail cars from the Siemens here plant in Sacramento are a huge leap forward for Regional Transit to improve accessibility and comfort

for our riders from the disabled community, seniors, bicyclists and families with strollers," said SacRT Board Chair and Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen. "As a growing region, the new modern low-floor cars will also help reduce traffic congestion and inspire new riders to get onboard."

"This announcement is a win for Sacramento transit riders, our transit advocates including those in our disabled community, our neighbors employed at the Siemens manufacturing facility, and the environment," said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "Our region needs good news amidst this COVID-19 crisis; this investment by SacRT in modernized infrastructure to serve our economy and meet our carbon neutral goals is most welcome. I look forward to riding on the inaugural trip of our Sacramento-made train fleet in 2022!"

"The Sacramento region is home to nearly 1.4 million residents and our public transit infrastructure is essential to our growth as well as lowering our carbon footprint," said Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove). "These 20 new low-floor trains along with the new Blue Line light rail extension to Meadowview is exactly what our area needs to modernize our light rail system and propel us into future."

"For all of our employees at our Rail Car factory in Sacramento, it means a lot to be able to provide Siemens vehicles for SacRT's network and we are most grateful for the opportunity," said Michael Cahill, president of Siemens Mobility Rolling Stock, North America. "Our manufacturing facility on French Road in South Sacramento has been operating for more than 30 years, and it is great to be able to showcase our Made-in-Sacramento technology for the community that has supported us through our continuous growth and expansion."

The S700 light rail trains are the latest generation of light rail vehicles from Siemens Mobility and feature low-level boarding at every doorway, spacious seating design, and larger windows for better light and a better view. The vehicles feature improved ADA-accessibility with wider aisles to easily traverse into and around the car as well as built-in storage for luggage and bicycles. The electric powered vehicles are also emissions-free. The new light rail vehicles will operate in conjunction with SacRT's current fleet for a few years, as SacRT works on obtaining additional funding to replace all 97 light rail vehicles. This is the first order of new light rail vehicles since early 2000, in preparation of the first Blue Line light rail extension to Meadowview. ★

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