

# The Daily Independent

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## SSUSD board hears bond presentation

By John V. Ciani  
For the Daily Independent

The Sierra Sands Unified School District Board of Education, at a special meeting Tuesday, heard a presentation on a possible bond issue to go before voters.

Assistant Superintendent Pam Smith said the district looked at the possibility of

a bond measure a couple of years ago.

"We are again looking at that possibility," she said.

Government Financial Strategies Representative Matt Kolker spoke about the bond and a possible engagement strategy that would include all community stakeholders in the process.

He spoke about the \$50 mil-

lion Measure A, which voters approved in 2006.

"About half of it has been issued," said Kolker. "The unfortunate thing is that they were issued in a structure such that it was not callable, which means we could not refinance it to make it cheaper."

Talking about a future bond issue, he said the district has just under \$50 million avail-

able for issuance.

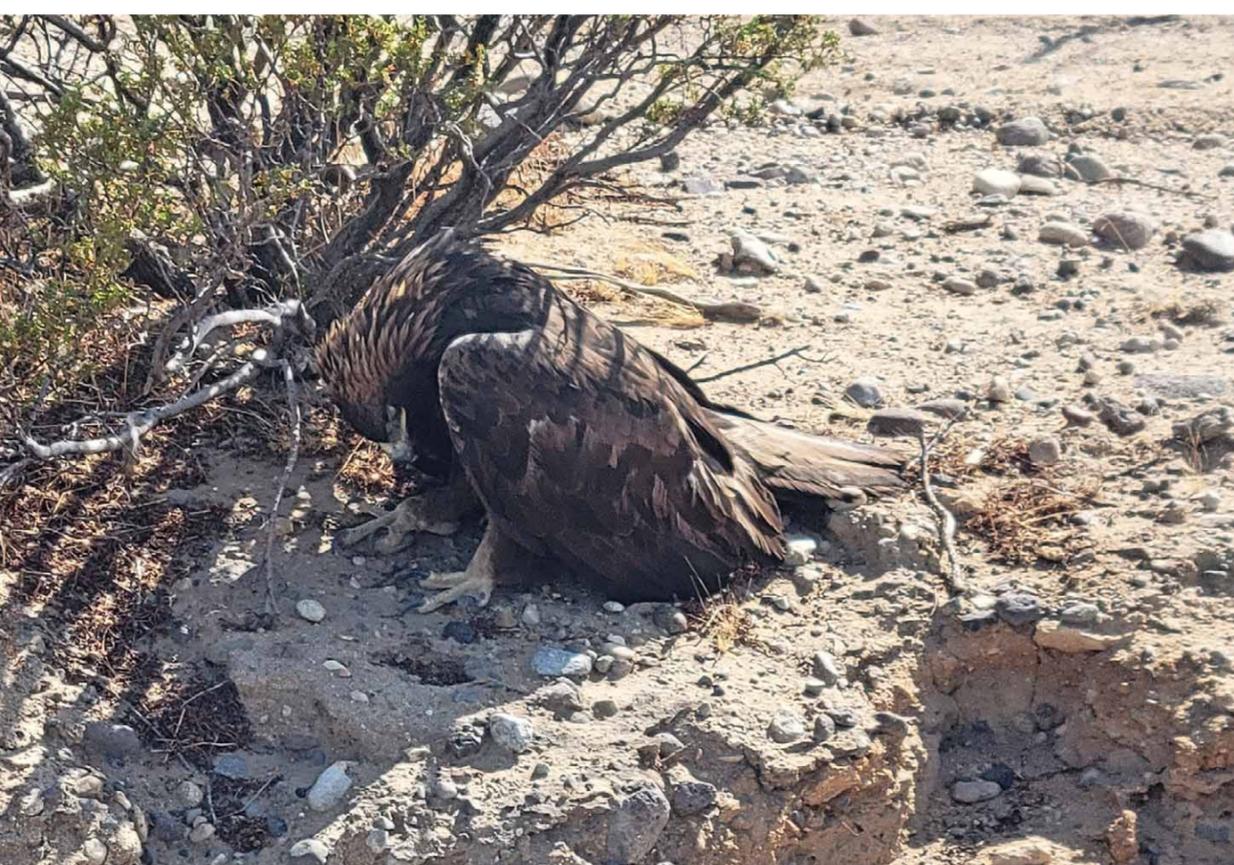
"We are looking at about three or four years out from now," he said. "We assume growth of upwards of about 2-percent increase in assessed value. When we issue bonds, there has to be a reasonable expectation we will spend the bond funds within three years."

Talking about civic engage-

ment, Kolker said the goals are to bring members of the community together.

"They learn something they didn't know. They get more insight on the conditions of the schools and what the district's plans are," he said. "They feel they contributed, and they feel like their time

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A golden eagle was found lying on the ground disoriented and dehydrated Wednesday by an Inyokern woman. It was later rescued by the Department of Fish and Game.

RODNEY PREUL/THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

## Eagle rescued in Inyokern

By Darla A. Baker  
The Daily Independent

An Inyokern woman came across a golden eagle in despair while walking in the desert Wednesday morning.

Alex Giacomella first saw the eagle on the side of Bowman Road Wednesday around 11 a.m. as she was passing by in her car.

Chuck and Jill Morris reported that an official of the Department of Fish and Wildlife picked up the bird around 3 p.m.

"We stayed awhile after the two

Highway Patrol officers came. Alex stayed with the bird the whole time from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. She was instrumental in saving the bird's life," Jill Morris said after the bird was rescued.

According to Jill Morris, the bird was only able to hop around, so it was assumed that her wings were injured.

Said Jill, "So we stood there and tried to keep it from hopping into the road."

According to Jill, the bird was disoriented. Officer Chris Clenard, natural resource volunteer for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the

golden eagle had not eaten in a while and was dehydrated.

Said Jill, "He was able to walk right over to it and pick it up by its feet because it was in such poor condition."

Golden eagles are not indigenous to the area. It was speculated that the bird was either disoriented by the smoke from recent fires or had possibly eaten something poisonous.

The golden eagle was taken to Crestwood Animal Hospital for evaluation. A representative of the hospital declined to release information on the eagle's condition Thursday morning.

## Planners OK maps for three housing projects

By Darla A. Baker  
The Daily Independent

The Ridgecrest Planning Commission met Tuesday night and approved the Tentative Tract Maps (TTM) for three housing projects for single-family homes.

Chairman Warren Cox, Vice Chairman Bill Farris Jr., and Commissioners Bernie Mondragon, Vanessa Hayman and William Jenkins unanimously approved each of the three TTMs submitted by the architect, Cornerstone Engineering.

The first, TTM 7358 & Variance 21-04, is a new housing project. It is a request to subdivide 11.08 acres gross and 10.16 acres net of vacant land into 43 single-family residential lots with a minimum lot size of 6,000 square feet and one drainage sump located on Downs Street near Las Flores Avenue.

TTM 7358 shall be inaugurated within 18 months or it shall automatically expire on March 28, 2023.

The second, TTM 7359 & Variance 21-03, is an extension to an existing housing project. It is a request to subdivide 11.3 gross acres, 8.2 net acres of vacant land zoned residential into 50 single-family residential lots and one sump lot with a minimum lot size of 6,000 square feet. It is located ap-

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## Hidden partisans try to influence California's redistricting

By Ben Christopher and Sameea Kamal  
CalMatters

In August, Christopher Rodriguez phoned into an online meeting of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, the 14 volunteers who will draw new congressional and legislative maps that will be used for the next decade.

Rodriguez argued that no matter how the commission determines the state's 52 congressional districts, Camp Pendleton, the sprawling Marine Corps base in north San Diego County, should be grouped together with the

nearby cities of Fallbrook and Oceanside to keep "our military population together."

If necessary, he argued, the commission should jettison cities farther down the coast, including Del Mar and Encinitas, which are "just completely foreign to us here in North County. They don't come up here, we don't go down there."

Rodriguez introduced himself as "small business owner," a "Marine Corp combat veteran" and "a father of seven."

He neglected to mention that he's also an Oceanside city council member — and a

Republican running for Congress in 2022 whose prospects could be buoyed by a district that is anchored around the Marine base and his hometown and that excludes the Democratic areas to the south. The current 49th District, represented by Democrat Mike Levin, is 36% Democratic and 33% Republican by voter registration, but the San Diego County portion is about 38% Democratic.

Rodriguez said that his motivation was to advocate for the shared interests of the military communities, and that he was "absolutely" not factoring in his campaign

prospects. "Running for office, and being a public servant as a city council member, is completely irrelevant," he said.

### A tight timeline

Since March, the commission has been hearing public testimony on which "communities of interest" to unite in legislative or congressional districts — and which to partition into political irrelevance. It requires arbitrating the competing demands of myriad ethnic, economic and political interests across the nation's most diverse state.

The full commission meets today and Wednesday in Sacramento. It has until Dec. 27 to submit the final congressional and legislative maps to the secretary of state, the state Supreme Court ruled on Sept. 22. The panel had asked for an extension until Jan. 14, due to the delays in getting the required data from the U.S. Census. But the court-ordered schedule keeps the June 2022 primary on track, as does a scheduling bill signed Monday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The stakes are especially high in the northern San Joa-

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