

Public battles to keep control of coast

Hundreds rally against a federal move that could result in limiting California’s oversight.

By ROSANNA XIA

In a striking demonstration of support, hundreds of fired-up Californians rallied in Santa Monica to speak out against the Trump administration’s attempt to wrest local control over the state’s treasured coastline.

The Golden State’s top environmental leaders, along with prominent elected officials, environmentalists, business coalitions, community activists, Indigenous groups and everyday citizens, packed a public hearing Monday before the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Coastal Management, which has been tasked with conducting an unprecedented investigation that could ultimately strip California of its power to say no to federal projects.

Experts see the investigation — framed as a performance review of the state’s coastal management practices — as a thinly veiled attempt by Trump officials to open California’s coast to more offshore oil drilling, more rocket launches and possibly even floating nuclear reactors. If the federal government succeeds, many worry it could set the stage for similar actions in other coastal states.

“I’m scared, not because we haven’t built something worth protecting — we have. I’m scared because this meeting is performance theater. In some ways, the decision seems already made,” said Maureen Ellenberger, a resident of Santa Barbara who said she is haunted by the possibility of another oil spill. “But I’m speaking today anyway, so there’s a record. So years from now ... everyone will know we fought, that we did not consent.”

Citing California’s “environmental extremism,” Trump officials are attempting to decertify the state’s authority under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The act grants coastal states the right to review and object to any project in federal waters that clashes with state policy.

[See Coast, A6]



CARLIN STIEHL For The Times

BEDS THAT previously went uncounted at Union Rescue Mission caused nearly half of the reported increase.

A new threat to trust in elections

As prediction markets sow doubt, L.A. officials study voting safeguards

By JUSTINE MCDANIEL

Los Angeles County election officials are examining steps ahead of the November midterms to respond to the rising popularity of election trading via prediction markets, including a possible ban on wagering for county election workers.

The discussions follow a fracas during the June ballot count, when a handful of influencers suggested fraud could be occurring in L.A.’s

mayoral primary because the results began diverging from the market’s prediction.

That incident, the most prominent interaction of prediction markets and a U.S. election to date, revealed a new dynamic in the battle for public trust in elections. Now, election administrators around the country are considering the possible implications of the markets’ forecasts, including whether they have the power to affect voter confidence in election

results.

“We’re ... trying to find our way in this,” L.A. County Registrar-Recorder Dean Logan said in an interview. “It’s opened up a lot of questions that we’re grappling with.”

Three months before the midterms, with much of the American public concerned about democracy and trust in elections dropping, officials are paying attention to anything that could create further uncertainty around how elections are run.

The midterm contests are high stakes for both parties, which are battling for control of Congress amid a difficult economy, the war against Iran and low approval ratings for President Trump. And many Americans are wagering on what might happen — users have traded nearly \$200 million on the midterm elections so far, a July analysis by NBC News found.

Prediction market platforms and their proponents [See Elections, A7]

An elaborate ruse to spirit Trump away

Threat from Iran led to shell game with planes in Turkey, report says

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Trump secretly flew out of last month’s NATO summit in Ankara, Turkey, on an alternate military aircraft while the White House made it appear that the president was flying on Air Force One, the Washington Post reported.

The Post said Monday that the operation was prompted by an Iranian assassination threat against Trump. The ruse was carried out as journalists and some White House staff members were led to believe they were on the same plane as the president as he began his journey back to Washington from the annual gathering of leaders of North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries.

The Post cited material reviewed by the newspaper, a U.S. official familiar with the operation and another

[See Ruse, A6]



ALEX BRANDON Associated Press

CATERING trucks are parked at Air Force One in Ankara, Turkey, on July 8, the day President Trump departed after a NATO summit.

Words may haunt him in Shakur murder trial

By RICHARD WINTON



DAVID BECKER Pool Photo

DEFENDANT Duane “Keffe D” Davis has spoken extensively about his role on the night of the killing.

their case.

That’s because Davis has spoken extensively about his role in the case, including in interviews with Los Angeles police and the media, in a 2019 tell-all book and during several bragging interviews done to promote the publication.

Prosecutors aren’t accusing him of pulling the trigger. Rather, they say Davis masterminded the killing and provided the gun as an act of revenge over an escalating gang feud.

Davis has since disavowed some of his comments, but a judge ruled them admissible in court.

In his memoir “Compton Street Legend,” Davis said he and his crew were in Vegas with plans to watch Mike Tyson fight Bruce Seldon. They learned that Davis’ cousin Orlando “Baby Lane” Anderson had [See Shakur, A8]

Cleanup ordered for toxic South L.A. site

State agency says land near homes and park seems a ‘major source of contamination.’

By KORI MCNAIR

The California toxic substances agency ordered the cleanup of a site in the Central-Alameda neighborhood of Los Angeles, citing what “appears to be a major source of contamination” that “may present a substantial hazard to human health.”

Four Star Chemical and American Labs operated in the late 1970s and 1980s at 5701 Compton Ave., handling hazardous waste. When the site was last tested, solvents were found in the soil below the pavement and down 150 feet. The company has been closed for 38 years.

“You smell all types of stuff around here,” said Barry Jenkins, a resident who has lived in the neighborhood for more than 50

Glitch inflated uptick in homeless count

Recurring reporting problem in Skid Row distorts L.A. agency’s annual survey.

By DOUG SMITH AND DAVID ZAHNISER

Deep in the data sheets published last month with the 2026 homeless count was a surprising statistic about change in Skid Row.

According to the records, the downtown Los Angeles district’s homeless population swelled last year by more than 800 people, an increase of 24%. Those numbers accounted for more than half of the city’s troubling 3.4% increase, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, which conducts the count.

The reality was much less alarming. Most of that growth was attributed to 614 more people occupying shelter beds than the year before. Those beds existed. But they weren’t new. In fact, they had been occupied for decades.

For reasons loosely tied to relations between church and state, they’ve been included some years in the annual count but left out in other years, one of many erratic variables that make precise and reliable quantification of the city’s homelessness problem all but impossible.

Because of the many variables, it’s impossible to say exactly how the city’s trend line would have changed if the beds were counted correctly each year.

A rough calculation suggests that last year’s citywide overall homelessness number still would have displayed an increase, but by a more modest rate of just under 1.9%, not 3.4%.

The effect would have been the opposite in prior years, rendering two successive decreases in citywide homelessness marginally less impressive. A 5.5% decrease over two years would be shaved to 4.1%.

Mayor Karen Bass, whose record on homelessness is a key issue in her bid for reelection, said LAHSA officials did not tell her office about the discrepancies before the numbers were released.

“Absolutely not,” she said when asked Monday.

She added that she has [See Count, A7]

Euthanasia rate for cats increases

As L.A. city shelters are overwhelmed, especially with kittens, activists urge better spay-neuter efforts. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Typo led to a violent arrest

Civilian oversight group finds San Francisco police used unnecessary force against innocent man. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Zuckerberg lays out vision for AI

Head of Meta promotes open-source models, at odds with some rivals, as the Silicon Valley debate deepens. **BUSINESS, A10**

Weather

Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 83/68. **B5**

