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Subject: WAKE UP CA Newsletter #8 - June 5, 2026
Date: Jun 5, 2026 at 9:30:22 PM
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Newsletter Number 8

CRUCIAL NEEDS MISMATCHES parking and emergency equipment

WWW.WAKECA.ORG

For Affordability, Safety, and Local Accountability

BRINGING NEW ENERGY

SBCCOG: Solutions, Not Just Critique

We owe a round of thanks to our Monday guests, Jacki Bacharach and Wally Siembab of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments — SBCCOG — not just for their presentation but also for their COG’s work to create the RHNA Replacement document that we continue to share out. You can find it [here](#).

SBCCOG is not just pointing out RHNA’s flaws, it’s creating solutions with a public land trust. On Tuesday, papers reported forward movement in funding for a 100% affordable — 30%–50% AMI — 93 unit project on surplus public land.

*“There is not necessarily a lack of housing development,”
Bacharach said, “but there just are not enough affordable options
available.”*

*“They’ll build a 200-unit building with only 10 affordable units,”
she said, “and that creates new density with a very little affordable*

component.”

— JACKI BACHARACH, SBCCOG



A rendering of the Cordary Avenue Apartment Building. (Image courtesy of the South Bay Regional Housing Trust)

A rendering of the Cordary Avenue Apartment Building. Image courtesy of the South Bay Regional Housing Trust.

Note: this is the Southern California South Bay.

[READ THE STORY \(GIFT LINK\) →](#)

WHY WE'RE HERE

The Purpose of WAKE UP

We find each other. We educate.

We move forward with effective action.

We change the narrative.

We create a movement. We become visible.

Then we change the lawmakers — and the constitution.

Our meetings currently represent the first stage. Coming together on these calls gives us a valuable connection that keeps spreading. We are finding each other.

Rest assured, there is plenty going on behind the scenes, laying the groundwork.

As WAKE UP continues forward, we'll value every voice that comes along with us. We ask that you do what you can to make our efforts more successful. That can be as simple as sharing our information — or asking your group to opt in to our mailing list [here](#).

We are almost entirely volunteer, but as we grow, so do our expenses. Many of you know I've been at this for five years, self-funding. I have never asked for assistance. But I am asking for your help now, so we can be successful. I will never accept any compensation — but we have non-negotiable expenses. So please consider what this effort is worth to you, at your comfort level.

A million thanks to those of you who have already pitched in.

SUPPORT WAKE UP →

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WAKE UP Zooms — Mondays at 5:00 PM

Join us on the weekly call. Newcomers always welcome.

REGISTER →

PARKING, POLICY, AND REALITY

The Fay Apartments in San Jose

Elimination of On-Site Parking Requirements

Social engineering, or a cost-cutting measure for developers?

Apparently tenants still want buildings with parking. More on The Fay later — here's a gift link to the story published in the Mercury yesterday.



Are Californians ready to give up their cars? A San Jose apartment tower put that to the test

[mercurynews.com](https://www.mercurynews.com)

[READ THE STORY \(GIFT LINK\) →](#)

Another baffling story — about building housing on a commuter parking lot. The YIMBY jargon for this is “Housing for Cars becomes Housing for People” and “Cars to Casas.” What could go wrong?



BART plans major housing at East Bay station. The trade-off: 400 parking spots lost

[sfchronicle.com](https://www.sfchronicle.com)

[BART's West Oakland Station to lose 400 parking spaces →](#)

ON OUR RADAR

Two Manufacturers, One Country

A topic we'll get into soon: the shortage of emergency and firefighting equipment caused by industry consolidation, leaving only two manufacturers to service the entire country. Antitrust lawsuits are in the works.

This has been a problem nationwide as prices have skyrocketed — from six figures to millions of dollars — and delivery times can stretch up to three and a half years.

This affects California in several ways that are never combined in one story. Budget deficits before 2020 meant cities put off repairs and replacement. Finances are worse now. Unfunded mandates mean the state has left us vulnerable — while forcing localities to approve dense development in fire-prone areas.

A real-world example: LA has 183 fire trucks, but while the Palisades and Altadena burned, over half were out of commission.



San Diego files antitrust suit, joining county's legal fight over alleged fire truck maker monopoly

[sandiegouniontribune.com](https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com)

The latest: San Diego Union-Tribune, April 2026 (gift link).

THE BACKSTORY: NYT (GIFT LINK) →

MORE TO COME.

As we grow, so do our expenses.

Please consider a donation to help us continue our quality work.

DONATE

— *Amy Kalish, President and founder*

WAKE UP CALIFORNIA — Mill Valley, CA

A volunteer-run 501(c)(4) nonprofit

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