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MONTEREY PARK CITY COUNCIL

Proposal leads to name-calling

Election changes, new map for voting districts result in early meeting exit from one member, who blasts colleague

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Liang Ing Real Sebastian

Tempers flared at the Monterey Park City Council meeting this week when the three-member majority cast votes that will force the other two off the council next year and make them wait two years if they want to run again.

The discussion got so heated, one member stormed off before a crucial vote but

not before calling a colleague an "ass." Since November, Monterey Park has

been working toward switching from electing its City Council at-large — in which the entire city can vote for all five seats — to district-based, in which residents elect one candidate to represent their portion of the city.

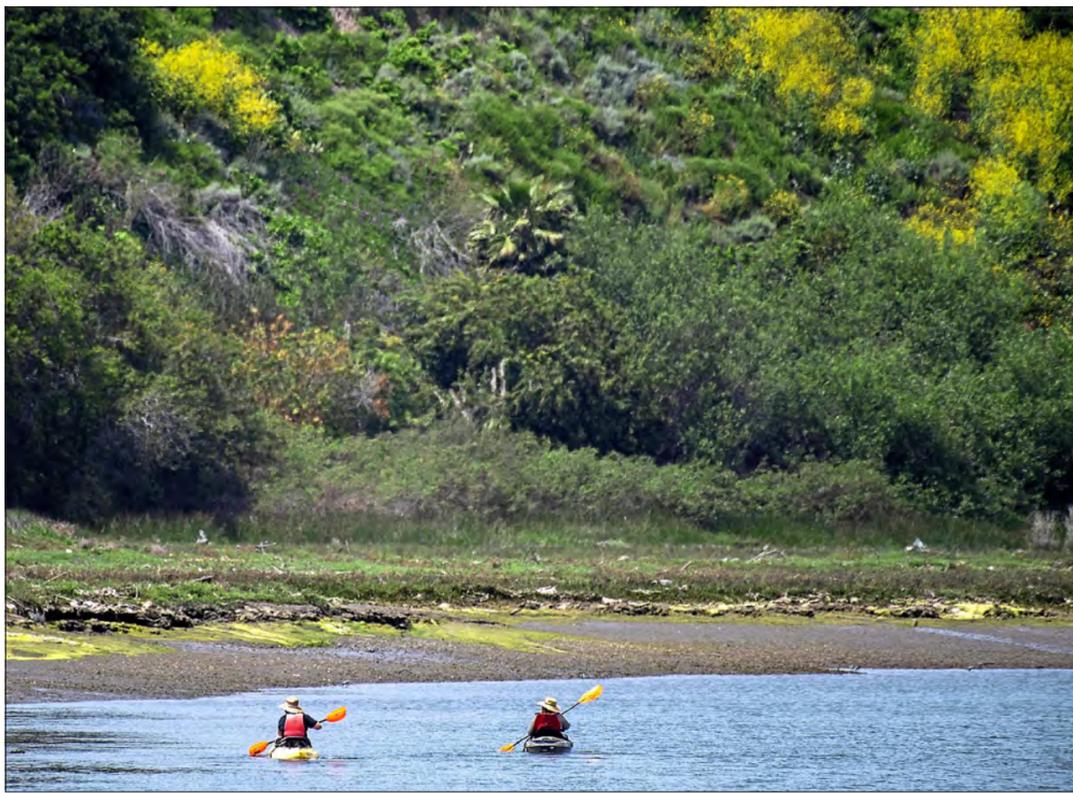
The often complicated part of the process is dividing the city into five parts and then figuring out when each seat is up for election.

The council found consensus in a district map, created by resident Jason Dhing,

at its meeting Wednesday. It set equitable boundaries for each district and creates a majority Latino District 3 on the south side of the city. The thought behind district-based elections is to protect the voting rights of minority residents, resulting in better representation.

In addition to approving Dhing's map, Mayor Pro Tem Hans Liang proposed setting the elections for districts 2, 3 and 4 in March 2020 and districts 1 and 5 in 2022. **MEETING » PAGE 5**

EARTH DAY WEEKEND



A wet, wild and often overlooked landscape

Less than 10% of historical wetlands remain in Orange and Los Angeles counties, but ambitious restoration and expansion plans are underway

By Martin Wisckol
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Between Southern California's popular beaches and much-traversed mountain trails lies an unsung natural landscape teeming with its own special wildlife.

As you head outdoors to celebrate Earth Day weekend — or to simply connect with nature and leave behind the anxieties of urban life — one option is our area's often overlooked coastal wetlands.

In Orange and Los Angeles counties, more than 90% of the estuaries, lagoons and other coastal waters that existed in the 19th century have been lost to roads, buildings and other development. But what remains provides a crucial habitat for resident animals and migrating birds, including several endangered species.

While conservancies and other environmental guardians focus first on protecting and restoring the natural habitat, most of the larger wetlands also **WETLANDS » PAGE 13**



PHOTOS BY MINDY SCHAUER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TOP: Kayakers cruise around the Back Bay in Newport Beach on Monday. **ABOVE:** OC Parks and the Newport Bay Conservancy will be hosting Earth Day at the Bay, a free event today at the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.

TORTURE CASE

25 years to life in prison for Turpins

Judge terms Perris parents' abuse of 12 of their children 'selfish, cruel and inhumane'

By Brian Rokos and Ryan Hagen
Staff writers

David Allen Turpin and Louise Ann Turpin tearfully apologized Friday for mistreating 12 of their children — criminal actions that the judge found "selfish, cruel and inhumane" — before the Perris couple were sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison.

David Turpin, 57, and Louise Turpin, 50, could be eligible for a parole hearing in about 21 years because of credits for time already served and a state law requiring convicts to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences.

The sentencing, in Superior Court in Riverside, ended a case that shocked the nation and drew interest from around the globe because of the size and depth of the de- **TURPINS » PAGE 5**

Inside: The Turpin children spoke about the damage done to them and the love they still have for the parents who did it. **PAGE A5**

COACHELLA AT 20

Longtime fans pile up peak experiences and look to have even more

By Vanessa Franko
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They were there when Rage Against the Machine played at the first festival in 1999, and they were there when the Los Angeles group reunited at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in 2007. They saw Amy Winehouse, Arcade Fire and Childish Gambino long before they were household names.

Now that Coachella has turned 20 — and is very different from the event that started at the Empire Polo Club in the fall of 1999 — we talked to some of the festival's die-hard fans who keep **COACHELLA » PAGE 4**

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