

# TRUMP REJECTS CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE

2009 EPA finding had affirmed greenhouse gases are a threat to health and welfare.

By HAYLEY SMITH  
AND IAN JAMES

The Trump administration on Thursday reversed the U.S. government's long-standing scientific conclusion that planet-heating pollution seriously threatens Americans, erasing a foundational piece of the country's efforts to address climate change. California, with its ambitious goals for cutting emissions, immediately announced it will sue the administration to block the decision.

The repeal of the 2009 endangerment finding — a conclusion based on decades of science that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare — represents one of the biggest environmental rollbacks in U.S. history, and the latest in a series of actions by President Trump to scrap policies and regulations designed to curb the use of fossil fuels and accelerate the transition to clean energy.

The administration on Thursday also dismantled all federal emissions regulations governing vehicle models and engines between 2012 and 2027 and beyond.

"Today, the Trump EPA has finalized the single largest act of deregulation in the history of the United States of America, referred to by some as the holy grail of federal regulatory overreach," said Lee Zeldin, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. "The 2009 Obama EPA endangerment finding is now eliminated."

The action will restore consumer choice, make more affordable vehicles available for American families, decrease the cost of living on all products by lowering the cost of trucks, and save Americans more than \$1.3 trillion by removing regulatory requirements for motor vehicle standards, Zeldin said, though experts questioned that number.

"This is a big one if you're into the environment — this is about as big as it gets," Trump said.

Experts and scientists condemned the action. The Environmental Protection Network — a bipartisan group of more than 700 former staff and appointees at the Environmental Protection Agency — described it as "unprecedented and dangerous."

"This move is a fundamental betrayal of EPA's responsibility to protect human health," said Joseph Goffman, former assistant administrator of the EPA [See [Climate](#), A12]



Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times  
**SHIMICA GASKINS**, top right, and Gina Clayton-Johnson, who both lost their homes in the January 2025 fires, hug in front of west Altadena residents. Black Altadena residents disproportionately experienced damage, researchers found.

# Civil rights probe of Eaton fire response

State will examine if bias played a part in the county's delays in Altadena evacuation.

By GRACE TOOHEY

More than a year after the devastating Eaton fire — and following months of mounting pressure from survivors — California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta has opened a civil rights investigation into fire preparations and response, looking particularly at potential disparities in historically Black west Altadena.

"My office will be investigating whether there was race, age, or disability discrimination in the emergency response in west Altadena," Bonta said Thursday. "Specifically, we'll be looking at whether the systems and structures at play contributed to a delay in the county's evacuation notice."

The investigation comes after a series of Times investigations found that west Altadena, a historically Black community, received late evacuation alerts and limited firefighting resources as the fire raged out of control — particularly when com-

pared with the more affluent eastern half of the unincorporated town.

Fire damage was particularly widespread in west Altadena, and almost all of the fire's 19 deaths occurred there — among them a 54-year-old woman whose family claimed she died because of the delayed evacuation alerts.

Black Altadena residents disproportionately experienced damage from the conflagration, researchers have found.

Those issues have stirred growing concern and anger in west Altadena, where residents — most of whom are still displaced — have continued to demand answers about the failed evacuation alerts and disparate resources, with little success. Thursday's announcement, however, brought a renewed sense of hope for accountability and oversight, for Altadena as well as other disadvantaged communities that may soon face climate-related emergencies.

"This is a win for more than Altadena. The history of climate disaster is also a history of abandoning Black and brown people, disabled people, elderly people," Gina Clayton-Johnson, a leader of [See [Altadena](#), A7]

# ICE operation in Minnesota ending

MINNEAPOLIS — The Trump administration is ending the immigration crackdown in Minnesota that led to thousands of arrests, violent protests and the fatal shootings of two U.S. citizens over the last two months, border policy advisor Tom Homan said Thursday.

The operation called the Department of Homeland Security's "largest immigration enforcement operation ever" has been a flash point in the debate over President Trump's mass deportation efforts, flaring up after federal immigration officers killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation focused on the Minneapolis-St. Paul area resulted in more than 4,000

Federal officials call it a success; critics call for more accountability

By Steve Karnowski



ALEX KORMANN Minnesota Star Tribune  
**A PROTESTER** is arrested during demonstrations that rocked not just Minnesota but the entire U.S.

arrests, Homan said, touting it as a success.

"The surge is leaving Minnesota safer," he said. "I'll say it again, it's less of a sanctuary state for criminals."

The announcement marks a significant retreat from an operation that has become a major distraction for the Trump administration and has been more volatile than prior crackdowns in Chicago and Los Angeles. It comes as a new AP-NORC poll found that most U.S. adults say Trump's immigration policies have gone too far.

But Trump's border advisor pledged that immigration enforcement won't end when the Minnesota operation is over.

"President Trump made [See [Minnesota](#), A6]

# Bondi is accused of spying on Congress

By ERIC TUCKER AND  
ALANNA DURKIN RICHER

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said Thursday that he did not think it was appropriate for the Justice Department to be tracking the search histories of lawmakers who are reviewing files from the Jeffrey Epstein investigation.

The rare rebuke to the Trump administration came as photographs emerged revealing an apparent index of records reviewed by a Democratic member of Congress who was among the lawmakers given an opportunity to read less-redacted versions of the Epstein files at a department annex and on department-owned computers.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, asked the Department of Justice's inspector general to investigate what he characterized as "spying," and Johnson, a close ally of President Trump, offered his own scolding when asked about the issue Thursday.

"I think members should obviously have the right to peruse those at their own speed and with their own discretion. I don't think it's appropriate for anybody to be tracking that," Johnson told reporters. "I will echo that to anybody involved with the DOJ — and I'm sure it was an oversight."

The Justice Department said in a statement that, as part of the process of permitting lawmakers to review the Epstein files, it "logs all searches made on its systems to protect against the release of victim information."

Photographs taken during Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi's hearing before the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday showed her with a printout that said "Jayapal Pramila Search History" and listed a series of documents that apparently were reviewed. Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) was among the committee members who pressed Bondi during the hearing about the de- [See [Files](#), A7]

# Case to deport Marines' dad dismissed

By RUBEN VIVES  
AND BRITNY MEJIA

A federal immigration judge has ended the deportation case against Narciso Barranco, the Mexican father of three U.S. Marines whose arrest on video showing masked federal agents pinning him down and punching him outside an IHOP in Southern California went viral last year.

Rigo Hernandez, 44, told

The Times that the judge terminated his stepfather's case during a virtual hearing on Jan. 28.

"It was the third case the judge heard that day," Hernandez said in a phone interview. "It was nerve-racking."

Barranco, 49, made national headlines when Border Patrol agents took him into custody on June 21 while he tended to some grass with a weed whacker outside a Santa Ana IHOP.

The arrest was caught on

video that was shared on social media, and soon after, his eldest son was granting interviews to the media, keeping his father's case in the news cycle, pushing for his release. Alejandro Barranco, a Marine veteran, told The Times then that his father had been pepper-sprayed and that his shoulder had been dislocated.

At the time, the Department of Homeland Security denied Barranco's shoulder had been dislocated and

blasted him on social media, accusing him of assaulting federal law enforcement with the weed whacker. In a statement after the incident, the agency claimed Barranco "ran, then turned and swung a weed whacker directly at an agent's face. He then fled through a busy intersection and raised the weed whacker again at the agent."

But Barranco's family said that he ran away be- [See [Father](#), A6]

# Big win for biologists tracking rare red fox

By CLARA HARTER

The Sierra Nevada red fox is one of the nation's rarest and most critically threatened mammals with fewer than 50 believed to remain. And now, for the first time, a specimen has been successfully fitted with a GPS collar and released back into the wild, marking a major victory for conservation efforts to protect it.

The species' existence in the Sierra Nevada was confirmed only in 2010 when a motion camera north of Yosemite National Park captured a photo of the elusive

vulpine and its white-tipped tail. Researchers previously believed the fox was wiped out from the region in the 1920s.

For the last decade, wildlife biologists have been using remote cameras and scat surveys to track the movements of the fox in the southern Sierra. For the last three years, they have been carrying out intensive trapping efforts.

But the fox has proved difficult to capture. The speedy and delicate animal is extremely wary of humans. The few remaining foxes live in barren, rugged [See [Red fox](#), A6]

MILAN-CORTINA OLYMPICS

KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV AFP/Getty Images

A STAR FALLS SHORT

Chloe Kim of the U.S. had to settle for the silver after taking a spill in the halfpipe. Her protege from South Korea captured the gold. **SPORTS, D1**

**Barbie maker takes earnings hit**

Mattel announces weak holiday-season sales and expects another slow year as the iconic doll's products struggle. **BUSINESS, A10**

**UCLA professor in Epstein files**

Amid fallout, he regrets emails with disgraced financier in which he sought funding for his work. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**Weather**

Sunshine.  
L.A. Basin: 73/48. **B5**

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**Opinion Voices ..... A13**

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