



OC GOLDEN GAZETTE

UNITED FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

OCGRW.ORG

Meetings held monthly except July, August & December

April 2026

Volume: 03 Issue: 04

OCGRW THIS MONTH



Wed 1st • April Fool's Day

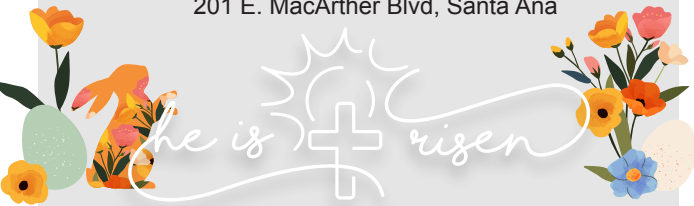
Fri 3rd • Good Friday

Sun 5th • Easter Sunday

Wed 8th • **OCGRW Board Meeting**
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Jan Day's home

Wed 15th • **OCGRW Luncheon Meeting**
Marbella Country Club
30800 Golf Club Dr, San Juan Capistrano
(More details on right)
10:30 AM – Check-in/Social
11:00 AM – Meeting Begins
11:30 AM – Lunch is Served
12:00 PM – Guest Speakers

Mon 19th • **OCGOP Central Committee Meeting**
7:00 PM, Hotel Zessa
201 E. MacArther Blvd, Santa Ana



For more OCGSRW events, information, ways to be involved and take action, please visit our website at ocgrw.org.

DISCLAIMER: No information transmitted through this newsletter is to be considered a position or endorsement. It is for information only.

NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING: APRIL 15TH

Guest Speakers:



Dr. Stephan Bean

Running for re-election as Superintendent of Education for Orange County. A USC graduate, Master's from Loyola Marymount University, and a Doctorate in Education Leadership from California State University Fullerton.

Laura Bassett

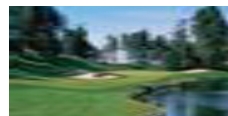
Raised in Oceanside, a USC accounting grad, mother of Six. Her campaign focuses are affordability, returning land use power to local lawmakers and ending the supermajority in Sacramento. She is opposing Catherine Blakespear for State Senate. It's time for change.



Armen Kurdian Running for 49th Congressional District

Served 25 years in the Navy; combat support during Operation Iraqi Freedom; serving on Palomar Airport Advisory Committee, Vista Chamber of Commerce, Co-leading Veterans Writing group, San Diego, His campaign is about service!

Next Luncheon Meeting



Date: Wednesday, April 15th, 2026
Time: Check in 10:30 AM | Meeting Starts at 11:00 AM
Price: \$40 Member | \$45 Non-Member

Reservations:

Must make reservations by Friday, April 10th
Please make reservations online: [SignUpGenius](https://www.signupgenius.com)
Payment will be made when you arrive at the meeting by check, cash, or via ZELLE. Please see the QR code inside this edition to make your payment.

Location:

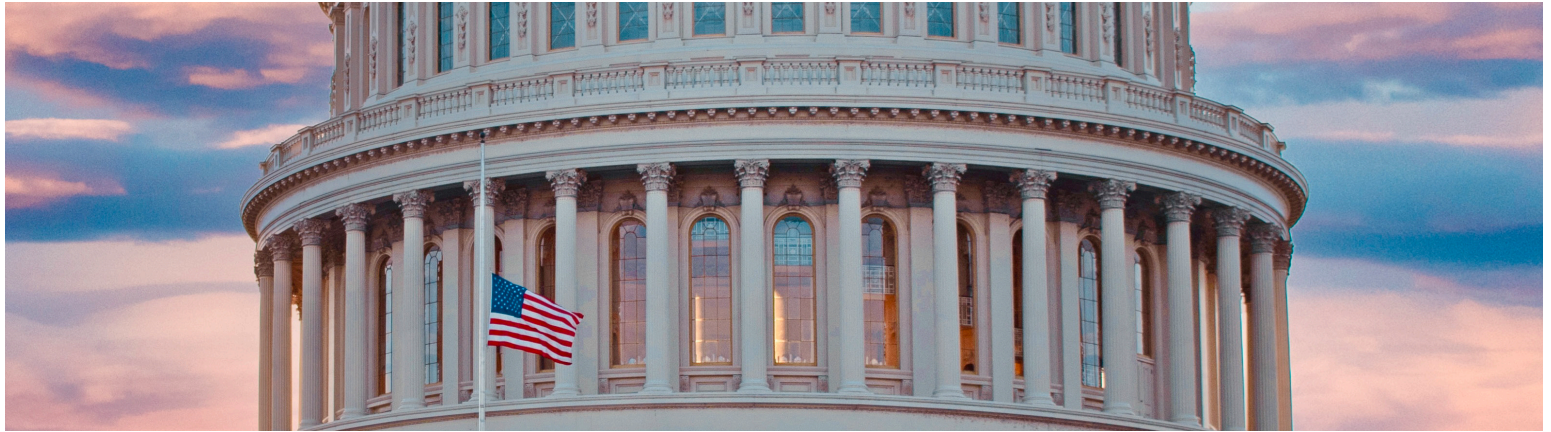
Marbella Country Club
30800 Golf Club Drive
San Juan Capistrano, CA

Please Note: We can no longer save seats. Only those members who hold a patron membership are allowed to have a seat saved for them. All others are first-come, first served. Please arrive early if you have multiple guests in order to find seats together.

COMING TOGETHER | WORKING TOGETHER

President's Message

"Midterm Elections Matter More Than Ever for Republican Voters"



Midterm elections in California may not always generate the same level of excitement as presidential races, but for Republican voters this year, they represent one of the most important opportunities to influence the state's direction. In a political environment where one party has long dominated statewide offices, this midterm offers a critical chance to restore balance, strengthen representation, and ensure that a wider range of voices are heard.

One of the most pressing reasons that midterm elections matter, is the impact they have on state governance. California's policies on taxation, business regulation, energy, public safety, and education affect millions of residents and often influence national trends. For many Republican voters, these issues are tied to concerns about affordability, economic growth, and government overreach.

Midterms are especially important when it comes to the state legislature. In a state where Democrats hold a strong majority, incremental gains by Republicans can make a meaningful difference. A stronger Republican presence can slow down this one-party decision-making and promote more balanced policymaking. It can prevent supermajorities that allow one party to pass tax increases or constitutional amendments with minimal opposition as we have seen for too long.

Voter turnout is another key factor as historically; midterm elections see lower participation. For Republican voters in California, this creates a real opportunity: showing up in greater numbers can narrow margins, flip competitive districts, and build momentum for future elections. I continue to impress upon all our members the importance of helping get out the vote in the June primary as well as in the November general election. Grassroots engagement—through volunteering, community outreach, and local organizing—can be especially impactful during midterms.

Local elections, often decided during midterm cycles, are another area where Republican voters can make significant gains. School boards, city councils, and county offices play a direct role in shaping policies. This makes the election of Diane Dixon for a seat on the Orange County board of supervisors extremely important as it is a practical entry point for increasing conservative representation and influence at the local level.

Ballot propositions also deserve close attention. California's system of direct democracy allows voters to weigh in on major policy questions, from tax policy to criminal justice. For Republican voters, midterms provide an opportunity to support measures that align with their priorities, such as limiting taxes, strengthening law enforcement, or increasing government accountability. As much as this gives citizens an even greater voice, it also requires voters to be well informed.

Midterm elections serve as a referendum on current leadership and this year's midterm election is a pivotal moment for California Republican voters. It will shape the state's leadership, influence national politics, and give voters a direct say in critical policy decisions. By participating in these elections, Republican voters can send a clear message about the direction they want California to take and at the same time play an essential role in guiding the future of the country. Voting in the Midterms Matters!



Linda Koelling,
President, OCGSRW



Register to Vote/Absentee Ballots/Election Questions: Orange County Registrar of Voters, 1300 South Grand Ave., Building C
Santa Ana, CA 92705 - Telephone: 714-567-7600 | Website: www.ocvote.com

Voter registration forms are also available at our General Meetings, at most U.S. Post Offices, at Public Libraries and the Orange County Republican Headquarters. Voter registration closes fifteen days prior to any election.



BRING A FRIEND AND RECEIVE 3 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS



NEW OR RENEWAL
\$45

PATRON
\$75

ASSOCIATE
\$35

2026 Membership

New & Renewal
Apply [HERE](#)
Zelle or check accepted

Bring a Guest
Invite a friend or neighbor

Lunch Fees
\$40 Member | \$45 Non-Member

Mail-In Address

Please mail check and application to:

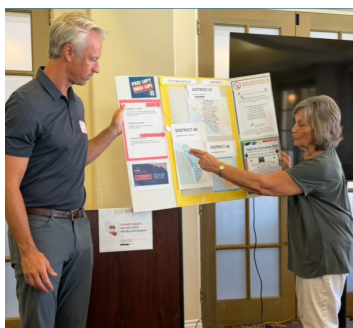
Orange County Golden State Republican Women
31103 Rancho Viejo Road,
Suite #D3292
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Membership Questions?
Jan Day, Chair | 714-747-6339

OCGSRW March Meeting Recap



Our March Luncheon meeting---Members heard Speakers Urson Russell & Michael Maxsenti



Making sense of the newly drawn congressional districts.....



Urson Russell picks a winning ticket for this member!



Michael Maxsenti



Treasurer Needed ASAP

I seriously love being Treasurer and being involved with OCGSRW. I'm simply not home enough to do this job and I don't want to not do it to the best of my abilities, so it's time to hand over the reins.

Requirements and responsibilities include:

- Proficient in Excel and Quicken
- Keep track of all club finances
- Check people into our monthly meetings
- Upload the per capita to GSRW
- Attend Board meetings
- Provide monthly reports
- Provide a yearly budget (2026 is already done)

If you're interested, please contact Linda Koeling at 650-464-2479.

Regards,
Carol Allen

**CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'
GOLDEN STATE REPUBLICAN WOMEN CONFERENCE**

By: Marilyn Parker

Kick off the Memorial Day Weekend with an adventure to beautiful Ventura and the 3rd annual GSRW Conference presenting workshops, great speakers, networking with Republican Women from all over California and destination venues for you to visit!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

Date May 29-31	Location Ventura Beach Marriott 2055 East Harbor Blvd. Ventura, CA
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Conference Includes

- Informative break-out sessions (bring your laptop if you'd like)
- Local candidates forum
- Fundraising tips
- Strategy to grow our clubs
- Meals
- Engaging speakers

Schedule

- Arrive Friday afternoon to your hotel; block room rates are available
- Saturday and Sunday Breakfast
- Saturday Lunch with 3 speakers, and Dinner with 2 speakers

Cost

Registration for the Conference is **\$250; Early bird price is good until April 30!** Don't miss it!
Notice to Members Only: OCGSRW club will subsidize part of the Registration cost for up to 5 attendees; ask a Board Member.



Sign Up!

Go to Website GSRW.org and click on Events and Register; Members please follow instructions to access Members' Only articles, as well.

Please join in and enjoy this exciting experience with Members of your Board!!

DID YOU KNOW????????????????

CALIFORNIA WEALTH/SAVINGS TAX INITIATIVE

California is considering a one-time wealth or savings tax targeting billionaires and high-net-worth residents, potentially raising tens of billions for state programs.

Overview of the Initiative:

California Democrats have proposed a wealth or savings tax aimed at the state's richest residents, often referred to as the 2026 Billionaire Tax Act. The initiative would impose a one-time tax of 5% on net worth exceeding \$1 billion, including assets such as stocks, bonds, real estate, business interests, savings accounts, and retirement holdings, with limited exemptions for certain pensions and Roth IRAs capped at \$10 million. Assemblyman Alex Lee previously introduced AB 259 and ACA 3, which

proposed a 1-1.5% annual tax on millionaires' worldwide net worth, potentially generating \$22 billion annually.

Legislative and Ballot Details

The initiative is designed to appear on the November 2026 ballot if enough signatures are collected. Amendments to the measure have removed retroactive provisions and clarified administrative authority, allowing the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to review determinations and rely on established state and federal tax principles. The initiative allocates \$50 million for initial administration and removes ongoing budget caps, giving the FTB flexibility for enforcement.

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Purpose and Revenue Use

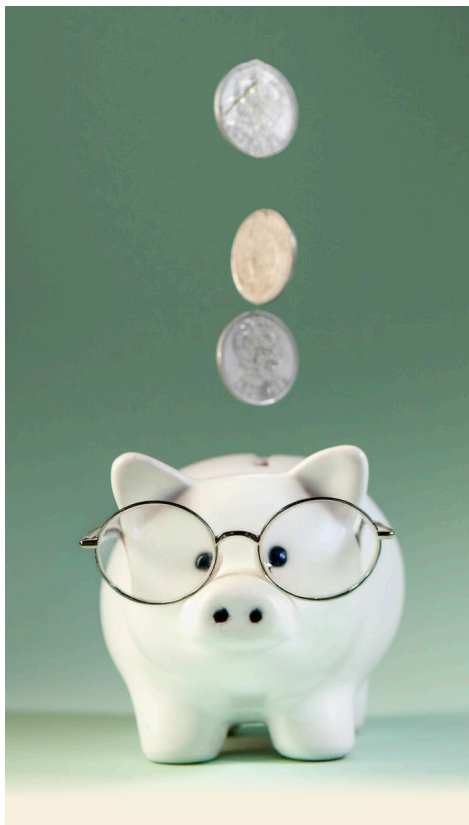
Proponents argue the tax ensures the wealthiest Californians pay their fair share and would fund programs such as healthcare, education, and food assistance, particularly in light of federal funding cuts to Medi-Cal. The measure is projected to raise \$25 billion for state programs. Supporters frame it as a fairness measure to maintain essential services, including for vulnerable populations.

Criticism and Concerns

Opponents, including Reform California Chairman Carl DeMaio, describe the tax as a punitive “savings tax” that could discourage saving and investment, potentially driving residents and businesses out of the state. Critics warn that taxing wealth could lead to revenue losses over time if high-net-worth individuals relocate, similar to concerns raised with prior income and property tax increases. Some also argue the tax could expand beyond billionaires to affect millionaires and eventually broader populations.

Review and Action from “Reform California” Economic and Legal Considerations

The initiative raises questions about administrative feasibility, valuation of complex assets, and potential legal challenges. It exempts itself from certain state spending



limits (Propositions 98 and 4), which has prompted additional competing initiatives aimed at limiting or modifying the tax. Legal experts note that wealth taxes are rare in the U.S., and California would be the first state to implement such a measure if passed.

Key Takeaways

Targets California billionaires and ultra-wealthy residents with a one-time 5% tax on net worth above \$1 billion. Includes stocks, bonds, real estate, business interests, savings, and retirement accounts in the tax base. Intended to fund healthcare, education, and social services, especially amid federal funding cuts.

Faces opposition over economic impact, potential resident flight, and expansion concerns.

Ballot eligibility depends on signature collection for November 2026.

This initiative represents a significant policy experiment in wealth taxation, with potential implications for California’s economy, tax policy, and the behavior of high-net-worth residents.

Reform California Launches Drive to Block New Savings Tax

See website: [Reform California Launches Drive to Block New Savings Tax](#)

Billionaires Bolt from Blue States Amid Tax Fears, Mirroring Rebellion in ‘Atlas Shrugged’ Novel

By: Dan Walters, Cal Matters

Ayn Rand was a Russian-born writer who immigrated to the United States in 1926, worked as a screenwriter and playwright and wrote several novels expressing an individualistic philosophy she called “objectivism.”

Rand’s novels and outspoken ideology were subjects of academic and media debate from the onset of her literary career, but controversy soared with the 1957 publication of her 1,168-page “Atlas Shrugged.” The novel describes a revolt by business executives, inventors, artists and other accomplished Americans who opposed suffocating taxes and regulations.

Rand likens the rebels to Atlas, a figure of Greek mythology who holds the world on his shoulders. But in Rand’s book, the characters shrug off their burden and retreat to a remote and invisible valley in Colorado dubbed Galt’s Gulch, named for the rebellion leader, John Galt.

This bit of literary history is offered because we’re seeing a flight of wealthy entrepreneurs from California and other blue states, due to regulations and taxes aimed specifically at them.

The most obvious example is the relocation of a handful of California’s 200 or so billionaires to such states as Florida, Nevada and Texas in response to a health care union’s proposed 5% tax on their wealth via a ballot measure in November. The proposal, if passed, would generate an estimated \$100 billion over four years, mostly to support health care services.

“This extraordinary wealth migration is reshaping south Florida: spurring development, tripling real estate prices for trophy properties (even as single-family home prices in the state have stagnated here) and amplifying demand for nannies, private chefs, exclusive golf club memberships and private schools,” the Los Angeles Times reported recently.

“They’re trying to kill and eat the golden goose of technology startups in California,” said Garry Tan, CEO of the startup incubator Y Combinator, in

a posting on X describing wealth tax advocates.

A bigger concern, at least in the Capitol, is that if billionaires flee, California’s budget would take a big hit on income tax revenues. The top 1% of California taxpayers now supplies nearly half of all income tax collections. Gov. Gavin Newsom opposes the wealth tax, calling it “really damaging to the state,” saying it will “drive away affluent residents,” and As Silicon Valley’s tech tycoons weigh whether to leave California, they are also pledging tens of millions of dollars to oppose the proposed measure and to qualify other measures that would hamstring its effects were it to pass.

“Of course they’re going to oppose this,” Jack Citrin, emeritus professor of political science at UC Berkeley, told the San Jose Mercury News. “They want to control what they do. They want to live a particular lifestyle. They want to give money to their heirs.”

The exodus of billionaires isn’t confined to California. New York City’s newly elected socialist mayor, Zohran Mamdani, wants that state’s Legislature to enact a spate of new taxes, but Gov. Kathy Hochul is opposed, worrying it could accelerate a leakage of wealthy New Yorkers. “I need people who are high net worth to support the generous social programs that we have in our state,” she said at a Politico forum last week.

Meanwhile Washington, one of the few U.S. states that don’t have an income tax, is on the verge of enacting one. Last week, its Legislature gave final approval to a 9.9% tax on incomes of \$1 million or more, and Gov. Bob Ferguson says he will sign it. As the tax loomed, Howard Schultz, founder of the Starbucks coffee shop chain, announced he’s relocating to Florida. Starbucks’ headquarters is moving to Tennessee.

It may not be the massive exodus that Rand depicts in Atlas Shrugged, but what’s happening certainly mirrors the novel’s underlying tensions.

POTENTIAL LITHIUM BATTERY STORAGE LOCATIONS



Update on the Lithium Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano

By: Fred Tarnay

We have all heard by now that the Compass Energy Project that would build a major Lithium battery storage facility in our backyard is no longer a viable undertaking by the developer.

Large Lithium Battery storage units have been known to spontaneously combust in the past and are difficult to extinguish sometimes burning for weeks releasing deadly fumes for miles around the facility.

These Battery storage projects are initiated and supported by the California Energy Commission (CEC) in order to help balance the grid by storing electricity and releasing it as needed to shore up high demands and prevent brownouts. While the rationale is commendable the actual implementation can cause serious problems when these storage sites are built inside of highly populated residential and commercial areas.

The companies that vie for a stake for building these facilities are put in a queue that the CEC draws from. What makes a site attractive to build Lithium Storage facilities is the site proximity to major transmission sites or tap points and sufficient land to build on. They are also profitable to build for the contractor.

In 2021 San Juan Capistrano received a letter of intent from ENGIE North America to begin the process of building a Lithium storage facility and Compass Energy Storage LLC, (a subsidiary of Engie North America) was tasked to procure land for the proposed facility which struck a potential purchase from Saddleback College for a 13-acre parcel site located within the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano, adjacent to Camino Capistrano and Interstate-5 to the east. It is in direct proximity to family homes and small businesses.

This prompted SJC and neighboring cities to band together to protect their neighborhoods and businesses by forming B.L.E.S.S.I.N (Banning Lithium Energy Storage Systems in Neighborhoods), a non-profit public benefits organization dedicated to protecting neighborhoods from

the dangers posed by lithium Battery Energy Storage Systems. The BLESSIN organization of combined cities and residents spent more than 18 months in developing a rationale for opposing the project. The final argument was that proximity to a desirable connection does not excuse proximity to a disaster for the local community or neighborhood. Major specifics outlined were:

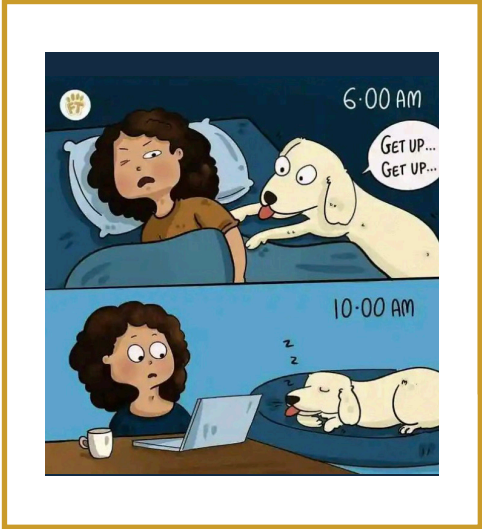
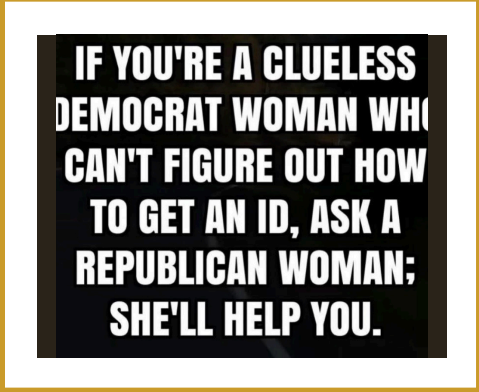
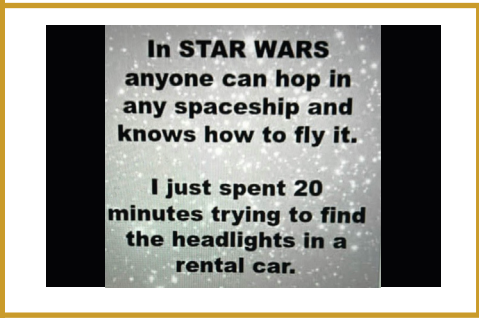
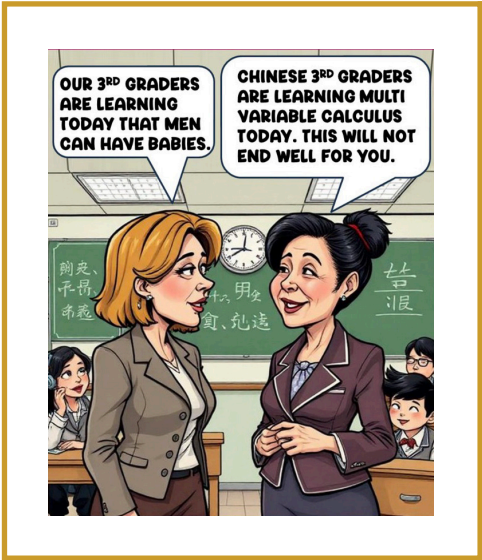
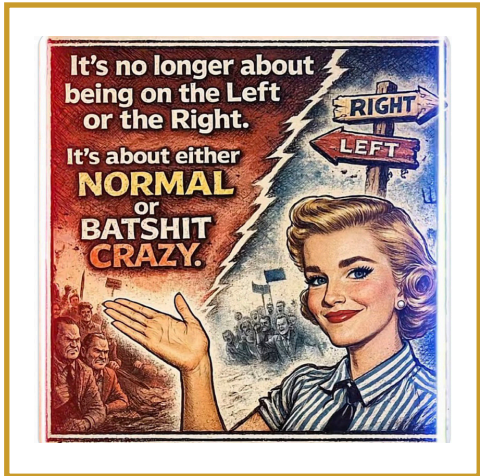
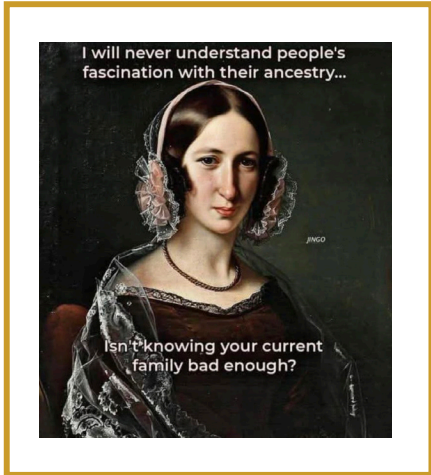
- High and very high fire severity zone
- Geotechnical instability of the area
- Community vulnerability
- Lack of direct benefit to the community
- Saddleback College pull back from the sale of the land.

Based on these actions and objections the developer asked the CEC for a "Suspension" or "Pause" rather than a cancellation of the site development primarily to maintain their position in the CEC queue.

Although the application for the San Juan Capistrano site remains open but currently 'suspended', Engie, the contractor has made it clear it intends to move forward with a project in South Orange County. Whether at the current SJC location or at a new site potentially between Trabuco and Capistrano, the search is actively focused within South OC. This means our homes, schools, and neighborhoods remain at risk — and continued community awareness and action are essential to protect our region.

The BLESSIN project consistently worked at a highly professional level at countering the Lithium Storage project even with the State behind it. The California State Assembly recently honored the BLESSIN project for their activism and BLESSIN also received a Commendation from the County of Orange for their work in protecting families, businesses as well as the environment.

JUST FOR LAUGHS



DIRECTORY OF STATE & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 71

Assemblywoman Kate Sanchez
Serves OC cities of Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, and unincorporated areas of Orange County

DISTRICT OFFICE
22342 Avenida Empresa Suite 275
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
949-459-7170
ad71.asmrc.org

STATE CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0071
916-319-2071

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 72

Assemblywoman Diane Dixon
Serves OC cities of Aliso Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, and Laguna Woods

DISTRICT OFFICE
4100 MacArthur Blvd. Suite 340
Newport Beach, CA 92660
949-798-7221
ad72.asmrc.org

STATE CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0072
916-319-2072

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 74

Assemblywoman Laurie Davies
Serves OC cities of Laguna Niguel, Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente

DISTRICT OFFICE
32332 Camino Capistrano Suite 102A
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
949-240-7300
ad74.asmrc.org

STATE CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0074
916-319-2074

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 37

Senator Dave Min (D)
DISTRICT OFFICE
2151 Michelson Dr Suite 258
Irvine, CA 92612
949-223-5472
Senator.Min@Senate.ca.gov

STATE CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O Street Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-651-4037

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 38

Senator Catherine Blakespear
DISTRICT OFFICE
24031 El Toro Rd Suite 201A
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
949-598-5850
Senator.Blakespear@Senate.ca.gov

STATE CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O Street Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-651-4038

<p>President Donald Trump (R) The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, D.C. 20500 202-456-1414 whitehouse.gov</p>	<p>Governor Gavin Newsom (D) Office of the Governor State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814 916-445-2841 gov.ca.gov</p>	<p>Katrina Foley, 5th Dist. Orange County Board of Supervisors 400 W. Civic Center Drive Santa Ana, CA 92701 714-834-3550</p>	<p>U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (D) Hart Building #154 Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-7000</p>
<p>U.S. Congressman Mike Levin (D-49th Dist.) 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 102 Dana Point, CA 92629 949-281-2449</p>	<p>U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D) 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-3553 202-228-3789</p>	<p>Don Wagner, 3rd Dist. OC Board of Supervisors 400 W Civic Center Dr. Santa Ana, CA. 92701 714-834-3330 Donald.wagner@ocgov.com</p>	





**ORANGE COUNTY
GOLDEN STATE
REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

31103 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite #D3292 • San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-1759

**STAY INFORMED!!
CITY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Check Council Meetings /Agendas

City of Aliso Viejo 12 Journey, Suite 100 Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 949-425-2500 avcity.org	City of Dana Point 33282 Golden Lantern Dana Point, CA 92629 949-248-3500 danapoint.org	City of Laguna Beach 505 Forest Avenue Laguna Beach, CA 92651 949-497-3311 lagunabeachcity.net
City of Laguna Hills 24035 El Toro Road Laguna Hills, CA 92653 949-707-2600 ci.laguna-hills.ca.us	City of Laguna Niguel 30111 Crown Valley Parkway Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 949-362-4300 cityoflagunaniguel.org	City of Laguna Woods 24264 El Toro Road Laguna Woods, CA 92637 949-639-0500 cityoflagunawoods.org
City of Lake Forest 100 Civic Center Drive Lake Forest, CA 92630 949-461-3400 lakeforestca.gov	City of Mission Viejo 200 Civic Center Mission Viejo, CA 92691 949-470-3000 cityofmissionviejo.org	City of Rancho Santa Margarita 22112 El Paseo Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 949-635-1800 cityofrsm.org
City of San Clemente 910 Calle Negocio 2 nd Floor San Clemente, CA 92673 949-361-8200 san-clemente.org	City of San Juan Capistrano 30448 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite 110 San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 949-493-1171 sanjuancapistrano.org	