

► IMPACT

County announces plans for improvements to supportive housing community, ups funding for stability programs

by Joe Taglieri 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.

450 G STREET

ALL STAR LODGE

SAN BERNARDINO

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

by Joe Taglieri Published August 12, 2026

Residents Find Relief and Hope

by **Ruby Stephenson** on **2026-08-12**

For months, residents of the former All Star Lodge, now operating as a supportive housing community at 450 N. G St. in San Bernardino, faced uncertainty about the future of their homes.

Many of the older adults who live in the building had already experienced homelessness before arriving there. When notices began appearing on their doors claiming that the state's rent subsidies had ended and that rent would skyrocket, many feared that they could lose the stability they had finally found.

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

"That was a scary time," said Carter. "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 of them feared that they would no longer be able to afford their rent and would once again face homelessness.

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

Relief arrived when residents learned that San Bernardino County had acquired the property to ensure that they could remain in their homes.

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

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



City News Group, Inc.

Resident Renee Mora shared similar feelings.

Mora, 63, moved into the building in July 2023 after learning about the housing opportunity through a family member. As a survivor of domestic violence, she said the housing provided a sense of security at a critical time in her life.

“I personally want to thank San Bernardino County,” said Mora. “All the tenants of 450 N. G St. are so grateful to each and every one of you who work for the county.”

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 the city of San Bernardino in search of answers about the property’s future. They continued advocating on behalf of residents by sharing their concerns with county leaders and seeking support for the property.

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.

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

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

As county officials begin the next chapter for the property, the purchase is only the first step. Over the next 18 months, county officials said they plan to work with community partners to transform the property to create a safer and healthier environment and improve residents’ quality of life.

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.

LIVE NOW

KTLA 5 Morning News

CALIFORNIA NEWS

Big Bear Alpine Zoo mourns death of beloved raccoon Tosh

by: [Tony Kurzweil](#)

Posted: Aug 14, 2026 / 10:20 AM PDT

Updated: Aug 14, 2026 / 10:20 AM PDT

SHARE



Big Bear Alpine Zoo staff said goodbye Friday to a longtime friend who recently passed away.

Tosh spent 15 years at the zoo after being found orphaned or abandoned as a young kit, according to a [post Friday](#) on the zoo's Facebook page.

“She was raised by zoo staff and lived nearly her entire life at the zoo with many different raccoons over the years,” officials wrote. “Just an incredibly sweet animal who won the hearts of all those who worked with her.”



Tosh the raccoon was raised by zoo staff after being abandoned as a young kit. (Big Bear Alpine Zoo)

Tosh the raccoon was raised by zoo staff after being abandoned as a young kit. (Big Bear Alpine Zoo)

1 / 6

Fifteen years is considered a full life for a raccoon in captivity and significantly longer than the average lifespan of a wild raccoon.

In the wild, raccoons typically live 2 to 3 years because of predators, starvation, disease and conflicts with humans, according to the Institute for [Environmental Research and Education](#).

Tosh was described as an exceptional climber and problem-solver who loved showing off her skills, especially when treats were involved.

“She really loved her peanuts and grapes,” the post said.

Zoo officials said Tosh began experiencing a decline in her overall health and mobility a few months ago.

“We said goodbye to Tosh on a Sunday morning several weeks ago,” officials wrote. “She was surrounded by her loving staff, who all shed some tears.”

More information about Big Bear Alpine Zoo, including hours and visitor information, is available on the [zoo's website](#).

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

California women's prisons failed to protect inmates from sex abuse by staff, DOJ says



Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Harmeet Dhillon, left, and first Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli announced the findings of a federal investigation into alleged sexual abuse of female inmates by staff on Thursday, August 13, 2026. The multi-year findings, to be released later today, show that sexual abuse of female inmates has occurred in the California prison system. (Photo by David Crane, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)



By **SIERRA VAN DER BRUG** | svanderbrug@scng.com

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Some California women's prisons have failed to protect inmates from sexual abuse and harassment by prison staff, the U.S. Department of Justice announced during a Thursday, Aug. 13 news conference in downtown Los Angeles, following a nearly two-year long investigation.

The announcement comes after the investigation into the California Institution for Women in Chino, the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation found the facilities and department violated the 8th and 14th Amendments, which prohibit cruel and unusual punishment and guarantee equal protection under the law.

The investigation also found that the Prison Rape Elimination Act was inadequately implemented.

"This state must confront the persistent failure of its own employees to prevent and address future sexual abuse at these facilities," said Bill Essayli, first assistant U.S. attorney.



Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Harmeet Dhillon, left, and first Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli announced the findings of a federal investigation into alleged sexual abuse of female inmates by staff on Thursday, August 13, 2026. The multi-year findings, to be released later today, show that sexual abuse of female inmates has occurred in the California prison system. (Photo by David Crane, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

The investigation found the state corrections department and prisons had been aware of ongoing sexual abuse since 2000, but did not adequately address it.

“CDCR enforces a zero-tolerance policy as mandated by the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Our facilities are regularly audited by Department of Justice-certified PREA auditors who are trained by the federal government to evaluate compliance against federal standards,” a statement released Thursday by the corrections department says. “The independent, USDOJ-trained experts provide the most objective and nationally consistent measure of PREA compliance, and CDCR has consistently achieved compliance. USDOJ’s most recent audits of CCWF and CIW found both institutions met all 45 standards.”

The most recent audit at California Institution for Women in Chino was in September 2024. At Central California Women’s Facility in Chowchilla, auditors last were there in June 2025.

Going forward, California must expand camera coverage, improve confidential reporting channels, strengthen investigative protocol, and update staff training and monitoring and add safeguards to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act, authorities said. The state has 49 days to comply.

Examples of abuse found during the investigation include a sergeant at the Chino prison provided contraband in exchange for “sexual favors” from incarcerated women, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Harmeet Dhillon said.

“He was caught on camera caressing a prisoner’s breast and turning off his body camera,” she said.

An officer from the Chowchilla facility was convicted of sexual misconduct charges for actions that took place over a decade and a sergeant tasked with investigating staff sexual misconduct allegations was sentenced to 15 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to receiving child pornography on the job, Dhillon said.

“Prisoners ought to be able to report this type of staff abuse without retaliation,” Dhillon said.

An online system that allows staff, including those accused of misconduct, to access complaints, is a “gap in confidentiality” that inmates are aware of and that deters them from reporting misconduct, Dhillon said.

Four inmates who had not previously reported sexual misconduct detailed their experiences to investigators, the DOJ report detailing the investigation results says. The inmates had not previously made reports because they did not feel protected from retaliation, the report says.

Retaliation reported by inmates included unnecessary strip searches, threats of widespread searches, restrictions on work opportunities, program privileges and showers, retaliatory disciplinary and being separated from other inmates, according to the report.

Inmates at both prisons highlighted a lack of cameras in kitchen storage areas, where they say sexual activity happened, the report says. Body-worn cameras for all staff along with ensuring any abandoned or out of use structures are secured are new mandates for the state corrections department, according to the DOJ’s report.

The investigation also found staff with “sustained allegations of sexual misconduct” were allowed to retire with benefits or resign without sanctions, according to the DOJ.

Throughout the investigation, officials conducted site visits, reviewed thousands of pages of documents, which included investigative records and misconduct logs and consulted experts, Dhillon said.

The state has 49 days to implement the mandated changes before the federal government can seek litigation, Essayli said, though he and Dhillon do not foresee that being necessary, as the state has historically complied with remediation efforts in similar investigations.

“CDCR has already implemented significant reforms to strengthen investigative processes, enhance facility oversight, expand fixed and body worn camera coverage, and improve reporting pathways. Many of these changes started before the USDOJ began its investigation and reflect CDCR’s sustained commitment to safe and constitutional operations,” a statement from the department says.

Colton school board approves deal with warehouse developer to preserve Bloomington elementary school

KVCR | By [Anthony Victoria](#)

Published August 13, 2026 at 10:30 PM PDT



Anthony Victoria / KVCR

Colton Joint Unified School District Superintendent Frank Miranda, Board President Bertha Flores and board member Dan Flores during Thursday's board meeting.

Colton Joint Unified School District announced on Thursday that it entered into an agreement with the warehouse developer of a massive project in Bloomington to preserve Zimmerman Elementary School.

Under the agreement, the district will receive \$27 million to preserve Zimmerman, which was [initially set to be demolished](#) and relocated to make way for the 213-acre

The project, first approved in 2022 by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, aims to construct up to 3.2 million square feet of warehouses.

A San Bernardino County Superior Court [ruled](#) in September 2024 that technical issues in the project's Environmental Impact Report needed to be corrected. Following the court's ruling, the county's planning department [recirculated](#) the document for public review. The updated project EIR is expected to go before the San Bernardino County Planning Commission later this month.



Jonathan Linden / KVCR

Exterior photo of Zimmerman Elementary School in Bloomington, California.

The project, initially led by Howard Industrial Partners, is now under the ownership of Bloomington Gateway Distribution Center LLC, a company owned by Brookfield Corporation.

Next Thursday, the county's Planning Commission is set to continue its public hearing to consider approving the updated environmental report. The project will then be considered for approval by the Board of Supervisors once more.

The district shared in a [press release](#) that it negotiated a plan that "provides the best possible outcome for students, families and staff at Zimmerman" and asserts that it is setting a precedent for how school districts should engage with large-scale development in their communities.

"The Board ensured that if Bloomington Gateway's project moves forward, it will do so with a meaningful investment of \$27 million in our local schools and legally enforced

KVCR

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protections for Zimmerman Elementary to safeguard students that would not otherwise exist – an outcome that far exceeds other settlements.”

The agreement will also require Bloomington Gateway to implement safety measures at Zimmerman through the project’s development, such as proper fencing, sound reduction, traffic and dust management, construction vehicle operations and crossing guards during designated student drop-off and pickup periods.

According to CJUSD, Bloomington Gateway has also committed to moving truck bays away from the Zimmerman campus and prohibiting project-related truck traffic from using Linden Avenue, which they said is consistent with the project’s anticipated conditions of approval.

Dozens of residents attended the board meeting on Thursday to raise their frustrations over the Bloomington Business Park Specific Plan project. Some of the speakers at the meeting have mobilized opposition to the project, arguing that it has led to widespread [displacement and discriminatory](#) practices.

Some speakers acknowledged that the district had no decision-making influence over the county’s decision, but urged them not to support the project.



Anthony Victoria / KVCR

Looking south on Maple Avenue between Santa Ana and Jurupa avenues in Bloomington in March 2025. The area is part of the proposed Bloomington Business Park Specific Plan.

Andrea Flores, who grew up in Bloomington and raised her six children there, shared that she's concerned about backed-up traffic on major corridors near Zimmerman, like

Santa Ana and Linden avenues, that she claims big rig trucks contribute to.

“Some people are trying to go to work, and they're stuck in between this truck that can't fit in it,” said Flores, recounting an experience she had picking up her children from nearby Crestmore Elementary. “I can't imagine once they build the business that the traffic is going to get a lot worse.”

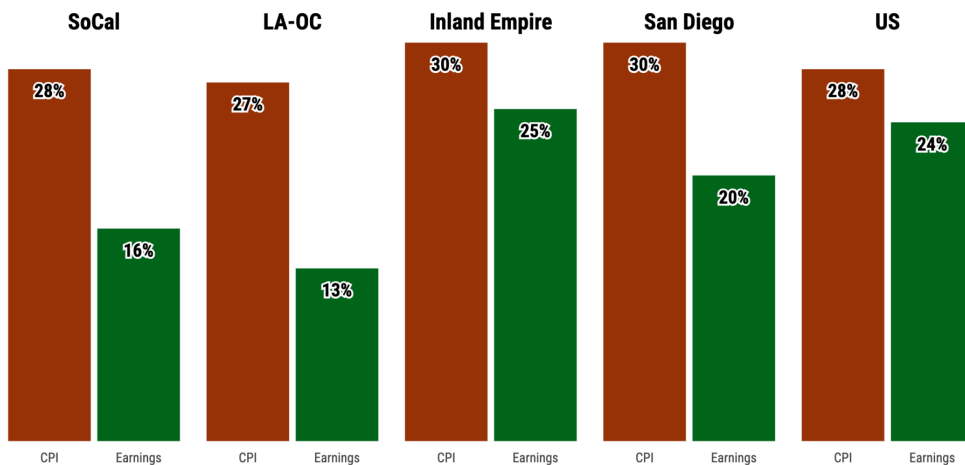
Resident Jorge Perez told board members that he wanted them to back up their past commitments to Bloomington by standing in solidarity with residents to reject the project.

“I understand that your choice is not easy,” said Perez in Spanish. “I understand that, but understand that it isn't easy for us either. I'm standing here shaking, literally shaking, because of how important it is to us.”

In a statement to KVCR, Rohan A'Beckett, senior vice president of development for Brookfield, said the company continues to “work collaboratively with local stakeholders to address concerns and support meaningful benefits for the Bloomington community as the project moves through the review process.”

Southern California inflation has cooled, but not enough

Inflation vs. paychecks since end of 2020



Source: Consumer Price Indexes vs. workers' weekly earnings since 2020's 4th quarter

Inflation vs. paychecks since end of 2020. (Graphic by Flourish)



By **JONATHAN LANSNER** | jlansner@scng.com | Orange County

Register

PUBLISHED: August 14, 2026 at 6:47 AM PDT

Economic pundits – partisan or apolitical – don't truly understand inflation.

Thankfully, the [official inflation rate cooled a bit in July](#). It's a welcome respite from a heated spring when the Iranian war spiked gasoline prices, among other things.

But nobody should be cheering. Lower inflation is always better, but 2026's version of "lower" isn't enough to help many folks who are struggling to balance a household budget.

My trusty spreadsheet looked at Consumer Price Index reports for three Southern California metro areas – [Los Angeles and Orange counties](#), the [Inland Empire](#) and [San Diego County](#) – and the [national cost benchmark](#).

When you meld the three local indexes, you see that inflation in Southern California was running at an annual rate of 3.1% in July.

Yes, that's down from the 3.5% pace of the previous three months.

Yes, that's down from the 3.5% average annual rate in the first 18 months of Donald Trump's second presidency.

And, yes, that's down from the 4.9% average yearly increase seen during Joe Biden's four years in the White House.

Mission accomplished? Hardly.

Reality check

Those who see economics through the lens of the family checkbook ponder inflation differently than those paid to follow economic gyrations.

The professionals oddly track inflation, minus what's happening with food and energy costs. Or they spend time guessing the next short-term price fluctuations. Or they'll muse about what Congress, the White House, or the Federal Reserve should do to cool price hikes.

The reality of these cost-of-living spikes for many households is far simpler than the wisdom of so-called experts. Average folks worry if their paychecks can outpace inflation.

Just think about what the CPI tells Southern Californians.

Goods and services across the five-county region cost 28% more over the past five and a half years.

Meanwhile, if you look at one measure of Southern California pay – the combined weekly earnings of private-sector workers – it's up only 16% in the same period.

And that gap is not geographically universal. In L.A.-Orange County, prices are up 27% vs. 13% earnings gains. In the Inland Empire, 30% inflation outpaced 25% pay hikes. And in San Diego, costs rose 30% as wages grew 20%.

It adds up to just another major financial headache in a region with a punishing cost of living. ocregister.com

Figuring out how to pay the bills isn't helped by professorial debate about how price indexes are built – or which cost measurement the economic gurus prefer to watch. The masses need solutions for everyday costs, yet few fixes are offered by pontificators or politicians.

“Populist” talk of various forms of price controls – for rent or supermarkets, for example – is often derided by the punditry as “socialist” thinking. But the gurus don't get it.

It's the byproduct of growing frustrations that the ways the economy once worked no longer work for a significant slice of the population.

National pain

Look, Southern California, the best I can say is that others feel your pain, too. Ponder the typical American's inflation picture.

The national inflation rate was 3.4% in July. That's down from a 3.9% average for the previous three months, off from the 3.3% pace of Trump's second term, and slower than Biden's 4.9% annual pace.

But the national reality is that consumer prices are up 28% over the past five and a half years. And U.S. wages grew only 24% in that timeframe.

Big picture

The reality that paychecks are being eaten up by inflation is a curious pattern as a [major election approaches](#).

Those folks lucky enough to beat the rough economic odds are likely happy with the status quo.

Yet those struggling with a paycheck's shrinking buying power and a growing stack of unpaid bills probably want some serious change.

And what might a voter think is a fair inflation rate – other than anything below their latest pay raise?

Well, the Fed's got a 2% target. You might choose pre-pandemic conditions of 2019, often seen as a symbol of the good ol' days.

That year, prices in Southern California rose 2.7%. Nationally, inflation ran at 1.8%. Both rates are lower than in July 2026.

Jonathan Lansner is the business columnist for the Southern California News Group. He can be reached at jlansner@scng.com

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► POLITICS

Landers stakeholders reject county's fee hike for road maintenance service

by Joe Taglieri August 12, 2026

| Photo courtesy of Landers Dirt & Demo/Facebook

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday recognized the results of an election by Landers residents that rejected an increase from \$20 to \$75 for the county to maintain roads in their area.

Landowners of parcels in County Service Area 70, Zone R-15 will now have to pay for their own road repairs and improvements.

Nearly 55% of stakeholders voted to reject the fee hike, with 45.1% voting in favor of it, officials reported.

The county will start the process of dissolving the area's road district, which local property owners established between 1984 and 1999 to pay for maintenance of dirt roads that are not part of the county's road system.

Officials said existing fee levels no longer generate enough revenue to cover the costs of road maintenance operations.

"Following dissolution, future maintenance and improvements to roads within the former district boundaries will be the responsibility of affected property owners," according to a statement from the county.

The now former road district or zone was formed to provide road maintenance and dirt road grading services for roughly 164 miles of unpaved roads in the Landers area, according to a county staff report. Zone R-15 was formed in 1984 with an annual service charge of \$20 per parcel was established, but no inflationary factor was built into the service charge and, therefore, the annual charge has remained unchanged.

"If an inflationary factor of 3% had been included, the per parcel service charge would currently be approximately \$75 per year," Public Works Department official Noel Castillo reported. "Over the past 42 years, rising inflation has steadily increased costs; however, without a corresponding increase in revenue, the Zone has experienced a reduction in the level of services provided."

The report also noted that current funding only supports limited emergency grading following major storms.

"Without immediate action to increase the annual service charge the Zone's long-term sustainability and solvency is threatened," the report stated. "The increased service charge was intended to generate enough revenue to restore routine grading, storm-related cleanup, and ongoing road maintenance services to the Zone."

The existing \$20-per-parcel annual property-related service charge will remain in effect for the 2026-27 property tax roll, according to the report.

County Public Works officials first notified residents of the proposed tax increase last year and sent additional information to stakeholders in April.

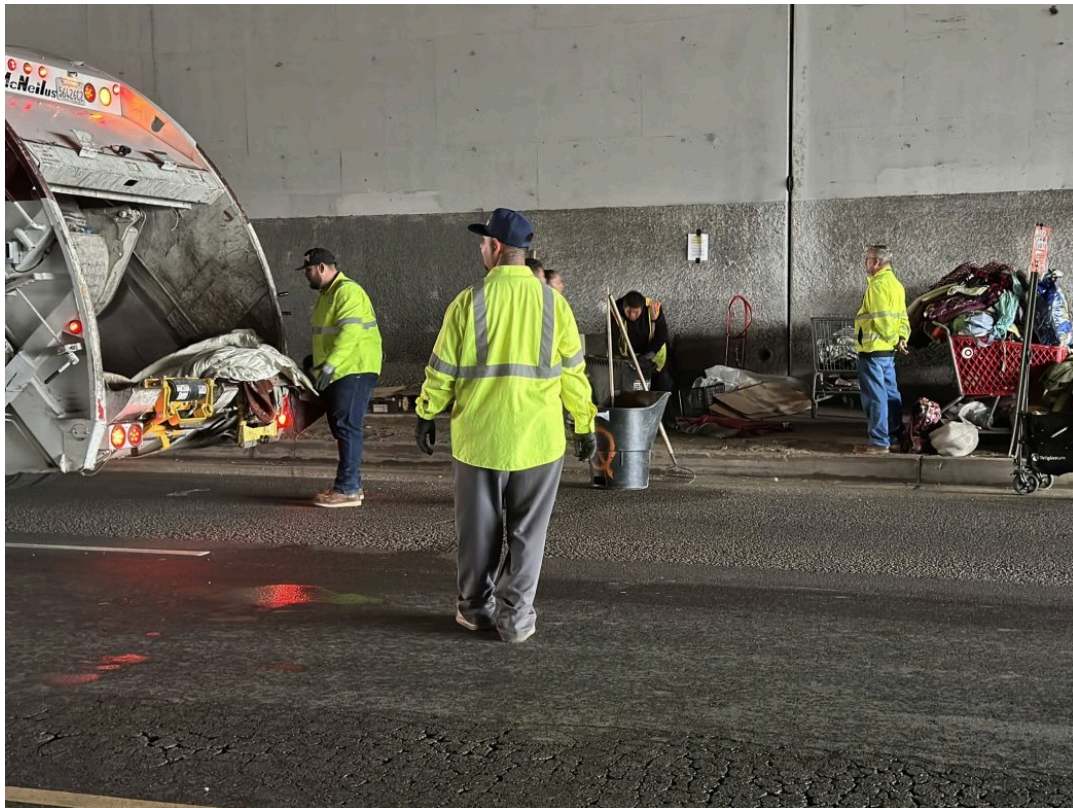
DIRT ROADS LANDERS ROAD MAINTENANCE FEES SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

by Joe Taglieri Published August 12, 2026

► SAN BERNARDINO

City of San Bernardino, Caltrans address homeless encampments along freeways

by Staff August 12, 2026



A city crew does an encampment cleanup in San Bernardino. | Photo courtesy of City of San Bernardino Municipal Government/Facebook

The city of San Bernardino and the California Department of Transportation have finalized an agreement that authorizes the city to address homeless encampments, litter, debris and graffiti located along state freeway corridors within its city limits.

San Bernardino joins twelve other cities across California that have taken over this responsibility from the state.

The Encampment Delegated Maintenance Agreement, which was approved by the San Bernardino City Council on June 3 and signed by Caltrans on July 17, allows the city to perform cleanup and maintenance services on Caltrans-owned right-of-way along Interstate 10, Interstate 215, State Route 210, and other designated state highway corridors, including State Highway 18, Route 66, and a portion of Highway 330.

The state will reimburse the city up to \$400,000 for work performed under the agreement.

"This agreement represents an important step forward to address homeless encampments along our freeways," Mayor Helen Tran said in a statement. "For too long, jurisdictional barriers have limited our ability to address these areas."

In addition to removing encampments and improving the appearance of freeway corridors in San Bernardino, the city will coordinate outreach efforts to connect individuals experiencing **homelessness** with shelter, housing, and supportive services before encampments are removed whenever feasible.

Until now, the city has been unable to address encampments located on Caltrans-owned property. The new agreement streamlines coordination and gives the city the authority to perform maintenance and encampment abatement activities along freeway corridors while following state guidelines and safety requirements.

The agreement authorizes the city to remove both Priority Level 1 encampments, which pose an immediate threat to life, health, safety or critical infrastructure, and Priority Level 2 encampments in accordance with state guidelines. City crews will also be empowered to remove litter, debris and graffiti from designated state right-of-way areas to improve the cleanliness and appearance of San Bernardino's major transportation corridors.

To help support the program's implementation, San Bernardino intends to partner with the Center for Employment Opportunities, providing workforce assistance while creating employment opportunities for individuals re-entering the workforce.

Caltrans will reimburse the city for eligible costs including labor, contracted services, equipment, disposal, hazardous material handling, traffic control, outreach

coordination and documentation.

“Residents deserve clean, safe freeway corridors, and people experiencing homelessness deserve the opportunity to connect with services that can help them move toward stable housing,” added Tran. “This partnership allows us to do both by combining compassionate outreach with timely action to restore these public spaces.”

CALTRANS CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO SAN BERNARDINO

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https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/redlands-oks-5-5m-street-widening-project/article_7704c493-03eb-4420-959f-d19fe4ca525b.html

Redlands OKs \$5.5M street-widening project

By Adeniyi Latinwo
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The intersection of California Street and Redlands Boulevard will be widened. (Adeniyi Latinwo/Staff)

The Redlands City Council voted 4-1 on July 21 to approve a \$5.54 million construction contract for the California Street and Redlands Boulevard Intersection Widening Project, which will expand a key arterial roadway and upgrade traffic, utility and flood control infrastructure near Interstate 10.

Councilmember Paul Barich cast the lone dissenting vote.

The council awarded a public works construction contract to Beador Construction Company Inc. of Costa Mesa in an amount not to exceed \$5,537,700. The council also approved transferring \$4.4 million currently budgeted in the Arterial Street Fund to the Local Transportation Fund and authorized an additional \$1,137,700 appropriation to fully fund the project.

In addition, the council determined the project is consistent with the Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program previously adopted by Resolution No. 8645 and that no additional environmental review is required under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Monica Heredia summarized the California Street and Redlands Boulevard Intersection Widening Project, explaining that California Street is classified as a major arterial roadway that connects residential neighborhoods, major activity centers and Interstates 10 and 210. She said the project will widen the west side of California Street between Redlands Boulevard and approximately 500 feet south of Interstate 10.

“This project is to widen the west side of California Street between Redlands Boulevard and just south of the I-10 Freeway. It involves roadway construction, traffic signal modifications, curb, gutter, sidewalk, ADA compliant curb ramps, water and non-potable water utility improvements, as well as a reinforced concrete box culvert,” Heredia said.

“This project is mainly funded by Measure I, the San Bernardino County Flood Control District and Development Impact Funds.”

The project includes construction of a dedicated right-turn lane, two travel lanes, a 6.5-foot-wide sidewalk and a 24-foot-wide depressed concrete access area for maintenance of the Mission Zanja Channel. Additional improvements include roadway reconstruction, traffic signal modifications, curb and gutter, sidewalks, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant curb ramps, and upgrades to potable and non-potable water utilities.

A major component of the project is construction of a triple reinforced concrete box culvert within the Mission Zanja Channel. The culvert will measure approximately 54 feet wide, 11 feet high and 220 feet long and will connect to the existing culvert beneath the California Street and Redlands Boulevard intersection.

The culvert improvements are part of a cooperative agreement approved by the council in February 2024 with the San Bernardino County Flood Control District. Under the agreement, the district will reimburse the city for 50% of eligible project costs, including engineering, permitting, utility relocation, construction, inspection and contingency, as well as half of any eligible project cost overruns.

During council discussion, Barich questioned whether the warehouse developer that purchased the property at 1101 California Street, formerly known as Splash Kingdom, had contributed to the cost of the intersection widening project.

“The company who put the new warehouse in there, we were told that they were going to chip in and do a lot of this redevelopment portion of the streets. That was one of the reasons why I voted for it. Are they putting any money into this or is this all coming out of Measure I and other services?” said Barich.

Heredia responded that the project is funded primarily through Measure I revenues and development impact fees, adding that the developer paid all required impact fees.

According to the staff report, the city completed environmental review for the project in December 2024 when the council adopted the Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Officials determined that required mitigation measures and project design features would reduce environmental impacts to less-than-significant levels.

The Municipal Utilities and Engineering Department prepared construction bid documents in May after obtaining all required environmental permits. Three bids were received for the project.

Beador Construction Company submitted the lowest bid at \$5,537,700, followed by Granite Construction Company at \$6,682,866 and Riverside Construction Company at \$8,387,183. City staff determined Beador was the lowest responsive and

responsible bidder and recommended awarding the contract.

Construction is expected to be completed within 175 working days after the city issues a notice to proceed, according to the staff report.