

Lawmakers vote to strengthen water oversight

[Water, from B1] this oversight authority to "make sure the system is working and that we actually have enough water for everybody."

"This is essential to their ability to ensure that we have a sustainable water system in our state," Allen said.

The legislation says state water regulators may investigate claims of pre-1914 or riparian water rights, issue an order for information and, after a hearing, curb any unauthorized water use.

If an investigation reveals that a water supplier has been taking more water than it is entitled to, the State Water Board can use its enforcement powers to make that stop.

The bill is among a list of reform proposals that experts have suggested to improve oversight and management of California's water rights system.

The bill is long overdue and provides the water board "clear and unchallengeable authority to enforce the water rights system," said Jennifer Harder, a law professor at University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law.

She noted that prominent advocates of the change included the late Clifford Lee, a retired deputy attorney general who last year helped lead a group of experts in presenting reform proposals, as well as Jonas Minton, a water policy expert and environmentalist who organized the group. Both men died last year.

Lee and Minton believed the bill "was a critical first step to ensuring a sensible



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

THE LEGISLATION, which is expected to be sent to Gov. Gavin Newsom for signing, authorizes the state to investigate even pre-1914 water rights claims.

and cohesive water rights system" for California in the 21st century, Harder said. "That wouldn't be a good situation."

Green Nylen and other legal experts recently published a state-funded report with recommendations for legislative and policy changes to improve oversight and management of water rights. She said the legislation partially addresses one of their recommendations and should make it easier for the board to exercise its authority more frequently.

California's complex system of water rights took shape starting in the mid-1800s, when settlers saw the state's water as abundant, and when a Gold Rush prospector could stake claim to river flows simply by nailing a notice to a tree.

State officials are now working on a project to modernize California's wa-

ter rights information system by digitizing millions of paper records. Officials have said that even those extensive records in many cases don't include original documents that show proof of pre-1914 water rights, which were grandfathered in under the 1913 Water Commission Act. That act established a permit process for rights from then on.

Some other bills that would reform water laws have stalled in the Legislature but may still be voted on next year. They include Assembly Bill 460, which would strengthen the water board's enforcement powers to stop illegal water diversions and increase fines for violators, and AB 1563, which would require local ground-water management agencies to weigh in on applications for well-drilling permits.

Some Californians would like to see deeper changes,

arguing that the current water rights system should be dismantled. Those who are pushing for such an overhaul argue the water rights system is antiquated and unjust, with roots in California's history of violence against Indigenous people and racism that prevented nonwhite people from securing rights in the 1800s and early 1900s.

They also argue the system shortchanges environmental needs and won't be sufficient for dealing with scarcity in the future.

The bill that was approved focuses on ensuring that those with senior water rights are obeying the rules and have valid rights, but that measure, like other proposals in the Legislature, doesn't address the system's inequities or negative consequences, said Max Gomberg, a former water board official who works with environmental advocates and has criticized the Newsom administration's policies.

"It's the whole system that needs to be redone," Gomberg said.

"There is no good reason to have continued priority for stuff that was just claimed over 100 years ago, not when we face all these issues of scarcity," Gomberg said. "Everyone who is not one of those water rights holders would benefit from a change in the system."

He said he'd like to see the water rights system scrapped and replaced with a new framework that prioritizes the needs of communities, the environment and "basic food security." He suggested that a ballot measure would be one way to remake the system.

"I think there is no effective and equitable climate adaptation in the West — this goes beyond California — without remaking it," Gomberg said. "If it doesn't get remade, every other thing that we do to try to adjust to our changing and aridifying climate will be insufficient."

Last year, a coalition of tribes and environmental groups sought to challenge how the state manages water by filing a civil rights complaint with the Environmental Protection Agency, accusing the state water board of discriminatory practices and mismanagement contributing to the ecological deterioration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The EPA announced in August that it has begun an investigation.

In their complaint, the tribes and environmental groups said the decline of the ecosystem in the delta is "rooted in white supremacy" because the rights of tribes were ignored when the water rights system was established, and because people of color were prevented from securing water rights well into the early 20th century.

They argued that out-of-date water quality standards in the delta have led to collapsing fish populations and worsening toxic algae blooms, and demanded that the water board update water quality standards.

State water officials have said they are committed to working with tribes and have taken various steps to address historical inequities, such as adopting a racial equity plan.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Legal Notices

Public Notice
Estate of Beryl E. Lashley Unknown heirs of Beryl E. Lashley deceased on November 22, 2021. You are hereby notified that the Personal Representative of the above Estate has filed a First and Final Accounting at the Register of Wills, Sussex County, 5 East Pine Street, Georgetown DE 19947. Beryl E. Lashley resided at 8 Hoornhill Avenue, Lewes, DE 19958. Anyone who is a beneficiary for this Estate, the account will be open for your inspection and exception for three months from the date of this notice.

EMPLOYMENT

1500

Employment

JOB Admin Support/Data Entry This position is responsible for assisting with various accounting tasks, such as data entry, recordkeeping, reconciliations, and general administrative support. Brismithdouble07@gmail.com

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SWHIK
PRIVE
DISBEE
FRYADT

NO MATTER WHICH DIRECTION SHE LOOKED FROM 1,000 FEET, THE HAWK HAD A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumbles: GRANT WOOLY EXPEND INNING
Answers: When they saw that their collie had tunneled his way out, they thought -- "DOG-GONE-IT"

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FAMILY LAW

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
Case Number: FDI-23-797984

Petitioner: Maya Turner Holcomb
Respondent: Corey Lamont Holcomb
PETITION FOR: Dissolution (Divorce) of Marriage
LEGAL RELATIONSHIP We are married.
RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS Petitioner has been a resident of this state for at least six months and of this county for at least three months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition. (For a divorce, at least one person in the legal relationship described in items 1a and 1c must comply with this requirement.)
STATISTICAL FACTS: Date of marriage (specify): July 2, 2003
Date of Separation (specify): February 13, 2023
Time from date of marriage to date of separation: 19 years 7 months.
Petitioner requests that the court make the following orders:
DIVORCE, irreconcilable differences.
SPOUSAL OR DOMESTIC PARTNER SUPPORT: Spousal or domestic partner support payable to Petitioner. Terminate (end) the court's authority to award support to Respondent.
SEPARATE PROPERTY: Confirm as separate property the assets and debts in the following list. The assets have yet to be ascertained and will be disclosed pursuant to further discovery and financial disclosures.
COMMUNITY AND QUASI - COMMUNITY PROPERTY: Determine rights to community and quasi-community assets and debts. All such assets and debts are listed as follows: The assets have yet to be ascertained and will be disclosed pursuant to further discovery and financial disclosures.
OTHER REQUESTS: Attorney's fees and costs payable by Respondent. Petitioner's former name be restored to: Maya Lian Brockington.
Court's Name/Mailing Address/ Telephone number is as follows:
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Civic Center Courthouse
400 McAllister St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are:
Michael Strebe
Lewellen Strebe Hopper P.C.
50 Osgood Place, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 818-1106 (415) 276-2980
michaelst@sfhg.com

SUMMONS (Family Law)

Case No. FDI-23-797984

Notice to Respondent:
COREY LAMONT HOLCOMB
You have been sued. Read the information below.
Petitioner's name is:
MAYA TURNER HOLCOMB
You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you.
If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.
For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.
Tiene 30 días de calendario después de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citación y Petición para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica o una audiencia de la corte no basta para protegerlo. Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar órdenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte también le puede ordenar que pague manutención, y honorarios y costos legales. Para asesoramiento legal, pongase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener información para encontrar un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) en el sitio web de los Servicios Legales de California (www.lawhelpca.org) o poniéndose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado.
NOTICE—RESTRAINING ORDERS ARE ON PAGE 2: These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.
AVISOR – LAS ÓRDENES DE RESTRICCIÓN SE ENCUENTRAN EN LA PÁGINA 2: Las órdenes de restricción están en vigencia en cuanto a ambos cónyuges o miembros de la pareja de hecho hasta que se despida la petición, se emita un fallo o la corte dé otras órdenes. Cualquiera agencia del orden público que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas órdenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de California.
FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.
EXENCIÓN DE CUOTAS: Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida el secretario un formulario de exención de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a petición de usted o de la otra parte.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE LA BREA TAR PITS MASTER PLAN PROJECT

The County of Los Angeles (County), acting as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan (project). The Draft EIR is being circulated for review and comment by agencies, organizations, and individuals who have interest in the project. La Brea Tar Pits, the George C. Page Museum (Page Museum), and associated facilities are owned by the County but are managed by the non-profit Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation (Foundation). The County, as Lead Agency, acting through the Foundation, proposes a redevelopment, or "reimagining," of the 13-acre La Brea Tar Pits site.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The public review period for the Draft EIR will be from September 11 to October 26, 2023. All comments received by the closing of the public review period will be responded to and considered in the Final EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: The 13-acre La Brea Tar Pits project site is located within the eastern and northwestern portions of the 23-acre Hancock Park (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 5508-016-902), 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Cross streets for the project site are Wilshire Boulevard, South Curson Avenue, and West 6th Street.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project would result in upgrades to the 13-acre La Brea Tar Pits site, including renovations to the Page Museum and the development of a new museum northwest of the Page Museum (40,000 gross square feet). The project would also include improvements to the existing tar pit facilities, modifications to the configuration of the pedestrian paths, and improvements to the recreational areas within the site. Enhanced landscaping would be added throughout the project site, including native vegetation planting and the addition of three biofiltration features to improve stormwater management. The two existing entrances, at Wilshire Boulevard and South Curson Avenue and at West 6th Street, would both be renovated and the parking lot would be relocated 50 to 70 feet to the north.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIR identifies Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation for: aesthetics, air quality, archaeological resources, biological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise and vibration, recreation, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. The Draft EIR identifies Significant and Unavoidable environmental impacts for: historical resources, land use and planning, and transportation. The project site is not located on a list of hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (i.e., the Cortese List).

PUBLIC MEETING: You are invited to a community open house to learn more about the proposed La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan on Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the project site outdoors between the Page Museum entrance and the Lake Pit. The address of La Brea Tar Pits is 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Translations into other languages can be made available upon request. Please submit translation requests to Inegritto@nhm.org or contact Leslie Negritto at (213) 763-3303. Please provide at least 7 business days to address translation requests. Disponemos de servicios de traducción a otros idiomas si lo necesita. Envíe sus solicitudes de traducción a Inegritto@nhm.org o comuníquese con Leslie Negritto at (213) 763-3303. Necesitaremos al menos siete días hábiles para trabajar en las solicitudes de traducción.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND COMMENTS: During the 45-day public review period, the Draft EIR is available at the following locations during each facility's normal operating hours: Page Museum Front Ticketing Counter, 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036 Julian Dixon Library, 4975 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230 View Park Bebe Moore Campbell Library, 3854 West 54th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043 West Hollywood Library, 625 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069 The public is also encouraged to visit the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County website to review project documents at: https://tarpits.org/reimagine

Written comments on the Draft EIR should be post-marked or emailed no later than 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time on Monday, October 26, 2023, and should be addressed to: Leslie Negritto, Chief Operating Officer Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County 900 Exposition Boulevard Los Angeles, California 90007 email: Inegritto@nhm.org

PUBLIC HEARING Following the receipt of public comments on the Draft EIR, a Final EIR will be developed and a public hearing on the project and Final EIR will be scheduled before the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors at a time, date, and location to be determined. The public hearing will be properly noticed. 9/11/2023