

## A broad water plan is adopted for state

California framework for conservation will apply to about 400 urban suppliers.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

After years of deliberation, California water officials have adopted landmark rules that will guide future water use and conservation in the state.

According to officials, the Making Conservation a California Way of Life framework will help save 500,000 acre-feet of water annually by 2040 — enough to supply more than 1.4 million households for a year — and apply to the state's largest water utilities, not individuals or households.

Under the new regulations, roughly 400 urban water suppliers will need to meet individualized water-use targets and conservation goals, among other directives. Some agencies will be required to cut water usage by more than 30% within the next 16 years.

The measures are intended to help preserve water supplies as climate change drives hotter, drier conditions. The five-member State Water Resources Control Board voted unanimously Wednesday to adopt the rules, which stem from two 2018 bills that called for the creation of new standards.

"As we think of the Colorado River, the Bay Delta, the stressed watersheds from which much of the urban supply comes into our cities and communities, we need to show — for other states and for ourselves — that we're taking steps to ease that burden," chair Joaquin Esquivel said during the board meeting. He added that such efforts are needed "especially in dry times, but through all water year types, in order to ensure that we all continue to have ample supply and thriving communities."

The framework marks a shift from the one-size-fits-all approach that governed California water for years, such as the mandatory 25% statewide water reductions ordered by Gov. Jerry Brown during the 2012-to-'16 drought. The new rules will instead enable suppliers to weigh local factors such as climate, population and lot size, and to account for previous investments in conservation.

Its approval comes after considerable revisions [See [Water](#), A8]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

**ELENA MALONE**, with husband Joshua Ryan and kids Ruby and Amos, thought her dreams had come true when they bought their home in Sun Valley. Nobody warned them of the problems next door.

## Hoarder neighbor turned dream home to nightmare

Sun Valley grapples with a resident's hazardous, makeshift dump

BY HARRIET RYAN

For a pair of schoolteachers crammed into a rental with their children, the house for sale in Sun Valley was a dream come true: a modern hacienda with three bedrooms, fireplaces, exposed beams and an open kitchen on half an acre of lush landscaping, with fountains, an orchard and views of the Verdugo Mountains.

"It was so beautiful," recalled Elena Malone, a history teacher at

the private Campbell Hall School, of visiting the property in the northeast San Fernando Valley in 2021. She and her husband, a math teacher at the Buckley School, could barely afford the \$1.2-million price. But when she imagined her son and daughter growing up with plenty of space and abundant natural beauty, it seemed worth it.

Three years later, the house they fell in love with has become their prison.

A next-door neighbor, described by relatives as a mentally ill hoarder,

has turned some six acres of green space into an unlicensed dump with more than a hundred rusting vehicles, mounds of trash and scrap metal and hazardous waste that has polluted the ground and a nearby streambed.

When the property on Wildwood Fire Road became impassable, the neighbor, 50-year-old David Ferrera, took to living in a car in front of Malone's house with his girlfriend. Hypodermic needles, bags of marijuana, moldy clothes, human excre-

[See [Hoarder](#), A7]

## Jenni Rivera's family is torn apart



VIOLETA ENCARNACIÓN For The Times

**REGIONAL** Mexican music singer Jenni Rivera died in a plane crash Dec. 9, 2012. A lawsuit filed by her children over her estate is set to go to trial next year.

A dozen years after singer's death, 'money, power, greed' fuel a bitter estate battle.

BY BRITNY MEJIA AND HARRIET RYAN

In Jenni Rivera's rise from Long Beach teen mother to icon of regional Mexican music, family was a constant. She titled her first album "*Somos Rivera*" — "We Are Rivera." It was released in 1992 on a label her parents started in their garage.

Her five children were the center of her life on stage and off. Their antics and affection on the reality show "I Love Jenni," broadcast on Telemundo's Mun2 channel, [See [Rivera family](#), A12]

## LAPD HAS SHOT 6 HOLDING 'EDGED WEAPON'

Officers continue to fire on armed people having a mental crisis, Times analysis finds.

BY LIBOR JANY

Los Angeles police officials have been trying for years to curb officer shootings of people in crisis who are holding a knife, machete or other "edged weapon."

Despite rolling out policies to prevent gunfire in such encounters, a Times analysis of LAPD data shows that there have been more shootings this year than in all of 2022. The department is on pace to eclipse last year's total of 11.

In the first half of 2024, officers shot six people who were holding a sharp object while experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis — a designation that includes those believed to be suicidal or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Four were killed. There have been 17 police shootings this year, including cases involving edged weapons.

Since 2018, The Times' analysis found, officers have opened fire in similar circumstances at least 56 times, killing 35 people and injuring 19 others.

The Los Angeles Police Department's public-facing data do not track killings of people in crisis. The Times' review is based on a variety of records, such as information disclosed in lawsuits, reflecting shootings that aren't necessarily counted in the department's annual use-of-crime reports.

Along with other agencies nationwide, the LAPD has adopted guidelines that prioritize de-escalation techniques and the use of "less lethal" alternatives to deadly force.

After recent high-profile cases in which officers killed mentally ill people, the department's civilian oversight body has put renewed scrutiny on the issue.

In one confrontation in Koreatown in the spring, video showed an officer fatally shot a man experiencing a bipolar episode in his parents' apartment as he [See [LAPD](#), A6]

### French leftists win most seats

A lack of majority for any alliance threatens to plunge country into turmoil after a snap election. **WORLD, A3**

### Paramount board OKs deal

Redstone family's reign nears its end as sale to David Ellison's Skydance is approved. **BUSINESS, A9**

### Safe passage for mountain lions

Communities turn to wildlife crossings, including on Highway 17, to reduce roadkill. **CALIFORNIA, B3**

**Weather**  
Foggy, then sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 84/64. **B6**

For the latest news, go to [latimes.com](#).



## NATO's 75th birthday conveys doom and gloom

BY LAURA KING

PARIS — NATO's summit in Washington this week was supposed to be a feel-good moment — celebrating the alliance's milestone 75th anniversary amid stirring tributes to an enduring cornerstone of Europe's postwar security architecture.

But despite expressions of solidarity and steadfastness, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization gathering, which begins Tuesday, comes as some of the 32-nation bloc's most important leaders can be counted among the political walking

wounded, and at a dispiriting point in the war in Ukraine, now in its third year.

All this takes place as European leaders begin to fully grapple with the possibility of another presidential term for presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump, who has suggested he would not honor transatlantic treaty commitments, including NATO's foundational mutual-defense pledge.

Trump declared in February that if an outbreak of hostilities involved members who "didn't pay" — a perennially misleading characterization of the alliance's

finances — he would tell Russia to "do whatever the hell they want."

The roster of leaders of member countries reflects a time of unease and upheaval on both sides of the Atlantic.

President Biden, hosting the gathering, is facing calls to abandon his reelection bid over a debate performance in which he appeared frail and enfeebled.

France was plunged into deep political uncertainty by a mixed result from its parliamentary election that leaves President Emmanuel Macron's centrists weakened — even though early projections from Sunday's [See [NATO](#), A8]



PAVEL GOLOVKIN Associated Press

**NATO** Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, right, and President Biden at last year's summit in Lithuania.



Subscribers get more in the app.

Download now to experience all of The Times.

