

NEWS

Viking News Co-EIC's conduct letter leaves LBCC journalists concerned about press rights



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

The Viking News Co-Editor-In-Chief, Paloma Maciel, holds up the Viking News print issue they released regarding Maciel's misconduct letter on June 4, 2026.

Samuel Chacko

Photo Editor

It's Monday, May 11. It's a typical day for Paloma Maciel, co-editor-in-chief of the Long Beach City College (LBCC) student-run newspaper, the Viking News.

She stops by the bi-weekly Associated Student Body (ASB) meeting at 3 p.m. Thirty minutes into the meeting, she receives a message through her school email. Maciel doesn't notice it initially.

As the meeting comes to a close around 4 p.m., Maciel checks her phone as everyone begins walking out of the ASB meeting room. It's an email from LBCC's Office of Student Conduct about an incident report.

"I just saw the email and then I looked at it. I clicked it and I read the little thing and that's what got me," Maciel said. She remembers being confused by the letter but she quickly realized it was serious.

She then heads back to her newsroom, where she tells her advisor, Walter Hammerwold, and staff writer Jessica Rodriguez about her letter. Rodriguez reads it aloud.

After an hour of deliberating — and discussing potential options with her advisor — Maciel opts to write an editorial about the letter she received and gives Rodriguez the task of interviewing people for an accompanying news article.

What was the letter about?

At the time, Maciel was covering the ASB elections for the Viking News, from when polls closed on April 23 to the re-election on June 6.

Maciel broke the news that the election results were invalidated and a re-election would be held after she attended the May 4 ASB meeting. She also broke the news that this wasn't made public to LBCC students until two weeks after the May 4 ASB meeting.

The reason for the re-election, according to the Viking News article

see VIKING NEWS page 2

YOUTH RESOURCES

The Hidden Genius Project expands to LB, concentrates on guiding young Black men

Samuel Chacko

Photo Editor

The Hidden Genius Project, an Oakland-based technology and entrepreneur non-profit, officially staked its claim in Long Beach during a June 20 morning's grand opening in Eastside Long Beach.

The organization focuses on training and mentoring young Black men in technology creation, entrepreneurship and leadership through its 15-month, 800-hour Intensive Immersion Program. The project calls participants and alumni who go through their program geniuses, a play on the project title.

The Hidden Genius Project instructs 24 geniuses, youth between eight and 10th grade, on how to build websites and mobile apps, AI systems, AI ethics and how to start a business, as well as how to use tech to promote them.

According to the Long Beach Site Director, Montanna McDaniel, they have already picked a cohort for this year and began the program on June 22.

He said youth in general often don't know what to do once they graduate high school and extracurricular programs like The Hidden Genius Project can help them figure out their interests.

"[It's] giving young Black men something that's bigger than themselves to keep them out of God knows what," McDaniel said. "Society typically deems them as 'they're all gonna either be in jail or dead by X amount of age.'"



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Santana Hernandez Jackson (left) and Noble Jones (right) eat snacks and play chess with each other before The Hidden Genius Project starts its grand opening in Long Beach on June 20, 2026.

see THE HIDDEN GENIUS PROJECT page 4

BIG E PIZZA

TIRED OF PAYING THIRD PARTY DELIVERY FEES?

THESE APPS COST OUR CUSTOMERS AND OUR RESTAURANT EXTREMELY HIGH SERVICE FEES.

ORDER DIRECTLY FROM OUR WEBSITE AT **BIGPIZZA.COM**. Join our Loyalty Program on our website and receive \$10 off your next order as well as other rewards!

FAST DELIVERY

562-498-8788

3225 E. PCH, Suite C, Signal Hill, CA 90755



SCAN HERE
TO ORDER
ONLINE

VIKING NEWS

continued from page 1

in which Maciel interviewed ASB higher-ups, was that the voting systems went down during the voting period and ASB administration needed to validate that everyone who voted was a student.

Since Maciel was covering the election, she reached out to the ASB administration to find out more.

The student conduct letter alleged that during her reporting, Maciel “engaged in persistent and increasing harassing and aggressive behavior under the pretence of requesting interviews about the ASB election.” The letter stated that this behavior occurred from April 23 to May 8.

However, the letter specifically focused on a May 8 incident where it alleged, “after being told there was no comment, you [Maciel] remained in the doorway and physically blocked a staff member from leaving their office until you were

asked to move.” The letter also states that the staff member felt unsafe and sought shelter in another office for help.

Maciel recounts the situation with drastic differences. She said after hearing the ASB election was going to be invalidated on May 5, she scheduled an interview with Deborah Miller-Calvert, dean of student affairs, on May 8.

After Maciel’s interview with Calvert was over, she said she then went to the office of Kim Hamon, student activities advisor, and said she needed to talk to them about the ASB election.

Hamon said that the dean already spoke to her and anything Calvert said, they’d say the same thing. According to Maciel, the student activities coordinator then left their office into another area as Maciel, who was only a few feet away from the door, was typing what

Hamon had said on her phone.

Calvert then came near Hamon’s office, asked Maciel what she was doing and stated they were busy preparing for an event and that they were closed. After that brief conversation, Maciel said she left the student union.

Maciel says that at the time, she was not told she made anyone uncomfortable and insists she wasn’t blocking the door.

The letter stated that if she were found responsible for the allegations, she could have been subjected to the following disciplinary sanctions:

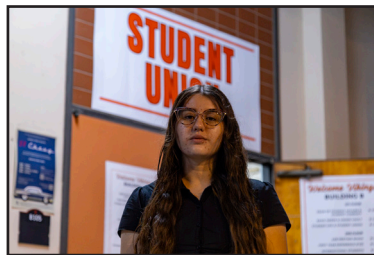
- Warning
- Repromand
- Probation
- Social suspension
- Disciplinary suspension

A “Tone Deaf” Resolution, and a Pattern of Behavior

On June 3, almost one month after receiving the letter, Maciel received an email from Executive Vice President for Student Services, Dr. Nohel Corral, determining, “that [Maciel was] not responsible for violating the Standards of Student Conduct” and “no further disciplinary action will be taken at this time.”

The co-editor-in-chief said the letter read “tone deaf” and she felt gaslit, mentioning that Dr. Corral said to have fun at commencement and at UC Santa Barbara in the June 3 email.

“I received that [no disciplinary action letter] and was like, ‘Okay, it’s a little too late,’” she said. “I’m happy, thank you for letting me graduate, but at the same time, you’ve caused damage and I think that’s why it doesn’t feel like a happy ending in a way. But it’s also, now what?”



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune
Paloma Maciel, the Viking News co-editor-in-chief, poses right outside the student union where the May 8 incident occurred on June 4, 2026.

Maciel said going up against the “lies” and trying to clear her name while also studying for finals, juggling her duties as editor-in-chief and her classes, made her overwhelmed and worried she might not graduate.

Maciel said she hopes that by standing up and fighting, this could cause change going forward.

Since the student conduct letter inhibited Maciel’s job as a reporter to ask questions and dutifully cover the ongoing election, the situation is viewed as a possible press violation.

“For me, I didn’t feel comfortable continuing that [covering ASB elections] ... if they just accused me of harassing them then I don’t feel comfortable following up and asking them questions,” Maciel said. “The reporting I did after that, I didn’t show up to the ASB meetings ... and I stopped asking the ASB president or other students what was going on in there because I had to focus on this [student conduct letter].”

This wasn’t the first time the Viking News endured a press violation.

On Oct. 16, 2024, the Viking News reported that a staff writer for the publication, Emma Lloyd,

“If my press rights are continually violated by the school, then what’s the point of press rights?”

- Liam Hollon,
incoming editor-in-chief for the Viking News

was trying to cover a domestic violence workshop on campus, but it was quickly cancelled because the Planned Parenthood representative was in a “really bad mood.”

Lloyd was kicked out twice and asked not to take photos or get interviews during the event. After talking with her advisor and going back to the public workshop, the Planned Parenthood representative did a 10-minute intermission in the middle of her second slide and stopped the slides altogether, cancelling the event completely.

“It’s very frustrating ... because you’re getting into an argument with a student, you’re being petty and saying you’re in a bad mood and you’re cancelling an event that could help people simply because a very non-threatening student journalist is reporting on it to make sure we have these resources,” Lloyd said.

What should happen going forward?

With Maciel’s investigation over, the question remains — what happens now?

When speaking with multiple LBCC journalism students, they all want to see something done.

Maciel said that she and the newspaper deserve an apology for the student conduct letter.

She said having an open dialogue with the next editor-in-chief and the LBCC administration is important, but they must understand their nonnegotiable rights as members of the press.

Maciel suggested that instead of LBCC administration holding a Zoom meeting — which was done in years past — she’d like it to be an in-person meeting. There, the Viking News can explain press rights to the administration and create a universal document that shows the U.S. Constitution, California Education Code and the school’s press rules.

“I don’t think any of the plans I proposed to make us reporters feel comfortable on campus will begin, or be taken with appropriate care, until LBCC administration fully realizes that what they did was wrong and moves forward with the intention to not have that happen again,” she said.

The next editor-in-chief for the Viking News, Liam Hollon, also suggested that the school issue an apology for the letter. He said LBCC President Mike Muñoz (or Associate Vice President Carl Kemp) should come to their class and explain how allegations like this and disciplinary letters are decided.

Hollon also suggests that LBCC should make student press rights accessible on its website, which could help him direct people to it if he feels his press rights are violated.

“It makes me doing my job possible if they were to know [our student press rights]. If my press rights are continually violated by the school, then what’s the point of press rights?” he said. “It makes operating a newspaper possible and allows me to do my job and it

allows me to interview people and not feel afraid, especially for young reporters.”

Hollon said he wishes the school’s higher-ups would take more initiative to understand their mistakes. As things stand, Hollon feels it may take a lot of pressure for them to do so.

“I’m going to have a lot on my plate as EIC, so it’s kind of hard for me to balance doing that and trying to keep up if the school is respecting us and making sure the school comes to us and say, ‘Hey, we messed up,’” he said. “Having to go out of my way to do this whole entire thing to try to get the school to apologize is crazy because I just want to be a student.”

The *Signal Tribune* asked multiple LBCC and ASB higher-ups involved with the investigation for comment on the student conduct letter on May 28 and received no reply. However, Kemp said regarding the student conduct letter, “LBCC does not comment on open investigations.”

The *Signal Tribune* also reached out to Dr. Muñoz on June 16, after the investigation concluded. The *Tribune* asked for comment regarding the incident report, asking if he thinks LBCC is doing an adequate job respecting student reporters’ press rights and what possible future steps LBCC plans to take.

Lauren Zale, the executive assistant to the president, replied to the interview request sent to Dr. Muñoz stating, “All media requests are routed through our public affairs and marketing team. Please note that Dr. Muñoz is on vacation, returning on 6/23.” Dr. Muñoz has still not responded as of June 25.

Zale CC’ed their public affairs marketing team in that same email chain with the president.

Bradlee Carihfield was CC’ed on the email and sent the *Signal Tribune* the following response:

“Long Beach City College does not comment on individual student conduct matters or disclose information regarding specific students due to privacy and confidentiality requirements.”

“Generally, student conduct matters are reviewed in accordance with established College policies and procedures. Each matter is evaluated based on the available information, and any findings or actions are determined through the applicable process.”

If no substantial changes are made, Hollon says that it opens the door for a situation like Maciel’s to happen again.

“If there’s no, ‘Hey you can’t do this’ for any of the ASB people, then they’re going to keep doing it because it works ... it stopped us from reporting on it, it stopped Paloma from reporting on it and so they got what they wanted out of it, which was Paloma to stop asking them questions,” Hollon said. “If they don’t actually bring it up again [and apologize], then this is just going to keep happening again and keep abusing this and making it so we can’t do our job.”

EYE ON CRIME

CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

Wednesday, June 17

1:22 a.m., Assault with a deadly weapon, 3300 block E. PCH
8:24 a.m., Forgery, 2800 block Cherry Ave.

Thursday, June 18

1:56 p.m., Injury traffic collision, E. Spring St./Walnut Ave.
3:48 p.m., Identity theft, 2300 block E. 20th St.
4:12 p.m., Possessing controlled substance w/priors, 700 block E. Spring St. (suspect arrested)
5:04 p.m., Grand theft, 2700 block E. 19th St.
5:11 p.m., Grand theft, 2000 block Freeman Ave.

Friday, June 19

4:18 p.m., Battery, 1800 block Raymond Ave.

Saturday, June 20

No information available at the time of publication

Sunday, June 21

No information available at the time of publication

Monday, June 22

3:04 a.m., Fire, 3300 block Olive Ave. (suspect arrested)
8:14 a.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, 2200 block Westwind Way

Tuesday, June 23

7:27 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 3300 block Lewis Ave.
3:48 p.m., Injury traffic collision, E. PCH/Temple Ave.
5:45 p.m., Petty theft; felony warrants; misdemeanor warrants, 900 block E. 33rd St. (suspects arrested)

 **Call 562-494-1014 for Tickets!**
 www.LBPlayhouse.org


GODSPELL
June 27th - Aug. 2nd

AROUND TOWN

A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL

These long summer nights beg families and friends to experience new things and make memories, and Long Beach has a perfect slate of fun and mostly free events to do just that.

It's an artsy week in the LBC, kicking off with the Long Beach Museum of Art's free AfterDark celebration Friday, continuing Saturday with Yap and Stitch's first-ever craft fair at KUBO and wrapping up Sunday with Rancho Los Cerritos' painting workshop and Place's zine and collage meetup.

Fans of live music can get out and groove all week long, with Long Beach's Municipal Band performing patriotic tunes three consecutive weeknights, Good Luck Vinyl Club's return of Cumbia y Vino dance party Sunday night, and live jazz at Alder & Sage Thursday evening.

Community-centric events this week include a nature walk with Community Land Trust Saturday morning, a bake sale for those impacted by ICE raids hosted by LB Rapid Response Saturday afternoon, a block party hosted by Care Culture Collaborative Sunday and a teach-in at LB Forward about ethical investments Tuesday.

26 FRIDAY

AFTERDARK

5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Long Beach Museum of Art (2300 E. Ocean Blvd.) will host its summer kick-off party, offering the community a night of free art and music as the museum stays open past its regular hours. There will be a vinyl DJ, food and drinks for purchase and the opening of their new exhibition "Positive Fragmentation: From the Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation." Tickets are free and can be reserved at lbma.org/events/afterdark.

CAT ZINE FEST

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Cool Cat Collective (2741 E. Fourth St. Suite C) will be hosting this zine fest with cat-themed zines from around the world. Free.

27 SATURDAY

NATURE WALK

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join Community Land Trust and Tecolote of Mama Maíz and Flora y Tierra for this nature walk beginning at Bixby Annex Park (East Ocean Boulevard and Junipero Avenue). Guests will explore coastal native plants and the shoreline, then afterwards celebrate the summer season with snacks, good company and a shared vision for the future. RSVP at the link in the bio of @longbeachclt on Instagram. Free.

AMERICA'S 250 CELEBRATION

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The City of Signal Hill is hosting this early celebration for the 250th anniversary of the founding of America at Discovery Well Park (2200 Temple Ave.). Festivities will begin with a Model T Hill Climb at 10 a.m., followed by live music, games, activities, community booths and food and drinks for purchase. Free to attend.

KNOT YOUR AVERAGE CRAFT FAIR

Noon to 4 p.m. Join Yap and Stitch for their first-ever craft fair at KUBO LB (3976 Atlantic Ave.), featuring 25+ crafty vendors, live music, coffee and a yarn installation. Free.

BAKE SALE FOR BONDS

12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Long Beach Rapid Response Mutual Aid will be hosting this bake sale in front of Native Sol (2018 E. Fourth

St.), selling a variety of baked goods such as sourdough, cookies, dog treats, vegan treats and gluten-free treats. All proceeds will go to families and individuals impacted by the ICE raids. There will also be T-shirts and buttons for sale. Free.

28 SUNDAY

CORAZON Y TIERRA: PORTRAITS OF YESTERDAY

10 a.m. to noon. This all-ages workshop at Rancho Los Cerritos (4600 N. Virginia Road) will use archival imagery from Rancho Los Cerritos to explore Mexican and Mexican-American iconography, cultural symbols and identity through painting. Long Beach Mexican-American artist Hely Omar Gonzalez will be teaching this workshop. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online.

LONG BEACH BLOCK PARTY

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Local mutual aid group Care Culture Collaborative is hosting this block party for the community at Bixby Park (at the corner of First Street and Cherry Avenue), featuring free barbeque food, vegan food, kids activities from Not Just A Mom Club, arts and crafts, free toiletries, hygiene supplies, live music, community resources and more. There will also be drag queen performances and storytime for kids hosted by the drag queens. Free.

CUMBIA Y VINO

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Good Luck Vinyl Club and Valeria Metz are hosting this cumbia dance party at Dolores (2105 E. Fourth St.), with a DJ set by Que Madre, a record pop-up from Twelves and live music from Dolores y su Conjunto. A portion of proceeds will go to Lucha Costa Mesa. Free.



Courtesy of Amor Roldan

This Saturday from noon to 4 p.m., Yap and Stitch will host their inaugural Knot Your Average Craft Fair at KUBO LB, featuring live music, vendors and more.

29 MONDAY

MOVIE IN THE PARK

6 p.m. Families, neighbors and friends can enjoy the animated film "Bad Guys 2" at Drake Park (951 Maine Ave.) during this outdoor movie series. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs, food and drinks. Festivities such as a jumper, movie-themed crafts and raffles will begin at 6 p.m. while the movie begins at dusk. Free.

COOKING WORKSHOP

6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Learn how to make classic American dishes from Chef George Cigliano at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E. Hill St.). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free.

30 TUESDAY

PET DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

Noon to 1 p.m. Learn what to do to keep your beloved pets safe during a natural disaster at this workshop at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E. Hill St.). Attendees will learn how to make a plan, build an emergency kit and learn valuable resources. A light lunch will be provided. Registration is required by calling 562-989-7330. Free.

ETHICAL INVESTMENT POLICY TEACH-IN

6:30 p.m. The Peace Action Liberation Initiative will be hosting this teach-in at LB Forward (2217 E. Sixth St.) about the Human and Civil Rights Investment Screening Policy. Residents can learn about the proposed policy before it goes in front of the Long Beach Budget Oversight Committee, and why

residents and certain groups have been pushing for it. Free.

01 WEDNESDAY

BOARD GAMES

6 p.m. Game lovers and board game enthusiasts are invited to play games with those 21 and older at The Wicked Wolf (2332 Pacific Ave.) every Wednesday. Free.

LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL BAND

6:30 p.m. Enjoy one of Long Beach's oldest traditions by listening to a live orchestral band at Los Cerritos Park (3750 Del Mar Ave.). This week's theme is "America the Beautiful: A Musical Tribute" – honoring the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence and celebrating the spirit of community and country. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets, food and drinks. Free.

02 THURSDAY

LIVE JAZZ

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Local business Alder & Sage (366 Cherry Ave.) will be hosting live jazz on select summer nights, with an accompanying happy hour. This Thursday's performance will feature the band Jim Fisk Jazztet. Free.

IS THAT IT?
NOPE!

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.SIGTRIB.COM
FOR MORE EVENTS.

Signal Tribune

MANAGING EDITOR
Samantha Diaz

DESIGN EDITOR
Ryan Hardison

PHOTO EDITOR
Samuel Chacko

LEGALS COORDINATOR
Katherine Green

PHOTOJOURNALIST
Jorge Hernandez

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER
Angela Osorio

REPORTER
Morgan Barela

REPORTER
Alfredo Menjivar

REPORTER
Christine Nader

REPORTER
Joshua Min

PHOTOJOURNALIST
Justin Enriquez

The *Signal Tribune* believes in the power of the press, and we believe in sharing that power and our platform with the surrounding community who have opinions about things that may or may not be covered by local media. Through opinion editorials, community members can provide additional insight and perspectives that we alone cannot give our readers. Opinion editorials should be just that—an opinion. This does not include personal essays or creative writing, though an opinion editorial may incorporate both of these things in order to argue a larger point. Opinion editorials will be published on our website and newspaper and will be marked so it stands apart from a standard article written by *Signal Tribune* staff. For more information about Op-Ed guidelines, visit our website.

**Our coverage
is fueled by
readers like you.
To send a news
tip or donate,
visit us online.**

THE HIDDEN GENIUS PROJECT
continued from page 1



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Staff from The Hidden Genius Project, along with past and present Geniuses, cut the ribbon to signify The Hidden Genius Project officially expanding to Long Beach on June 20, 2026.

Atlanta, [and] everywhere else that are navigating these really hard times,” said Brandon Nicholson, The Hidden Genius Project chief executive officer. “What we can be sure of is insofar as we get to be here every day, we are deeply, vehemently, doggedly dedicated to affecting serious impact for these young people.”

Nicholson said that the denials of funding and entities’ shifting engagement dramatically were the cause of the shutdowns.

“What today is about is saying that we’re actually still very much here,” he said.

The World Foundation helped launch the Long Beach sector of the project, guaranteeing the non-profit \$800,000 for three years, which McDaniel said helped set the groundwork. McDaniel also mentioned receiving \$30,000 from individual high schools such as SATO, Franklin, Jordan, Newcome, Washington and Hughes, as well as \$80,000 from the Long Beach Workforce Innovation Network (LBWIN).

The Hidden Genius Project runs throughout the year, with the summer program running Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., including business trips on Fridays. While the students are in school (during spring and fall), the program runs every second Saturday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The 24 geniuses will then become “outgoing students” after one year in the program, meaning they’ll choose something to specialize in, continue working on their big project (an app, video game or website) and help mentor the incoming cohort.

Rashaan Young Jones was a genius in the Oakland 7 cohort of The Hidden Genius Project in 2018-2019, when he was a high school sophomore.

“I learned a lot about computer science but most importantly, I would say I built a brotherhood with some lifelong friends [I still talk to this day], learned a lot about

entrepreneurship and also networking with the community,” he said.

Jones will be one of two Long Beach innovation educators, passing that same knowledge he learned from the program to local youth.

In addition to the education on computer science, entrepreneurship and business, Jones says the participating youth will be provided with daily food, a MacBook and a stipend.

“We’re paying them to get educated and we’re giving them all the knowledge they need to succeed in their next steps of life,” Jones said.

The grand opening, however, comes after The Hidden Genius Project had to suspend operations in Atlanta, Baltimore and Chicago one week ago, which could be a concern for the long-term future of the Long Beach location.

“We have no idea knowing [if this could happen to Long Beach] and we know Long Beach,

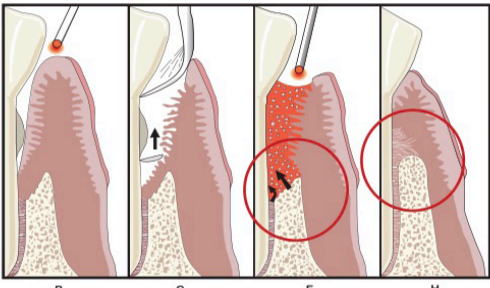


SCAN THE QR CODE
TO READ THE FULL
STORY ON SIGTRIB.COM

FREE Gum Disease Treatment

For qualified patients with the research proven¹ **LANAP** laser protocol

The **LANAP** protocol is FDA cleared² for True Periodontal Regeneration and has a 95% success rate over 21 years.



Regrow bone lost to gum disease!

CALL TODAY! www.LANAP.com

1-888-LANAP-4-YOU

526-2749

1. Gregg RH II, Gregg DM. Laser-assisted periodontal regeneration with the LANAP protocol. *Dent Today* 2019 May;38(5):78, 80-83
2. FDA Clearance K151763

RETIRED COUPLE
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker

www.viploan.com *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073

CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217

Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR NEWS
STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHONE! @SIGNALTRIBUNE



A member of CommonSpirit

Advanced neurological care.
Here in Long Beach.

Your central nervous system is the command center for virtually everything your body does—from brain, to spine, to the network of nerves that control movement and sensation. This sophisticated and comprehensive system calls for all-encompassing health care, which you can count on from St. Mary Medical Center. Our legacy of excellence is rooted in advanced technology and specialized expertise to treat stroke, multiple sclerosis, movement disorders, epilepsy, dementia, brain injuries, tumors and aneurysms, spine conditions and more. Ask your doctor about a referral to one of our specialists or learn more at dignityhealth.org/socal/neuro.



40th
Anniversary

Lunch Specials
Starting at:
10 am - 2 pm
7 Days a Week
***DINE-IN ONLY**

\$8



Welcome to the Family

\$5 OFF

ANY ORDER OF \$25 OR MORE

Not valid with any other offers or discounts.
Expires 07/31/26 | CODE: SHP2601

\$10 OFF

ANY ORDER OF \$50 OR MORE

Not valid with any other offers or discounts.
Expires 07/31/26 | CODE: SHP2601

3225 E. Pacific Coast Hwy, Signal Hill, CA 90755
562-498-8788 | BigEPizza.com

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TST8178

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE MILLIKAN HIGH SCHOOL AQUATIC CENTER PROJECT

DATE: June 26, 2026

TO: State Clearinghouse, Agencies, and Interested Parties

FROM: Long Beach Unified School District, Lead Agency and Project Proponent

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Millikan High School Aquatic Center Project

Proposed Project Title: Millikan High School Aquatic Center Project

Purpose: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15087, the Long Beach Unified School District (District), as Lead Agency, has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Millikan High School Aquatic Center Project and is providing this Notice of Availability (NOA) for public and agency review. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15085, the District is submitting the Notice of Completion (NOC), this NOA, and the Draft EIR to the State Clearinghouse for state agency review. The NOA is also being published concurrently in the Signal Hill Tribune. Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and other reviewing agencies, organizations, and interested parties are invited to review the Draft EIR and submit written comments during the public review period.

Proposed Project Location: The Proposed Project is in the north-central portion of the existing developed Millikan High School located at 2800 Snowden Avenue, Long Beach, California 90815, within the City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County.

Proposed Project Description: The District proposes to demolish Building 700/3000 and adjacent portable classrooms at Millikan High School and construct a new Aquatic Center within the existing developed campus footprint.

The new facility would include:

- A Myrtha modular competition pool (approximately 51.5 meters x 22.9 meters) with a movable bulkhead;
- Inclusive locker rooms, boys' and girls' locker rooms, showers, and offices;
- Spectator bleachers with capacity for approximately 500 people;
- A snack bar/ticket booth, scoreboard, and shade structures;
- Sports LED lighting, integrated sound system, and security enhancements;
- Support buildings for the pool; and
- Associated site improvements, including but not limited to perimeter walls, circulation, landscaping, and stormwater management features compliant with City of Long Beach Low Impact Development (LID) standards.

The Aquatic Center would support physical education classes, competitive swim and water polo programs, Special Olympics, and community swim activities. Construction is anticipated to occur over approximately 18 to 24 months, beginning with demolition and grading and followed by facility construction and site improvements.

Environmental Effects: The Draft EIR identifies a significant and unavoidable impact to historical resources associated with demolition of Building 700/3000, which is a contributor to the California Register-eligible Millikan High School campus. The Draft EIR also evaluates other environmental issue areas analyzed in the EIR, including air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources.

Hazardous Materials: CEQA Guidelines Section 15087 requires the NOA to disclose whether the projectsite is included on any of the lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5, including lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, hazardous waste disposal sites, and related hazardous materials sites. As noted in the Initial Study, the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5; therefore, hazards and hazardous materials were not carried forward for detailed analysis in the Draft EIR.

Public Review Period: The Draft EIR is available for public review and comment pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. The public review period for the Draft EIR will begin on June 26, 2026, and end on August 10, 2026. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2026. The NOA, Draft EIR, technical appendices, and documents incorporated by reference in the Draft EIR are available for review online at:

<https://www.lbschoolbonds.net/environmental-reviews>

Hard copies may be viewed at the following locations:

- Long Beach Main Library (101 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90822)
- Signal Hill Library (1800 E Hill St, Signal Hill, CA 90755)
- Angelo M. Iacoboni Library (4990 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA)
- District Facilities Development and Planning Offices (2425 Webster Ave Long Beach, CA 90810)
- District Board of Education Offices (1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810)
- Millikan High School (2800 Snowden Ave, Long Beach, CA 90815)

Agency/Public Comments: The District will accept written comments during the 45-day public review period ending at 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2026. Comments should address the adequacy and completeness of the Draft EIR and identify any environmental issues that should be considered before the District considers certification of the Final EIR. Please include a contact person for your agency, organization, or interested party group, as applicable. Written comments may be submitted by mail or email (Please include "Millikan Aquatic Center Draft EIR" subject heading) to:

Attn: Ferdows Fazeli, Senior Program Manager
Facilities Development and Planning Branch
2425 Webster Ave
Long Beach, CA 90810
ceqa@lbschools.net

Published in the *Signal Tribune* newspaper:

June 19 & 26, 2026

TST8164 / 2026 112156
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: SPOT PEDIATRIC THERAPY, 1605 XIMENO AVE APT 171, LONG BEACH, CA. 90804. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: SPOT PEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL AND SPEECH THERAPY INC., 1605 XIMENO AVE APT 171, LONG BEACH, CA 90804. State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: REBECCA KIM, CEO. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on May 21, 2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

TST8165 Case No. 26LBCP00180
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA AVE, LONG BEACH, CA. 90802 PETITION OF: Nesta Mango Stiles for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Nesta Mango Stiles has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Nesta Mango Stiles Proposed Name: Aaron Mango Stiles 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: July 14, 2026; Time: 8:30 a.m., Dept. S26, Room: 5500. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026. //ss//__Michael P. Vicencia, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: June 1, 2026

TST8158 / 2026 112685
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: CHEESY'S SWEET FUNNEL CAKES & TREATS, 552 E. CARSON ST., SUITE 104-349, CARSON, CA. 90745. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: 327 HOSPITALITY GROUP LLC, 552 E CARSON ST. SUITE 104-349, CARSON, CA. 90745. State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: ALEXANDRIA HUTCHINSON, MANAGING MEMBER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on 5/21/2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: June 12, 19, 26 & July 3, 2026

TST8168 Case No. 26SLBP00182
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA AVE., LONG BEACH, CA. 90802 PETITION OF: Olamide Abolaji Sonuga for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: OLAMIDE A. SONUGA has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Olamide Abolaji Sonuga Proposed Name: Olamide Sonuga Finney 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: July 15, 2026; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. S-28, Room: 5300. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of

this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. June 12, 19, 26 & July 3, 2026. //ss//__Sabina A. Helton, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: June 4, 2026

TST8170 Case No. 26SLBP00190
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA AVE., LONG BEACH, CA. 90802 PETITION OF: Monica McCurdy for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Monica McCurdy has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Monica McCurdy Proposed Name: Satya Om 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: July 20, 2026; Time: 8:30 a.m., Dept. S25, Room: 5600. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755 June 12, 19, 26 & July 3, 2026. //ss//__Nicole M. Heeseman, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: June 5, 2026

TST8171 / 2026 094205
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: CORONADO CLEANING SERVICES, 140 E. WILLARD ST, LONG BEACH, CA 90806. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: ADRIANA D. CORONADO LOZOYA, 140 E. WILLARD ST, LONG BEACH, CA. 90806. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: ADRIANA D. CORONADO LOZOYA, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on Apr 29, 2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: June 12, 19, 26 & July 3, 2026

TST8172 / 2026 126793
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: 1. HOTEL MAYA, 2. THE MAYA, 700 QUEENSWAY DRIVE, LONG BEACH, CA. 90802. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: QUEENSBAY HOTEL, LLC, 444 W OCEAN BLVD SUITE 650, LONG BEACH, CA. 90802. State of Incorporation/Organization: DE. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: KAMBIZ BABAOFF, MANAGING MEMBER. The registrant

has/begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 06/2026. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on 6/10/2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: June 12, 19, 26 & July 3, 2026

TST8177 / 2026 128621
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: L AND G INVESTMENTS, 720 E. 37TH ST., LONG BEACH, CA. 90807. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: GALE MOLATORE, 720 E. 37TH ST., LONG BEACH, CA. 90807. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: GALE MOLATORE, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on Jun 11, 2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: June 19, 26 & July 3, 10, 2026

TST8181 / 2026 137054
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: KUCZYNSKI HOLDINGS, 4000 E. 2ND STREET, LONG BEACH, CA. 90803. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: ELANA KARNOLD TRUSTEE, P.O. BOX 15678, LONG BEACH, CA. 90815. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: a Trust. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: ELANA KARNOLD, TRUSTEE. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 06/2026. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on Jun 23, 2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: June 26 & July 3, 10, 17, 2026

NEED TO POST
A LEGAL NOTICE?

legalnotices
@signaltribune.com

Dine in or Take Out!



We serve breakfast and lunch daily.

Open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mimosa Sale!

Tues & Wed in June - \$6 Mimosas

Choice of: Oj, Guava, Grapefruit or Cranberry

3405 Orange Ave, Long Beach

562.490.2473 • Visit blackbirdlb.com to see our menu

RETIRED COUPLE
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker

WWW.VIPLAN.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217

Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

TST8175

AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING THE CONNECTION FEE RATE AND MEAN LOADINGS PER UNIT OF USAGE FOR COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 29 OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 29 OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 – SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the *District No. 29 Connection Fee Rate Ordinance* and may be cited as such.

SECTION 2 – PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish the connection fee rates, user categories, and mean loadings prescribed by County Sanitation District No. 29.

SECTION 3 – USER CATEGORIES AND MEAN LOADINGS

Pursuant to the *Master Connection Fee Ordinance of County Sanitation District No. 29 of Los Angeles County*, or any successor ordinance, the following, to be effective on the date given in Section 8, shall constitute the user categories and mean loadings per unit of usage for flow, chemical oxygen demand (COD), and suspended solids (SS), for County Sanitation District No. 29 of Los Angeles County:

DESCRIPTION	UNIT OF MEASURE	FLOW (Gallons per Day)	COD (Pounds per Day)	SS (Pounds per Day)
RESIDENTIAL				
Single Family Home	Dwelling Unit	260	1.22	0.59
Condominiums	Dwelling Unit	195	0.92	0.44
Multi-Unit Residential	Dwelling Unit	156	0.73	0.35
Mobile Home Parks	No. of Spaces	156	0.73	0.35
COMMERCIAL				
Hotel/Motel/Rooming House	Room	125	0.54	0.28
Store	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Supermarket	1,000 ft ²	150	2.00	1.00
Shopping Center	1,000 ft ²	325	3.00	1.17
Regional Mall	1,000 ft ²	150	2.10	0.77
Office Building	1,000 ft ²	200	0.86	0.45
Medical, Dental, Veterinary Clinic or Building	1,000 ft ²	300	1.29	0.68
Restaurant	1,000 ft ²	1,000	16.68	5.00
Indoor Theatre	1,000 ft ²	125	0.54	0.28
Car Wash				
Tunnel – No Recycling	1,000 ft ²	3,700	15.86	8.33
Tunnel – Recycling	1,000 ft ²	2,700	11.74	6.16
Wand	1,000 ft ²	700	3.00	1.58
Bank, Credit Union	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Service Shop, Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Shop	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Animal Kennels	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Gas Station	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23

DESCRIPTION	UNIT OF MEASURE	FLOW (Gallons per Day)	COD (Pounds per Day)	SS (Pounds per Day)
COMMERCIAL				
Auto Sales	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Wholesale Outlet	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Nursery/Greenhouse	1,000 ft ²	25	0.11	0.06
Light Manufacturing	1,000 ft ²	25	0.23	0.09
Lumber Yard	1,000 ft ²	25	0.23	0.09
Warehousing	1,000 ft ²	25	0.23	0.09
Open Storage	1,000 ft ²	25	0.23	0.09
Drive-In Theatre	1,000 ft ²	20	0.09	0.05
Night Club	1,000 ft ²	350	1.50	0.79
Bowling/Skating	1,000 ft ²	150	1.76	0.55
Club & Lodge Halls	1,000 ft ²	125	0.54	0.27
Auditorium, Amusement	1,000 ft ²	350	1.50	0.79
Golf Course and Park (Structures and Improvements)	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Campground, Marina, and Recreational Vehicle Park	Sites, Slips, or Spaces	55	0.34	0.14
Convalescent Home	Bed	125	0.54	0.28
Laundromat	1,000 ft ²	3,825	16.40	8.61
Mortuary, Funeral Home	1,000 ft ²	100	1.33	0.67
Health Spa, Gymnasium				
With Showers	1,000 ft ²	600	2.58	1.35
Without Showers	1,000 ft ²	300	1.29	0.68
Convention Center, Fairground, Racetrack, Sports Stadium/Arena	Average Daily Attendance	10	0.04	0.02
INSTITUTIONAL				
College/University	Student	20	0.09	0.05
Private School	1,000 ft ²	200	0.86	0.45
Library, Museum	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Post Office (Local)	1,000 ft ²	100	0.43	0.23
Post Office (Regional)	1,000 ft ²	25	0.23	0.09
Church	1,000 ft ²	50	0.21	0.11

SECTION 4 – CONNECTION FEE RATE

Pursuant to the *Master Connection Fee Ordinance of County Sanitation District No. 29 of Los Angeles County*, or any successor ordinance, the following, to be effective on the dates given, shall constitute the Connection Fee Rate per capacity unit:

Cost Component	July 10, 2026	July 1, 2027	July 1, 2028	July 1, 2029	July 1, 2030
District Capital	\$ 2,885	\$ 2,885	\$ 2,885	\$ 2,885	\$ 2,885
Joint Outfall Capital	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,569
Operational	\$ 431	\$ 486	\$ 541	\$ 596	\$ 651
Total:	\$ 4,885	\$ 4,940	\$ 4,995	\$ 5,050	\$ 5,105

SECTION 5 – COST ALLOCATION FACTORS

Pursuant to the *Master Connection Fee Ordinance of County Sanitation District No. 29 of Los Angeles County*, or any successor ordinance, the proportions of the total capital costs required to construct the sewerage system including conveyance, treatment, and disposal of wastewater which are attributable to flow, COD, and suspended solids, designated as X, Y, and Z, respectively, to be effective on the date given in Section 8, shall be:

X = 0.7233 Y = 0.1049 Z = 0.1718

SECTION 6 – VALIDITY

In any part, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court, that decision does not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remainder of this Ordinance. The Board of Directors declares that it would have adopted each provision of this Ordinance irrespective of the validity of any other provision.

SECTION 7 – SUPERSESSION

This Ordinance shall supersede *An Ordinance Prescribing Connection Fee Rate and Mean Loadings per Unit of Usage for County Sanitation District No. 29 of Los Angeles County*, adopted May 11, 2022.

SECTION 8 – EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective July 10, 2026.

ATTEST:

/s/ KIMBERLY S. CHRISTENSEN
Clerk, Board of Directors
County Sanitation District No. 29
of Los Angeles County

/s/ TINA HANSEN
Chairperson, Board of Directors
County Sanitation District No. 29
of Los Angeles County

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 29 of Los Angeles County on June 10, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Copeland, Honeycutt, Jones, Woods, and Hansen

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

/s/ KIMBERLY S. CHRISTENSEN
Secretary of the Board of Directors
County Sanitation District No. 29
of Los Angeles County

CNSB # 4052385

ENVIRONMENT



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Leif Kemp (left), Judi Gregory (right) and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin (middle) pose for a photo inside of Grow2Zero Farms before taking one last stroll around the farm on June 24, 2026.

Samuel Chacko

Photo Editor

Leif Kemp and Judi Gregory, co-founders of Long Beach's Grow2Zero Farms, hosted an unexpected tour for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin Wednesday afternoon.

"[I was] kind of shocked and surprised and stunned and excited," Gregory said, describing receiving an email that the federal administrator wanted to visit their site. "When you do this work, you just kind of do it behind the curtain. To have him show up to our little farm and our little organization really means a lot."

Zeldin also spoke with local media after the tour, alongside Kemp and Gregory.

"Combatting food waste is important to us here at the EPA and Grow2Zero's work is really something I think should be a story told all across this country [and] should inspire others," Zeldin said, adding that he's never visited an operation like Ground2Zero in his nine and a half months as EPA administrator.

The site, once an abandoned parking lot often riddled with litter, has turned into a source of extraordinary pride that feeds thousands each year.

"Just think across the country, how many other blighted, smaller properties that are only one acre?" Zeldin said.

Another Long Beach nonprofit, Long Beach Fresh, helped Kemp and Gregory transform the location through the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone Program close to a decade ago.

"The owner [of the then old parking lot] constantly [was] getting violation notices ... he looked and said, 'Well, my mom loves gardening, maybe somebody will want to come and grow something here and I don't have to pay fines from the city,'" Gregory said.

The co-founders, Gregory and Kemp, both went to the same high school and are veterans. The nonprofit benefits them in different ways.

Kemp was in the Army and he used the farm to help with his post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"I've got involved with growing food to address some of the issues that I was dealing with internally due to my time in combat," Kemp said in the press conference. "I noticed real quickly the benefits of having my hands in the soil and I wanted to figure out a way to use veterans to heal communities."

Gregory began dumpster diving in the first grade and said her whole world was about keeping stuff out of a landfill, recycling and reusing.

The idea for Grow2Zero started after Gregory watched a video of Kemp 10 years ago on how he was

using farming to help rehabilitate veterans with PTSD. She said to Kemp that while she didn't know anything about farming, she knew that there was a lot of food waste which could be composted and used to grow crops in the future.

"The next thing you know, we're planting a farm," Gregory said.

But creating that farm wasn't that easy.

"It was literally one bed, one row at a time," she said. "A lot of long weekends."



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Estefany Rodriguez, a farm worker for Grow2Zero, takes apples and other produce and fills it up in a box and crate on June 24, 2026.

The nonprofit farm gives about 140 bags of fresh produce to residents per week. About 80 of those bags are distributed in person at their Everyone Eats event on Wednesdays from 4 to 4:30 p.m., which is located in the alleyway on the corner of Colombia and Santa Fe. On Thursdays, they do home delivery to Century Villages at Cabrillo, mostly to veterans with their families and people with disabilities.

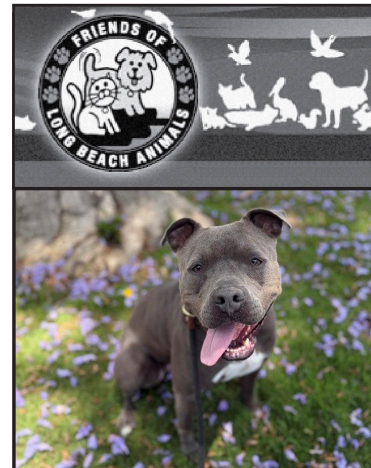
"When people come up to get the food ... it just really is impactful because people come up and say, 'Thank you for what you're doing. You've helped [me and] my family,'" Gregory said. "No job or no anything can replace helping someone in need."

Grow2Zero has received multiple grants to the tune of \$600,000-\$700,000 a year to give food away and educate the community on farming. However, both grants expired this year and now they only have one grant that's close to \$250,000 a year.

"One of the things as a nonprofit, there's never enough money. It's always, 'How are we gonna pay our bills?' What are we gonna do when this grant runs out," Gregory said, mentioning the nonprofit received initial funding from the EPA during COVID.

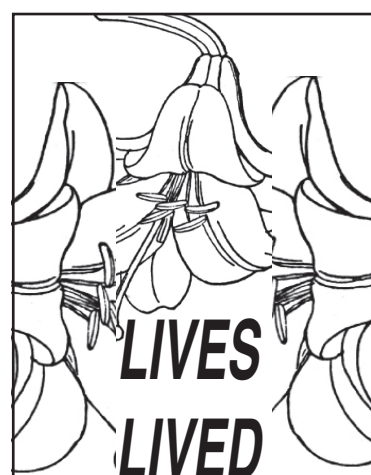
"What we do is supplement with some community service work, but grant funding, community funding [is] critical," she said.

To learn more about Ground2Zero Farms, follow them on Instagram and to donate, check out their website.



Pet of the week: Tallulah

Looking at Tallulah, you'd never imagine that this lovely, steel-gray pittie was once an emaciated stray who was afraid of her own shadow. When she was brought to Long Beach Animal Care Services six months ago, she seemed like a hopeless case. However, the word "hopeless" is not in the vocabulary of either the shelter staff or the volunteers, and Tallulah got a lot of hopeful attention and training. No one knew whether she'd ever been on a leash, but now, she walks like a dream. She may never have played with toys, but she sure knows what to do with them! She may never have experienced human love, but that's certainly changed. The volunteers adore her, and it's mutual! Sadly, Tallulah is showing signs of shelter stress. She needs a forever home where she can fully shine or at least a few weeks of fostering, especially now, during the "fireworks season." Fostering during this time makes room for a lost, frightened dog at the shelter and at the same time give a good, deserving dog a break from the shelter! Adopt Tallulah by emailing PetAdopt@longbeach.gov or petfoster@longbeach.gov. You can also call (562) 570-4925. Better yet, meet her in person. Shelter hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7700 E. Spring St. at the entrance to El Dorado Park (no parking fee for shelter visitors). Ask for ID#A755826.



- Wendy Stargell 63
- David Robicheau 75
- Lia Chantel Williams 33
- Colleen Desh 70
- William Timmons 93
- Adela Kunasz 81
- David Dunn - 61
- Harlean Andrew - 87
- Alan Ice - 80
- Jorge Plasencia 74
- Lance Jacquez 79
- Brian Nordstrom 60
- Alfredo Dela Cruz 91
- Diane Barbre 74
- Harris David 59
- Jade Hepp 47
- Jean Gill 97
- Gloria Berg 90
- William Murdaugh 67

The families were assisted by McKenzie Mortuary. For more details on service dates and times, contact (562) 961-9301

JIMMY E'S

13 FOR \$13 - LUNCH SPECIALS 11 AM – 3 PM *

- 

BLT
Sourdough, applewood smoked bacon, lettuce, tomato, and mayo served w/your choice of soup, salad, or fries
- 

TURKEY OR HAM SANDWICH
Sourdough, lettuce, tomato, and mayo served w/ your choice of soup, salad, or fries
- 


TUNA
Toasted rye, cheddar, and tomato served w/ your choice of soup, salad, or fries
- 

4 CHEESE GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH
Texas toast served w/ your choice of soup, salad, or fries
- 

CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH
Sourdough, spicy mayo, bacon served w/ your choice of soup, salad, or fries
- 

CLASSIC CAESAR SALAD
Romaine lettuce tossed w/ Caesar dressing
- 

PENNE PESTO
penne pasta served w/ creamy pesto sauce served w/ garlic bread
- 

SPAGHETTI MARINARA
house-made marinara on a bed of spaghetti pasta served w/ garlic bread
- 

TACOS
2 tacos w/ your choice of chicken or steak served w/ chips + salsa
- 

FISH SANDWICH
fried cod, lettuce, tomato, and tartar on a brioche bun w/ your choice of soup, salad, or fries
- 

GYRO WRAP
spinach tortilla, gyro, tomato, onion, feta cheese and tzatziki served w/ your choice of soup, salad, or fries
- 

BUFFALO CHICKEN WRAP
spinach tortilla, chicken tenders tossed in buffalo sauce, lettuce, tomato, onion, and cheese served w/ your choice of soup, salad, or fries
- 

GOUDA MAC + CHEESE
Villa Frizzoni elbow macaroni smother in our creamy four cheese sauce made up of a blend of Cheddar, Monterey Jack, Parmesan, and Smoked Gouda topped with Bacon

*Notify your server of all known allergies or dietary restrictions.
Consuming raw or undercooked meats (such as rare/medium rare), poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of food-borne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions