



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times
PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump speaks at his golf course in Rancho Palos Verdes in September. The potential for a Trump administration to profoundly alter or gut existing environmental policies is considerable.

‘Drill, baby, drill!’ and climate change denial

As a candidate, President-elect Donald Trump repeatedly professed his love of clean air and water, but he also dismissed climate change as a hoax, railed against zero emission electric vehicles and expressed contempt for the environmental regulations that seek to protect California rivers and estuaries.

Now, as Trump prepares to return to the White House, state officials and environmental groups are bracing for the same sweeping environmental policy changes that characterized his first administration, as well as others that have been proposed more recently by former Trump aides and allies.

Although Trump has sought to dis-

California braces for a Trump environment

By **Susanne Rust, Ian James, Lila Seidman and Tony Briscoe**

tance himself from the conservative Project 2025 game plan, many of its energy and environment proposals mirror Trump’s contention that the government’s focus on climate change has shackled the oil industry and damaged the nation’s economy and must come to an end.

Equipped with a Republican-controlled Senate, a likely majority-Republican Congress, and a Supreme Court that has shown hostility toward environmental laws and regulations, the potential for a Trump administration to profoundly alter or gut existing policies is considerable.

However, experts say the road isn’t [See **Environment**, A10]

Election highlights legacy media’s struggles

Trump won while attacking, eschewing mainstream journalism as podcasts gain clout.

By **STEPHEN BATTAGLIO AND SAMANTHA MASUNAGA**

Imagine if the Super Bowl audience dropped by 25%. That’s what happened Tuesday when Nielsen tallied the viewership for TV networks that provided coverage of former President Trump’s historic electoral victory over Vice President Kamala Harris for the White House.

But election night was just the grand finale of a political season that showed how legacy media organizations are struggling to maintain relevance while alternatives in the digital universe chip away at their influence.

Young viewers are getting information from TikTok, YouTube and Elon Musk’s X, skipping the evening news broadcasts and cable shows as they go without pay TV subscriptions.

Trump largely bypassed traditional media outlets, granting lengthy interviews to comedians such as Theo Von and the influential Joe Rogan, who eventually en-



AL SEIB For The Times
PHILLIP FEDERIS retrieves keepsakes for family friend Carol Cressy on Friday after the Mountain fire destroyed 130 homes in Camarillo and damaged 80 others.

Mountain fire razed their homes, but not their resolve

Camarillo neighbors help one another after destructive blaze, with many eager to rebuild.

By **NATHAN SOLIS**

The residents of Camarillo Heights knew all too well the dangers of fire.

Their corner of Ventura County was battered by powerful Santa Ana winds every fall, and those gusts stoked fires that came close but never swept into their hillside community.

That is until Wednesday, when the Mountain fire made a direct hit, burning

numerous homes and sending residents fleeing for safety.

With the danger passed, people returned to survey the devastation. But instead of defeat, there was a spirit of resiliency and defiance as neighbors helped neighbors and many talked of rebuilding as quickly as possible.

On Friday afternoon, 85-year-old Carol Cressy visited what remained of her home. Neighbors stopped to check in on her as she walked around the rubble and twisted metal that made up her home of 50 years.

“The Bible says don’t put your faith in material possessions,” Cressy said. “Don’t I believe it.”

Cressy volunteered with the local Democratic Party to register voters and stayed up late on Tuesday night to watch the election results. On Wednesday morning, as the Mountain fire raced to her neighborhood, she received an automated phone call to evacuate.

“By that time, the color outside my windows was bright red,” she said. “The flames were already there.”

She jumped out of bed in her nightgown, chased after her 10-year-old border collie, Henry Valentine, and ran to her car in a pair of sandals. She didn’t have time to grab much else.

As a former educator who [See **Fire**, A6]

Mater Dei’s link to USC admission for donors’ kids

School’s ex-president promoted students’ acceptance as athletes who would never play.

By **MATT HAMILTON AND HARRIET RYAN**

Mater Dei High School was building a new campus parking structure, and asked its hometown, Santa Ana, for \$1.8 million for related street improvements.

The response from City Hall was cool. Mater Dei was an elite private school with annual tuition and fees then north of \$15,000 and a student body drawn mainly from Dana Point, Laguna Beach and other wealthy areas. Santa Ana was working-class, overwhelmingly Latino, and at the time, six years ago, in the midst of a budget crisis.

“Does it feel right to come

up and ask us for this?” then-Councilmember Sal Tinajero chided Patrick Murphy, the school president at the time, at a May 2018 City Council meeting. “Fifty percent of our residents don’t own a car. Ninety-three percent of Santa Ana Unified students are living at the poverty line.”

A vote on the money was tabled. Two days later, Murphy reached out to USC for a favor: college admission for the son of Santa Ana’s mayor at the time, Miguel Pulido.

“Possibly as a Preferred Walk On (thru Tennis),” Murphy wrote to a contact in the university’s athletic department.

Though the mayor’s son ultimately attended college elsewhere, the episode attests to the unique connection between USC’s secret admission system for the wealthy and well-connected [See **Mater Dei**, A7]

Latino men voted for ‘American dream’

Those struggling to provide for families say Trump’s economic promises were the key.

By **RACHEL URANGA AND BRITTNY MEJIA**

Tomas Garcia and Maria Viesca-Garcia toasted the presidential win with an old fashioned and a martini inside the opulent 64-story Trump International Hotel Las Vegas as the sun shone the day after a historic presidential election.

Around the hotel bar, people donned “Make America Great Again” hats and one woman wore a red shirt with the numbers “45” and “47” printed above a flag. Garcia and his wife, from San Antonio, voted for Trump in 2016, again in 2020 and in this election.

“Why am I for Trump? Because I’m an American

first of all,” said Garcia, 70, whose great-grandparents emigrated from Mexico to the U.S.

Garcia grew up poor in San Antonio. And for 40 years he poured his life savings into a retirement fund.

“When Biden came into presidency I lost \$80,000 of my investment, but that’s OK, I’m looking for rosier times,” he said. “I know that I’m going to do good with Trump.”

Trump’s economic populism and promises to “make America great again” have deeply resonated with some Latinos who turned sharply right Tuesday amid concerns over inflation, the border and safety. They brushed off anti-immigrant language and backed him by 46%, compared with 2020 when he received 34% of their vote.

In some of the most heavily Latino corners of the country, voters came out [See **Latino**, A8]

Schiff pushes the insults aside

Senator-elect, a frequent target of Trump, says he’ll work with him, Mark Z. Barabak writes. **NATION, A5**

‘Kidults’ go crazy for Labubu toys

People are lining up for hours for the furry character with rabbit-like ears and a nightmarish grin. **BUSINESS, A12**

Weather
Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 76/50. **B10**

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JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times
THE ACTOR is author of the memoir/self-help mix “Master of Me.”

Keke Palmer, beyond compare

Nickelodeon-turned-“Nope” star gives advice on controlling your own narrative in a new book. **ENTERTAINMENT, E4**



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