

LAUSD BOARD MEMBER PLEADS GUILTY

Ref Rodriguez admits to conspiracy and resigns, marking a dramatic fall for the respected educator.

By Howard Blume and Emily Alpert Reyes

Los Angeles school board member Ref Rodriguez pleaded guilty Monday to a felony count of conspiracy and resigned from office, marking a dramatic fall for a widely admired educator who became the first charter schools executive elected to the Board of Education.

Rodriguez, 47, was once the leader of the charter school-backed majority that took over the board a year ago after the nation's most expensive school board election ever.

But two months after becoming school board president, the criminal charges compelled him to step back — giving up his presidency but retaining his seat amid the distractions of defending himself.

Under the deal with prosecutors, Rodriguez will avoid jail time. Instead, he will get three years' probation and 60 days of community service.

Rodriguez also pleaded guilty to three misdemeanor counts of assumed-name contribution. In doing so, he admitted that he was part of a scheme to conceal that he was the true source of early donations to his campaign.

"It has been the honor of my life to serve the communities of Board District 5 as their L.A. Unified board member," Rodriguez wrote on his Twitter feed. "I have spent my adult life working to improve educational conditions for students who come from neighborhoods like the one where I grew up, with parents who worked [See Rodriguez, A6]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

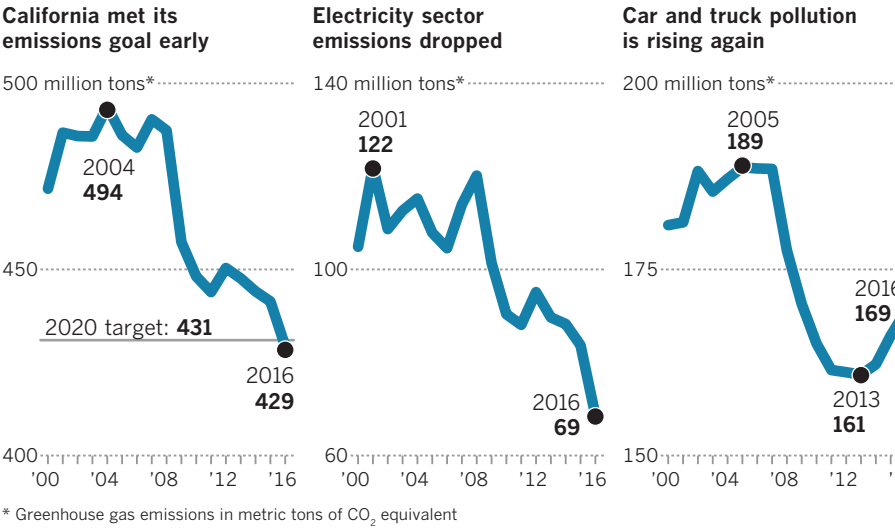
EMISSIONS from electricity generation have plunged, but transportation pollution has risen in California.

Achieving climate goal far from ideal scenario

California's primary source of pollution is rising unabated

Climate milestone, but uneven progress

California's greenhouse gas emissions have dipped below 1990 levels, largely due to renewable energy growth. But rising pollution from the transportation sector makes future targets harder to reach.



Source: California Air Resources Board

By Tony Barboza and Julian H. Lange

California hit its target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels four years early, a milestone regulators and environmentalists are cheering as more proof that you can cut pollution while growing the economy.

But a closer look at data released by the state Air Resources Board shows that while emissions from electricity generation in California have plunged, other key industries are flat and transportation pollution is increasing.

Further complicating matters is a Trump administration plan to weaken fuel economy standards and revoke California's power to set its own, stricter rules — a [See Pollution, A10]

JULIAN H. LANGE Los Angeles Times

Pakistan military appears intent on shaping vote

By Shashank Bengali and Aoun Sahi

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Five years ago, one elected government in Pakistan stepped down to make way for another, marking the first peaceful democratic transition in a country that has been under military rule for much of its independent history.

Now Pakistan is attempting to repeat the feat. But the run-up to Wednesday's elections suggests that its powerful army is not done interfering in politics.

Although the military generals are loath to retake power themselves — risking U.S. and international sanc-

tions that could jeopardize their economic interests — analysts say they appear determined to keep former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif out of politics.

Sharif, a longtime adversary of the generals who was removed from office last year on corruption charges, was convicted on flimsy evidence this month and sits in jail. Leading members of his party have been defecting in recent weeks to join his main rival. A news channel whose coverage was sympathetic to Sharif was mysteriously forced off the air, and rallies by his supporters have been blocked or subjected to media blackouts.

To many Pakistanis, the [See Pakistan, A4]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

REACTIONS FROM THE DIASPORA

Iranians rally as Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo speaks in Simi Valley. Some say they hope the Trump administration can effect change in their homeland, while others fear the U.S. may resort to war. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Trump loudly stokes Iran tensions, and aides do too

By Tracy Wilkinson and Eli Stokols

WASHINGTON — In an abrupt escalation of tensions with Iran, President Trump is threatening the Islamic Republic with war unless it changes its ways, in concert with senior advisors who are speaking out on separate fronts.

Critics immediately branded the threats as Trump's attempt to divert attention from widespread, bipartisan disapproval of his

troubled dealings with Russia, criticism that has only grown since the Helsinki summit with President Vladimir Putin and amid attention to the upcoming trial of his former campaign manager, Paul Manafort.

But in contrast to the Russia controversy, where Trump's embrace of Putin has seemed oddly at cross-purposes with the tough policies of his administration, on Iran, senior officials echoed the president on Sunday and Monday with their tough talk, just weeks

before the administration plans to slap brutal economic sanctions on the country.

In a blistering tweet, Trump wrote shortly before midnight Sunday in Washington, "To Iranian President Rouhani," and then hit his caps-lock button for the message:

"NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGH- [See Iran, A6]

Trump targets former security officials

He threatens to take away their clearances as punishment for their blunt criticism of his recent actions.

By Chris Megerian and Eli Stokols

WASHINGTON — President Trump is considering revoking the security clearances of at least half a dozen well-known former national security officials, his spokeswoman said on Monday, in an extraordinary expression of his desire to punish increasingly vocal critics from past administrations.

Among the president's targets, Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, are former CIA Director John Brennan, former Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper and former national security advisor Susan Rice, who all served under President Obama.

She also named Michael Hayden, who was head of the National Security Agency and then CIA director under President George W. Bush, as well as James B. Comey, the former FBI director under Obama whom Trump fired last year, and Andrew McCabe, the former FBI deputy director also removed by Trump.

However, neither Comey nor McCabe still have clearances, according to their representatives, suggesting that the White House had not fully considered the threatened action before making it public.

Sanders, addressing White House reporters, said of the targets: "They've politicized and in some cases monetized their public service and security clearances, making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia."

The pronouncement reflects a presidency feeling a bipartisan backlash from Trump's news conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin last week, when Trump refused to condemn Moscow's interference in the 2016 election and accepted Putin's denials. Brennan, for one, called Trump's conduct "treason" [See Trump, A10]

Hollister Ranch deal challenged

Activists, angered by an agreement between wealthy landowners and state officials, take a final shot at opening a secluded stretch of the California coast. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Tesla stock falls on refund news

Analysts see "troubling" signs following a report that the carmaker is putting the squeeze on its suppliers for rebates. **BUSINESS, C1**

A theme park in a warehouse

A "micro-amusement park" taking shape in the Arts District could be seen as a modern-day arcade, but one based on social interaction. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather Extreme heat for the next few days. L.A. Basin: 96/72. **B6**

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FORMER Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and daughter Maryam were jailed on their return to Pakistan.