



DATE: March 28, 2024
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

CITY MANAGER’S MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2024

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

- **Policy Statement Regarding Termination of Online Public Comments**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many public agencies, including Montclair, implemented virtual meetings to increase public participation during stay-at-home directives. After Governor Gavin Newsom suspended pandemic-related emergency protocols in June 2021, many public agencies discontinued virtual meetings while others, including Montclair, continued to offer some form of virtual attendance and public comment option in addition to the in-person option.

An unfortunate byproduct of virtual attendance is a phenomenon known as “Zoom-bombing”—an unwanted, disruptive intrusion into a virtual meeting. While a Zoom session is in progress, unfamiliar users show up and hijack or dominate the session by saying or showing inappropriate material. The compromised Zoom session is then typically shut down by the host.

An incident of Zoom-bombing occurred at the March 4, 2024, meeting of the Montclair City Council. During the Public Comment section of the agenda, a number of “online” public members, when provided the opportunity to speak, proceeded to make anti-semitic, racist, homophobic, and other hate-filled comments.

What is striking about Zoom-bombing is the level of hatred directed at people of color, people of Jewish descent, women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

In order to avoid a repeat of the March 4, 2024, incident of hate-filled speech at future City of Montclair public meetings, the City Council directed the City Manager to develop an appropriate policy statement and post it to the City’s social media accounts. The City Council subsequently ratified this Policy Statement at the March 18, 2024, meeting of the City Council.

The Policy Statement provides for the termination of online oral comments from the public. Members of the public can still submit written public comments for the record, or attend City Council meetings to make in-person comments.

The City of Montclair regrets the need to take this step. However, as indicated in the Policy Statement, restated below, the City Council has a duty and obligation to conduct “the business of the City with dignity, integrity and respect,” and protect all Montclair citizens “from the harmful and disruptive effects of racism and bigotry.”

City of Montclair Policy Statement Regarding the Discontinuation of Oral Public Comments from Online Public Members during City-Hosted

Video/Teleconferencing Sessions

The City of Montclair is a diverse community, proud of its past and developing culture and heritage, and respectful of people from all walks of life. The community speaks in one voice that there is no space for intolerance, hate speech, racism, misogyny, antisemitism, homophobia, bigotry, and advocacy of violence through abhorrent words couched in the rhetoric of hatred and hostility.

The Montclair City Council is welcoming of public participation at its meetings; however, the City Council condemns participation that introduces speech designed and intended to demonstrate vileness and hatred against any person or body of people based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any protective class under California law. The use of such commentary is deemed unacceptable at all City of Montclair places of work and at meetings of the Montclair City Council, Montclair Planning Commission, Montclair Community Activities Commission, and subcommittees of the City Council.

The Montclair City Council has been charged with the tremendous task of conducting the business of the City with dignity, integrity and respect, and protecting all of its citizens from the harmful and disruptive effects of racism and bigotry. To that end, the Montclair City Council denounces the use of harmful speech that is an affront to our core values as a community, while concurrently committing to protect all residents from the disruptive effects of racism and bigotry.

The Montclair City Council now therefore endorses and ratifies the following policy:

Policy Statement. *Effective March 13, 2024, and except as otherwise authorized by the Montclair City Manager, subject to ratification by the Montclair City Council, the City of Montclair shall discontinue accepting oral public comments via any video/teleconferencing application or platform including, but not limited to, Zoom, WebEx or Skype, telephonic devices, or any other web-based media, application or platform during meetings open to the public including, but not limited to, meetings of the Montclair City Council, Montclair Planning Commission, Montclair Community Activities Commission and sub-committees of the Montclair City Council.*

The City of Montclair shall continue to accept “other forms of public comment” in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and procedures of decorum as established by the Montclair Municipal Code and/or as adopted by the Montclair City Council. For purposes of this Policy, “other forms of public comment” shall include (i) the submission of written comments to the Montclair City Clerk in advance of public meetings subject to this Policy and, (ii) when called on pursuant to procedures established by the City of Montclair, oral comments made by members of the public physically in attendance at meetings of the Montclair City Council, Montclair Planning Commission, Montclair Community Activities Commission and sub-committees of the Montclair City Council.

This policy may be amended or otherwise modified by the Montclair City Manager, subject to ratification by the Montclair City Council. This Policy shall not prohibit the use of video/teleconferencing for the purpose of receiving or making presentations, or otherwise conducting the business of the City as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Montclair City Manager.

- **California and Stellantis Sign EV Production Deal**

In Mid-March, the Newsom Administration announced that it struck a deal with auto giant Stellantis to support the state’s vehicle emissions standards. The move is designed to protect California’s strictest-in-the-nation electric vehicle (EV) sales rules from future federal regulatory action designed to undermine the state’s strict clean air standards. Stellantis—the fourth-largest automaker in the world—manufactures the Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge brands.



The agreement came just days before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized its own tailpipe emissions rules that recognize a slower than expected pace for electric vehicle sales. An earlier EPA draft rule recommended 67 percent new vehicle sales in 2023 to be electric vehicles. While the draft rule did not mandate any specific level of electric vehicle sales, the EPA projected automakers would choose to comply by manufacturing and increasing EV sales. The final rule has, however, shifted much of the projected increase in EV sales to the latter part of the regulatory period (2027 through 2032).

Under the EPA’s final clean car rule, it is projected that electric vehicles could dominate new auto sales by 2032, slashing climate pollution from vehicles in half. Altogether, the EPA projects the rule would curb 7.1 billion tons of planet-warming pollution by 2055, compared with 7.3 billion tons in the 2023 draft rule.

The rule—one of four significant transportation policies expected from the Biden Administration in March and April—is the strictest federal climate regulation ever issued for passenger cars and trucks. The rule provides more flexibility for manufacturers to comply with the new pollution limits, and allows more plug-in hybrid models and more efficient internal combustion engines to share the showroom with fully electric vehicles. The oil and gas industry has threatened to sue to block the rule from going into effect, and the American Petroleum Institute asserts that the rule will “make new gas-powered vehicles unavailable.”

Stellantis will sign on to the same framework negotiated with five major automakers in 2019 including Ford Motor Company, Volkswagen of America, Honda, Volvo and BMW North America. Under terms of the 2019 agreement, the carmakers committed to reducing their fleetwide emissions by 3.7 percent per year for model years 2022-2026. Federal regulators, in response to the negotiated deal, revoked California's authority under the Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act carved out unique powers for California to enforce clean air standards that impose the nation's most stringent limits on vehicle carbon pollution; those powers, however, are contingent on a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In addition to revocation of the EPA waiver, the federal government rolled back the former Obama Administration's auto emissions standards, and the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed an anti-trust investigation against the automakers. Nonetheless, automakers elected to stay in the pact with California, arguing that a regulatory split between California and other states would create market chaos and result in one set of standards for California, the District of Columbia and the 13 states (Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and Maine) that typically follow California's lead—representing 36 percent of total U.S. auto sales—and those states that instead follow looser EPA guidelines.

In February 2020, the DOJ dropped its antitrust inquiry into the five automakers, deciding that the companies had violated no laws. On March 9, 2022, following a change in the federal administration, the EPA reinstated California's authority under the Clean Air Act to implement its own greenhouse gas emission standards for cars and light trucks, which other states can also adopt and enforce.



Stellantis has now committed to following California requirements to sell an increasing number of EVs through 2030, even if the state's authority to enforce its clean air standards is removed, either by judicial or federal court action.

A group of states led by Ohio have since challenged California's clean cars waiver, arguing that California's unique authority to set air quality standards violates the Constitution, under a legal theory that all

states need to be treated equally. The case was heard in September 2023 in the District of Columbia Circuit Court and is expected to go to the Supreme Court.

The companies that joined the original deal, along with Stellantis, have agreed to support California's tailpipe emissions standards covering model years 2026 through 2035 despite any future federal intervention. The agreements also require each dealer to offer discounted electric vehicles in disadvantaged communities, and contribute \$10 million for installing public electric vehicle chargers.

According to Governor Newsom's office, the partnership with Stellantis will help California achieve its goals to drastically cut pollution and get more clean cars on the roads. Stellantis also agreed not to oppose California's authority under the Clean Air Act for its greenhouse

gas emissions and zero-emission vehicle standards, and to reduce more than 10 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions beyond the minimum it is required to through the 2026 model year.

According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), in 2023 one in every four cars sold in the state was a “zero-emissions option.” CARB aims to have 100% of new car sales be zero emissions by 2035.

- **Primary Election Still Counting**

Starting with [the November 2020 election](#)¹, California started mailing ballots to all registered voters in the state—a process that has slowed the state’s ballot count. For the 2024 June Primary Election, about 50% of ballots cast were counted on primary night March 5, compared to 41% in June 2022, demonstrating gradual improvement according to data from the California Voter Foundation. It is noted, however, the March 5 Primary Election recorded one of the lowest voter turnouts in the state’s history, with an estimated 34% turnout—or 7.5 million out of the 22 million registered voters in California. In 2022, the state’s voter turnout was [43.43%](#)². California’s record low-turnout occurred in 2014, when turnout was just [25.17%](#)³.



The state’s March 5 turnout is [well below the norm for presidential primaries](#)⁴, but still not the record low that [some analysts had projected based on early numbers](#)⁵.

While the U.S. Senate and other races have been called by media organizations, and candidates have declared victory or conceded in others, many other closer contests and the only statewide ballot measure, [Proposition 1](#)⁶, still hang in the balance.

Of the uncounted ballots remaining out of the estimated 7.5 million cast this past Primary Election Day, it typically takes weeks for county election offices to process and complete the ballot count. The fact is, [processing mail-in ballots takes time](#)⁷. Ballots postmarked by March 5 and received by March 12 still are counted.

There are a number of steps county elections offices take to ensure the integrity of each voter’s ballot, some of which cannot start until after Election Day. In processing vote-by-mail ballots, elections officials must confirm each voter’s registration status, verify each voter’s

¹ <https://calmatters.org/explainers/california-all-mail-election-explained-november-2020/>
² https://ballotpedia.org/Election_results,_2022:_Analysis_of_voter_turnout
³ <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2022/06/california-primary-2022-vote/>
⁴ <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2022-primary/sov/05-historical-voter-reg-primary.pdf>
⁵ <https://calmatters.org/newsletter/voter-turnout-california-primary/>
⁶ <https://calmatters.org/politics/elections/2024/03/election-result-proposition-1/>
⁷ <https://calmatters.org/politics/elections/2024/03/california-election-results-vote-counting/>

signature on the vote-by-mail envelope, and ensure each person did not vote elsewhere in the same election before the ballot can be counted.

Other ballots that are processed after Election Day include [provisional ballots](#)⁸ (processed similar to vote-by-mail ballots), conditional voter registration provisional ballots, and ballots that are damaged or cannot be machine-read and must be remade by elections officials.

Furthermore, counties have varying levels of staffing or resources that can impact how quickly the counting work can be completed. Two weeks after the election, only 12 of California's 58 counties reported completing their vote tallies.

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and registrar of voters argue that it is not just a matter of counting ballots; it is also about counting ballots accurately with available staff for the vote tally project.

The time it takes for county election officials to count ballots is also provided for by state law. For 2024, the law requires county elections officials to report final official results for presidential delegates to the Secretary of State by April 2, 2024, and all other state contests by April 5, 2024. The Secretary of State then has until April 12, 2024, to complete their extensive tallying, auditing, and certification work (known as the official canvass).

In 2023, the California Legislature passed legislation to make voting easier or otherwise speed up the ballot counting process, including the following:

- [AB 626](#)⁹—allows people to return their vote-by-mail ballot in person, without an envelope, so it can be immediately scanned and counted right away.
- [SB 77](#)¹⁰—allows election officials to contact voters via phone, email or text for signature verification.
- [AB 421](#)¹¹—requires ballot title to be posed as a question for voters: “Keep the law” or “overturn the law?” Followed by a summary of the law. Also requires measure’s top funders to be listed, and names of top supporters and opponents.
- [AB 545](#)¹²—requires all counties to provide curbside voting for people with disabilities, along with other increased accessibility measures.
- [AB 969](#)¹³—requires voting machines for most elections.

The above laws did not, however, go into effect until January 1, 2024, giving election officials very little time to commit resources and implement their provisions.

At the same time, the state has been trying to increase voter registration: The [rate among all eligible voters](#)¹⁴ is now at 83%, up from 68% in 2008. New voters are, however, less likely to regularly cast ballots, which leads to lower percentage turnouts.

⁸ <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/provisional-voting>

⁹ https://digitaldemocracy.calmatters.org/bills/ca_202320240ab626

¹⁰ https://digitaldemocracy.calmatters.org/bills/ca_202320240sb77

¹¹ <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB421/id/2840415>

¹² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB545

¹³ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB969

¹⁴ <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ror/15day-presprim-2024/historical-reg-stats.pdf>

A [Public Policy Institute of California brief¹⁵](#) points out that automatic registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles has increased the registration rate by four percentage points since 2018; and, while the changes were designed to make the electorate more representative of California’s diversity, there have been only small increases for historically underrepresented groups, according to the report. Furthermore, new registrants tend to be less familiar with elections, thus, are less likely to vote. In 2020, the turnout gap between new registrants and voters overall was similar to the existing gap between voters older than 65 and those younger than 25, who are also less likely to vote.

For the most up-to-date vote counts before the statewide-certified results are published, visit a [county elections office¹⁶](#).

- **ONT Experiences Passenger Increase and Cargo Decrease**

According to recent reports, Ontario International Airport posted a 12% jump in passenger volume in 2023 over the previous year with a total of 6.4 million travelers. In addition, a J.D. Powers study places ONT at No. 3, overall, for medium sized airports, based on six factors: terminal facilities; airport arrival/departure; baggage claim; security check; check-in/baggage check; and food, beverage and retail.



ONT has also opened a Global Entry Enrollment Center in the Diane Feinstein International Terminal, representing the third enrollment center in Southern California. Other centers have been opened at Los Angeles and San Diego international airports. Global Entry is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. Members enter the United States by accessing the Global Entry processing technology at [selected airports¹⁷](#). Travelers must be pre-approved for Global Entry by undergoing a rigorous background check and in-person interview before enrollment. An upcoming processing technology option for travelers will be the Global Entry Mobile App, which will enable members to validate their arrival to the U.S. on their smartphone device prior to entering the Federal Inspection Services area. To apply, go to [Global Entry | U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(cbp.gov\)¹⁸](#).

Despite the above positive improvements, ONT saw an 11.8% drop in freight volume for 2023—a decline that appears to reflect global economic trends stemming largely from a national decline in cargo processing during the COVID-19 downturn, where cargo shipments declined 17% in 2023 compared to the year before.

¹⁵ <https://www.ppic.org/publication/do-registration-reforms-add-new-voters-or-keep-californians-registered/>

¹⁶ <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices/>

¹⁷ <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry/airports-with-global-entry>

¹⁸ <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry/airports-with-global-entry>

Prior to the decline in cargo processing, ONT was on a clear uptick as a leading cargo-processing center. Between 2007 and 2015, the volume of freight at ONT grew slowly, hovering around half a million tons each year, but then grew by a massive 81% by 2020 when the volume of freight passing through the airport peaked at close to 925,000 tons—an increase that led to ONT operating as one of the nation’s leading cargo airports—in 2022, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), ONT was the ninth leading cargo airport in the United States, and third in the west, trailing only Anchorage and LAX.

The large amount of cargo passing through ONT has been a product of the Inland Empire’s healthy logistics sector. The region’s proximity to the ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach and to large population centers, and its supply of relatively inexpensive real estate for distribution and fulfillment centers have contributed to the region’s development as a logistics hub. The airport’s proximity to the I-10 Freeway, connecting Los Angeles to Phoenix, the I-15 Freeway connecting San Diego to Las Vegas and the SR-60 Freeway further contribute to the region’s development as a logistics center.



The logistics industry also functions as the third largest employer in the Inland Empire—surpassed only by the health and education sectors—with an estimated 1 in 6 workers in the Inland Empire employed in logistics. Amazon, which operates a number of fulfillment centers in the Inland Empire and runs numerous cargo flights daily out of ONT, is the region’s largest private employer.

The decline in cargo processing at ONT may also be a product of shifting consumer habits that suggest a tentative potential for growth for in-person brick and mortar purchases. This shift, it is suggested, is represented in corporations scaling back on investment and expansion in warehouse development in response to lower online demand, plus heightened environmental concerns reflected in local opposition to new warehouse construction in the Inland Empire: in October 2022, Beaumont rejected a proposal for a 2.5 million square foot warehouse complex; and in 2023, Moreno Valley rejected a proposed 1.3 million square feet warehouse complex and Fontana rejected a development proposal for three warehouses covering more than 500,000 square feet. However, the shift may also reflect nothing more than a realignment of the industry as it seeks growth in other areas of the state, including Kern County where large warehouse complexes have opened near the I-5 Freeway in the Grapevine, and Bakersfield where a 1 million-square-foot warehouse complex is under consideration.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

• **New Employees**

Welcome to the following new employees:

- **Jose Ambriz, Jr.**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Julie Bechtel**, **Senior** Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Karen Benitez**, **Senior** Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Luz Cerda**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Maria De Lourdes**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Ashley Delgado**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Anita Garcia**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Shari Haynes**, Senior Citizen Supervisor, Human Services
- **Uhura Mckenzie**, Administrative Specialist, Public Works
- **Matilde Moreno**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Patrick Recendez**, Learning Leader, Human Services

• **Internal Appointments / Promotions**

Congratulations to the following current employees who have been internally promoted or appointed to new positions:

- **Adrian Anguiano**, Police Officer, Police Department
- **Angeni Garcia**, Senior Recreation Leader, Human Services
- **Nicholas Sanchez**, Police Sergeant, Police Department

• **Employees Whose Service to the City Has Ended**

The City would like to thank the following individuals who have concluded their service with the City of Montclair:

- **Leslie Caballero**, Learning Leader, Human Services
- **Vanessa Carrillo-Rubio**, Senior Recreation Leader, Human Services
- **Hailey Medinilla**, Learning Leader, Human Services

• **Montclair Job Opportunities**

The City is hiring qualified individuals to fill the following positions:

Current Recruitments

- **Deputy City Clerk** – Administrative Services
- **Firefighter (Paramedic)** (Entry-Level/Lateral) – Fire Department
- **Park Leader (Part-Time)** – Human Services Department

Continuous Recruitments

Applications are continuously accepted and reviewed for the following positions:

- **Senior Police Dispatcher (Lateral)** – Police Department
- **Police Dispatcher (Entry-Level)** – Police Department
- **Police Officer (Entry-Level/Lateral)** – Police Department
- **Reserve Police Officer Level II and I (Part-Time)** – Police Department
- **Police Cadet (Part-Time)** – Police Department
- **Senior Recreation Leader (Part-Time)** – Human Services
- **Recreation Leader (Part-Time)** – Human Services
- **Senior Learning Leader (Part-Time)** – Human Services
- **Learning Leader (Part-Time)** – Human Services
- **Substitute Learning Leader (Part-Time)**– Human Services

For an up-to-date listing of all job opportunities available at the City of Montclair or to apply for a job, please visit the Employment Opportunities page on the City's website at <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/employment-opportunities/>.

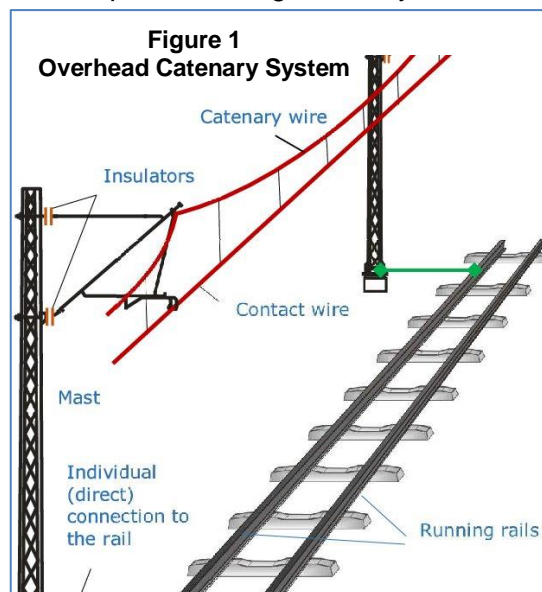
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

• Construction Authority Releases RFQ for Gold Line Extension

With the Montclair Transcenter in its sight as the final stop in the eastward extension of the Gold Line light rail system, the Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Construction Authority) is now within ten months of completing the Glendora to Pomona segment and turning the completed project over to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency (LA Metro), with passenger fare operation expected to begin in early 2025.

Crews for the Construction Authority are nearing completion on installation of the overhead power infrastructure; finishing construction on the four new stations in Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne and Pomona; testing safety equipment at the project's 21 at-grade crossings; and completing installation of the Overhead Catenary System (OCS)—see **Figure 1**.

The hundreds of OCS poles needed for the 9.1-mile project are now nearly all in place, and crews are finishing the installation of wires atop the poles to provide power to the light rail vehicles when they enter operational service.



The Construction Authority is now turning its attention to the final stage of the project by starting the process to hire the design-build team that extend the light rail system to Claremont and Montclair. This effort follows LA Metro submitting the Los Angeles County portion of the project for full funding through [Senate Bill 125¹⁹](#). Funding for construction on the San Bernardino County side to the Montclair Transcenter (approximately \$98 million) will be provided by the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority.

SB 125 guides the distribution of \$4 billion in state General Fund moneys through the [Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program²⁰](#). Funding is distributed through the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) via a population-based formula to regional transportation planning agencies. These agencies, in turn, will have the flexibility to use the money to fund transit operations or capital improvements. SB 125 also establishes the \$1.1 billion Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program, with funds allocated to regional transportation planning agencies on a population-based formula, and another formula based on revenues to fund zero-emission transit equipment and operations.

CalSTA has allocated approximately \$1 billion to LA Metro for transit capital projects. Award of the funding is expected to be completed by the end of April 2024. LA Metro is then expected to award approximately \$790 million to the Construction Authority, distributed over several years, to complete the shove-ready Gold Line extension from Pomona to Claremont. SBCTA will then fund the Claremont to Montclair segment.

In anticipation of receiving the funding, the Construction Authority recently initiated the 15-month procurement process with issuance of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Once funding is secured and the design-build team hired, the 3.2-mile, two-station project from Pomona to Montclair will take approximately five years to complete, with construction slated to begin in late 2025.

Working with the Construction Authority, the Montclair Team has asked for inclusion of several betterments to improve the transit experience at the Montclair Transcenter. Betterments include a pedestrian bridge parallel to the Gold Line track bridge over Monte Vista Avenue. Both bridges would be constructed just north of the existing Metrolink bridge. The Construction Authority will also relocate the existing “Flying M” art piece to a suitable location selected by the City.

The Montclair Team is also working with its consultant for North Montclair, Moule & Polyzoides Architects & Urbanists, to develop a Master Project Development Plan for the Transcenter. The City is presently seeking to acquire the Caltrans-owned property at the Transcenter in order to oversee its future development. The Master Project Development Plan will incorporate a grid block system and feature a 1,600-vehicle parking structure, transit passenger terminal, secure transit-rider platform, affordable and market rate housing, park land, and commercial and gathering spaces.

¹⁹ <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB125/id/2600096>

²⁰ <https://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/transit-intercity-rail-capital-prog>

- **The California Dream for All Program**



The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) has re-launched its innovative [California Dream for All²¹](#) Shared Appreciation Loan assistance program, which provides a loan for up to 20% of the home purchase price.

The down payment assistance program for first-time homebuyers is to be used in conjunction with the **Dream for All** Conventional first mortgage program for down payment and/or closing costs. **California Dream for All**, designed to allow first-time homebuyers to enjoy the benefits of homeownership, is a shared appreciation program where the state will potentially get a share of the

appreciation when the property is sold.

CalHFA allocated \$250 million+ in down payment assistance for the second year of the year-old program—the program is aimed at reaching borrowers across the state.

Last year first-time homebuyers qualified for the nearly \$300 million budgeted for the **California Dream for All** loan program in just 11 days. CalHFA officials reported, however, that many of the participants who received funds during the first year of the program were already far along in the home purchase process, fueling speculation about whether the loans were going to people who already could afford to buy homes.

The 2024 program maintains the same [“shared appreciation” lending model²²](#): The state will give first-time homebuyers money towards a down payment—up to 20% of the purchase price or \$150,000, whichever is less. The state will be paid back on the loan plus a share of the home’s appreciation whenever the home sells again.

CalHFA has said, however, that it will head off a scramble for the loans by replacing its original first-come, first-served model with a lottery. Homebuyers will have until April 2024 to find a state-approved lender and start working on an application. A lottery opens in early April, and buyers will have a month to submit their applications. Between 1,700 and 2,000 lottery winners will receive vouchers, which must then be spent on a home within 90-days.

In order to avoid geographic disparities, CalHFA will set aside a number of vouchers for each region of the state based on its share of the state’s households. Presently, an estimated 55% of Californians own their homes, [the second-lowest home ownership rate of any state²³](#), behind New York.

At its initiation, **Dream for All’s** backers projected that the program would benefit members of communities experiencing redlining or low homeownership rates. However, California law prohibits state-sponsored affirmative action, which poses a challenge for officials trying to design a program that tackles historical redlining without explicitly addressing race.

²¹ <https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/dream/>

²² <https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2022/06/california-down-payment-help/>

²³ <https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2023/02/california-first-time-home-buyers-mortgage-costs/>

The program's new rules include a requirement that at least one homebuyer in each transaction be a first-generation homebuyer, defined as someone who has never owned a home and whose parents also did not own a home, or someone who grew up in foster care. The state also has lowered the income eligibility threshold from 150% of the area median income to 120%. The [area Median Income](#)²⁴ for San Bernardino County is \$94,500.



Homebuyers interested in applying for the program can visit the [California Dream for All website](#)²⁵ for updates, [join CalHFA's homebuyer email list](#)²⁶, or go to the following video link to learn more about the program:

[CA Dream for All: What You Can Do Now To Get Ready](#)²⁷

Additional steps:

1. Talk to a [CalHFA Approved Lender](#)²⁸ who is offering the **Dream for All** program.
2. Work with a loan officer to determine what is required to secure a [California Dream for All \(DFA\) Lender Pre-Approval Letter](#)²⁹. The letter is required in order to register for a DFA voucher in April.
3. Take the 1-hour **California Dream for All** education course which covers what shared appreciation is and how it affects mortgage repayment. This course is delivered online and is free. Visit [calhfadreamforall.com](#) to get signed up.
4. Gather documents:
 - [California Dream for All \(DFA\) Lender Pre-Approval Letter](#)²⁹.
 - Government ID: Passports, driver's license, state-issued ID, military ID, permanent residence cards, visas or employment authorization documents.
 - Proof of current address: Government ID, utility bill, cell phone bill, insurance bill, voter registration or car registration.
 - Foster care documentation (if applicable): Foster Care Verification Form/Letter or court documents.
5. Review Program Documents

²⁴ <https://ami-lookup-tool.fanniemae.com/amilookuptool/>

²⁵ <https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/dream/>

²⁶ <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAHFA/signup/35119>

²⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/embed/KLQrMmTP6FQ?enablejsapi=1&wmode=opaque>

²⁸ <https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/homebuyer/lenders.htm>

²⁹ <https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/homeownership/forms/pre-approval-letter-cadfa.pdf>

- **CA Dream for All Lender Handbook**³⁰.
- **CA Dream for All Income Limits**³¹.
- **California Dream for All Lender Pre-Approval Letter**²⁹.

- **Shop Local Montclair**

In recognition of Small Business Saturday, the City of Montclair and the Montclair Chamber of Commerce introduced “Shop Local Montclair,” a campaign aimed at supporting our small and local businesses and thanking those who choose to shop local.

When you shop local, you are not just making a purchase—you are investing in your neighbors, friends, and local entrepreneurs. In addition,

every time you shop local, you ensure that your sales tax dollars are being reinvested in your community. Together, let’s keep Montclair strong by shopping local!



SHOP LOCAL, WIN LOCAL!

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!

We're making shopping local even more rewarding! For every purchase you make at a local Montclair business, snap a photo of your receipt, and submit it for a chance to win exciting prizes. Each valid receipt is an entry into our quarterly raffle, where you could score a \$75 gift card to a local Montclair business!

- 1. MAKE A LOCAL PURCHASE**
Support Montclair's local businesses by making a purchase at your favorite local business.
- 2. SNAP A PHOTO**
Capture the moment! Snap a photo of your receipt.
- 3. ENTER THE RAFFLE**
Send your first and last name, phone number, and a photo of your receipt to info@montclairchamber.com to enter into the raffle.

- **Economic Development Monthly Business Newsletter**

The Economic Development Department is pleased to share its monthly business newsletter promoting current and future Montclair businesses and entrepreneurs with resources for growth and expansion.

From its strategic location, Montclair is at the core of Southern California’s economic revival and boasts diverse business sectors, quality housing, and ample recreational amenities that offer residents and businesses alike a high quality of life.

The E-Newsletter shares business resources and free training offered through our resource partners. Go to <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/newsletter/> to sign up for the newsletter or to view past editions.

³⁰ <https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/homeownership/programs/loans-cadfa.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/homeownership/limits/income/income-cadfa.pdf>

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- **Tree Planting Event**

Last year, the City partnered with Executive Director Stuart Wood of Sustainable Claremont to help expand the City's urban forest. Mr. Wood and his team successfully secured grant funds to plant 150 trees at three City Parks and the Pacific Electric Trail. Public Works Director

Monica Heredia began coordinating with Program Manager Carrie Baldwin of The Green Crew to plan tree-planting events in February, March, April, and May of this year. Dozens of excited volunteers showed up to the weekend events to participate in the City's effort to beautify the community and preserve the environment.



Volunteers planting mimosa trees along the Pacific Electric Trail.

On February 3, 2024, over 20 volunteers came together and planted eight trees at Saratoga Park near the south parking lot facing Vernon Avenue. The park is now home to four Natchez Crepe Myrtles on the north side of the parking lot, and four Chinese Pistache trees on the south side. Both species are expected to grow between 25-35 feet at full maturity.

Though Reeder Ranch Park is under construction, over 30 volunteers showed up to plant 23 trees on February 24. The community can now enjoy the sight of ten (10) 24-inch Wester Redbuds and three (3) 36-inch Natchez Crape Myrtle trees, and ten (10) 24-inch Red Ironbark which can get as high as 80-feet at full maturity.

Resident Bruce Culp and his wife Brenda brought snacks and water for over 40 volunteers who came to the March 16 tree-planting event at the Pacific Electric Trail to install twenty (20) magnolia grandiflora trees along the path.

Over 50 volunteers came to the site of the future Marlow Development west of Monte Vista Avenue to plant twenty-seven (27) mimosa trees on March 23.



Community Development Director Mike Diaz with Bruce and Brenda Culp, planting a magnolia tree.



Public Works Director Heredia, Sustainable Claremont Green Crew members, and volunteers at the March 23, 2024 tree planting event.

This year on National Arbor Day, Friday, April 26, 2024, volunteers will plant twenty-five (25) trees at Sunset Park, which is still currently under construction. The final partnership event with Sustainable Claremont will be on Saturday, May 25, 2024, when volunteers will plant thirty-two (32) more trees at Sunset Park.

Additionally, Public Works staff, maintenance workers, contractors, and managers assisted with preparing each site before each planting event, ensuring adequate irrigation and soil preparation, and staking took place after the trees were planted.



Sustainable Claremont Green Crew members, Tree People representative, Community Development Director Mike Diaz, and volunteers by a newly planted magnolia tree at the Pacific Electric Trail.

Thanks to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), the State of California Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018 (Prop 68), Tree People, and Green Crew from Sustainable Claremont, the City will increase its urban forestry by 150 trees.

RSVP is required to register to volunteer for these events. To register or learn more visit www.sustainableclaremont.org or send a message to greencrew@sustainableclaremont.org with any questions.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- **Incident Reports**

Major Traffic Collision and Rescue Operation

On March 11, 2024, at approximately 1:10 am, Montclair Fire Engine Nos. 151 and 152 and the Battalion Chief responded to a traffic collision in the 4300 block of Mission Boulevard, with reports of a person still trapped inside the vehicle. Upon arrival, Medic Engine 152 reported finding a large SUV lying on its side, surrounded by live power lines that were down around the vehicle. The vehicle had struck a power pole at a high rate of speed, causing the pole to lay across the entrance to a mobile home park, and sheared off a fire hydrant before the vehicle came to rest on its side. The driver was still inside the vehicle, and the power lines on the ground made safely accessing the patient difficult. Firefighters were able to find a path around the wires and extricate the driver through the windshield space for transport to the hospital.



Incident on Amherst Avenue

On March 19, 2024, Montclair Fire units swiftly responded alongside neighboring agencies to a structure fire located in the 10000 block of Amherst Avenue. Upon arrival, firefighters encountered an attached garage engulfed in flames. Acting promptly, they deployed hose lines, established incident command, and diligently worked to safeguard nearby structures threatened by the blaze. Despite the extensive damage incurred by the garage, firefighters successfully contained the fire within its confines, preventing its spread to the residence and neighboring buildings. We extend our sincere gratitude to the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Ontario Fire Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and SoCal Edison for their invaluable assistance during this operation.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **Save the Date for the Following Upcoming Events!**

Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast

The City's Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast are scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 30 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Montclair Community and Senior Centers.

The Eggstravaganza will include games, activities, Easter eggs, and candy for children 12 years and younger. Children are invited to bring their own baskets from home to win candy-filled eggs as game prizes.

The Easter Bunny will arrive and will pose for photos (\$3 per photo or \$1 to take your own photo). The pancake breakfast, offered for \$5 per plate, will include 2 pancakes, 2 sausages, and orange juice, while supplies last.

The event is sponsored by the City of Montclair, Ontario-Montclair Kiwanis Club, Women's Club of Montclair, Montclair Police Officers Association and Montclair Firefighters Association.

For more event details please contact Jordi Ubaldo, Community Services Supervisor at (909) 625-9489.

Flyer is shared on Page 23.

Memorial Day Program

Join us on Monday, May 27 at 6:00 p.m. for the Community Activities Commission's 24th Annual Memorial Day Program. The Program will be held in the Memorial Garden, adjacent to City Hall, and will include the dedication of new plaques to our Veterans' Memorial Wall. The Memorial Wall pays tribute to deceased Montclair residents from all service branches.

The Program will feature a presentation of colors by the Montclair High School JROTC, patriotic songs performed by The Band of the California Battalion, the pledge of allegiance led by Veteran Marine Major Matthew Murawski, refreshments, and a poetry reading

Flyer is shared on Page 24.

Country Fair Jamboree

Please join us for the 10th Annual Country Fair Jamboree, on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from noon to 6 p.m. at Alma Hofman Park. This event will consist of games, food trucks, a petting zoo, carnival rides, pie eating, pony rides, bands, and entertainment, Splash Pad, and craft vendors.

Presale carnival wristbands will be available at the Montclair Recreation Center from 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday-Friday starting May 13-24.

For information, please contact Jordi Ubaldo, Community Services Supervisor at (909) 625-9489.

Flyer is shared on Page 25.

- **Montclair Summer Day Camp**

The Montclair Summer Day Camp offers supervised activities for boys and girls entering first through eighth grade (2024-25 school year) and is staffed with trained Montclair Recreation personnel. Summer Day Camp fees include all arts and crafts, cooking supplies, movies, snacks, recreational swimming, special events and field trips. Each camper will receive a Summer Day Camp T-shirt. Registration is taken on a first come, first served basis.

Dates: May 28 - August 2

Days: Mondays - Fridays, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Pre-registration: Monday, April 15 - Friday, May 24, open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center (5111 Benito Street, Montclair 91763).

On-site Registration: May 28 - August 2 at the Youth Center (5111 Benito Street, Montclair; camp site)

Fee: \$90 per week plan or \$60 for 3-day plan, plus an additional first time registration startup fee of \$10. \$5 off for each additional child in same family. \$20 off the week plan for May 27 and July 1 due to Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays. No refunds (\$20 processing fee, if applicable). Field trips included.

For more information, please contact Recreation Coordinator, Emily Gomez-Medina at (909) 625-9482

Flyer is shared on Page 26.

Photos are shared on Page 27.

- **Youth and Adult Sports Leagues**

Youth Basketball League – Winter 2024

On Saturday, March 23, our top two teams from Divisions A, B and C competed against other Inland Empire cities with the return of the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation Basketball Tournament! All teams played their hearts out and left it all out on the floor. We congratulate these teams for the opportunity of playing and representing the City of Montclair proudly! For more information, contact Fernando Saltos at (909) 625-9496 or email fsaltos@cityofmontclair.org

Youth Basketball League – Summer 2024

Summer Youth Basketball Registration is here! The first day of registration took place on Saturday, March 23 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Montclair Recreation Center. Thereafter it will take place Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. beginning Monday, March 25 through Friday, April 26 at the Recreation Center Building located at 5111 Benito Street, Montclair, 91763. For more information, contact Fernando Saltos at (909) 625-9496 or email fsaltos@cityofmontclair.org

- **Senior Center Activities**

Senior Birthday Celebrations

On Wednesday, February 28, the Senior Center celebrated February birthdays in the Community Center with over 174 attendees. The “Celebrate in Paris” themed party featured French café music and several photo opportunity areas, including one with an Eiffel Tower replica. Senior Birthday Honorees received certificates of recognition from United States Congresswoman Norma Torres, State Senator Susan Rubio, State Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, and San Bernardino County Fourth District Supervisor Curt Hagman. State Senator Susan Rubio also gave birthday cards to the Honorees.

Photos are shared on Page 28.

Health Presentations

The Senior Center hosted informative presentations during March. On Wednesday, March 6 and March 20, Health Education Specialist Leticia Gavilanes facilitated presentations on gardening and its health benefits. Breathe Southern California presented a workshop on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) on Wednesday, March 6. The workshop covered risk factors and triggers for COPD, self-management strategies, and offered a free lung screening capacity test using a spirometer. On Thursday, March 14, the Alzheimer’s Association led a presentation on the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s and on Tuesday, March 26, City of Hope presented about Colon Cancer Prevention and Screening. The presentation focused on the risks of colon cancer as well as the significance of colon cancer screening.

St. Patrick’s Day Dance

Over 80 attendees danced the afternoon away at the Senior Citizens Club St. Patrick’s Day Dance on Wednesday, March 13 at the Montclair Senior Center. A large rainbow balloon arch and a live DJ welcomed guests to the dance floor and clover cutouts, gold coins, and leprechaun hats could be found in every corner of the room. There was a selection of light refreshments including root beer floats, skittles, green lemonade, and shamrock shaped sugar cookies.

Photos are shared on Page 28.

Tax Prep Services

The Montclair Senior Center will host two providers for free tax assistance. The deadline to file taxes is April 15. More details on each provider can be found below:

- **AARP Tax Services**

Volunteers from AARP will be assisting with filing income taxes at the Montclair Senior Center every Tuesday through April 9 from 1 - 4 p.m. Assistance will be provided on a first come, first served basis. A sign-up sheet will be available as soon as the Senior Center opens at 8 a.m. on the day of each session. Sign-up must be made in person and you must be present at the time you are called. No advanced registration will be taken.

- **San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department (TAD)**

TAD Tax preparation services will be available by APPOINTMENT ONLY at the Montclair Senior Center from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on March 20, March 29 and April 4. To schedule an appointment, please call (909) 421-4091, (909) 421-4093, or (877) 410-8829.

Other upcoming special events at the Senior Center include:

- April 24: Senior Birthday Party! Theme: Viva Las Vegas in Montclair
- May 8: Senior Prom (RSVP required by April 30 in person)

For a complete list of upcoming senior activities and more information, please see the Senior Newsletter at <https://www.cityofmontclair.org/senior-newsletter/>

ECS:ym

APRIL 2024

<i>Day</i>	<i>Event & Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
Mon. 1	City Council Workshop City Council Chambers	5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Wed. 3	Community Activities Commission Meeting City Council Chamber	7:00 p.m.
Mon. 8	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Mon. 15	City Council Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
	Real Estate Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	5:30 p.m.
	Code Enforcement/Public Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
Thurs. 18	Monthly Food Distribution Event Community Center	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	4:00 p.m.
Mon. 22	Planning Commission Meeting City Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
Wed. 24	Senior Mobile Pantry by Feeding America Recreation Center	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Agendas for meetings include instructions for all participation options and can be viewed on the City's website at least 72 hours before each (regular) meeting at: www.cityofmontclair.org/agendas/.

More event details can be found on the City's website at: <http://www.cityofmontclair.org/events> .../community-programs/, and .../news/.

INDOOR EVENT!

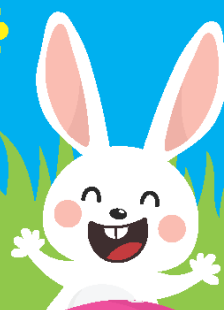
Montclair

**EASTER
EGG STRAVA
GANZA!**

& Pancake Breakfast

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 30, 2024**

9:00 - 11:00 am



**PHOTOS
WITH
THE
BUNNY!**

**\$3 photo,
\$1 using own camera
(cash only)**

CANDY!

**FREE
CANDY-FILLED
EASTER EGGS
AND TREATS**
for children ages 12 and
under, while supplies last

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST!**

\$5 BREAKFAST
2 Pancakes, 2 Sausages, and
1 Juice, while supplies last
(cash only)

**Community Center
& Senior Center**

5111 Benito St., Montclair

IMPORTANT:
Please bring your own bag or basket
to collect eggs and treats at the event

For more information please call: (909) 625-9479

**PRIZE
EGGS!**

and an opportunity drawing
for a large Easter Basket for
children ages 3-12

Presented by



**MONTCLAIR
FIRE FIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION**

Sponsored by the Montclair Community Activities Committee.

Honoring Those Who Served

City of Montclair

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

6:00 PM • Memorial Garden

*(LOCATED ADJACENT TO CITY HALL,
5111 BENITO ST., MONTCLAIR)*

- ★ **Patriotic Songs**
- ★ **Readings**
- ★ **Refreshments**



Join us for Montclair's annual Memorial Day Ceremony where we will be dedicating new plaques on our Veterans Memorial Wall and honoring those who have served our country.

The Veterans Memorial Wall pays tribute to deceased Montclair veterans from all branches of service whose families honor them by purchasing plaques. It remains an ongoing dedication to those who served our country during war or peacetime. New plaques for the Memorial Wall can be purchased annually and are dedicated every Memorial Day.

For more information call (909) 625-9479.



10th
Annual

SAVE
THE
DATE!

Country Fair

JAMBOREE

GAMES ★ FOOD TRUCKS ★ PETTING ZOO ★ CARNIVAL RIDES ★ PIE EATING
PONY RIDES ★ BANDS ★ ENTERTAINMENT ★ SPLASH PAD ★ CRAFT VENDORS

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024

12 - 6 PM

ALMA HOFMAN PARK
5201 BENITO ST., MONTCLAIR



**FUN CONTESTS
FOR ALL AGES**

PRESALE CARNIVAL WRISTBANDS AVAILABLE AT
SELECT LOCATIONS. VISIT WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION.

www.cityofmontclair.org/countryfairjamboree

FOR MORE EVENT
INFORMATION CALL

(909) 625-9479



FOR VENDOR AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION
CALL THE MONTCLAIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(909) 985-5104

BOYS AND GIRLS
ENTERING GRADES 1-8

City of Montclair

Summer Day Camp

*Get Ready for Montclair's
Summer of Super Fun!*

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Montclair Summer Day Camp offers supervised activities for boys and girls entering first through eighth grade (2024-25 school year) and is staffed with trained recreation personnel. Summer Day Camp fees include all arts and crafts, cooking supplies, movies, snacks, recreational swimming, special events and field trips. Each camper will receive a summer recreation T-shirt. Registration is taken on a first come, first served basis.

Dates: May 28 - August 2

City of Montclair Youth Center, 5111 Benito St., Montclair

Days: Mondays - Fridays, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Pre-registration: Monday, April 15 - Friday, May 24,
open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
at the Recreation Center (5111 Benito Street, Montclair 91763).

On-site Registration: May 28 - August 2 at the Youth Center
(5111 Benito Street, Montclair; camp site)

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Information: (909) 625-9482



GAMES



FIELD TRIPS



SHOWCASE

CAMP
BEGINS
MAY 28



ARTS &
CRAFTS



Summer Day Camp





February Birthday Party

Celebrate in Paris

February 28, 2024



Senior Citizens Club
St. Patrick's Day Dance
March 13, 2024



Montclair Tree Planting Events taking place
March 30 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Pacific Electric Trail

SUSTAINABLE CLAREMONT

Tree Plantings

Grow your urban forest!



For details and
registration:



**RSVP
REQUIRED!**



**GREEN
CREW**

This project is supported by funding from TreePeople, CAL FIRE, and the Proposition 68 Parks, Environment, and Water Bond Act of 2018.

www.sustainableclaremont.org

greencrew@sustainableclaremont.org