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# Gold River Messenger

VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 11    *Serving Gold River and Sacramento County*    NOVEMBER 2024

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## Summerset Celebrates 10 Years



The Beasley family, founders of Summerset Assisted Living, cut the ribbon to celebrate the 10-year anniversary. Photo courtesy of Raza Khushal

*By Omella Rossi*

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)**

- Summerset Senior Living marked a significant milestone on Thursday, Oct. 24, celebrating its 10th anniversary with a lively Gatsby-themed party that transported guests back to the Roaring Twenties.

Residents, staff, family members and community leaders joined in the festivities at the Rancho Cordova facility, located at 2341 Vehicle Drive, to honor a decade of dedicated service to seniors.

The Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce



Staff and attendees got into the spirit of the event, posing in themed attire at the photo booth. Photo courtesy of Raza Khushal

representatives attended the event to present certificates and proclamations to Summerset Senior Living. "We are very excited to

be here to celebrate your 10th anniversary," said Pam Garcia, the chamber's business development manager.

Dianne Rogers, the chamber's president and CEO added, "It is so special to be here because I was here at the groundbreaking and when the first folks came through the doors."

Local government representatives also extended their congratulations.

"Congratulations on a whole decade of serving our amazing seniors and families. Thank you for all your work," said a representative from Assemblyman Josh Hoover's office.

On behalf of state  
*Continued on page 3*

**SPCA Welcomes  
Jennifer Brent  
as the New  
Chief Executive  
Officer**



Jennifer Brent has 16 years of experience in the nonprofit and animal welfare sectors. Photo courtesy of Sacramento SPCA

**Sacramento SPCA  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** -

The Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) announced Oct. 17 the appointment of Jennifer Brent as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective Oct. 14.

Brent joins the Sacramento SPCA with more than 16 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit and animal welfare sectors, serving the past 8 years as Executive Director of The California Wildlife Center (CWC), a Southern California nonprofit dedicated to rescue and rehabilitation of native California animals. Prior to CWC, Brent held executive leadership roles at two private foundations supporting the needs of companion animals through spay/neuter and adoption and served as a Commissioner to the Department of Animal Care and Control for the City of Los Angeles.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jennifer to our lifesaving team," said Susan Gray, Sacramento SPCA Board President. "She has a proven track record of effective leadership and a deep passion for helping animals and people. We are confident that her vision and expertise will guide us into the next chapter of lifesaving work in our community."

Brent recently moved from Southern California to take on the leadership role at the Sacramento SPCA, a nationally recognized leader for delivering high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter surgeries, along with adoption, wellness and outreach programs that positively impact more than 40,000 animals each year.

"I am honored to join the Sacramento SPCA and work alongside such a dedicated team," said Brent. "I look forward to learning more about the needs of animals and people in Sacramento and

*Continued on page 4*

## One-of-a-Kind Record and Bookstore Opens in Rancho Cordova

*Story and photos  
by Annie Kerr*

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)**

- Music and book lovers rejoice!

At 2707 Cordova Lane, near KP International Market, a new record store and bookstore has recently opened to the public: Fat Elephant Records, Books, and Music.

This is the only combined record store and bookstore in the city of Rancho Cordova, offering a curated collection of affordable vinyl records, cassette tapes, books, CDs, DVDs and more.

The store's owner and founder is Charles Lago, the executive director of the Rancho Cordova Film Office, who also helps run Black Box Theater and Old Mills Winery. Currently, he works alongside Jose Ruiz, also an employee of the film office, and Rafael Portillo, but plans to hire more store employees as



From left, Fat Elephant employees Rafael Portillo, Charles Lago and Jose Ruiz pose in front of the Fat Elephant logo, designed by Ruiz.

business grows.

"We came across all these records and we kept

acquiring them," Lago said. "I thought, 'let's just open a store.' I have a

background in bookstores, so why not just do both?"

*Continued on page 2*



# One-of-a-Kind Record and Bookstore Opens in Rancho Cordova

Continued from page 1

So, Lago negotiated a lease with the property owners and the rest is history.

Customers walking into Fat Elephant are greeted at first with the current, popular records, such as Taylor Swift and Morgan Wallen albums. But the further into the store, the more interesting it gets.

Many Sacramento residents will remember The Beat, a former downtown record store off of J Street that closed in 2013. Lago and Ruiz acquired its sign and now it proudly lights up the back wall, paying homage to a beloved Sacramento novelty.

Customers can find records and CDs ranging from all types of genres, including classical, which is rare for record stores to carry, according to Lago. Movie soundtrack records are also available, including a rare original “Tarzan” record.

The store also boasts a large world music collection, which includes Latin, French, Italian, German, Indian, Russian and Island music in both records and CDs. Lago, from Europe, noted how someone from another country might be delighted to find an album from an artist that is popular overseas but not necessarily popular in America.

There are even comedy and poetry records for sale but it would take all day to peruse the extensive collection of records at Fat Elephant.

Though the store’s records are mostly used, excluding the new releases, Lago emphasized that all books for sale are new, featuring bestsellers, fiction, nonfiction, self-help, children’s and more.

What makes Fat Elephant special? Lago started with the obvious.

“Record stores in Sacramento rarely carry books,” he said. “We have stuff that other record stores won’t carry because it might be outdated or rare but what I’ve noticed is that people buy it.”

Lago used an example of a



Hundreds of 45’s are available for purchase, most for \$3.

young male customer who Lago assumed wouldn’t find anything he liked. To his surprise, the young man bought three vintage Frank Sinatra records, proving that young people are still interested in buying classic records.

“At Fat Elephant Records, we pride ourselves on curating a wide-ranging inventory that spans genres, time periods and continents,” Lago said. “There are very few records above \$40.” Customers can also shop a collection of board games and trinkets, such as journals and coasters made to look like records.

Despite its soft opening six weeks ago, Fat Elephant Records, Books, and Music will have its grand opening celebration from 2 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. The celebration will feature live music, complimentary wine and a

20% discount at the store.

The live music will take place inside, featuring two soloists and one band: TIP Vicious, a local Sacramento hip-hop artist; Linden Wood, a country solo artist; and Lab Rats, a locally based hip-hop band, according to Ruiz.

Two lucky raffle winners will receive a \$100 and a \$50 gift card, according to Lago. The Mexican restaurant next door to the store, El Puerto Restaurant, will be serving tacos and beer, as well.

According to Lago and Ruiz, Fat Elephant is aiming to be an “events-based” venue and a “cultural hub” for the arts, and they will aim to hold one to two events per month.

Anyone interested in selling their vinyl collection and “making sure it ends up in the right hands” can contact Fat Elephant,



Charles Lago shows off the extensive record collection that the store boasts, including comedy and poetry albums.

who might buy or exchange the records, according to Lago.

Fat Elephant Records, Books, and Music is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays, but after its grand opening, will be open on Wednesdays. After Thanksgiving, the store will

aim to be open every day, except Mondays.

To learn more, visit [www.FatElephantRecords.com](http://www.FatElephantRecords.com). Follow the store on Instagram, @fatelephantrecordss. The store phone numbers are 310-663-4226 or 279-599-5350. ★



Charles Lago shows off the movie soundtrack collection.

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**\$1.99 /lb**

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**Pork Butts Boneless**  
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REG. \$2.99 <b>\$2.49</b> /ea Qing Te Longkou Vermicelli 17.6 oz	REG. \$3.99 <b>\$3.49</b> /ea Lee Kum Kee Chili Bean Sauce 13 oz	REG. \$2.49 <b>\$1.99</b> /ea TH Cosava Flour 16 oz	REG. \$4.99 <b>\$3.99</b> /ea Sun Luck La Yu Chili Oil 5 Lbs	REG. \$3.99 <b>\$1.49</b> /ea Lee Sriracha Hot Chili Sauce 28.75 oz
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## EUROPEAN GROCERY

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## KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

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# Summerset Celebrates 10 Years



Residents had the opportunity to try their luck at poker in the event's speakeasy. Photo courtesy of Raza Khushal

*Continued from page 1*  
Sen. Roger Niello's office, a spokesperson remarked, "Congratulations on your 10-year anniversary, and thank you for bringing us valuable resources to our community and providing excellent care for our seniors." Said resident Shelly Quackenbush, "I love it here; I love being around people. They care about us; they are so nice. It's a community."

Summerset Senior Living

co-founder Rick Beasley reflected on the journey over the past decade. "We really appreciate everyone being here. It's hard to believe it's been 10 years. This is a labor of love. My personal mantra is simple: we can always do better," said Rick Beasley. Said Carlie Beasley, director of marketing, "This was our first community. We realized that there was no assisted living in Rancho Cordova. There was

a need for it. Rick wanted to do something for the people. There was a demand for senior living housing and the city was really on board with it." Over the past 10 years, Summerset Senior Living has welcomed approximately 2,000 seniors through its doors.

"We have seen people live longer and we have had to program our needs differently with the rise in dementia," said Carlie Beasley, who highlighted the various activities that the facility offers. "Every month, we have something fun for our residents, whether that's a dance, a fashion show or happy hours. We offer memory care programs that help caregivers step into the shoes of someone with dementia, support groups, and in general, we try to be a place where families can connect and get to know each other."

The Beasley family has navigated significant challenges over the years, including the impact of COVID-19 on the healthcare landscape.

"Covid was a big challenge, and we try to be really transparent and communicate with our families and residents as much as possible," Carlie Beasley added. ★



Summerset Assisted Living residents celebrated in style during the organization's 10-year anniversary festivities. Photo courtesy of Raza Khushal



An extravagant, themed cake delighted guests at the celebration. Photo courtesy of Raza Khushal

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A white SMUD utility truck with red and orange stripes on the side is parked on a dirt road. In the background, there is a field of wind turbines under a sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds.

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A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern.

The SMUD logo, consisting of an orange circle with a white dot in the center, followed by the text "SMUD" in a bold, sans-serif font.



# SPCA Welcomes Jennifer Brent as the New Chief Executive Officer

*Continued from page 1*  
building on the strong foundation already in place to save more lives.”  
Recognizing the vital role of community engagement in the Sacramento SPCA’s work, Brent is eager to gather insights and build collaborative partnerships that enhance the organization’s lifesaving impact.

As the only full-service 100% nonprofit animal shelter in the Sacramento region, the Sacramento SPCA relies on donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations to support their lifesaving work. They are local, independent, and not affiliated with any other SPCA or humane society, including the ASPCA. All funds stay right here in the Sacramento region - helping animals - and the people who love them - in our own communities.

### About the Sacramento SPCA

Founded in 1892, the Sacramento SPCA has been providing homeless animals with individual comfort, shelter and love for more than 132 years. They provide compassionate medical care to tens of thousands of animals annually and offer a variety of



Jennifer Brent and a furry friend, Beau, pose for a photo. Photo courtesy of Sacramento SPCA

programs and services designed to keep people and pets together for life. Visit <https://www.sspca.org/> for more information and follow on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and LinkedIn. ★

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# PoppTalk

With Mary Jane Popp

# Honor Them

Veteran’s Day is a special tribute to all veterans who have placed their lives on the line to keep our democracy viable. They selflessly do the job they are asked to do and do it with respect and great dignity. But let’s be honest, unless you were in the military or are part of a military family, you cannot fathom what it’s like to live day by day with the thought that he or she may not return. I know that happens with many other careers from police officers to firefighters and others too. But we ask these men and women to go around the world and try to understand how to get the job done in some really incredible circumstances.

I had a little of that experience too. Rick (my husband) and I were married about four months when he was deployed to Vietnam. It was a long time ago, but it still hits home every Veteran’s Day. I can still feel the emotions he and I felt as we said goodbye at the airport, not knowing if we would ever see each other again, hoping and praying that we would. It was not a popular war as if any war is, but this one was very difficult for those who returned and the names they were called. After several months, we met for R&R in Hawaii. The joy was there, but dread too, because he had to return to Vietnam after just a few days. But we were grateful.

Thank God my First Lieutenant re-



Photo by Timmosholder via Pexels

turned to me with no injuries on the outside, but what about the inside? We never really talked about all that went on for quite a few years. I felt he would share when he was ready. Perhaps it was better that he was a little older...about 24... and he took on the job of looking after some of the younger guys to keep them out of trouble. I remember the letters he sent, which I still cherish and the cassette tapes we sent back and forth just talking about stuff. No computers back then. I can still remember hearing the pouring monsoons in the background and how he tried to keep busy painting

his room.

After Hawaii, it was some months before he came home. It was over the New Year holiday, and I can still feel the terror when I did not know where he was as Saigon was falling. I heard nothing for days and then the call came from him that he was in Seattle. I was at Indiana University working on my Phd, but no gift or degree could have given me such joy as when I heard his voice.

I can’t even imagine what it would be like to have a chaplain and officer come to my door, or know that his wounds were so bad, he would never be whole again. My love passed last December, but Veteran’s Day will always be special.

Please think of these brave souls who keep us every day. Thank them for their service! God Bless Them ALL! ★

# Shelby Golden Receives PRSA Rising Influencer of the Year Award



Cordova Recreation & Park District’s Communications Manager Shelby Golden poses with the Rising Influencer of the Year Award with Director of Parks & Recreation Jill Nunes, awarded by the California Capitol Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Photo courtesy of Cordova Recreation & Park District

**By Elena Burgé, Cordova Recreation & Park District**

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - The Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD) is proud to announce that CRPD Communications Manager Shelby Golden has been awarded the Rising Influencer of the Year Award by the California Capitol Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

This award recognizes a local professional that has demonstrated emerging leadership, outstanding achievements in public relations, as well as their service to the community at large and the Public Relations profession.

“Shelby has significantly enhanced the visibility and reputation of the Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD),” said Director of Parks & Recreation Jill Nunes. “What sets her apart from her peers is her exceptional ability to blend

strategic vision with compassionate community engagement.”

Golden has continuously demonstrated her dedication to strong community relations and strategic communications throughout her time with the district, spearheading many successful internal and external campaigns that promoted the visibility of Cordova Recreation & Park District.

One of Golden’s most notable projects was Cordova Recreation & Park District’s “Who We Are” campaign, in which she managed a series of award-winning videos intended to inform the public about the role Cordova Recreation & Park District plays in the community through their operations of the recreation and parks services. Her continued commitment to creating relationships with community members, organizations, businesses and local media has revitalized Cordova Recreation & Park

District’s relationship with the community in incredibly meaningful ways.

“Shelby is very deserving of this prestigious award. She has been instrumental in creating our creative and robust communications and marketing plans for Cordova Recreation & Park District,” said Cordova Recreation & Park District General Manager Patrick Larkin.

“Shelby authentically connects with our residents and continues to level up her department’s performance. Shelby was recently promoted to the communications manager position, where she will continue to grow and positively influence and impact our staff and residents. We are so proud of Shelby and her accomplishments so far and look forward to her rising even higher in her career in the future,” Larkin added.

To learn more, visit <https://cordovarpd.gov/about/crpd-awards-recognition/>. ★



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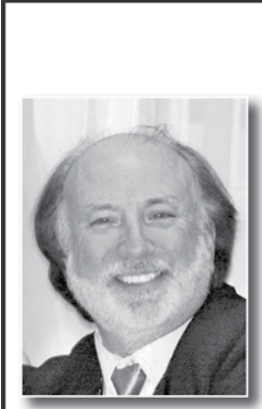
We need compassionate volunteers to deliver meals, support our community cafes, or help with clerical tasks. Your kindness helps our elderly neighbors maintain independence and dignity through improved nutrition.

**For more information and to sign up, visit [mowsac.org](https://mowsac.org) or call (916) 444-9533.**

**Be the reason someone smiles today.**

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**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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# Gold River Messenger

Serving Gold River and Sacramento County



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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



What a difference a week makes. Entering last week, the Sacramento Kings had lost all of their preseason games, and the first two games of the regular season. Enter the Portland Trailblazers on Oct. 28 and the home crowd was treated to what everyone had envisioned the new and improved Sacramento Kings would look like.

DeMar DeRozan carved up the defensive of the Trailblazers along with point guard DeAaron Fox for 23 and 24 points respectively, but the real key was the way DeRozan got to his spots and made his mid-range game look easy.

Combined with the lightning quickness of Fox, this tandem poses a threat to opposing defenses every night, and other teams had better bring their “A” game when they come to Sac Town.

Finally breaking into the win column and lighting the beam for the first time in the 2024/2025 campaign, lifted a heavy weight off the shoulders of the Kings players and fans alike, but the week was not over. Convincing victories on the road over Utah and the Atlanta Hawks gave the Kings a three-game winning streak and lifted the team over 500.

DeRozan looked like a natural fit as the Kings made victories over the Jazz and Hawks look pedestrian, and had the Kings been able to shoot a little better from the charity stripe, it’s entirely possible the overtime loss to the Toronto Raptors could have been the Kings 4th win in a row.

Sacramento will wrap up their road trip Monday night against the formidable Miami Heat (after press time), but it’s obvious that some of the swagger has returned to the team.

I’m impressed with DeMar DeRozan in nearly every facet of his game, and like Malik Monk, DeRozan will be an asset and a role model as it relates to free throw shooting. An 84% career free throw shooter, DeMar has proven his reliability at the charity strip, and with the Kings coming off the 2023/2024 campaign in the cellar of the NBA in free throw shooting, adding a 6-time all-star that can shoot free throws at a consistently high level, is just

what the doctor ordered for the Kings.

Big man and double-double king Domantas Sabonis, like Fox, has struggled in the past from the free throw line, but has looked better so far this season, and has raised his average. It’s still early, but if both Fox and Sabonis can get to 80% or better at the line consistently, look for Sacramento to be lighting the beam with increased regularity.

At 3-3 the Kings may not have a gawdy win-loss record, but the last four games have given all the fans a positive look at what the season can look like.

Although DeRozan has already shown he can connect from long range when called upon, he consistently passes up 3-point opportunities for mid-range looks, and he is deadly from the 10 to 15-foot range. DeMar looks so comfortable in mid-range, his stroke is almost effortless, and with that kind of confidence, he poses a serious late game option to go along with Fox and Sabonis.

Shout out to Kevin Huerter who after a subpar start in game one, has returned to what fans have expected to see, and once again, Huerter has shown his acumen both beyond the 3-point line, and driving to the hoop.

Huerter’s defense has taken a step forward as well, so we’ll give some attaboys to coach Brown for putting Huerter back in the starting lineup and sticking with him. If we can keep Kevin off the injury list, the 2024/2025 season could be a breakout year for a popular player with a big upside.

More than anything, the recent wins, particularly on the road, are spurring a higher volume of optimism, and look for an already loud arena to get even louder.

For any naysayers that felt it would take a long time for newcomer DeMar DeRozan to fit in, he is well ahead of schedule, and the way he and Fox are sharing the ball is a pleasure to watch.

Stay tuned Kings fans. This is what you’ve been waiting for, and the best is yet to come!

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at [vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com). ★



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# Social Security Matters

## Why Does the Government Raid Social Security?



By Russell Gloor,  
AMAC Certified Social  
Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** The Social Security program is funded by employees and their employers. The federal government does not contribute to the program, right? So why does the federal government feel they have the right to raid the fund? All the money sent to Ukraine and other unnecessary programs could have been used to pay back what they owe to Social Security. **Signed: Disgruntled Senior**

**Dear Disgruntled Senior:** You are correct that the Social Security program is mainly funded by payroll taxes on employee earnings and by employers who match those employee contributions. FYI, some additional SS revenue is received from income tax on Social Security benefits, as well as from interest on the special issue government bonds held in the Social Security Trust Fund. But the assertion that the Federal Government used (raided) the Social Security Trust Fund for any other purpose is a myth. All Social Security revenue received since the program began in 1937 has been accounted for, and all excess funds are contained in a special Trust Fund in the form of interest-bearing government bonds, reserved to

pay future benefits. FYI, the interest on those bonds contributed about \$67 billion to the Trust Fund reserves in 2023.

Social Security revenue, today, is not adequate to pay all benefit obligations, and the extra money needed to pay full SS benefits for everyone is obtained by redeeming Trust Fund reserves. Redemption of those Trust Fund bonds is how the federal government “pays back” the cash loaned to it by Social Security. The excess SS money received from contributions was loaned to the Federal Treasury by the SS Trust Funds, interest-bearing bonds were issued by the government in return for the cash received, and the bonds issued are redeemable as needed by Social Security to pay benefits. FYI, the average interest on the 2023 bonds in the Trust Funds was about 4.125%, whereas the average rate of return on all bonds held in reserve was about 2.387%. This transaction is the same as for any other investment vehicle, except the bonds in the Trust Funds are redeemable at any time without penalty. Said another way, all excess money ever received by Social Security is/was invested in special-issue government bonds, and resides in reserve to pay future benefits, as needed.

“Paying back” the money represented by bonds held in the Trust Funds would not be a wise financial move because it would eliminate all future interest earned by those bonds (again, that interest was about \$67 billion in 2023). Federal money spent for other purposes

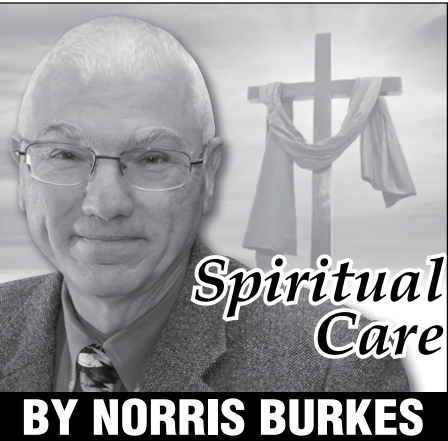
(e.g., Ukraine) is from the general U.S. Treasury and not from the Social Security Trust Fund, which is held totally separate from the U.S. Treasury. Since inception, all money ever contributed to Social Security has been (and is) used for one purpose (and one purpose only) – to pay Social Security benefits to those eligible (which, by the way, does not include “illegal *aliens*” or *anyone else who is not a legal resident of the United States*).

For clarity, Social Security does have a future financial issue because annual benefit obligations are now greater than annual Social Security revenue, and money from the SS Trust Fund is now used to make up the difference. Unless the program is reformed soon, the Trust Fund reserves (about \$2.8 trillion as of 2023) will be depleted and benefits for all Social Security recipients will be cut by about 23% starting in 2033 or 2034 (according to the Trustees of Social Security and the Congressional Budget Office).

Congress needs to act soon to enact Social Security reform to restore the program to fiscal solvency. The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) is steadfastly lobbying Congress to enact the needed Social Security reform as soon as possible.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.* ★

# Right to Judge or Judging Right



During the past 23 years of writing this column, I’ve occasionally used my platform to cast a negative spotlight on scoundrels, rascals and scallywags.

I’ve even gone so far to name the names of the political pundits, candidates and officials who’ve used their offices to spew hateful rhetoric on the less fortunate.

And I haven’t held back my judgments when it comes to the religious field, I’ve panned plundering preachers for their judgmental-Jesus, churches who’ve brought politics into the pew, and chaplains who’ve pressed their views on the sick.

I’ve censured meandering athletes for their marital missteps, disparaged depraved entertainers, and even called out commanders who forced their religion on their subordinates.

My ruminations have occasionally inspired a few readers to insist that I apologize for my judgmental stance toward their cute celebrity, their precious preacher, or their nuclear network commentator.

Invariably, there are those who measure my words against Matthew 7:1, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”

Matthew 7:1-5 is not telling us not to judge, it's telling us HOW to judge, Jesus is saying we can't judge hypocritically. He never suggested that we can't ever judge!

The problem with using the verse against your critics to disqualify their judgments is that the verse loses balance without Jesus’ commandment from John 7:24, “Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.” (NIV)

The former verse is an admonition against self-serving judgment; the latter verse allows us to make discerningly helpful judgments.

It’s useful to understand that the first verse plays a small, but important part in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. It chastises the hypocrites who use their judgmental pronouncements as a smoke screen to hide their own inequities.

This kind of judging is hypocritical and it’s not restorative as it only serves to help the judge feel better about him or herself. Over the years, I’ve heard the verse grafted into a popular philosophy that professes that any kind of judging attitude is wrong.

This thinking becomes a flippant way of saying “I’ll ignore your shortcomings if you’ll ignore mine.”

To that I respond, “No. I won’t give you a free pass from criticism and neither will I expect one in return.”

At the end of the day, a world without discerning judgments will become a lawless one. That’s why it’s important to mix in Jesus’s words from the above-mentioned verse.

The verse from John 7:24 is a weighty and difficult pronouncement that finds modern clarity in this paraphrase from The Message, “Don’t be nitpickers; use your head — and heart! — to discern what is right, to test what is authentically right.”

This admonition coaches a more self-reflective attitude toward judgment. It calls for us to apply our discernment in a humble manner. That humility only comes when we acknowledge our own shortcomings.

In other words, even though we may be right in our judgments, we acknowledge that there is a place inside of us that is not yet right — a place that will only be made right in the sight of God.

Finally, while I have used this column to share my assessments about the actions of others, I will not take God’s place in determining someone’s eternal spiritual fate.

That verdict belongs to God, whose judgments I would never assume and whose endless love I can only imagine. ★

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14. Final, abbr.  
15. Opposite of neo-  
16. Synagogue scroll  
17. Poseidon's domain  
18. One-eighty  
19. \*Mary Poppins and Maria von Trapp  
21. \*Vivian Ward and Erin Brockovich  
23. Kum Ba follower  
24. Cry out loud  
25. Stolen, slangily  
28. Greek salad cheese  
30. Popular clubs of the 1970s  
35. Chimpanzees, e.g.  
37. Porcine fat  
39. Great divide  
40. Cat o'how many tails?  
41. Podium, pl.  
43. Dead against  
44. Work the dough  
46. Urban haze  
47. Manner of walk  
48. Parlor piece  
50. Riyadh native, e.g.  
52. Sixth note  
53. Common fairway club  
55. Brewed beverage  
57. \*\*Red" Redding and Nelson Mandela  
61. \*Ricky Bobby and Buddy  
65. Beat the Joneses  
66. Outrage  
68. Adjust, as laces  
69. Tears violently  
70. Anointment liquid  
71. Talks and talks and talks  
72. a.k.a. Operation Neptune  
73. "Just kidding!"  
74. Billy Joel's "\_\_\_\_ Always a Woman"

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20. Pup  
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24. Railyard worker  
25. \*Forrest Gump and Jimmy Dugan  
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27. Doctrine  
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32. Atlantic Ocean/Pacific Ocean waterway, e.g.  
33. Ostium, pl.  
34. \*Violet Crawley and Minerva McGonagall  
36. Center of authority  
38. "The New Look" main character

42. September stone  
45. Phobos' brother, Greek mythology  
49. Time period  
51. \*Catwoman and "Jinx" Johnson  
54. Vidalia one  
56. Regions  
57. \*Han Solo and Indiana Jones  
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# California Takes Bold Step to Revolutionize Youth Sports with 25x25 Coaches Challenge

## Collaborative Communications News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Governor’s Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and Mental Well-being is teaming up with the Susan Crown Exchange’s Million Coaches Challenge (MCC) to launch 25x25: The California Coaches Challenge. This initiative aims to train 25,000 coaches in positive youth coaching across California by the end of 2025.

Physical activity and sports participation rates are declining nationally, and California is no exception. Today, many children in California are not meeting daily physical activity recommendations, and only half of California’s youth participate in sports. With around 70% of children discontinuing organized sports before reaching high school, the 25x25 California Coaches Challenge aims to create a more positive and inclusive sports and fitness

culture that keeps youth engaged in sport and helps them develop the skills needed to thrive.

Through the Council’s Move Your Body, Calm Your Mind campaign, Million Coaches Challenge partners Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) and the Center for Healing and Justice through Sport (CHJS) will spearhead a statewide effort to instill the principles of positive youth development, social-emotional learning, healing-centered practices, and culturally responsive coaching in youth coaches. Coaches will learn a range of youth-centered strategies, including creating safe spaces for all young people, fostering a sense of belonging, and coaching with empathy. The American Institutes for Research (AIR), who leads the multi-year implementation study of the Million Coaches Challenge, will provide research support for the 25x25 California Coaches Challenge.

“A positive and empowering youth sports culture is critical

to the mental health and overall well-being of our children,” said First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. “When coaches are trained to prioritize character development, teamwork, grit, and emotional resilience, young people are more likely to stay engaged in sports and build essential life skills. The partnership between the Governor’s Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and Mental Well-being and Million Coaches Challenge will ensure that our youth not only experience the physical benefits of sports but also gain the social and emotional support they need to thrive on and off the field.”

Through existing relationships with parks and recreation systems, schools, community-based organizations, and club teams, Positive Coaching Alliance and Center for Healing and Justice through Sport will provide training to at least 25,000 coaches across California by December 2025. The Governor’s Advisory Council will promote the

initiative statewide, reaching communities with significant need and underrepresentation in youth sports. The Center for Healing and Justice through Sport has existing coach training partnerships across the state.

Notable examples include the Dodgers Foundation, the Los Angeles Clippers, the YMCA of Greater Los Angeles, and, together with Nike, the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department. Positive Coaching Alliance, with its robust statewide infrastructure, also has planned trainings this fall with the LA Jr. Clippers, USTA Southern California, Boys and Girls Club of Burbank, Irvine Ice Foundation, Santa Maria Swim Club, and numerous high schools across the state.

“California is setting a powerful example for the country,” said Kevin Connors, Managing Director of the Susan Crown Exchange, funder of the Million Coaches Challenge. “This initiative will help ensure that hundreds of thousands of young

athletes experience sports in ways that promote physical, emotional, and mental well-being.”

Coaches and organizations interested in joining the 25x25 California Coaches Challenge can learn more or sign up for training by visiting <https://moveyourbodycalmyourmind.org/> or emailing [Info.AdvisoryCouncil@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Info.AdvisoryCouncil@cdph.ca.gov).

Trainings will be available both in-person and virtually. Organizations will be able to schedule specific training sessions for their coaches or join publicly available options. The Center for Healing and Justice through Sport will host a public virtual training focused on healing-centered sport on Nov. 12, 6:30 to 8 p.m. A self-paced online option is also available for the public through Positive Coaching Alliance. Both opportunities will be available at no cost.

To learn more about the Million Coaches Challenge, visit [millioncoaches.org](http://millioncoaches.org). ★

## Cohen Announces Opening of the Property Tax Postponement Program Filing Period

### California State Controller’s Office News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - State Controller Malia M. Cohen announced Oct. 7 that the filing period for applications for property tax deferment are now being processed.

California’s Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program, administered by Controller Cohen, allows homeowners who are seniors, are blind, or have a disability, and who meet income and other requirements to postpone payment of property taxes on their primary residence.

In the 2023-24 tax year, California homeowners were able to postpone over \$6.2 million in residential property taxes. Over the last few years, eligibility for tax deferment has been expanded several times by the addition of manufactured homes and adjustments to the income limit. This year, the household income limit has been raised to \$53,574, making Property Tax Postponement available to even more seniors and Californians with disabilities. Household income for the upcoming Property Tax Postponement cycle will be based on the 2023 calendar year.

Funding for Property Tax Postponement is limited, and applications will be

processed beginning Oct. 1 in the order they are received. The final filing deadline for the current tax year is Feb. 10, 2025. Participants must reapply each year and demonstrate they continue to meet eligibility requirements. When an applicant is approved, a lien will be placed on the real property or a security agreement be filed with the Department of Housing and Community Development for a manufactured home, until the account is paid in full.

Applications and additional program details can be found online, by calling (800) 952-5661 or email at [postpone@sc0.ca.gov](mailto:postpone@sc0.ca.gov).

As the chief fiscal officer of California, Controller Cohen is responsible for accountability and disbursement of the state’s financial resources. The Controller has independent auditing authority over government agencies that spend state funds. She is a member of numerous financing authorities, and fiscal and financial oversight entities including the Franchise Tax Board. She also serves on the boards for the nation’s two largest public pension funds. Follow the Controller on X @CACController and on Facebook at California State Controller’s Office. ★

## New Resources Help Promote Teacher Prep Programs

### California Commission on Teacher Credentialing News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** -The State Collaborative for California’s Educator Workforce has released a new suite of tools to make high quality teacher preparation programs more accessible and affordable to prospective teachers across the state.

California faces persistent teacher shortages that force many districts to hire substitutes or teachers who have not completed a preparation program. These shortages are greatest for early childhood educators as well as those who specialize in teaching students with disabilities and who are multi-language learners.

Despite the state’s unprecedented investments to strengthen the teacher pipeline, high quality preparation programs are often inaccessible or unaffordable for many prospective teachers.

To address this challenge, education leaders from state agencies, public, and private teacher preparation programs developed a suite of resources to help prospective teachers identify preparation pathways that best meet their needs given their individual experience and education, as well as guidance on available financial resources to make preparation affordable.

“All students need and deserve well-prepared, credentialed teachers. This resource toolkit will help California attract, grow, and retain the number of talented teachers needed to educate the next generation,” said Mary Vixie Sandy, Collaborative lead and executive director of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing along with Commission Chair Marquita Grenot-Scheyer.

The toolkit, available on the Commission on Teacher Credentialing’s Roadmap to Teaching website, features:

Funding Your Future in Teaching, which offers financial planning steps for every aspiring educator along with sample funding packages for those considering a California-based teacher residency program; and

A Teacher Candidate Funding Explorer database of resources to help prospective teachers offset the cost of earning a teaching credential.

In addition, the site includes a set of similar resources for teacher preparation program leaders that provide guidance on funding programs that pay teacher candidates a living wage while they earn their credential. The resources include:

A Teacher Preparation Program Funding

Explorer, a searchable database of federal and state funding sources that can be used to improve teacher preparation programs; and

A series of Teacher Residency Program Funding Scenarios that describe strategies for combining funding to develop and sustain a teacher residency program.

“Teacher preparation programs are available and can be affordable, but too many prospective teachers are unaware of the pathways available into teacher education. We have come together to increase awareness of those pathways and to give teacher candidates the information they need to select the pathway that’s best for them,” said commissioners and higher education representatives, Annamarie Francois, University of California, Shireen Pavri, California State University, and Kimberly White-Smith, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

A new state law allows for individuals who hold a qualifying bachelor’s degree or higher in any subject to be considered for admission to most teacher preparation programs.

“Teacher shortages are a nationwide issue that must be addressed by tackling barriers to equitable access and the affordability of teacher preparation programs,” said Daisy Gonzales, executive director of the California Student Aid Commission. “These new tools will not only help prospective teachers identify high-quality teacher preparation programs, but also allow them and higher education institutions to participate in designing regional educational pathways to meet California’s urgent need for teachers.”

The resources were created through the State Educator Workforce Collaborative – a collaboration between state agencies and teacher preparation programs including the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, California State Board of Education, California Department of Education, California Student Aid Commission, California State University Chancellor’s Office, University of California Office of the President, California Community College Chancellor’s Office, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, and Department of Finance and Office of the Governor – with research and support from WestEd.

For more information on the program visit the Commission on Teacher Credentialing at [www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/roadmap-to-teaching/financial-resources-for-teacher-candidates](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/roadmap-to-teaching/financial-resources-for-teacher-candidates). ★

## County ROAR Program Receives Funding

### Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Department of Health Services (DHS) has received an \$8 million grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections, funded through Proposition 47, to launch a new program focused on helping formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society. The Reentry Opportunities and Access to Resources (ROAR) program will address core challenges like recidivism, homelessness and unemployment for individuals reentering the community after incarceration. The grant, which was awarded in October 2024 will fund efforts through June 1, 2028.

**What is the Proposed ROAR Program?**

ROAR aims to reduce recidivism rates by 35% by connecting individuals with community-based resources and support before they are released. The program plans to expand eligibility for reentry services and establish partnerships with correctional facilities to provide “warm handoffs” for those reentering the community. By connecting individuals with community providers who can help them find housing, job training or mental health services, DHS hopes to offer a fresh start for those reintegrating into society.

Homelessness is a significant barrier

for individuals leaving incarceration, and ROAR is set to address this challenge with re-housing funds and access to shelter beds. The program’s objective is to reduce homelessness among its participants by 60% and lower unemployment by 50%, with job training and workforce development as core components of the strategy. Data from the Homeless Management Information System and reports from community-based organizations will be used to track these efforts.

Substance use and mental health issues are common among justice-involved individuals, with nearly 25% of Sacramento’s incarcerated population affected by substance use disorders alone. ROAR will work to increase participation in mental health and substance use treatment programs by 50%, helping participants build a foundation for stability. By recruiting more service providers and strengthening referral networks, ROAR seeks to offer targeted, timely support to those in need.

With funding secured, Sacramento County will begin developing an implementation plan and budget for ROAR and is aiming to create lasting change and reduce the barriers faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in Sacramento.

For more information on the ROAR program contact Sacramento County Public Information Officer Elizabeth Zelidon via email at, [zelidone@sac-county.gov](mailto:zelidone@sac-county.gov). ★



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# SacRT Receives Grant Funding

**Compiled by Daniel Canfield from Sacramento Regional Transit News Releases**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) recently announced several grant awards, totaling more than \$105 million, that will benefit Sacramento commuters, public transit riders and the environment.

First on Oct. 23, SacRT announced that the California State Transportation Agency has awarded SacRT \$29 million in grant funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. The grant funding will be used for several high priority light rail projects. Funding for the program comes from the federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund which was created and funded through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

According to SacRT, the projects, once complete, will offer significant benefits, including a reduction of 78,032 metric tons of CO2 equivalent in greenhouse gases, a decrease of 250 million vehicle miles traveled, \$160,722,974 in passenger travel cost savings and the support of 984 full-time equivalent jobs.

“This funding will allow us to continue advancing our vision of a more connected, accessible, and sustainable transit system for all Sacramento residents,” said Henry Li, SacRT General Manager/CEO. “We are excited to work with our partners to bring these projects to life, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact on our community.”

Light rail projects

supported through this grant funding include:

## New Low-Floor Light Rail Vehicles

SacRT will replace aging high-floor light rail vehicles with new state-of-the-art S700 low-floor light rail vehicles from Siemens Mobility. SacRT previously ordered 45 of these new light rail cars, with the first 20 already in service on the Gold Line. This new grant funding will assist with the purchase of 10 additional new low-floor light rail vehicles, bringing our total to 55.

## Light Rail Station Conversions on the Blue Line

SacRT is converting 17 of the 19 light rail stations along the Blue Line to accommodate the height requirement of the new low-floor light rail vehicles, making the system more accessible by eliminating the need to climb stairs to board the vehicles. With this new grant funding, SacRT will be able to complete station conversions at all light rail stations. Learn more about this project at [sacrt.com/modernization](https://sacrt.com/modernization).

## New Dos Rios Light Rail Station

A partnership between SacRT, the City of Sacramento, and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), the new Dos Rios Station on the Blue Line will serve as a key part of the Twin Rivers-River District transformation. This project aims to provide connectivity to the historically isolated area, integrating transit access with Mirasol Village — a new development offering 427



The S700 low-floor light rail trains are designed to enhance accessibility, comfort and efficiency for all riders. Photo courtesy of SacRT

low-income units and market-rate housing. The vision for the River District includes increased access to jobs, services, and cultural amenities, creating a vibrant gateway to downtown Sacramento. Learn more about the project at [sacrt.com/dosrios](https://sacrt.com/dosrios).

## Horn Road Light Rail Station and Complete Streets Improvements

SacRT is working with the City of Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County on “complete streets” projects along Folsom Boulevard, creating safer and more accessible routes for bicyclists and pedestrians near the future Horn Road Station. Rancho Cordova’s streetscape work and the design of a new Class IV Bike Trail will further connect the station to regional bike paths like the American River Bike Trail.

## Transition to Digital Fare Technology

SacRT is transitioning to a digital fare system through the Cal-ITP Platform Validator and Smart Fare Vending Machine, in partnership with the CCJPA. This will streamline fare payments and transfers between SacRT services and Capitol Corridor trains, providing a more seamless experience

and dignitaries attended the event and shared their thoughts.

“This investment solidifies SacRT’s commitment to a greener, more sustainable future,” said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. “The new hydrogen fuel cell buses and modernized facilities will significantly reduce our carbon footprint while enhancing service for our riders. We are grateful for the federal partnership and the strong support from our congressional representatives.”

Said SacRT Board Chair Patrick Kennedy, “This grant is not just about upgrading our fleet; it’s about creating opportunities for the Sacramento community. By investing in workforce development, we’re ensuring that local residents have the skills needed for tomorrow’s jobs in the growing field of green transportation.”

Said U.S. Representative Doris Matsui, “Sacramento is leading the way in the transition to clean energy and this investment underscores our region’s commitment to sustainable transportation. The hydrogen fuel cell buses will make a tangible difference in our air quality, while creating jobs and boosting economic development in our community.”

Said U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D., “This federal investment will have lasting benefits for Sacramento. It supports clean energy solutions while improving access to safe and reliable transit. Thanks to funding passed from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I am proud to support SacRT’s efforts to

modernize our transportation infrastructure.”

Said U.S. Representative Kevin Kiley, “This federal grant is not only a win for sustainable transit but also for job creation here in Sacramento. This will provide new employment opportunities for our community, equipping local workers with the skills needed to support innovative transportation for years to come.”

Said Ray Tellis, FTA Region 9 Administrator, “The FTA is proud to support SacRT’s forward-thinking vision for public transit. These funds will help reduce emissions, improve transit services and create opportunities for Sacramento’s workforce, all while moving us closer to a sustainable future.”

Said California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, “This project is a critical step toward achieving California’s ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals. By transitioning to hydrogen fuel cell buses and modernizing transit infrastructure, SacRT is demonstrating the kind of leadership we need to build a cleaner, more sustainable future for our state.”

SacRT acknowledged the bus service improvement projects are made possible through strong partnerships with California Air Resources Board, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Center for Transportation and the Environment, New Flyer of America, American River College, Clean Cities Coalition and the County and City of Sacramento. ★

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# The Capital SouthEast Connector: A Lifeline for Public Safety and Emergency Response

By **Derek Minnema**,  
**Executive Director**  
**Capital Southeast**  
**Connector JPA**

Imagine driving on a partially flooded roadway, where last year, drivers in southern Sacramento County experienced this life-threatening situation firsthand as floodwaters engulfed their cars. Or fleeing a fast-moving wildfire, as hundreds of others did, bottlenecked on narrow two-lane roads with little to no shoulders, while emergency responders struggled to reach them.

These scenarios are not hypothetical. They continue to occur in southern Sacramento County, where existing roads—designed decades ago for far fewer residents—now represent a clear danger. Last year,

Sacramento Metro Fire reported performing over 30 flood rescues along area roads due to poorly designed drainage systems.

When fully built,



the Capital SouthEast Connector will solve those problems in southern Sacramento County. This modern roadway will connect I-5 and Hwy 99 near Elk Grove to Hwy 50 in Folsom and the El Dorado Hills, providing a safer and more reliable transportation network.

As our region faces the dual dangers of summer wildfires and winter storm flooding, the importance of this project becomes even more evident. Roadways play a huge role in the safety and well-being of our community. The Connector is designed to ease traffic congestion while forming part of a resilient transportation network that

protects lives, enables swift emergency responses, and ensures safe evacuations during disasters.

Sheriff Jim Cooper emphasized the critical need for quicker response times in emergencies: “It’s a safety issue for our motoring public and also for your first responders. We’ve got to get there to service those people, and those minutes are critical. Time is of the essence.”

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Assistant Chief John Rudnicki echoed this concern, noting the importance of the Connector’s Grant Line Road improvements: “When we look at the number of fatalities and incidents that have affected this roadway, we can clearly see why it is so crucial to make this improvement an engineered solution to prevent future problems.”

Every second counts in an emergency. Whether it is a medical crisis, a fire, or a flood, first responders need reliable, safe,

and efficient routes to reach people in need. The Capital SouthEast Connector will be a crucial thoroughfare for emergency vehicles, reducing response times and ensuring that help arrives as quickly as possible.

*“When we look at the number of fatalities and incidents that have affected this roadway, we can clearly see why it is so crucial to make this improvement an engineered solution to prevent future problems.”*

—Metro Fire District Asst. Chief John Rudnicki

Beyond day-to-day emergencies, the Connector will play a pivotal role in regional emergency preparedness. During disasters like wildfires, its wide lanes and better access will allow

for smoother evacuations and faster movement of emergency personnel and heavy equipment. Rudnicki recalled the devastating Camp Fire in Paradise, where poor road access severely hindered evacuation efforts. “On a roadway, we’re worried about the smoke, we’re worried about the shoulder. How do you turn your vehicle around if the road is narrowing from four lanes down to two and there’s nowhere to go?” he asked.

Winter brings its own set of challenges, with flooding posing a significant danger to residents and first responders in southern Sacramento County. As Cooper noted, drivers often misjudge the depth of floodwaters or fail to see warning signs, trapping themselves in dangerous situations. The Connector’s design will address these issues with improved drainage systems and clearer signage, ensuring that emergency vehicles can navigate the region safely, regardless

of weather conditions. This project has been a long time coming, but it is now gaining real momentum thanks to recent federal support. “It’s been going on for a long time... trickle here, trickle there, and never a lot of money,” Cooper reflected, adding, “Finally, we get a lot of money.” This much-needed funding will allow us to address the most dangerous stretches of road and create a safer, more resilient network for all. The Capital SouthEast Connector is not just a transportation project; it is a lifeline for our community. By building a roadway that can withstand the challenges of flooding and wildfires, we are ensuring that our residents remain safe and connected—no matter what challenges lie ahead. *Derek Minnema is a civil engineer, and the chief executive leading the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority.* ★

## What Everybody Ought to Know... About Transportation and Traffic in Sacramento County

### Why Are We Publishing This Information

The Capital SouthEast Connector is the largest and most significant road project in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties, but its value to the region is often unknown to residents. We hope to change that through a series of ads. The ads explore the Connector’s history and future, its financing, its challenges, and its successes.

**Please send your comments about these ads, or any questions you might have, to [ConnectorSupport@SacCounty.gov](mailto:ConnectorSupport@SacCounty.gov)**

For more information or to sign up for our newsletter, visit our website at [ConnectorJPA.com](http://ConnectorJPA.com) or go to our YouTube channel [@southeastconnectorexpressway](https://www.youtube.com/@southeastconnectorexpressway)



Map showing the location of the future Capital SouthEast Connector

**Q** What is the Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway?

**A** The planned Connector is an expressway that will link Interstate 5 and Highway 99 near Elk Grove to Highway 50 in El Dorado County. The new expressway will relieve congestion by directing commuter and commercial traffic around the city on a safe expressway. Travelers to and from areas south of Sacramento will no longer need to go through the city to get to their destinations. The Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway also features a parallel bike and pedestrian trail.

**Q** Who will benefit from the SouthEast Connector Expressway when completed?

**A** The entire region will benefit from reduced congestion on area highways, particularly Hwy 50, and from fewer toxic fumes spewing from thousands of vehicles stuck in traffic. Southeastern Sacramento County residents will have a safe new route to avoid Hwy 50 congestion and bypass downtown traffic. Businesses, companies, farmers, and ranchers will also be able to receive supplies and send products to market

more safely and quickly. Most importantly, the modernized roadway will be safe to travel, unlike current conditions that endanger lives.

**Q** Who approved building the SouthEast Connector Expressway?

**A** In 2004, by a 3-1 margin, voters agreed to tax themselves for 30 years for transportation maintenance, road improvements, mass transit, mobility for seniors and people with disabilities, and specifically to construct a new expressway connecting I-5 and Hwy 99 in the Elk Grove area to Hwy 50 in El Dorado County, now known as the Capital SouthEast Connector. Since the vote, the tax has generated about \$2 billion. To date, the Capital SouthEast Connector has received about \$58 million of those funds, which were paired with federal and state funds to complete 11 miles of the 34-mile project.

**Q** Where have the transportation tax funds not allocated to the Capital SouthEast Connector been used?

**A** The transportation sales tax funds are allocated according to a formula voters approved when they approved the tax. The largest single

recipient of the funds since the tax began is the Regional Transit Authority (38%, amounting to \$709 million) for operating and maintaining light rail and bus services; and providing transportation options to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Street and road maintenance projects have received 29.4%, amounting to \$545.5 million. Overall, capital improvement projects have received 20.4%, amounting to \$377.4 million. The rest of the funds went to smaller projects, and less than ¼ of one percent is spent on program administration.

**Q** What has the Sacramento Area Council of Governments’ role been in the Capital SouthEast Connector’s construction.

**A** The Capital SouthEast Connector is part of the “Sacramento Blueprint,” adopted over 20 years ago by SACOG’s board of directors and still consulted today. The Blueprint’s goal is to integrate land use and transportation planning to improve the region’s quality of life. It was SACOG’s idea to create the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority to manage the design and construction of the expressway. Over the years, SACOG

has been mostly supportive of efforts to advance the project, but in 2016 the organization decided to remove a portion of the Connector in its MTP update, introducing notable funding challenges for the project. More recently, SACOG determined that constructing a segment of the project was the region’s number one transportation priority, greatly enhancing a successful project application for federal funding.

**Q** What environmental impacts will the SouthEast Connector Expressway create, and how will they be mitigated?

**A** Like any road project, the Capital SouthEast Connector will affect the environment during and after construction, but all federal, state, and local regulations to protect the environment are being followed. After construction, the environment will be greatly enhanced due to a design that controls and channels damaging groundwater that currently floods the roadway and adjacent lands. The Connector Joint Powers Authority is a member of the South Sacramento Conservation Agency (SCCA) that oversees compliance with the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan and its rules for road construction. The Connector project has obtained environmental permits and has also agreed

to purchase lands to replace impacted agricultural land or vernal pools in accordance with the conservation plan’s vision.

**Q** How will the Capital SouthEast Connector affect bike and pedestrian traffic in the area?

**A** Bicyclists and pedestrians who currently face grave danger will be able to avoid traffic entirely by using a paved, Class 1 bike trail that will be built separate from the expressway along its entire length. The bike trail is designed to enable residents to walk or ride their bikes to visit friends in neighboring communities; or peddle to work, local restaurants, stores, parks, and entertainment venues; or simply to exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

**Q** How can residents support construction of the Capital SouthEast Connector?

**A** Your support is vital to our successfully applying for funds to complete the project. Telling your local, state, and federal elected representatives that you support the project is very helpful. You can also learn more about the project or sign up for our newsletter on our website at [www.connectorjpa.com](http://www.connectorjpa.com). Alternatively, you can use the QR code on this page, visit our Instagram page at [www.instagram.com/connectorjpa](https://www.instagram.com/connectorjpa) or our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/@SouthEastconnectorexpressway](https://www.youtube.com/@SouthEastconnectorexpressway) Please send questions or comments to [ConnectorSupport@saccounty.gov](mailto:ConnectorSupport@saccounty.gov).

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