



BUILDING TRADES NEWS

VOLUME 26 NO. 2 LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO  FEBRUARY 2021

LONG BEACH VOTES FOR TRADES

“It’s been a home run for us,” Mayor says

BY MARK EDWARD NERO

The Long Beach City Council has unanimously approved a long-term extension of a citywide Project Labor Agreement that it first signed off on in 2015, ensuring that skilled and trained workers will contribute to major public construction projects throughout the city over the next decade.

At its Feb. 2 virtual meeting, the Council agreed to extend the agreement between the city and the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council for another 10 years—double the five-year term of the original agreement.

That represents a vote of confidence in the Building Trades, Mayor Robert Garcia said. “It’s been a home run for us,” he said. “I’m really proud to be here for this extension. These projects come in in good shape, they’re done by skilled labor, there’s community benefits, there’s apprenticeship programs, and they’re done with the quality that we expect and within the budget parameters that we put in place.”

City Manager Tom Modica agreed. “I’m really happy with the work that was done. We’ve seen a lot of great projects through our Project Labor Agreement over the past five years. We’ve employed a lot of people.”

During the meeting, which was streamed live on YouTube, the mayor noted that the city PLA served as a model for other Long Beach agreements.

“We signed one of the most substantial citywide agreements in the state,” Garcia remarked, adding that the municipal government signing a PLA eventually led to other public-run entities following suit.

“We took this energy and began to work with the Port of Long Beach to ensure that they had a PLA. And then pretty soon, Long Beach City College moved forward and they put a Project Labor Agreement in place. And then recently, the school district moved forward and they put their Project Labor Agreement in place,” he said.

Good Jobs Across the City

“We made this not just about our large infrastructure projects,” he added. “We created a system where all public projects across the city, across jurisdiction, would be ensured to have this level of good jobs.”

Among the major projects the city has undertaken since the signing of the original PLA are the demolition of the downtown Long Beach courthouse, construction of the seaside pedestrian “Rainbow” bridge, wetlands restoration and work on a soccer field. In all, more than a dozen

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Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.

UNIONS COMPLETE AES BATTERY SITE

BY ANNE-MARIE OTEY

Feb. 17 was a big day for the future of energy in California. One of the world’s largest battery storage facilities—built union by the Building Trades—opened in Long Beach.

The Battery Energy Storage System at the AES Alamitos Energy Center on Studebaker Road broke ground in June 2019. The February ribbon-cutting for the system, known as BESS, was held completely online, but the message was the same: Bat-

tery storage will be a crucial part of our energy future.

“It’s amazing how California is becoming the showcase for the rest of the world,” said Fluence CEO Manuel Perez Dubuc. Fluence is a joint venture between AES and Siemens.

The BESS opened on the same complex as the newly repowered Alamitos natural gas power plant. It will be able to harness energy from that generation so that the plant can reduce its hours, and cut down on the use of natural gas, which helps California toward its goal of having carbon-free electricity by 2045. The plant will also, in the future, be able to store energy from re-

newable sources such as solar and wind.

“Our vision is very aligned with that of California,” said Mark Miller, AES market



Massive banks of lithium-ion batteries store energy for future use.

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SEE AES PAGE 15



JERRY NEIL PAUL

An Advocate for the Building Trades
Asbestos-Related Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer and Asbestosis

The Paul Law Firm has been representing the California Building Trades for the past 35 years. We have always been a California-based law firm, specializing in asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis, and representing the individual members. We are proud to say that we have had many landmark settlements and verdicts for our union brothers and their families totaling over \$3 Billion. One of the highlights of my career was when I, along with our mesothelioma client, Billy Joe Speicher from U.A. Local 250 Steamfitters/Pipefitters, went before the U.S. Senate and testified in front of the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, regarding asbestos legislation.

Jerry is also a Founder of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America (www.mesorfa.org), along with his wife, Elizabeth Ann Paul, Executive Director, and Jim W. Kellogg, retired International Representative of the California Pipe Trades and past Vice President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, who have all served as Board Members since 2001. Since this time, we undertook the successful funding and opening of a mesothelioma research lab at USC/Norris Comprehensive Medical Center in Los Angeles under the direction of Lab Director Dr. Parkash Gill. Over the past 19 years novel new treatment options Veglin, which went through FDA-approved clinical trials phase 1 and 2, and now EPH B4, in FDA-approved clinical trials phase 1, have helped expand the depth of research and expand the types of treatment options. This offers greater hope to those afflicted with asbestos-caused cancer, with options not previously available. None of this could have been done without the support of the Building and Construction Trades Council of California and also Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16, the Heat & Frost Insulators 16, along with the support from the Western States Conference, and all their able leaders and supporting local unions.

As asbestos disease and mesothelioma tend to surface later in life, we recommend workers take a chest X-ray screening every three years where the results are examined by a certified B reader radiologist, a doctor who is additionally trained to know what is and is not an asbestos marker and asbestosis. Plus you will increase your chance of discovery at an early stage, should you have lung cancer, which would likely respond better to treatment options.

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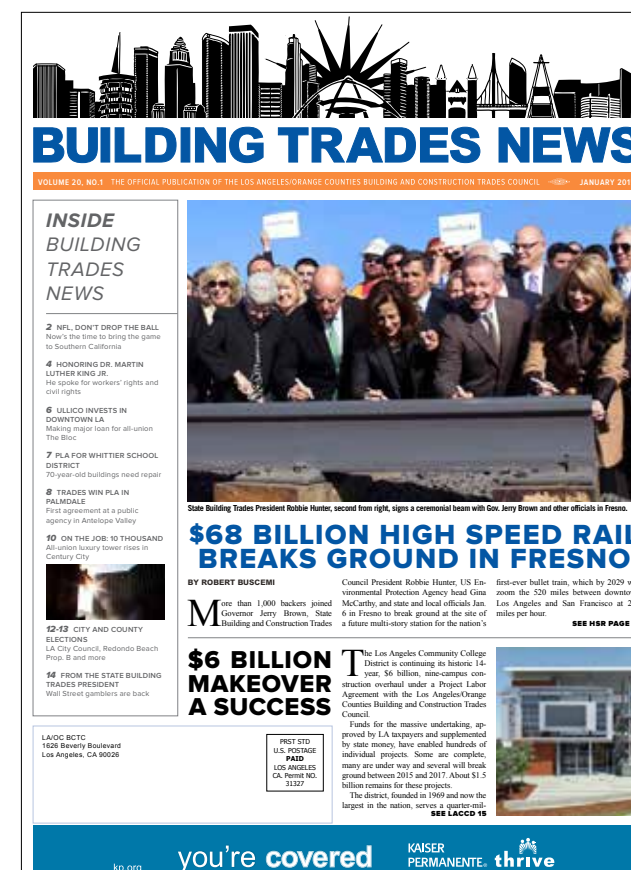
HIGH SPEED RAIL NEEDS TO BE ELECTRIC



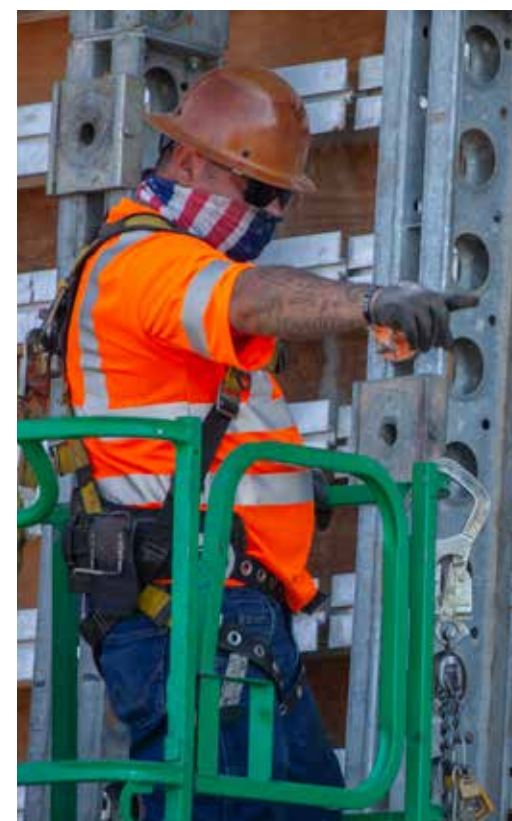
BY RON MILLER
Executive Secretary

better than anyone else that infrastructure isn't easy. Americans across the board are calling on our new President to make infrastructure a priority. They'd better take a good look at what will actually happen. It will be noisy. Construction will start at 7 in the morning, and may go 24/7. Home-towns will change their skylines.

Since the start of construction, more than 5,000 skilled and trained Build-



State Building Trades President Robbie Hunter signs the first beam in 2015.



One of 5,000 union workers who are building high speed rail, seen here in Wasco in Kern County.

ing Trades workers have been dispatched to build HSR in the Central Valley, where there are currently 35 active construction sites.

Working under a Project Labor Agreement, an average of 1,100 people a day go to those sites. They're earning a good living and contributing to their communities. The Central Valley is among the poorest areas of our entire country. High speed rail is bringing in jobs that pay well, with family benefits. That is miles beyond what a one-time government stimulus check will do.

Up to 220 MPH

Yet, the latest challenge to HSR comes from those who should be allies of workers: Democratic state legislators. They say they care about working people, but they're not acting like it.

High speed rail has been planned as an electric system from the get-go, with overhead catenary wires propelling the trains so they can go up to 220 mph. That was written into the 1A ballot proposition in 2008. And as time goes on, the decision looks wiser. The green energy future means more electrification, not less.

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BUILDING TRADES NEWS

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Change of address: Union members, please contact your local.

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LA COUNTY NEWS

FROM LABORERS TO LUXURY

Former Building Trades member proposes LA's first six-star hotel

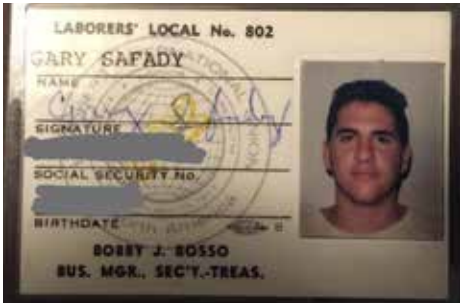


Eight private homes on the site will start at 12,000 square feet.

Gary Safady's dream project would put union members to work on a \$250 million, multi-structure complex in the wealthy Benedict Canyon area of Los Angeles.

Dubbed "The Retreat," it will be a hillside collection of boutique hotel bungalows and large private residences on 33 acres.

The Retreat offers a unique and ambitious vision for eco-conscious luxury development. Under a Project Labor Agreement with the Building Trades, it will put more than 1,000 members to work. And, developers say, it could mark a return for unions into single-family home construction.



"I woke up at 5 am daily to travel to the jobsite," says Gary Safady, who put himself through college as a member of Laborers Local 802.

The vision belongs to Gary Safady. The developer and movie producer owns, and lives on, the site where he hopes to start pre-construction later this year. Perhaps one of the lesser-known points of Safady's resume, certainly behind his producer cred-

its and expansive development footprint, is an early stint with the Building Trades as a Laborer.

That experience now informs his strategy.

"Growing up in a modest household, I had to work my way through college, waking up at 5 am daily to travel to the jobsite. When I was 19 years old, I had the privilege of joining and working in Laborers Local 802 to pay my way through college," Safady, who graduated from Loyola Marymount University, told "Building Trades News."

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity they gave me. Thirty years later, I'm building LA's first six-star hotel. There is no one, except for my talented and trusted brothers and sisters in the Building Trades, who I would ever rely on to build this unique, cutting-edge project."

Blending Into the Wild

The design aims to blend in with the still-wild slopes of LA's exclusive Benedict Canyon. The tiered network of structures will hug the hills, and will also use recycled, natural and innovative materials to fulfill its sustainability mandate. Among these, developers say, is cross-laminated timber, a newer wood composite that will help produce less waste and reduce the project's carbon footprint.

Safady has committed to maintaining 75 percent of the land as open space, including a dog park open to the public, and

will plant more than 1,000 new native or drought-tolerant trees to help ecological preservation. Plans also include improvements to emergency access and fire safety in the area.

Most of the 59 hotel guest rooms will be built as two-story bungalows studded through the northern half of the property, with a larger building to house amenity spaces like pools, restaurants and spa facilities. The largest hotel structure will not exceed five stories. The eight private homes, meanwhile, will range in size from 12,000 square feet to 48,000 square feet, set on lots of at least one acre.

Currently in the initial study and scoping period, developers are working with the

city's Planning Department to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Report. They hope to publish it by summer, followed by a first hearing before the end of 2021.

Project entitlements include a zoning change and a general plan amendment. To build the hotel on the site, Safady needs a zoning change from residential to a new use that mixes residential and commercial/hotel.

Limiting Development

Safady notes that currently, without the zone change, he'd be free to build dozens of tract homes. Instead, opting for the low-slung hotel and smaller number of homes allows him to keep far more of the acreage open, undeveloped and natural.

Yet, the wealthy and anxious neighbors who surround the site object to most development, including the hotel.

The divisive battle will likely become more polarizing as it nears public comments and review before the full City Council.

"We stand side by side with Gary Safady to support this environmentally friendly project," said Ron Miller, Executive Secretary of the LA/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. "No one is saying our members are going to live in these houses. But a skilled man or woman can make a very good living building them."

Safady first submitted the project to the

SEE LUXURY PAGE 6



The main hotel space will include a spa and pool. Most guest rooms will be in bungalows set into the hills.

LUXURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

city in 2017. Since then, he has made big changes in response to community feedback. Overall, the new plan proposes a 41 percent reduction in overall project size, with 60 percent less parking, the removal of an events center, and a 52 percent reduction in total guest unit square footage, taking the total number of units down to 59 from 99.

Seeking Peace and Quiet

Residents have voiced concerns that The Retreat would set a precedent for commercial development in the hills. This argument ignores the fact that the canyons already host major institutions like Hotel Bel-Air and the Getty Center—and some Bel Air houses are far larger than the main hotel building.

Safady notes that the hotel, with its spread-out rooms and lack of a ballroom, will attract people seeking peace and quiet. Many canyon neighborhoods have been hit by “party houses” that are leased on Airbnb and create a nuisance, even during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Retreat will be the opposite: “a tranquil, boutique escape catering to those seeking a quiet stay in a natural setting.”

Safady suggests The Retreat could start a standard for union craftsmen and women to build single family homes under Project Labor Agreements, in an area where most multimillion-dollar homes are routinely built with non-union labor.

If the developer prevails, pre-construction would start by the end of this year, with an estimated buildout of nearly a decade.



Developer Safady says he trusts the Building Trades to produce the finest work on his project.



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BUILDING TRADES HEALTH

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT: COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Unions and Pharma Industry Partner to End Pandemic



LA County and USC personnel work together to vaccinate the first eligible groups in January.

One year ago, most of us could not have imagined that we were on the verge of a global pandemic that would change everything about our way of life. Looking back, we had no idea what was coming.

Last March, as most of us began to quarantine at home and daily activities came to a halt, leading biopharmaceutical scientists and researchers came together to launch a global effort to develop vaccines and treatments to protect us from this deadly virus. The scientific community rallied together in partnership, working against the clock to defeat COVID-19.

Where We Are Today

Over the past year, biopharmaceutical researchers have made tremendous progress toward developing safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics to help fight COVID-19. As of the beginning of February, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved one COVID-19 treatment and issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for two vaccines and multiple treatments.

Additional COVID-19 vaccine candidates and treatments are in the late stages of clinical trials and advancing toward federal review.

Here in California, the process of vaccinating the public is well under way. Success at developing the vaccine comes



The State Building Trades, led by President Robbie Hunter, are allies of the pharmaceutical industry.

partly from the partnership of the industry with the Building Trades.

“Over the last 10 months, we have truly learned the value of biopharmaceutical research and development,” said Robbie Hunter, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. “It’s given us hope at a very dark time. Investing in the people and companies that deliver that hope is important for all of us.

dents, it is important to understand the rigorous process and high standards that were required when the vaccines were in development.

Why You Can Be Confident

While scientists and researchers worked quickly to identify and develop vaccines, they were held to the same rigorous standards as the development of any other vaccine. These COVID-19 vaccines have been thoroughly tested for safety and effectiveness in clinical trials, which included a diverse group of tens of thousands of people from various ethnicities, races, ages, and medical histories.

Extensive safety and effectiveness data were collected from the large clinical trials and reviewed by the FDA. In September 2020, several major vaccine manufacturers pledged to make the safety and well-being of vaccinated individuals the top priority in the development of the first COVID-19 vaccines.



A Genentech factory in Vacaville.

Kahn, Deputy Vice President, State Advocacy, PhRMA. “As drug manufacturers develop and manufacture the critically needed COVID-19 vaccines and therapies, we rely on the skilled construction and maintenance of our facilities.

“The women and men of the California State Building Trades help grow our

capacity by building new manufacturing facilities to address the global demand for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines,” Kahn continued. “PhRMA is proud to stand with the State Building Trades to get the country through this pandemic and revitalize California’s economy.”

SEE VACCINE PAGE 17

Health care that’s end to end, not hit or miss

When it comes to employee health benefits, it seems like shopping around makes sense - get your medical plan here, your pharmacy there, your vision somewhere else. Problem is, most carved-out benefits may not be configured to leverage data from your medical plan, which means you and your members may be losing out on lower costs, better health and simpler experiences.

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“Science will lead us out of this crisis, and I have much hope for the future.”

—Joe Panetta, President and CEO, Biocom California

“Building Trades members will continue to build the state-of-the-art facilities across California that are needed to support the incredible innovation occurring in our state. Working together, we ensure that here in California, we continue to research and manufacture the next generation of drug therapies and cures for tomorrow,” Hunter said.

As eligibility for the vaccine starts to open up to increasing numbers of resi-



Floireine Kahn, Deputy Vice President, State Advocacy, PhRMA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

Pharmaceutical Industry
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Importance of Building Trades in Supporting Research and Development

Although the pandemic is shocking and has created great upheaval, it is different from those the world confronted in earlier centuries. Today, we benefit from scientific advancements that prior generations would have found only in science fiction. This innovation is possible because the Building and Construction Trades offer the expertise and precision necessary to support and construct highly sterile, technologically advanced facilities.

“The biopharmaceutical industry’s partnership with the State Building Trades has never been more important,” said Floireine

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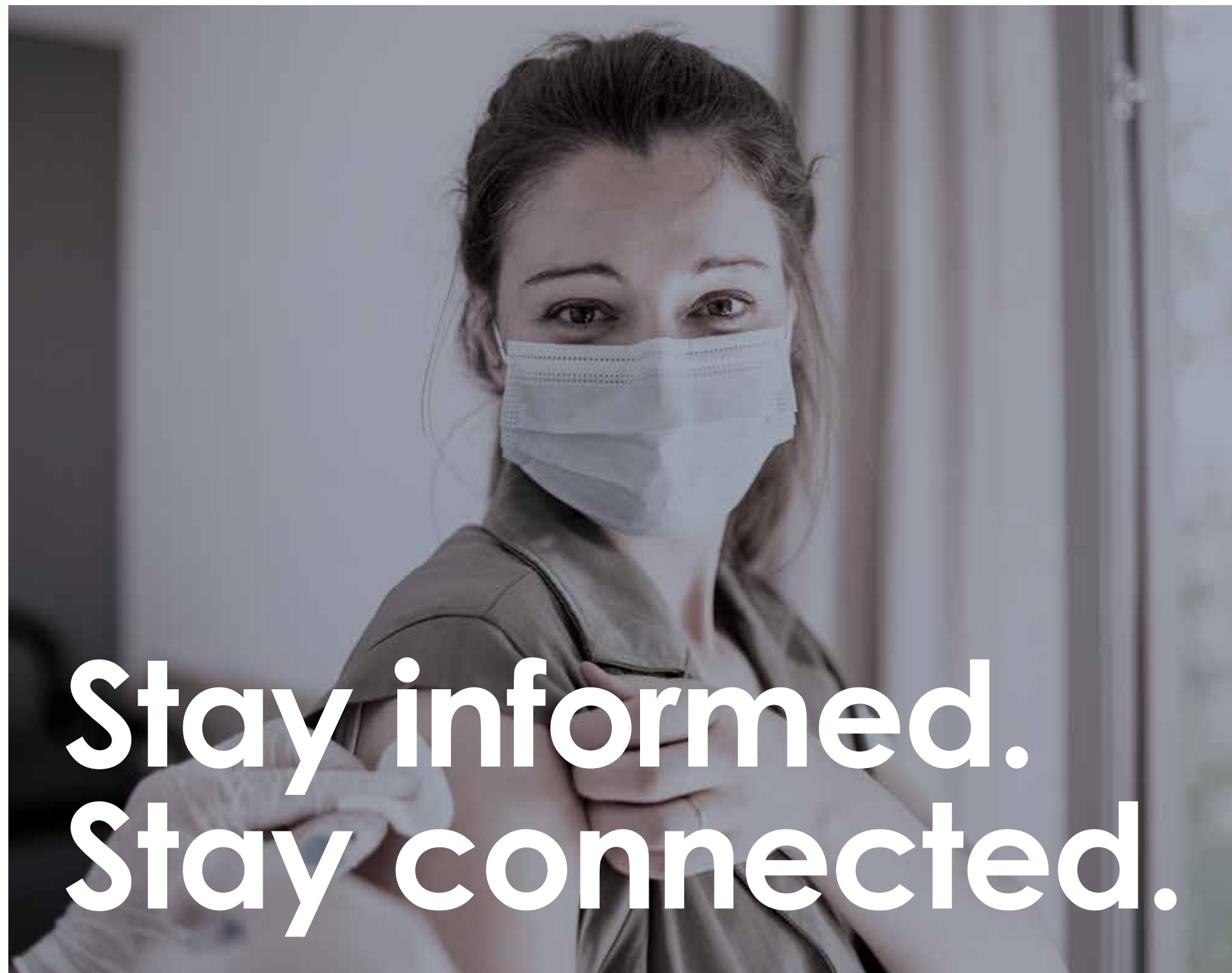
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Stay informed. Stay connected.

Blue Shield of California has been tapped by Governor Newsom to partner on equitable and efficient delivery of Covid-19 vaccines. Getting Californians vaccinated is critical to public health and to our mission as a nonprofit health plan serving the state for 80+ years. We encourage Californians and our Labor and Trust partners to stay informed and connected by visiting covid19.ca.gov.

To learn more about the only nonprofit, California-based Labor and Trust partner with HMO, PPO, Medicare, Rx, Dental, Vision, Life, and Stop-Loss cost saving options for you and the members, visit blueshieldca.com/laborandtrust or contact Tera Brandon Clizbe, vice president, Labor and Trust, or Mark Reynosa, account executive, Labor and Trust.

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ON THE JOB

ROOM TO VROOM-VROOM

Pierce College Adds 21,000 Square Feet for Automotive Technology

BY LOUIS KEENE

The Los Angeles Community College District has educated and certified thousands of automobile mechanics dating back decades, staying apace with evolving technology. But the proliferation of electric and hybrid vehicles over the last decade has created a need for specialized auto technicians—especially in Los Angeles, the car capital of the nation. Soon, thanks to the Building Trades' partnership, LACCD will have a site specifically to train them.

The Expanded Automotive Technical facility at Pierce College, a 21,000 square foot building, will be a state-of-the-art venue for tinkering with Teslas, Chevy Bolts, Priuses and other hybrid and electric vehicles. The large garage can hold 90 vehicles, plus laboratories for alternative fuel and advanced diagnostics. Expanded Auto will help Pierce strengthen its pipeline to the region's repair shops and factories. Naturally, the lot will have plenty of charging stations.

"It's a unique experience for this area," said Terry Devlin, project manager for Build-LACCD.

The project is one of dozens being built across LACCD's nine campuses under a Project Labor Agreement with the LA/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. The PLA was renewed in 2020 for an additional 10 years of work.

In addition to nine double bays, the single-story space will feature two classrooms, faculty offices and 10 charging stations—a suite of learning spaces that will enable Pierce to partner with auto manufacturers down the road on internship and job placement programs.

New Year's Finish

The Build-LACCD team broke ground in February 2020, and Devlin estimated they will finish around New Year's.

Pierce College President Alexis S. Montevirgen said that the prevalence of auto dealerships and garages in the San Fernando Valley meant the development was serving community employers as well as area students.

"These facilities will allow us to be up to date and provide the most state-of-the-art equipment and training for our stu-



Once completed, the new center will have the Mediterranean look of Pierce's other buildings.

Photos by
**HECTOR CRUZ SANDOVAL/
SANDOVAL MEDIA**



"You have to be self-motivated," says Iron Workers Local 416 foreman Al Martinez.

dents,” he told “Building Trades News.”

Many of the program’s graduates are placed for internships and entry-level jobs with corporate partners, such as the Keyes auto dealerships based in Van Nuys. The new program, Montevirgen said, will allow students to hit the ground running when they enter the workforce.

Less than a week after the biggest rain-storm of the season in early February, “Building Trades News” visited the site. The concrete block walls were up, and about two-thirds of the structural steel was in place, but the boots of journeyman Electrician Gabriel Sierra were making deep imprints in the muddy ground.



Martinez has more than two decades of experience.

Perhaps it was fitting for a future training site also to serve as a current training site for Building Trades apprentices. As he worked on getting conduits flush with the wall, Sierra, of IBEW Local 11, said taking the next generation of electricians under his wing was one of his primary job responsibilities.

Being a journeyman, he said, means “teaching apprentices what I’ve learned, showing them what other old-timers showed me.” Just as important as a journeyman’s newfound responsibilities are the confidence one must have to dispatch them. “You have to know what’s going on,” Sierra said.

Sierra’s seen it all in his seven years

on the job, which he broke into not long after a family friend pitched him on the solid pay and career footing with IBEW.

The benefits of being an Electrician, he said, are part of his everyday life. “We’re the first ones and the last ones on the job,” Sierra said. “So we get to see how every Trade does their thing. If I want to do something in my house, I’ve seen how Drywallers do their thing, how Iron Workers do their stuff. You get a little knowledge of everything.”

Omar Tlacuahuac, an apprentice with Iron Workers Local 433, said he had no idea what an Iron Worker was when he first heard of the Trade. Then he looked it up on YouTube. “I was like, ‘Ah, looks pretty cool.’”

His favorite part so far is working with a crane to raise and connect iron. “They say once you’re a connector, you’re an Iron Worker,” said Tlacuahuac, who is two years into his apprenticeship, which puts him about halfway to being a journeyman.

Taking the Time to Teach

Tlacuahuac’s gusto for the job was noticeable, and you could see how he might make a positive impression on his elders in the Trade. According to Al Martinez, a foreman on the project from Iron Workers Local 416, passion is the key to a long career in the Trade.

Martinez, a journeyman with more than two decades of experience, said pride in the work is essential—and you either have that or you don’t.

“You have to be self-motivated,” Martinez said, and not just be in it for the dough. “If you don’t want to do it, it’s noticeable right away.”

Saul Manzo, an apprentice with UA Local 78 Plumbers, was demonstrating his work ethic as he passed a hose through a window so the Plumbers could pump water out of a system they were testing, without making the ground even muddier. Manzo was a carpenter before he made the leap into plumbing.

He could already detect a cultural difference in his first year as an apprentice. “Everybody’s more helpful,” Manzo said. “Everybody takes the time to teach you.”



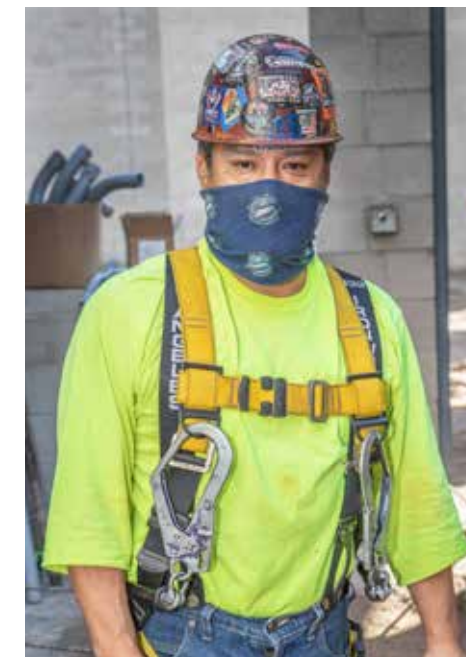
The new building can hold 90 vehicles, plus laboratories for alternative fuel and advanced diagnostics.



The project is part of the “Build LACCD” program to remake all nine campuses in the LA Community College system, under an agreement with the Building Trades.



Being a journeyman, says Gabriel Sierra of IBEW Local 11, means “teaching apprentices what I’ve learned, showing them what other old-timers showed me.”



Carlos Diaz of Iron Workers Local 433.



Safety manager Robert Montgomery.



Apprentice Omar Tlacuahuac of Iron Workers Local 433 first saw Iron Work being done on YouTube. “I was like, ‘Ah, looks pretty cool.’”



Apprentice Saul Manzo of UA Local 78 Plumbers.



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Sheet Metal local union members and contractors are an essential part of any building. The Sheet Metal Trade includes architectural work, air balancing, and the fabrication and installation of ducts for HVAC. It's a range of specialties based on craftsmanship with metal and composite materials, and dedicated to high standards.

Signatory contractors to SMART Local 105—R & J Sheet Metal and ACH Mechanical—played a big part in the Aliso Viejo Ranch makeover in southern Orange County. The historic ranch, open to the public, has been remade. It now includes the 8,000 square foot Red Barn, a modern building with a vintage look that fits in well with the older structures at the ranch. The Red Barn holds meeting rooms, offices and a catering kitchen.



Each signatory contractor to SMART Local 105 follows the principles of excellence. This ensures that jobs are completed efficiently, helping save money for the client. Signatory contractors also utilize the most highly trained union workforce available which promotes safety and increases productivity.

With over 200 contractors signatory to SMART Local 105, and over 2000 nationwide in the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association, the partnership of labor and contractors works to grow the Sheet Metal Industry to the highest quality.

AES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

business leader for the state.

These demanding projects require a skilled and trained workforce, speakers said. The repowering and BESS created 1.48 million hours of construction-related work, with a payroll of more than \$315 million.

The projects demonstrates the importance of diverse energy sources, said Building Trades Executive Secretary Ron Miller, "This project is living proof that the oil and gas industry is needed and a part of the solution of our power requirements going into the future, and that when we work together everything is possible."

Power for 22,000 Homes

The new, low-slung building holds lithium-ion batteries that can hold 100 megawatts of electricity for four hours. That's enough to power 22,000 homes.

The project got its start in 2014, when Southern California Edison signed a 20-year contract to buy 1,284 MW of combined cycle, gas-fired generation and 100 MW of battery-based energy storage.

"The technology is cutting edge and we need more of it," Angelina Galiteva, chairperson of the board for the state's independent electric grid operator, told about 200 online attendees. When the sun goes down each day, so does its ability



The BESS in Long Beach is one of the largest battery storage facilities in the world.

to generate solar power. Batteries are key to storing that power for the "evening ramp," as Galiteva described it: the hours late in the day when everyone turns on their lights, electronic devices, appliances

and charging stations all at once.

Fluence CEO Dubuc pointed out how much technology has moved forward in battery storage. "Twelve years ago, we did our first project with 15 minutes capacity."

Leonardo Moreno, President for clean energy at AES, noted that AES is building two similar projects in Southern California now that the BESS is up and running. "We're pioneers," he said. "This is

the first large-scale project to receive a long-term contract."

The state needs much more storage. The local affiliated unions of the Building Trades are ready to build it, Miller said.

"The Building Trades are at the forefront of dealing with climate change, in partnership with industry, with good union jobs that are part of lifelong careers. That's the real 'Green New Deal.'"

ULICO PARTNERS WITH AES

The Ullico Infrastructure Fund has made a major investment in AES Southland Energy, Ullico Inc. announced.

Southland holds a 1.4 GW portfolio of two combined-cycle gas generation assets and two battery energy storage assets, including the BESS that recently opened in Long Beach. Ullico will acquire a 35 percent interest in Southland from the AES Corporation, a Fortune 500 global power company headquartered in Arlington, Virginia.

"On behalf of the investors in the Ullico Infrastructure Fund, Ullico is proud to make its investment in Southern California in a portfolio that is essential for the community and that was constructed and will be maintained using union labor," said Edward M. Smith, President and CEO of Ullico Inc. "We hope to build upon this investment and be a long-term community partner for delivering much-needed infrastructure solutions."

"Southland is a unique portfolio with increasing criticality to the Southern California power market and electric grid, as the region transitions towards a renewable energy future," said Rohit Syal, head of acquisitions for Ullico's infrastructure business. "This is a core infrastructure asset that provides predictable availability-based cash flows and an opportunity to expand our partnership with AES, a world-class power company."

The Southland portfolio offers a unique opportunity to acquire a large-scale, fully contracted gas generation and battery

storage portfolio with a long-term contracted revenue structure, critical importance in its energy market and high stable, predictable cash flow.

"Southland provides the Ullico Infrastructure Fund with a core, west coast anchor," said Jeff Murphy, portfolio manager for Ullico's infrastructure business. "The predictable, availability-based cash flow and essential nature of the asset to its region is similar to the Neptune Regional Transmission System, which anchors Ullico's infrastructure portfolio on the east coast."

Ullico Inc., through the Ullico Infrastructure Fund, currently has investments in the water, wastewater, telecommunications, electricity transmission, power generation, transportation and gas transmission sectors and is exploring opportunities in all core sectors.

For more than 90 years, Ullico has been a proud member of the labor movement, keeping union families safe and secure. In 2010, the Ullico Infrastructure Fund (UIF) was established to assist in the construction, maintenance and refurbishment of America's infrastructure. As of September 30, 2020, UIF had approximately \$3 billion in commitments on behalf of 133 investors, with 17 portfolio investments comprising all major sectors.

Ullico investments in building and infrastructure projects trigger a requirement for union labor, and these investments have created thousands of union jobs.



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UA LOCAL UNION 250 NEXT GENERATION

The centerpiece of the Building Trades is apprenticeship. This joint labor-management system is the proven way to bring newcomers into the skilled Trades, and UA Local 250 is at the forefront.

Local 250 runs thriving apprenticeship programs for both its Air Conditioning/Refrigeration and Steamfitter/Industrial Pipefitter specialties. Shown above are,

clockwise from left, Andrew Peregrina; Tanner Harless; Julie Maladono; Robert Erbes; Erik Trujillo.

"We call apprenticeship 'the other college degree,'" says Glenn Santa Cruz, Business Manager of UA Local 250. "And in many ways, what a great alternative. You graduate into journeyman status with no student loans. You start a pension, with benefits for your family.

You earn while you learn. You go to class and then go out on the job and earn a good wage."

Apprenticeship lasts five years. Once apprentices have completed their class and work hours, they turn out as journeymen, with a lifetime of advancement ahead of them. Today, UA Local 250 salutes its apprentices, and looks forward to their next steps into their journey-level career.

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VACCINE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



Joe Panetta, President and CEO, Biocom California.

California Is a Global Biopharmaceutical Hub

For decades, California has stood as a global leader in biopharmaceutical development. From small start-ups to large international biopharmaceutical manufacturers, some of the most groundbreaking, life-changing treatments and cures have been born in California biopharmaceutical labs.

"California produces more biopharmaceutical products than any other state in the nation," said Joe Panetta, President and CEO, Biocom California and member of the Board of Directors of the California Biopharma Labor Management Association. The state's life science industry provides 1.4 million jobs, with economic activity generating \$372 billion. Critical to that productivity is the valuable and highly-skilled work of the workforce, es-

pecially those in the Building and Construction Trades."

"There is no more important time for our industry than right now, during an unprecedented global pandemic," Panetta added. We are grateful for our strong partnership with the Golden State's Building and Construction Trades Coun-

cil. We rely on the smooth operations of our companies making mission-critical COVID-19 tests, diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines to overcome this devastating pandemic."

Panetta vowed, "Science will lead us out of this crisis and I have much hope for the future; we will continue our lead-

ership and unprecedented collaboration, and our industry will continue to rise to the occasion demanded of us."

We are fortunate to live in this age of innovation, where advancements in science have allowed for the safe development of vaccines and treatments that will help us combat this global pandemic."



Vaccines must be manufactured and delivered, and that requires skilled and trained workers. Here, Pfizer employees get shipments ready.

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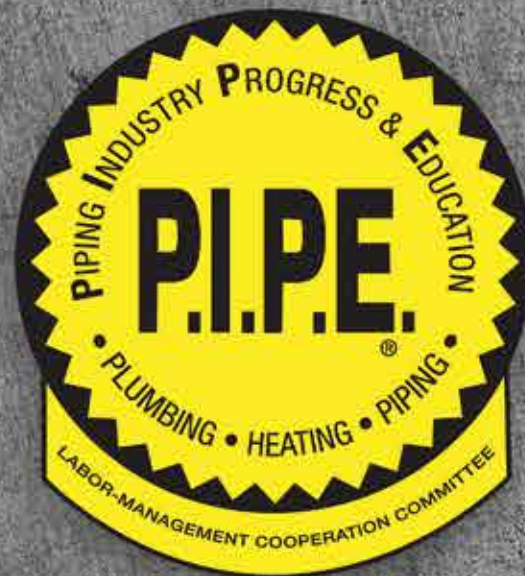


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Back in 2015, IBEW Local 11 apprentices Johnson Yu, left, and Isaac Castro joined hundreds of other Building Trades members to support the first city PLA in Long Beach.

LONG BEACH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

projects were completed at a cost of about \$49.4 million.

Councilmember Roberto Uranga, a longtime proponent of signing the original PLA, said the extension crossed “a major threshold.”

“I think the most important part of it is, it holds our contractors accountable for meeting local and disadvantaged hiring goals,” he said. “That’s one of the most important aspects of this Project Labor Agreement.”

The new PLA adds a new coverage category: all street-related right-of-way projects over \$1 million.

Vice Mayor Rex Richardson called the extension “a monumental achievement”

for Long Beach.

“The last PLA represented about \$50 million in work. This new PLA represents more than \$260 million in work,” he said. “That’s five times the impact in this PLA, it’s five times the opportunity, making sure jobs are coming to our local community. And that’s largely by expanding it to include street projects.”

A Growing Relationship

Councilman Al Austin noted that negotiations between the city and Building Trades Council had been lengthy in 2015 for the original agreement, but said that since then, things have smoothed out considerably.

“It did start off rocky and with a lot of uncertainty and uneasiness,” he said. “And today, I think it’s a 180-degree difference. The relationship with the Building Trades over the last five years and

the results that the original PLA has produced are commendable and something that we can build upon.

“This item has my full support. I want

to congratulate and salute staff for negotiating a great agreement with the Build-

SEE LONG BEACH PAGE 20



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The first PLA covered the demolition of the old downtown courthouse in 2016, right. The old City Hall, left, will also be demolished.



The pedestrian bridge is 600 feet long.



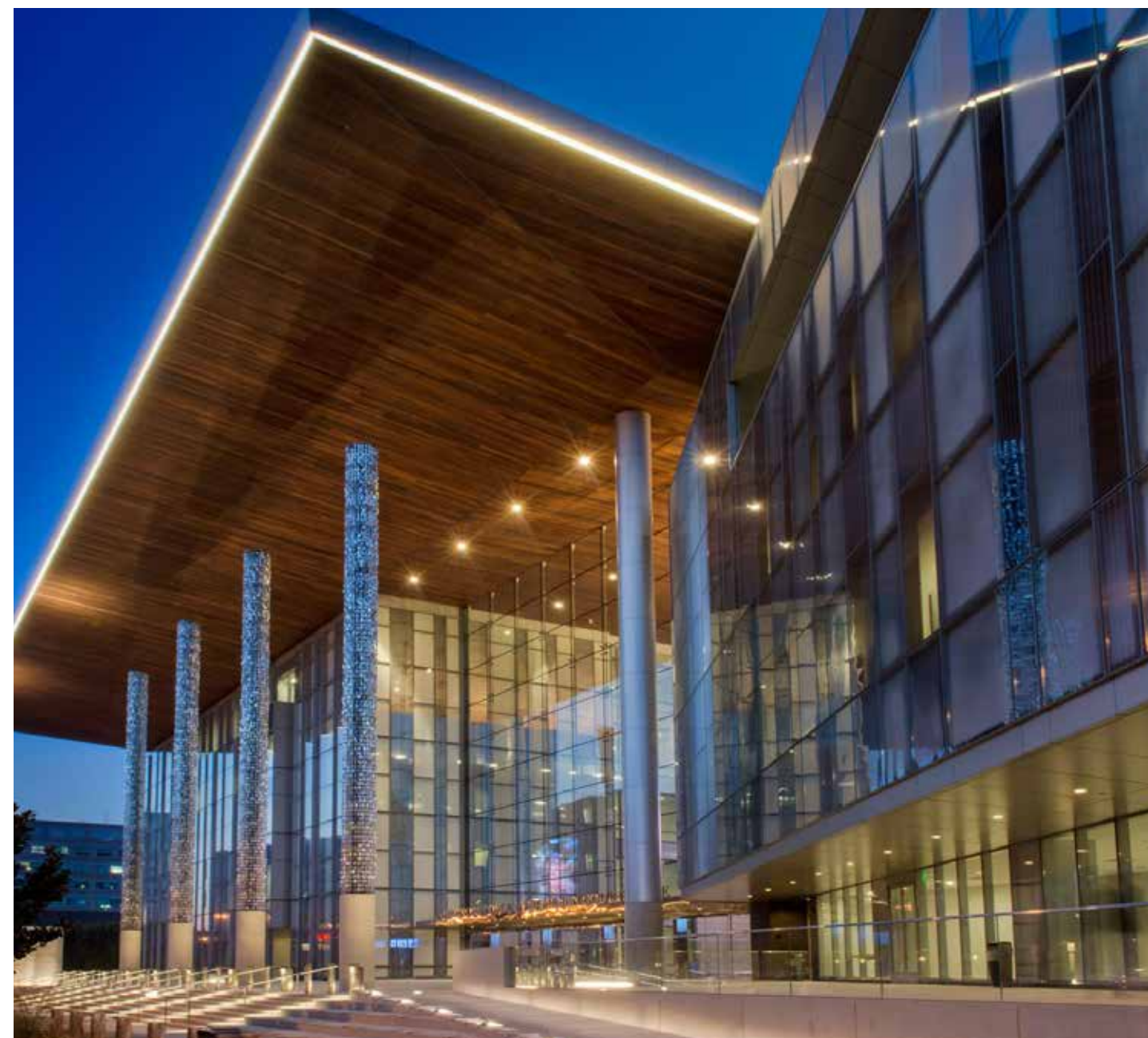
IT'S A RAINBOW

Similar to New York City's High Line, the Rainbow Bridge in Long Beach turns a simple walk into an urban adventure. The \$12 million bridge, built under the Project Labor Agreement between Long Beach and the Building Trades, links

the Performing Arts Center to the Convention Center. "The biggest challenge was to get a public project built at the level and quality that would more likely be seen in a high-end private project," said Zoltan Pali, principal at SPF:architects.



The bridge was constructed with a top frame of 76 custom-welded bent-steel ribs.



The Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse in downtown Long Beach was built under an earlier PLA with the Building Trades, and opened in 2013.

LONG BEACH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

ing Trades," he continued. "I'm looking forward to putting people to work over the next several years."

During the virtual meeting, IBEW Local 11 organizer Tommy Faavae remarked to the Council that Long Beach, like Los Angeles, has taken a multi-agency approach to PLAs.

Working Closely With the City

"It comes to all the different agencies within the city adopting a Project Labor Agreement," he said, referencing how the city government, public school district, harbor department and community college district have all approved PLAs in recent years.

"This day is a historical day, especially moving forward," Faavae said. "We look forward to working closely with the City."

Like the original PLA, the agreement applies to city-funded projects. But now, the PLA covers those costing more than \$750,000, rather than the \$500,000 threshold of the previous agreement.

While most comparable regional PLAs maintain a minimum threshold of \$2 million to \$2.5 million for covered projects, city staff's recommendation for a lower minimum threshold is based on the size, scope, and number of projects anticipated in the city during the term of the new PLA, Long Beach economic development director John Keisler and public works director Eric Lopez explained. They recommended that the Council approve the extension.

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But some legislators now say that HSR should switch from electric to diesel in many regions. Yes, the fuel of the previous millennium, now coming to you on high speed rail.

This is not what we envisioned. This is not what voters approved.

Not only is diesel much slower—135 mph maximum—but it's not the newest or best technology.

We have no problem with the use of diesel in many areas. We in the Building Trades advocate for the continued use of fossil fuels—oil and gas—as far into the future as possible. Clean diesel trucks will continue to run on our freeways. At home, we want consumers still to have the choice to use gas or electric power their stove. We don't support the cities that are banning gas appliances in new construction.

Don't Go Backward

But there's a huge difference between having enough heat to make pancakes and pushing a train weighing thousands of tons down a track at more than 200 mph.

Electric has the power for that. Diesel does not. It makes no sense to switch from building electric to going backward to diesel.

These legislators claim they're being smart. They'll take the money saved by the switch to diesel and put it into local transit in places like L.A. and Orange Counties.

Usually, we like any plan to put more



A viaduct over the San Joaquin River.

funds into local transit. But local transit is already benefiting from HSR money: \$1.3 billion is flowing into our area for work such as a major grade separation in Santa Fe Springs. And the only way to ensure that the full HSR system gets built down here is to give the riders what they want: a top-speed electric system.

In fact, this is the best time since the 1950s to increase the pot of infrastructure money. We should be asking for more, not less. Instead of hobbling our HSR, these advocates should work with us, and new Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, to get as much federal funding as possible. In one of his first interviews after being sworn in as Secretary, Buttigieg said he strongly supports true high-speed rail. So let's get him out here



Working at Wasco.

to California to show him what we've done. And that doesn't mean a bait-and-switch plan to move to diesel trains.

To keep our state productive and thriving into the future, we need a high speed rail system.

As surely as Robbie Hunter wrote his name on it six years ago, the Building Trades stand by high speed rail, and we will build it.



The Garces Highway Viaduct in Kern County was completed in January 2021, surrounded by thousands of acres of farmland.



A viaduct in Wasco being built in July 2020.

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The more you sit, the higher your risk for heart problems. Try standing when you'd normally sit, like when you're watching TV — or setting a reminder on your phone to get up and move once an hour.

Get the facts on fats

Some fats are healthier than others. Unsaturated fats like olive oil and avocado are considered superfoods you should eat often — whereas you should limit saturated fats like butter, and avoid trans fats altogether.

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*American Heart Association.