DAILY PRESS

LOCAL

Tributes continue for Jackie, the 'Queen' eagle from Big Bear



Rene Ray De La Cruz
Victorville Daily Press

Aug. 13, 2026, 11:55 a.m. PT

Key Points

- Jackie, a celebrity bald eagle from Big Bear Lake, died despite life-saving treatment.
- Her life was broadcast to fans worldwide via a 24/7 nest cam, leading to widespread tributes.
- Jackie's story inspired a deeper public connection to wildlife and conservation efforts.

Like the death of a movie legend or national hero, tributes continue to pour in for Jackie, the celebrity bald eagle from Big Bear Lake, who died this month.

The popular mate of Shadow, and recent mama to eaglets Sandy and Luna, Jackie died on Aug. 9, 2026, despite life-saving treatment at the Ojai Raptor Center in Ventura County.

Jackie and her family drew fans from around the world via the Friends of Big Bear Valley's 24/7 nest cam, which livestreamed activity from the nest located in Fawnskin in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California.

For years, fans would watch the eagle couple return to the nest, mate, lay and lose eggs. They also witnessed eggs hatching, eaglets dying, maturing and flying off.

Over time, fans affectionately called Jackie "Queen," "Mama Eagle" and the "Royal Eagle."

First at the scene

San Bernardino County Fire officials, who were first to respond to the ailing Jackie said they were saddened to learn of the death of the "beloved bald eagle who captured the hearts of so many."

"Our firefighters were honored to play a small part in helping Jackie receive veterinary care after she was found injured," county fire officials said. "While we had all hoped for a different outcome, it was inspiring to see our community and people around the world come together with such compassion and concern for her well-being."

Fire officials said that, as our national symbol, the bald eagle represents strength, freedom and patriotism.

"Jackie's story was a meaningful reminder of that spirit and of the connection we share with our local wildlife," fire officials said. "We are grateful to everyone who cared for Jackie, followed her journey and came together in support of her."

Fire officials and other agencies also thanked the following organizations for their dedicated efforts, compassion and care for Jackie throughout this difficult journey. Those groups included:

Friends of Big Bear Valley
County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation
San Dimas Raptor Rescue
The Ojai Raptor Center

Jackie's legacy

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation said they were also saddened by the news that Jackie, "who captured the hearts of millions," had died.

"Jackie taught us so much about the beauty and resilience of bald eagles, the importance of protecting wildlife, and the special connections we can build with the

natural world," LA County officials stated.

They added that Jackie's legacy will live on through the countless people who watched, learned, cared and were inspired to protect these magnificent birds.

"Our own San Dimas Raptor Rescue team was honored to play a part in Jackie's journey, responding to her rescue and helping ensure she was safely transferred for specialized care," the county stated.

They said Jackie touched lives far beyond Big Bear Valley and that her legacy will continue to inspire conservation, education and a deeper appreciation for the wildlife we are so fortunate to share our world with - and continue to inspire the conservation, rehabilitation and rescue work of their own park and raptor rescue departments.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Meghan Hertel said millions of people who will never set foot near Big Bear have watched, for years, as Jackie and her mate raised eaglets, lost eggs, survived extreme weather, fought for their nest — and, most recently, as the eagle fought for her own life.

"Sharing her story inspired deep care in people and a broader understanding of why conservation matters," Hertel said. "While this eagle's story has ended, the inspiration and the lessons she gave so many people won't be forgotten. Our hope is that they inspire greater efforts to protect the wild places eagles and other species need to live out their lives."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Southwest Region officials also shared their sadness over Jackie's passing.

Paul Souza, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Southwest Region, said Jackie's story captured the attention of people across the country and helped foster a deeper connection with wildlife.

“The public’s connection to this eagle is a powerful reminder of why the conservation of bald eagles matters,” Souza said. “We are grateful to our dedicated partners at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Ojai Valley Raptor Center for the compassion and expertise they provided throughout the eagle’s care.”

Elected officials pay tribute to Jackie

Following the death of Jackie, Sen. Tony Strickland said he intends to introduce a Senate Resolution to commemorate Jackie and acknowledge her impact on a community and the place she held in the hearts of the people who watched her journey.

“She was more than a bald eagle that people happened to watch," Strickland said. "Over the years, her life became a story that people followed, cared about and felt connected to."

Gov. Gavin Newsom said, “California mourns Jackie, the Big Bear bald eagle who reminded us of the beauty and wonder of California’s wildlife, and our shared responsibility to protect the habitats that sustain it.”

The governor added that many are grateful to the Raptor Center and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who partnered with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to help Jackie in her time of need.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe said Big Bear won’t be quite the same without Jackie.

“Rest peacefully, Jackie. You were loved by so many,” Rowe said.

Rep. Jay Obernolte said, “Our district mourns the passing of Jackie, Big Bear’s beloved bald eagle.

“She brought joy to so many people and inspired people across our community and around the world to appreciate and protect our incredible wildlife,” Obernolte said. “She will be missed!”

Sen. Adam Schiff said he was devastated to learn of the passing of “California’s pride, Jackie.”

“Any visitor to my Washington office in the past year knows our office proudly showed the livestream of Jackie’s nest showing alongside C-SPAN and national news,” Schiff said. “We join all of California of mourning the passing of one of our most famous icons.”

Sen. Alex Padilla also said he was saddened to hear of the passing of “California's beloved icon, Jackie, who brought joy and solace to Californians and those across the country who tracked her nest livestream.”

Daily Press reporter Rene Ray De La Cruz may be reached at RDeLaCruz@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on X @DP_ReneDeLaCruz

(San Bernardino) County announces plans for improvements to supportive housing community, ups funding for stability

by Joe Taglieri | HeySoCal

August 12, 2026



Attendees of a recent community event in San Bernardino at 450 N. G St. gather in front of the supportive housing complex. | Photo courtesy of County of San Bernardino/YouTube

County officials announced last week plans for facility upgrades at a recently acquired housing complex in San Bernardino that offers supportive services to residents, many of whom experienced homelessness and domestic violence.

At a recent community meeting at 450 N. G St., formerly the All Star Lodge, officials briefed residents and community members about what's in store for the property's next chapter. The purchase approved in March is the first step, officials said. Over the next 18 months, county officials plan to work with community organizations and contractors to

transform the property into a safer, healthier environment to help improve residents' quality of life.

For months, building residents faced uncertainty about the future of their homes. As many of the older adults who live there had already experienced homelessness before arriving there, when notices started appearing on their doors claiming that the state's rental subsidies had ended and their monthly rent obligations would skyrocket, many feared they could lose the housing stability they had finally managed to find.

"The county recently acquired the site after residents came forward and spoke out about the challenges they were facing," county Deputy Executive Officer Derek Armstrong said in a statement. "Thanks to support from the state, the county's acquisition of the property will help ensure it continues to benefit the community."

A county statement also provided several residents' points of view.

The possibility of losing his apartment was frightening for 70-year-old William Carter, who supports two people on a fixed income of $1,200 a month. When Carter learned about the potential rent increase, he became concerned about what would happen next.

"That was a scary time," Carter said. "I knew where I was going to go after that. I was going to go right back into the streets."

The uncertainty weighed heavily on residents throughout the building. Carter said many feared they would no longer be able to pay their rent and once again would face homelessness.

"I don't want to go back," he said. "I'll never go backwards like that."

The county's purchase of the property brought relief when residents learned of the move to ensure that they could stay in their homes.

As part of the transition, county officials held a community meeting with residents to discuss next steps, answer questions and hear concerns about the building.

Carter and resident Renee Mora expressed gratitude for the county's effort to help them stay housed and plans for facility improvements.

Mora, 63, moved into the building in July 2023 after a family member told her about the housing opportunity. A survivor of domestic violence, she said her unit in the G Street building provided a sense of security at a very stressful, scary time in her life.

For Mora, the county's purchase is the culmination of months of advocacy. The effort to preserve their housing began in December, when Mora and fellow resident Fred Miller brought notices they had received from their landlord to San Bernardino city officials in search of answers about the property's future. Mora and Miller contacted county officials to get support for the property's residents.

In the end, Mora said residents were grateful that the county purchased the property.

"All the tenants are excited because you guys are truly here to help us," she said.

She hopes the transition will bring additional services and support for residents, many of whom have experienced trauma and other hardships throughout their lives, Mora said.

"Our main focus here is to get behavioral help, real behavioral help," she added. "A lot of us are suffering from traumatic things that happened to us as a child."

For Carter, the announcement brought relief.

"All of this is an opportunity for someone like me to not have so many worries and not be so stressed out," he said.

Carter said he believes the county will provide the oversight and support residents have been seeking.

“This is a beautiful building,” said Carter. “I know the transformation is going to help everybody.”

Housing program for youth, families

The San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services received budget adjustments totaling nearly $1.8 million to fund the Transitional Age Youth and Bringing Families Home programs.

The funding will provide housing navigation, rental assistance, case management and supportive services for young adults moving out of the foster care or probation systems, as well as families receiving child welfare services who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The programs aim to promote housing stability, support family reunification and help prevent children from entering foster care due to housing instability.

In January the county Board of Supervisors approved up to roughly $5.7 million in TAY funding and nearly $2.8 million for the BFH program from the state social-service agencies.

Ontario, Fontana Outpace Market-Rate Housing Goals as California Lags on Affordable Homes

4 min read

2 hours ago Contributing Writer



A building set to have 40 apartment units with four retail stores is under construction at the intersection of Wilshire and 6th Street in Santa Monica. May 24, 2023. Photo by Zaydee Sanchez for CalMatters

By Ben Christopher, CalMatters

Every eight years, state housing regulators give cities and counties across California an especially dreaded homework assignment: Make a plan for a bunch of new homes.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration assigns localities goals to hit at four different affordability levels. Collectively, the numbers represent the housing department's best estimate of the number of new homes needed to match any expected population growth and to chip away at the state's decades-in-the-making shortage of affordable places to live.

With these targets meted out to each region on a rolling basis, this summer, a massive chunk of the state, including all of Southern California, passed its halfway mark.

So in the spirit of a mid-term exam, how are cities and counties doing?

Bad news, California. If this were graded, the state would abound in D's and F's.

Less than a third of cities and counties are on track to permit enough "above moderate" units, the category that typically refers to market-rate housing, according to data submitted by locals to the state housing department.

The progress report for more affordable types of housing is even bleaker. Only 32 jurisdictions — less than 6% — are on track to hit their "very low" targets. That refers to housing within financial reach of anyone earning less than half the typical local income.

After years of nudging, political trolling and litigating, most cities and counties now have state-approved plans in place. But as the production numbers show, it's one thing to plan and another to build. Almost nowhere in the state is actually seeing the new construction necessary "to meet the housing needs of all Californians," as housing regulators have described these targets.

Only five jurisdictions in the entire state are permitting at a pace to hit all four income targets. Four are the lightly populated unincorporated bits of small, mostly rural counties: Plumas, Napa, Yolo and Mono. The fifth is Placerville, a town of roughly 11,000 people in the Sierra foothills east of Sacramento.

To be "on track," a city or county needs to issue permits at a clip that, if sustained, would allow it to hit its state targets by the end of its planning cycle. State housing regulators told the city of Irvine in Orange County, for example, to plan for 8,671 market-rate units by 2030. Now halfway there, the city has issued more than 6,000, making it one of the minority of cities to be on pace to reach its target for above-moderate housing.

But for more affordable digs, Irvine, like most California cities, is far behind. The city has permitted just 9% of the very low-income housing needed to reach its target by the end of the decade. For the next most affordable category, which refers to units priced for those earning up to 80% of the regional median, it's at a mere 3%.

Affordable housing construction faces an additional hurdle: A lack of public money. With very few exceptions, building homes that are affordable to those making below average incomes in California requires public subsidies, philanthropic capital or other lenders and investors willing to take a loss. Taxpayer support provided by the state has been in short supply after a voter-approved bond from 2018 that provided funding for California's signature affordable development subsidy ran dry. That explains why the affordable production numbers are so much lower.

Affordable developers and other housing advocates are hoping voters will back an $11.25 billion state bond in November to replenish the coffers.

Meanwhile, "moderate" income housing is especially tough to build, facing the financial worst of both worlds. It often doesn't qualify for affordable subsidy programs that prioritize projects serving people further down the income ladder. But rents affordable to those earning median incomes are often too low for unsubsidized developers hoping to turn a profit.

An escape valve

The state may force local governments to lay the groundwork for new development — identifying potential sites, rezoning to allow for denser housing, changing local laws that make construction more economically feasible. But historically, local governments haven't faced any consequences if nothing actually gets built.

That changed in 2017, when state lawmakers passed a landmark housing bill aimed at boosting new housing production where it was most needed. In jurisdictions that are halfway through their planning process but have yet to permit at least half their housing targets for above-moderate, low- and very low-income housing (housing affordable to a "moderate" income level isn't included), the law requires local governments to fast track most apartment and condo projects. In exchange, developers have to set aside a certain number of affordable units and pay their workers more.

Of the 212 Southern California cities and counties that crossed the halfway point this year, all but four failed to hit those numbers and are now subject to the streamlining law.

But if history is any guide, that alone isn't likely to trigger a building boom.

Private developers have insisted that the affordability requirements and higher wage standards written into the law make projects infeasible everywhere but in the highest rent neighborhoods. Since 2018, the law has been used to green light 27,961 units, according to the state's housing department. That's a significant sum, but it's far from enough to close the gap.

Is your town on track?

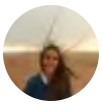
To be "on track," a city or county needs to have issued housing permits at a rate that, if sustained, would allow it to hit its state targets by the end of its planning cycle. A value of 100% means it is exactly on track to hitting its target for housing of that affordability level.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

DAILY PRESS

HOME-GARDEN

As electric bills climb, Victor Valley residents turn to Edison debt-relief program



McKenna Mobley
Victorville Daily Press

Aug. 13, 2026, 2:16 a.m. PT

Key Points

- Victor Valley residents are turning to Southern California Edison's Arrearage Management Plan (AMP) to manage high electric bills.
- The AMP program can forgive up to $8,000 in past-due debt for eligible customers after 12 on-time monthly payments.
- To qualify, customers must be enrolled in CARE or FERA, have a balance of $500 or more, and meet other specific criteria.
- Interest in the program has grown as families face rising electricity rates and extreme summer heat in the High Desert.

Months of triple-digit electric bills have left some Victor Valley residents making difficult choices about how to stretch their budgets. Tired of their utility bills being a source of anxiety, many are now looking to Southern California Edison's Arrearage Management Plan (AMP) program for help catching up on overdue payments.

AMP is a debt-forgiveness program for eligible customers with past-due electricity bills, allowing up to $8,000 in debt to be forgiven after 12 on-time monthly payments.

Edison's residential electricity rates increased roughly 83% between 2015 and 2025, according to the California Public Utilities Commission's Public Advocates Office. Nearly 1 in 5 California households served by the major investor-owned utilities

were behind on their energy bills in 2025, including Apple Valley resident Evelyn Stanislau.

Stanislau says her family signed up for the financial assistance of the AMP program after they got "very behind" on their bills last summer and are happy with their experience thus far.

Victorville resident Brett Crystal also registered for the program last summer when his electricity bill rose to over $300 a month. AMP was started in 2021, and by 2024, 10,000 Southern California households were enrolled for debt forgiveness.

Need a news break? Check out the all new PLAY hub with puzzles, games and more!

The AMP program represents one of the few options available to address growing utility debt for High Desert residents. The benefits from the state-funded program have drawn increased interest as families contend with high energy bills during the region's extreme summer heat.

How does it work?

Residential customers must be enrolled in California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) or Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) and have a past-due balance of $500 or more, some of which hasn't been paid for over 90 days.

They must also have been an SCE customer for at least six months and have made at least one on-time payment in the past 24 months.

Customers who enroll in the AMP program are not eligible for installment plans. Participants will be dropped from the program should they miss two consecutive payments or three non-consecutive payments.

Apply online at www.sce.com/save-money.

McKenna Mobley is a reporter for the Daily Press. She can be reached at mmobley@usatodayco.com or on Instagram @mckenna_dailypress.

Hundreds of Southern California non-citizen criminals transferred to feds in sanctuary-busting plan



In a statement, first Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli said about the federal government's Operation Guardian Angel program: "Through this task force we are forcing California to do the thing it hates most: handing hundreds of criminal illegal aliens into federal custody to face justice and deportation." (Photo by David Crane, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

By **CITY NEWS SERVICE** | news@socalnews.com
PUBLISHED: August 13, 2026 at 3:40 PM PDT

Hundreds of criminal non-citizens have been transferred from jails into federal custody in the Los Angeles area, the Inland Empire and elsewhere as part of Operation Guardian Angel, an effort federal officials said Wednesday is aimed at neutralizing California’s sanctuary state law.

Operation Guardian Angel's goal is to take custody of inmates who are in the country illegally and being held in county jails, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

SB 54, also known as the California Values Act, signed into law in 2017, limits state and local police cooperation with federal immigration officers and restricts local resources from being used to remove undocumented people.

Operation Guardian Angel works by securing federal arrest warrants for non-citizens recently arrested by local law enforcement. Once issued, local jails are legally required to honor the arrest warrants and must hand over the specified defendants in their custody to the federal government, according to the DOJ.

The operation began in May 2025 and has resulted in 769 arrest warrants issued, and the actual transfer of 362 defendants — 347 of whom are federally charged with illegally re-entering the United States following removal, or another federal offense, the DOJ said.

Other federal charges include unlawful possession of a firearm by an alien, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, using a firearm in drug trafficking or a crime of violence, and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

"Broken California 'sanctuary state' policies endanger the public and cannot go unchallenged by the federal government," First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli said in a statement. "Operation Guardian Angel is an answer to these misguided policies. Through this task force we are forcing California to do the thing it hates most: handing hundreds of criminal illegal aliens into federal custody to face justice and deportation."

Defendants taken into federal custody under the program include:

— Jaime Rodríguez Ladesma, 70, of Long Beach, a non-citizen from Mexico who was convicted in Los Angeles Superior Court in October 2023 of lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 and who was removed in December 2023. He subsequently illegally returned to the United States and was convicted of being found in the U.S. following removal, federal officials said. He was removed to Mexico in March 2026.

— Ricardo López Jaramillo, 50, also known as “Sharky,” of Pasadena, a five-times-deported non-citizen from Mexico and gang member whose criminal history includes multiple felony robbery convictions in Los Angeles County, and a 2007 conviction in San Diego federal court of three counts of illegal entry, for which he was sentenced to three years in federal prison. In November 2025, he was sentenced to 10 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to being in the U.S. following removal. He was removed to Mexico in June 2026.

— Andrés Velásquez Ocampo, 37, of Santa Ana, a non-citizen from Mexico who was deported in January 2019 and was arrested in South Gate in May 2025 on drug charges. His criminal history includes convictions for carjacking and hit-and-run with property damage, according to the DOJ. He pleaded guilty in November 2025 to one count of being a person found in the U.S. following removal, was sentenced to three months in federal prison, and was removed to Mexico in December 2025.

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

A ‘super’ El Niño is now super likely, leaving California bracing for impact



Long Beach city workers prepare a sand berm to prevent flooding due to high tide and strong surf July 30. (Kelvin Kuo / Los Angeles Times)



By Rong-Gong Lin II
Staff Writer | Follow

Aug. 13, 2026 **Updated** 2:43 PM PT

A “super” El Niño now has a 95% chance of developing this year as the climate pattern gains dramatic strength in the Pacific Ocean — leaving officials across California and beyond bracing for a wet and potentially destructive winter.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Center said Thursday that the El Niño has strengthened in the last month, and there’s a roughly 7 in 10 chance it will be the strongest such pattern since 1950.

Of the three other powerful El Niños on record during that span — in 1982-83, 1997-98 and 2015-16 — two brought above-average rain to Southern California. The 2015-16 El Niño, while very strong in the ocean, did not, though the pattern was blamed for record beach erosion along the California coast.

El Niño is a climate pattern characterized by warmer ocean waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific, coupled with changing atmospheric conditions, in which the typical east-to-west trade winds weaken or even reverse.

That shift can put Southern California in the crosshairs of potentially potent tropical moisture, though the pattern’s effects vary by area.



CALIFORNIA

El Niño could bring highest sea levels ever recorded to the California coast

Aug. 10, 2026

If El Niño behaves like it typically does, Southern California would expect above-average precipitation, generally from cold-frontal storms that dip farther south than usual, according to Alexander Gershunov, research meteorologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego.

“The forecast has been evolving over the last few months, and is honing in on a strong El Niño, and possibly an unprecedented one,” Gershunov said. “We may already be seeing

some of the impacts from El Niño, because even though it's a regional pattern in the central and eastern tropical Pacific, it's such a huge area that warms up during El Niño that it adds a lot of heat to the global climate system."

Added to the trend caused by human-caused global warming, "we're basically on track to set a new global temperature record this year," Gershunov said. "We've all been feeling the heat that's associated with that."

The average global surface temperature in July was among the hottest for that month in the modern record, which stretches back to 1850, tying the record from July 2024, according to NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

Looking forward, parts of coastal California have a higher-than-50% chance of above-average temperatures for August, the NCEI said.

Among the risks El Niño poses to California are stronger-than-usual hurricane activity in the eastern Pacific, which has sent hazardous and at times deadly high waves to the state's shores. The last El Niño, over the 2023-24 season, coincided with the northward march of Hurricane Hilary toward Southern California — though that system had officially degenerated into a post-tropical low by the time it reached the state, officials said months later.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Epic downgrade: Hilary was not a tropical storm when it pummeled California, experts say

Feb. 22, 2024

The risk for Southern California from an arriving tropical storm is not so much strong winds, but "just a lot of tropical moisture that leads to torrential rains. This year, it's more likely that the tropical storm may make it out here intact. But it's still a very low-probability event," Gershunov said.

In the modern historical record, past El Niños have never been warmer than 4.5 degrees above baseline. But there is now a 69% chance that this El Niño will reach or exceed that threshold in the tropical Pacific.

That "has never happened in our historical record dating back to 1950," Michelle L'Heureux, the El Niño team lead for the Climate Prediction Center, told The Times.

The last record set was during the 1982-83 El Niño season, where the Relative Oceanic Niño Index was 4.32 degrees above baseline.

The most potent type of El Niño is officially designated as "very strong," though it's often referred to as a "super" El Niño. Reaching that threshold requires temperatures in the equatorial Pacific to be at least 3.6 degrees above baseline.



CALIFORNIA

A 'super' El Niño is brewing. Experts fear historic dangers from 'extraordinary' weather

July 13, 2026

For the three-month period of October, November and December, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecasts a 95% chance that El Niño will be "very strong" and a 5% chance it will merely be "strong."

Historically, the effects of El Niño on Southern California's rainfall and snowfall become more obvious from December onward, with January to March "as the prime season for impacts," L'Heureux said.

So far, there's no conclusive evidence that El Niño is affecting the West Coast, NOAA research oceanographer Michael Jacox told The Times. The California coast is, however, being affected by a marine heat wave that isn't currently related to El Niño, especially in

Southern California, which experts say is a factor in the mugginess being felt along some coastal areas.

However, Gershunov noted that elevated hurricane activity in the eastern Pacific is likely related to El Niño, which other meteorologists say has also contributed to the feeling of humidity in Southern California.

“We are into the time of year now when El Niño’s impacts could be felt any time; this initial impact should be due to coastal trapped waves coming from the south,” Jacox said.



WORLD & NATION

This summer isn’t breaking heat records — yet. Wait until El Niño kicks in, scientists say

Aug. 4, 2026

When looking at July alone, ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific are the second-highest for the month on record, according to L’Heureux. Temperatures in the area of the ocean used to calculate El Niño were already 2.41 degrees above baseline.

The only July in modern times where that reading was stronger was in 1997, when the ocean temperatures there were 2.74 degrees above the baseline.

El Nino’s effects have already been noticed in other parts of the world. The Indian monsoon season arrived late, a factor in the tremendous heat waves that have hit India, Gershunov said.

More to Read

LA federal judge denies Trump administration’s bid to dismiss immigration raids lawsuit

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Maame Frimpong, who is overseeing Vasquez Perdomo v. Mullin, stemming from LA County raids last year, denied the DHS effort to throw out a case that could shape the legal trajectory of the government's immigration crackdown.



A Pasadena police officer talks to a bystander who reportedly witnessed an ICE raid that took place at the Winchell’s Donut House on June 18th 2025. (Connor Terry, Contributing Photographer)

By **STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS | Los Angeles Daily News**

PUBLISHED: August 12, 2026 at 2:35 PM PDT | UPDATED: August 12, 2026 at 2:36 PM PDT

LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles federal judge has rejected the Trump administration's attempt to end a closely watched lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, stemming from ICE raids in Pasadena last year, alleging immigration raids in Southern California are not just unlawful, but deliberately designed to target Latino communities, according to court papers obtained Wednesday, Aug. 12.

Residents, workers and advocacy groups sued the DHS in July 2025, alleging unconstitutional stop and detention practices by agents tied to arbitrary enforcement quotas.

On the morning of June 18, 2025, Pedro Vasquez Perdomo, Carlos Alexander Osorto and Isaac Villegas Molina were sitting at a bus stop across from a Pasadena Winchell's Donuts. That's when four cars suddenly stopped at the spot, and six masked and armed federal agents emerged and converged, detaining the men without immediately identifying themselves, according to the initial lawsuit.

- **Also see:** From a Pasadena bus stop to plaintiffs, local immigrants at forefront of seismic pause on ICE raids

Along with Jorge Hernandez Viramontes, of Baldwin Park — questioned and detained from his job at an Orange County car wash — and Jason Brian Gavidia, an East L.A. resident stopped and questioned, from an L.A. County tow yard, Osorto and his co-laborers at the Pasadena bus stop found themselves the lead plaintiffs in a federal case that continues to help determine the legal trajectory of President Donald Trump's massive immigration crackdown.

An amended complaint in the case, Vasquez Perdomo v. Mullin, filed in Los Angeles federal court earlier this year adds new claims of violations of equal protection and use of unreasonable tactics by DHS agents.

Government attorneys then asked the court to immediately toss the case, arguing that accusations in the updated version of the complaint are not enough to support plaintiffs' legal claims.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Maame Frimpong, who is overseeing the case, determined in a written ruling that "the accusations are enough for this case to go forward at this time," and denied the DHS' bid to have the lawsuit thrown out.

The judge emphasized that at this stage in proceedings she has made no finding on the truth of the allegations, an issue that would be determined later.

A message seeking comment from DHS/ICE was not immediately answered Wednesday.

In the amended complaint, the plaintiffs argued the government is intentionally discriminating against Latino communities in California, choosing whom to stop and which locations to raid based on race, and treating Latino people differently because of their apparent ethnicity.

They also argued that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol were using highly intrusive tactics in carrying out the raids —such as handcuffing, confinement, moving people to a secondary location, and prolonged detention. Agents, the plaintiffs contend, were quick to both show and use force, often arriving with weapons drawn and using force even when subjects are already compliant. Such tactics are unreasonable and turn encounters into unlawful arrests, the plaintiffs allege.

- **Also see:** Leaders demand to see detainees after ICE raid in Pasadena

When the complaint was filed last year, Frimpong issued a temporary restraining order limiting certain enforcement actions across several Southern California counties. A three- judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals mostly agreed with Frimpong's ruling that the government's roving immigration patrols were illegally conducted without reasonable suspicion.

In effect, agents, under the ruling, would continue to be prohibited from stopping people without reasonable suspicion, nor “sole reliance” on apparent race or ethnicity; speaking Spanish or English with an accent; presence in a particular location like a bus stop, car wash, or agricultural site; or the type of work a person does.

But in August 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court granted the government’s request to stay that order while litigation proceeds, allowing the challenged practices to continue.

Trump administration officials have previously defended the stepped-up enforcement on a number of levels, saying the crackdown is necessary to maintain the rule of law, to capture violent criminals in the country illegally, and to reverse the flood of people who poured over the U.S. Mexico border during the Biden administration.

- **Also see**: ACLU — Immigration agents used racial slurs to target Latinos during Southern California raids

However, Eva Bitran, the ACLU Foundation of Southern California’s immigrants’ rights director, has said the stops are “discriminatory in design and execution. ICE and Border Patrol’s racist agenda extends from DHS leadership down to rank-and-file officers who deliberately target Latino community members — often with great force — because of their race. Our community suffers the consequences of this unconstitutional conduct.”

The suit was brought by five individual Latino workers and three membership organizations — the Los Angeles Worker Center Network, United Farm Workers, and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights — as well as Immigrant Defenders Law Center, a legal services provider.

Frimpong will hold a hearing Thursday in downtown Los Angeles on a request from plaintiffs for a preliminary injunction to halt the Trump administration’s alleged campaign of warrantless arrests against people appearing “Latino, low-income or working-class.”

The judge recently held the DHS in contempt for allegedly slow-rolling an order to create digital copies of communications from personal cell phones used by immigration agents during operations.

City News Service and staff writer Ryan Carter contributed to this report.

Lawmakers seek tougher penalties, contingency fund in aftermath of Boyle Heights food warehouse fire



Removal of the debris and the destroyed portion of the structure at Lineage storage facility in Boyle Heights continues on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026. (Photo by Dean Musgrove, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

By **CITY NEWS SERVICE** | news@socalnews.com
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Two state legislators have announced plans to secure tougher penalties and additional measures to protect local communities from warehouse fires in response to the blaze at a Boyle Heights cold storage facility.

Assemblyman Mark González, D-Los Angeles, seeks to prevent Los Angeles and Los Angeles County from issuing new building permits for cold storage facilities unless they maintain a contingency fund that can be used in states of emergency.

Money would be used for food and housing assistance, air quality monitoring, environmental cleanup, and remediation of any hazardous materials.

González is also proposing that any settlement money residents receive remain tax-free and to require local governments to take quicker action on eliminating rats and flies when a state of emergency is declared.

“This legislation aims to heal a wound — one that will take time to repair,” González said in a statement released in connection with a news conference Wednesday at Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights.

“Because this was not just an attack on our health, but we can ensure that we plan for it and prepare financially to support our community.”

State Sen. María Elena Durazo, D-Los Angeles, proposed allowing cities and counties to levy higher fines for public health violations at cold storage facilities. Violators would face a $1,000 fine for a first violation, a $2,000 fine for a second violation and $5,000 for each additional violation.

If the violation results from a state or federal disaster declaration, these fines can be multiplied up to $50,000 per violation, Durazo said in a statement.

Because the deadline to introduce bills for this legislative session has passed, González and Durazo both said they would add their proposals to other bills.

The fire broke out June 17 at the Lineage Logistics warehouse at 1400 S. Los Palos St., and burned for eight days, sending thick smoke into the air and prompting officials to warn nearby residents to remain indoors. The city, county and state issued local emergency declarations.

There was no immediate response to an email sent to Lineage Logistics seeking comment.

Here’s what a 1 million-square-foot Mead Valley warehouse must do to fit in

Lawsuit settlement puts conditions on Cajalco Commerce Center project



A lawsuit settlement announced Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026, imposes conditions on the Cajalco Commerce Center, a 1 million-square-foot warehouse approved for the rural unincorporated Riverside County community of Mead Valley (File photo by Watchara Phomicinda, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)



By **JEFF HORSEMAN** | jhorseman@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

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A 1 million-square-foot warehouse approved for Mead Valley will have to take steps to be a better neighbor to settle a lawsuit brought by environmentalists and residents.

The settlement, announced Tuesday, Aug. 11, ends litigation from the Sierra Club and Rural Association of Mead Valley against Cajalco Commerce Center, a project OK'd by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in November.

Proposed by Hillwood, a Dallas-based development company, the project would add a warehouse and a 15-acre park in Mead Valley, a rural unincorporated community between Riverside and Perris and west of the 215 Freeway in an area that's no stranger to logistics.

The lawsuit, filed in Riverside Superior Court in December, argued that the project violated the California Environmental Quality Act, which governs most large developments in the state.

The settlement "raise(s) the baseline standards for freight pollution, electrification, jobs, housing displacement, and required community benefits from another mega-warehouse in Mead Valley," Michael McCarthy, conservation co-chair of the Sierra Club's San Gorgonio Chapter Box Springs Group, said in a news release.

A Hillwood spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment.

Under the settlement, the project "must take significant steps" to lessen air pollution, greenhouse gases and "harm that would otherwise result from the huge number of diesel trucks that will be going in and out the warehouse," according to the Sierra Club's release.

These include requiring the use of electric construction equipment along with low- and zero-emission trucks and freight-handling equipment. The project also must use on-site solar energy and steer truck traffic away from smaller roads.

Drought-tolerant and fire-resistant landscaping also are mandated by the settlement, which requires a minimum number of employees at the project.

Another provision bans the project from being used for cold storage, “which would have resulted in severe noise and pollution impacts for the neighboring community,” the Sierra Club said.

The settlement also calls for adding another 3 acres to the park accompanying the warehouse.

KQED

California FAIR Plan Announces 29.1% Rate Hike for Homeowners This Fall

Nearly 700,000 customers will see the largest rate increase in the insurer's recent history.

Aug 11, 2026 Updated 4:07 pm PT

Danielle Venton



A residence in Santa Rosa that was lost to the Tubbs Fire in 2017, pictured on Jan. 23, 2025. Homeowners living in areas with high wildfire risk could pay significantly more than the new average starting Oct. 15, 2026. *(Gina Castro/KQED)*

California's insurer of last resort is about to get significantly more expensive for policyholders starting Oct. 15, 2026.

The California FAIR Plan will be increasing its rates by an average of 29.1% for its more than 675,000 customers — the highest rate bump in recent history.

The exact increase depends on each homeowner's situation. Those living in areas at a high risk of wildfire may pay significantly more. Some will see their wildfire premiums double.

"It's definitely going to cause pain for some people," said Karl Sussman, broker and insurance expert.

Policyholders with less risk will be less impacted. In residential, urban communities in the Bay Area, some might even see reductions.



Overhead shot of a newly completed model home in what will become Northern California's first wildfire-prepared neighborhood. *(Courtesy of Rachael Gauthier)*

The FAIR Plan asked for a higher rate hike of 35.8% from the California Department of Insurance, which oversees rate setting, last September.

A study released in June by Stanford University researchers found California homeowners insurance premiums are up 84% since 2020. FAIR Plan enrollment has nearly tripled — from under 2% to 5% of homes.

The FAIR Plan was designed as a temporary way to get coverage, not as a long-term insurance provider. But years of catastrophic fire damage and inflation prompted traditional insurers to pull back from areas at high risk of wildfire damage. For many Californians, the Plan became their first and only option. Half of homes in some high fire risk areas, such as Truckee, Nevada City, Malibu and Lake Arrowhead, are insured through the FAIR Plan.

RELATED ARTICLE



Wildfire Season Just Got Worse. Here's How to Prepare Your Home

As of June 2026, the FAIR Plan's total exposure is $768 billion, reflecting an 11% increase since September 2025 and a 250% increase since September 2022. This dwarfs its direct cash balance, which sits between $200 and $400 million.

To pay out catastrophic claims, the Plan relies on reinsurance, bonds and the ability to get money from private insurance companies and surcharges on policyholders. Some insurance experts have questioned how the FAIR Plan spends its money,

citing bureaucratic inefficiencies and lengthy and costly legal battles, such as its fight to avoid paying for smoke damage.

While enrollments in the FAIR Plan are still increasing, the pace of growth appears to be slowing, according to recent data from the FAIR Plan. New business this year is down 25% over last year. Insurance regulators are hopeful this is a sign reforms passed through in the Sustainable Insurance Strategy are working.

At the same time, California is seeing more traditional insurers writing policies again.

“We have markets that didn’t exist a month ago. And in another month, we’ll probably have more markets, again, that didn’t exist,” Sussman said. “So, while we see the FAIR Plan rates going up, we [also] see the ability for people that are with the FAIR Plans to go and find private insurance, which, at the end of the day, is what we want them to be doing.”