



Photographs by ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

VISITORS at La Jolla Cove photograph wildlife this month. Experts advise people to stay 20 to 30 feet from sea lions on the small beach.

South Bay oil refineries to close in 2025

Phillips 66's facilities in Wilmington and Carson employ 900 and produce about 8% of the state's gasoline.

BY LAURENCE DARMIENTO

Over more than 100 years, the Wilmington and Carson oil refineries have pumped out millions of barrels of gasoline, filling the thirsty cars of Southern California's freeway-driving motorists.

Now, in an abrupt move that reflects the tectonic industry shifts driven by climate change, the transition to electric vehicles and demands for cleaner air, Phillips 66 announced Wednesday that late next year it will close the twin refinery complex that produces about 8% of the state's gasoline.

The Houston company, which has operated the refineries since its 2012 spinoff from ConocoPhillips, said it would replace their output with sources "inside and outside its refining network" and with renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuels from its San Francisco Bay Area refinery.

"Phillips 66 remains committed to serving California and will continue to take the necessary steps to meet our commercial and customer demands," said Mark Lashier, the company's chairman and chief executive. "We understand this decision has an impact on our employees, contractors and the broader community. We will work to help and support them through this transition."

About 600 employees and 300 contractors currently operate the refinery complex, which also produces diesel and jet fuel.

The complex consists of two facilities five miles apart in Wilmington and Carson, linked by pipeline, about 15 miles southeast of Los Angeles International Airport. The Wilmington facility was built in 1919 and the Carson refinery was built four years later.

[See Refineries, A7]

Dodgers-Mets Game 4 coverage

Read about Thursday night's NLCS result at latimes.com/sports and in our Playoffs Extra at latimes.com/newspaper.

Harris, Trump go outside base

Vice president sits down with Fox News, while former president courts Latinos on Univision. **NATION, A4**

Bank is accused of intimidation

Wells Fargo workers say some employees were fired ahead of a vote on a unionizing effort. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather

Turning sunny. L.A. Basin: 76/54. **B6**

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Tourists adore the sea lions in La Jolla — locals, not so much

Thriving population's nonstop barking and stench irritate some residents

By Jack Flemming

La Jolla's coastline is being conquered.

Its colonizers have made their home in the seaside neighborhood's rocks, terraces, beaches and caves. They make their presence known by barking and wailing all day and night. And they absolutely reek.

They're sea lions — and they're here to stay.

Unlike harbor seals, which have occupied La Jolla's Children's Pool Beach since the 1990s, the sea lions are a newer phenomenon. Sightings stretch back to the early 2000s, but the creatures started pupping — having babies — around Point La Jolla roughly a decade ago.



AN ADULT sea lion checks on a young one as they rest on the stairs at La Jolla Cove.

Since then, a battle has been brewing over to whom La Jolla's beaches belong. Some longtime locals want the sea lions out, claiming that California's coast belongs to its people. Activists want increased protection for the sea lions, many of which have died due to human contact.

And over the last few years, a new group has entered the conversation: the rest of the world. As sea lion videos go viral — some cuddly-looking, some giant and combative — busloads of tourists haul in to La Jolla every week, and thousands of others blast their thoughts on social media.

The sea lion presence is a sign of na- [See Sea lions, A5]

WARRANT ISSUED IN POLICE KILLING

A former LAPD officer is being sought for the 2015 shooting of a man in Venice.

BY JAMES QUEALLY, KERI BLAKINGER AND LIBOR JANY

An arrest warrant has been issued for a former Los Angeles police officer who shot and killed an unarmed homeless man in Venice Beach in 2015, marking a dramatic reversal of a past decision not to file charges in the case, multiple officials with direct knowledge of the situation told The Times.

Clifford Proctor, who served as a LAPD officer for about a decade, fired two fatal shots into the back of Brendon Glenn, a 29-year-old homeless man, after a dispute with a bouncer outside a bar near the Venice Speedway in May 2015.

Two law enforcement officials with direct knowledge of the case said an arrest [See Officer, A7]

AI is still auditioning in Hollywood

Despite hype, few deals have closed between tech firms and studios

BY WENDY LEE AND SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

Earlier this year, OpenAI and other artificial intelligence companies wooed Hollywood studios with the futuristic promise of AI tools that they said could help make the business of creating movies and television shows faster, easier and

cheaper.

What the tech companies wanted was access to troves of footage and intellectual property from series and films that they could use to train and support their complex models. It's the kind of thing AI technology needs to feed off of in order to create stuff, like videos and script notes.

So far though, despite all

the hype and anticipation, not much has come of those talks.

The most prominent partnership was one announced last month between New York-based AI startup Runway and "John Wick" and "Hunger Games" studio Lionsgate. Under that deal, Runway will create a new AI model for Lionsgate to help with behind-

the-scenes processes such as storyboarding.

But none of the major studios have announced similar partnerships, and they're not expected to until 2025, said people familiar with the talks who were not authorized to comment.

There are many reasons for the delay. AI is a complicated landscape where regu- [See AI, A7]

Alleged architect of Oct. 7 attack killed

Hamas leader Sinwar's death in an encounter with Israeli forces ends yearlong hunt for catalyst of Gaza war.

BY NABIH BULOS, TRACY WILKINSON AND LAURA KING

BEIRUT — Yahya Sinwar, the secretive and shadowy alleged mastermind of the Hamas-led onslaught of just over a year ago in southern Israel that triggered a devastating war, was killed

by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, Israel said Thursday.

Sinwar's killing in an apparently surprise encounter with Israeli forces marked the end of an intense year-long hunt by Israeli and American spy agencies for the Hamas leader, who was believed to be hiding in the group's vast underground network of tunnels in Gaza.

But ultimately, the fatal confrontation caught Sinwar — wiry and silver-bearded, with distinctive dark brows and protruding ears — above ground, in the war-wrecked southern Gaza city of Rafah.

"This is a good day for Is-

rael, for the United States, and for the world," President Biden said. Vice President Kamala Harris, campaigning for the presidency in the battleground state of Wisconsin, said Sinwar's death "gives us an opportunity to finally end the war in Gaza."

Israel accused Sinwar of planning the Oct. 7, 2023, attack in which Hamas-led militants broke through the Gaza fence and stormed a string of Israeli farming communities and an open-air music festival, killing about 1,200 people and seizing some 250 hostages.

The remains of the slain [See Sinwar, A10]



ADEL HANA Associated Press
NEWS OF Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar's demise fueled hope of a negotiated end to the Gaza war.



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