



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

A RESIDENT walks an area in Rancho Palos Verdes where land upheaval has pushed bentonite up from below, creating a new beach.

There's an entirely new coastline in Rancho Palos Verdes.

The rapidly expanding and accelerating complex of landslides on the southeastern tip of the Palos Verdes Peninsula continues to wreak havoc on the area's homes, roads and utilities, even forcing the iconic Wayfarers Chapel to abandon its location, at least temporarily.

But it has also led to a new and unforeseen change at the water's edge: The seafloor has been pushed upward, literally creating new beach.

"That beach is brand-new," said Denny Jaconi,

# Get your boards! A new beach forms in Rancho Palos Verdes

## A rapidly accelerating complex of landslides has created an unforeseen outcome: a new coastline as the seafloor is pushed upward

By Grace Toohey

pointing to the rocky shoreline that he said didn't exist just a few months ago. "There's three or four of us that have been surfing down here our whole lives, and we're just blown away because it's unreal."

The waters where Jaconi caught waves in his childhood — and even just months ago — have given way to a large, rocky coast, transformed as the force of the landslides has pushed bentonite up from below the sand.

"It's changing like every week," he said, as new reefs appear regularly. "We've had two new surf spots, in the [See Coastline, A8]

### LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

# President's trademark defiance hardens

For decades, Biden's refusal to give up showed he had grit. Now it suggests he's in denial.

DOYLE McMANUS

It took Joe Biden three campaigns and more than 30 years to win the presidency. It should come as no surprise that he's resisting suggestions that he give it up now, just over a week after a disastrous debate performance sharpened doubts that he can win a second term.



He's been in this position before. "Same thing happened in 2020," he told ABC's George Stephanopoulos on Friday.

A recurring pattern of setbacks, defiance and recovery has been the central narrative of Biden's career. It's a story he frequently tells — to himself, his family and his party.

"I've been knocked down before and counted out my whole life," he told campaign workers Wednesday. "I learned long ago that when you get knocked down, you get back up."

In earlier chapters, his gritty refusal to be counted out was a virtue. It fueled his 2020 comeback from failures in the early primaries, when doubters said he was waging a "zombie campaign," to victory over then-President Trump.

But Biden's signature defiance appears to be hardening into denial.

In his 22-minute interview with Stephanopoulos, he batted away questions about whether his moments of incoherence at the June 27 debate signaled a deeper problem.

"I just had a bad night," the president said — five times.

He dismissed the many polls that show him likely to lose to Trump, who has been convicted of 34 felonies in New York.

"All the pollsters I talk to tell me it's a toss-up," Biden insisted.

When Stephanopoulos noted that surveys show only 36% of voters have a favorable view of Biden, the president replied: "I don't believe that's my approval."

[See McManus, A7]

# A Harris run would thrust L.A. into national political spotlight

Vice President Kamala Harris is suddenly at the center of a maelstrom in the 2024 presidential election.

After President Biden's poor debate performance in late June, a growing number of Democrats are calling on him to drop out of the race for the good of their party and the nation.

Our Revolution fund-raised Wednesday off a post-debate poll that found that roughly two-thirds of the liberal political action committee's 17,000 members wanted Biden replaced at the top of the Democratic

## Southern California could experience a burst of power not seen since the Reagan and Nixon days

BY COURTNEY SUBRAMANIAN AND SEEMA MEHTA

ticket.

Prominent donors in Hollywood, Silicon Valley and elsewhere have begun publicly expressing concern about Biden as the nominee. His interview Friday night with ABC — an attempt to right his campaign — drew tepid reviews, and five members of Congress had called for him to bow out as of Saturday.

Biden, 81, has pledged to remain in the race, but if he were to step aside, Harris — the first female, South Asian and Black vice president — [See Harris, A7]



DAMIAN DOVARGANES Associated Press

### COLISEUM RENOVATIONS

Olympic organizers will give the historic venue a makeover after USC's last football game of 2027. One official expresses disappointment. **SPORTS, D1**

### To fans, mochi is taste of memories

Gardena brothers' treats mark moments worth remembering, Frank Shyong writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Fauci's memoir fights deadly lies

Longtime public health servant addresses abuse and grift of the Trump years, Michael Hiltzik writes. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

**Weather**  
Sunny; a bit less warm. L.A. Basin: 85/65. **B10**

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