

# GRUNION GAZETTE



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## Complaint To FPPC Over Measure M

By HARRY SALTZGAVER  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Four opponents of the Long Beach Measure M ballot issue approved in June by voters filed a formal complaint with the FPPC Wednesday saying the city improperly used resources to campaign for the measure's passage.

Measure M allows the transfer of up to 12% of revenue from the city-owned utilities — Water and Gas — to the city's general fund. Mayor Robert Garcia said city staff proposed the fix, and he took the initiative to the Charter Amendment Committee. There,

the City Council agreed to put it on the ballot. The fix was needed to replace pipeline fee transfers ruled illegal after a lawsuit filed by Diana Lejins and Gerrie Schipske.

Schipske and Lejins are two of the four people signing the complaint. The others are Tom Stout and Joe Weinstein, both longtime City Hall critics and taxpayer advocates.

According to the complaint, the city violated the Political Reform Act by spending public funds to campaign for the passage of Measure M. They also

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—Gazette photo by Harry Saltzgaver

**I DO SWEAR.** State Attorney General Xavier Becerra administers the oath of office to Mayor Robert Garcia as Dr. Matthew Mendez looks on Tuesday at the Long Beach Inauguration.

## Long Beach Officials Take Oath

By HARRY SALTZGAVER  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Children and grandchildren holding Bibles, wives and icons offering up the oaths — then some music, games and food trucks.

Tuesday evening, all of Long Beach's citywide elected officials, as well as City Council members from odd-numbered council districts, took an oath of office in front of a crowd of about 400 hundred people. The ceremony took place outdoors, on the Terrace Theater plaza.

While the event clearly meant a lot to those being sworn in, it actually was for show. City Clerk Monique DeLaGarza and her staff had officially sworn everyone in Sunday through Tuesday so they could conduct business. The new terms began Sunday, July 15.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti came to town to speak before Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia was sworn in for a second term. State Attorney

General Xavier Becerra administered the oath for Garcia.

Garcetti started the speeches with praise for Garcia and Long Beach, admitting, "I love Long Beach." Then the current sitting council members — those representing even-numbered districts — were introduced, including newly elected vice mayor Sixth District Councilman Dee Andrews.

Council members were sworn in and gave short speeches filled with thanks for family and staff. It took Seventh District Councilman Roberto Uranga to point out that everyone elected in 2018 was returning to office.

"We've worked together as a team to get things done," Uranga said. "And this team will stay intact for two more years."

Family members were prominent on stage, including wives, husbands, children and one unborn child — Fifth District Councilwoman Stacy Mungo Flannigan said her daughter is expected in October.

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## Bond For Housing On Council Agenda

By HARRY SALTZGAVER  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Ninth District Councilman Rex Richardson will ask the City Council next Tuesday to support study of a dedicated revenue source to service and house homeless people.

One component of that study would be feasibility of a housing bond, first proposed in September 2017 by city staff. That proposal and others are being studied by the Everyone Home Long Beach task force formed this May.

Richardson has three cosponsors — Lena Gonzalez (First

District), Dee Andrews (Sixth District) and Al Austin (Eighth District). Richardson included support letters signed by a range of housing groups and service providers.

It will take more than housing to solve the homelessness issue, though.

According to Richardson, there are more than 21,000 households in Long Beach "precariously housed," and on the brink of homelessness. The definition of precariously housed means the household income is only 30 percent of area median incomes

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## Ski Racers Ready For Fast Trip To Catalina And Back



—Photo courtesy Michelle Davison

**FLYING.** Jason Davison in a NWSRA ski race in Parker, Ariz., earlier this year — passing a duck.

By AMY ORR  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Catalina Express takes about an hour to reach Avalon Harbor.

This Saturday, it will take less than an hour for someone to waterski from Long Beach to Catalina Island — and back.

In 2017, Todd Haig won the Catalina Ski Race (CSR) Men's Open Division with a time of 52 minutes, 0.80 seconds. Jake Tegart set the course record in 2015, finishing in 45 minutes, 31.39 seconds.

July 21 marks the 70th edition

of this challenging aquatic endeavor as athletes from around the world ski 62 miles in the open ocean. The day kicks off at 7 a.m. with a breakwater boat parade. As fans gather at Junipero Beach, boat drivers line up between White and Grissom oil islands for the start of the race. Barring fog, the first wave of boats (under 24 feet in length) will depart at 8:53 a.m. A second wave of bigger boats (24 to 43 feet long) will begin racing at 9 a.m.

Vessels will exit the breakwater through the Queen's Gate on their way to Avalon Harbor. At the midway point, drivers will

steer around the Turn Boat and return to Long Beach. Skiers are allowed to use any of the breakwater openings when they re-enter the harbor and race toward the Queen Mary.

According to the Long Beach Boat and Ski Club, CSR is best seen from a boat; however, there are several good spots for landlubbers to watch the end of the race. The decks of the Queen Mary offer an elevated vista, although entrance fees may apply. Grassy areas and walkways between the Queen Mary and the Maya Hotel (the race headquarters) are also good spots.

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INSIDE  
LONG BEACH STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
By President Jane Close Conoley



## Foreign Students Help Expand Campus Life

*Question: Why do you accept international students when you turn away so many California applicants?*

At Cal State Long Beach, we do accept international and out-of-state students. Right now, these non-resident students make up less than five percent of our enrollment. They come from 98 countries and 46 states. There are several reasons we seek out non-residents.

First, in a global world, we think our California students benefit from interacting with students from other states and other countries. Their future success depends heavily on cultural competence across a diverse nation and multinational planet. The educational advantages are significant.

This is also why we've made international study abroad for as many of our students as possible a priority. Since 2012, we've increased international study abroad participation by 56 percent. Students who study abroad tell me they come back understanding our culture, as well as the cultures of their host countries, in transformative ways. They also develop skills and competencies that are sought after by employers.

Second, we take every qualified California student up to our state funded target. That cap is set at 28,963 full time equivalents for 2018-19. If we take more than that, we don't get any state funding. I think taking unfunded students is a financial mistake with negative long-term consequences for academic program stability.

After accepting California students, we consider how much room remains and go to our non-resident applications. International students pay substantially more tuition than residents, often can't work on or off campus, and don't get state aid. In fact, one-third of the nonresident student tuition goes toward state university grants for which they themselves do not qualify. So, the funding they bring directly subsidizes California residents. Obviously, the higher tuition rate helps us invest in program excellence that benefits all students.

At any one time there may be

up to 3,000 international students on campus. Some are enrolled in our American Language Institute or are on short-term non-degree programs. Only about 1,700 international students are actually in degree programs. Many of these are in graduate programs in engineering, business or other disciplines. Historically, these international students have gone on to make significant contributions to U.S. technology industries.

Times are changing, however. Concerns about cost, safety and travel bans as well as the increasing quality of higher education in Asia have reduced international applications at our campus and at universities across the nation. Canadian and Australian universities are now very popular destinations.

"Despite the trends, American public higher education is still seen as the highest quality in the world."

Despite the trends, American public higher education is still seen as the highest quality in the world and the United States remains the top destination choice among international students. That ranking is threatened, however, as other countries have begun to invest billions in their own universities while our states have been divesting for decades. You may be surprised to know that when considering the entire Cal State Long Beach budget, only about 25 percent comes from the state.

International students do not take away seats, aid, or jobs from resident students. Rather, they add tremendous global diversity to our university community. I am in awe of their courage, traveling far from home (away from family support systems) and studying in a non-native language. They enrich our campus and add to our excellence.

Go (Global) Beach!

*Jane Close Conoley, Ph.D., is president of California State University, Long Beach.*

## Self-Care Summer Pays Dividends

By CYNTHIA SEDILLO-ARTIAGA, MFTI

The days are longer, the weather has more than warmed up, and the school year is over. Summer is here!

As a parent or caregiver, you've worked hard all year long to support your children in and outside of school.

The end of the school year and change in season is a great time to reset, refocus and take time for self-care.

Self-care refers to activities and practices that we can engage in on a regular basis to reduce stress and maintain and enhance our short- and long-term health and well-being.

The idea of summer may feel overwhelming, but the great thing about self-care is that it can be simple and inexpensive (or even free). I always encourage my families to start by getting outside. There are so many great activities happening in our communities that the whole family can enjoy. Here's a list of my favorite summer self-care activities:

- Take a walk.

It may sound simple, but even if it's just around the neighborhood or to the store, walking de-stresses the whole family.

- Pack a picnic.



You don't have to spend money when you go out. Getting out of the house and eating a picnic at the park or beach with food items you packed from home can make lunch more enjoyable!

- Visit a free museum.

I love taking my families to the California Science Center. Admission is free, and there are so many fascinating activities for every age. Free museums are a great way to have fun without stressing about the cost. You can even pack a picnic to make it even more affordable.

- Enroll in a class or recreation activities.

Find out what classes or sports activities are offered at your nearby park and sign your kids up for something that interests them. While your kids play, walk around the park to enjoy the fresh air. You may even find that there is a class you can take simultaneously (dance class for kids, yoga or Zumba for you).

- Experience nature.

- Take a trip to the beach. Explore the Nature Center at El Dorado Park. Being out in nature

is proven to benefit your mental health and overall well-being.

- Connect with your support system.

Has it been awhile since you called your best friend or cousin? Talking with other adults helps to de-stress and is a simple way to practice self-care.

- Play at home.

Stuck at home? It's time to make slime! Making slime is a fun way to do something positive as a family, and it's inexpensive. There are so many easy-to-follow recipes available online.

- Jump in the water.

Spending time in water, whether a pool or the ocean, is incredibly relaxing. Visit the beach. Take a run through the water play pads at the park. Or, get relief from the heat by signing the family up for swim classes at a local pool — depending on your income they can be free or lower cost.

Whatever you do, make sure to take some time for self-care this summer.

*Cynthia Sedillo-Artiaga, MFTI is a Clinical Therapist at The Guidance Center's Compton Clinic.*

## Garden Travails Humble, Teach

I've written before about my travails while attempting to grow things to eat in my back yard.

Here I go again.

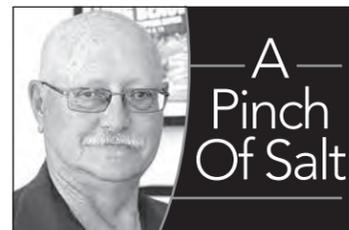
One summer several years ago, we had great good luck with tomato plants. The harvest was so large, Maria took to canning. It was a treat to have homemade spaghetti sauce in the middle of our "winter" made from tomatoes we had grown ourselves.

So every year since, I've dutifully planted tomatoes in our little garden strip next to the back fence. But no matter what I do, they have been anemic, with very few and usually small tomatoes making it into the kitchen.

At least this year we've managed to get a few salads with tomato before that heat wave killed the plants. Should have used more water, you say? A little late now.

I've had almost no success with any other food plant. Cucumbers practically grow on their own for most people; not for me. I did manage a few spaghetti squash a couple of years ago, but nothing since.

The back 40 (square feet) has sported four grape vines for nearly a decade now. The few grapes we've seen are more like peas than grapes. None at all this year.



I'm supposed to be a logical sort of guy, so I've taken that approach. The soil in our back yard, like much of Long Beach, is primarily clay. So I've brought in soil, cow manure, I've even splurged for that Miracle-Grow stuff.

We have dogs, and the backyard is their domain. They figure the garden plot is no exception, so I've put up a variety of fences to deter digging. The puppy Khloe only managed to dig up a few plants this year.

A few weeks ago, in the middle of yet another bout of pondering my gardening failure, I had a Eureka moment. Cause and effect, right?

Well, the alley is on the other side of the fence. For years, I've fought infestations of weeds, wild grasses and more on that fence line. Of course you know I'm responsible for that strip next to the dirt alley.

So this year I resorted to the nuclear option. I squirted heavy

adjacent to homes in our area. I feel sorry for those homeowners to have to put up with the racket and drunks, etc. Thank you for publishing this letter to the editor. I have written to Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell and Senator (Ricardo) Lara for what that's worth.

Is it possible to respond directly via email to individuals who have written comments? I often

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duty weed killer all along the back fence.

I waited a few days, and sure enough, I had dead weeds. It has stayed that way for a couple of months now.

Only the afore-mentioned fence is not an invincible border wall (sorry, couldn't help myself). It doesn't even touch the ground in a lot of places.

So naturally some of the weed killer migrated underground and into our garden space. I should be happy with anemic — it's a wonder I have plants there at all.

I know what I have to do next year. I'll go back to physically removing the weeds, and I'll replace all the garden soil.

And there's a silver — make that green — lining. God has taken pity on us, me in particular, and allowed our apple tree on another part of the estate to be exceedingly prolific.

We've had apples from this tree before, but nothing like this. It's been a while since I've figured in bushel baskets, but if I had to guess I'd say we've already harvested at least four bushels, and there are many more still on the tree. Maria's up to her elbows in apple sauce and apple butter, and has taken to giving the apples away at church.

Last weekend, while picking apples, I discovered the tree had started blossoming again. Clearly, there's more to come.

About the only thing I've done to that apple tree is water and prune — and not much of that.

Okay, God, I get the hint. I'll try it your way next year.

And thank you for Your generous bounty.

*Kary M. Saltzgraver*

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### Late Bar Hours

Dear Editor,

Regarding Diane Paull's comment on Senate Bill 905: I just can't believe that Assembly members would support bars staying open until 4 a.m.

So many of our local bars are

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