



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

ANGLERS cast lines into the Sacramento River in Redding. A sudden increase in deaths of steelhead trout is raising concerns.

EPA issues new rules for big trucks

The regulations will curtail a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

By Russ Mitchell

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday issued tough new emissions standards for heavy-duty trucks and buses, with the aim of cutting air pollution, addressing climate change and boosting economic growth.

The federal rules will curtail a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year and will provide annual benefits worth \$13 billion “related to public health, climate, and savings for truck owners and operators.” Big rigs, delivery trucks, cement mixers, garbage trucks, transit buses and school buses are all included under the regulation.

California’s government enacted similar rules last year. The state rules are tougher than the Biden administration’s and are expected to remain so. California’s rules will supersede the federal regulations for large truck fleets operating within the state, whether they are registered in California or not.

Unlike California’s rules, which mandate sales of new electric battery and fuel cell trucks in increasing percentages through 2042, the federal rules allow more flexibility in fuels, as long as air emissions standards are met. Gasoline, diesel, biodiesel, hydrogen and electric-drive trucks would technically be allowed, but the

[See Trucks, A7]

Mystery surrounds trout deaths

Environmentalists urge federal intervention over 4,000 fish killed by delta pumps

By Hayley Smith and Ian James

California environmental groups are urging a federal court to intervene amid a “dramatic increase” in the deaths of threatened steelhead trout at pumps operated by state and federal water managers.

Since Dec. 1, more than 4,000 wild and hatchery-raised steelhead have been killed at pumps in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, according to public data for the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project.

The agencies are now at about 90% of their combined seasonal take limit, which refers to the amount of wild steelhead permitted to be killed between January and March under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.



YICHUAN CAO Getty Images

A BABY steelhead trout fights for food in a pool at Nimbus Fish Hatchery in Sacramento. The hatchery produces chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

A coalition of environmental and fishing groups — including the Golden State Salmon Assn., the Bay Institute and Defenders of Wildlife — are involved in ongoing litigation that seeks to challenge current federal operating plans in the delta, an estuary at the heart of the state’s water supply. They say the protocols are largely based on outdated rules dating to the Trump administration and are asking the court to require several modifications to better protect fish, including setting targets for water temperatures and upstream storage in Shasta Lake.

The cause of the recent uptick in fish deaths is unclear, but the sudden increase in steelhead at the pumps is unusual, according to Ashley Overhouse, a water policy advisor with Defenders of Wildlife. About 2,100 live steelhead have

[See Steelhead, A7]

Another gambling case has lessons for Ohtani

The saga of former Dodger Puig shows the risks unique to players from abroad.

By Kevin Rector

The baseball star went into his first conversation with federal investigators assured he was “not a target.”

The lead prosecutor on a sprawling sports betting case, Assistant U.S. Atty. Jeff

Mitchell, told the player’s attorney that he didn’t believe it was a federal crime to make payments to an illegal bookmaker, as the player was suspected of doing. Investigators were after “an unlawful sports gambling organization,” Mitchell said, according to a court declaration reviewed by The Times.

In other words: The feds wanted the bookies — not the bettors.

Despite those assurances, the player — former Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig —

[See Ohtani, A6]

Cesar Chavez family slams RFK Jr. campaign

Relatives decry the candidate’s use of his famous father’s close ties to the labor icon.

By Benjamin Oreskes

During the 1980 presidential primaries, Fernando Chavez traveled for months with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as they worked on the presidential campaign of his uncle Sen. Edward M. “Ted” Kennedy.

In living room after living room, Chavez said, he saw some combination of three

framed pictures on the wall: portraits of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; of Kennedy’s father, the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.); and of his own father, Cesar Chavez, who had co-founded the United Farm Workers. The elder Kennedy had grown close to the labor icon in the years before the senator’s assassination in 1968.

“Those three represented hope and aspirations for people, especially marginalized people” — Black, Latino and Native Americans, and “even poor whites,” Fernando Chavez recalled in an interview. “It

gave them a sense of, ‘Wow. We have somebody in our corner. We have somebody fighting for us.’”

Today, the two sons’ close ties are a distant memory. Kennedy Jr. has used Cesar Chavez’s name and image in his independent campaign for president, eliciting outrage from Chavez family members.

Several of them spoke out this week, as Kennedy plans to hold an event Saturday in Los Angeles commemorating Cesar Chavez Day.

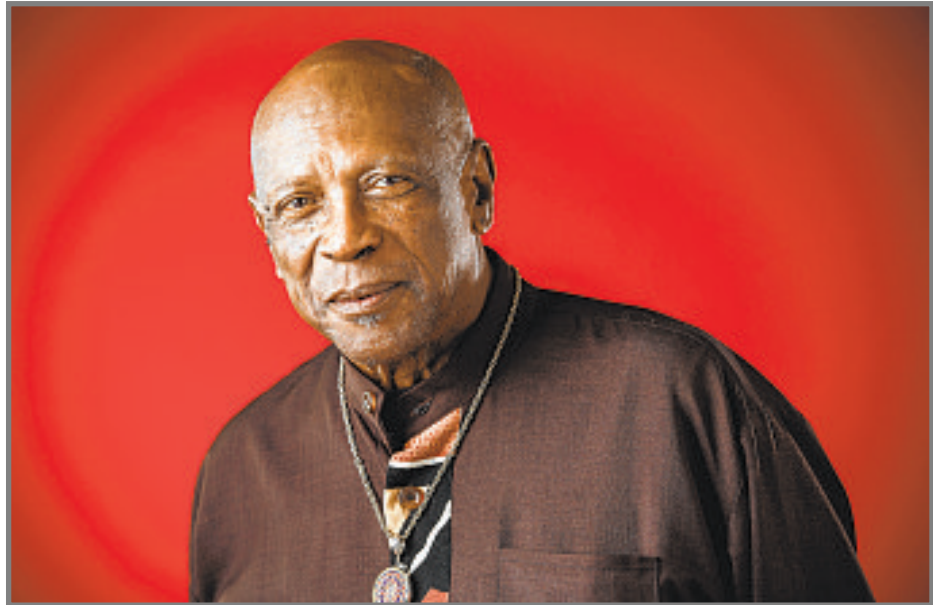
In promoting the event, Kennedy’s campaign has

[See Cesar Chavez, A10]



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

KENNEDY JR. would not be Chavez’s choice for president, relatives of the farmworkers’ hero say.



RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

A COMMANDING PRESENCE

Louis Gossett Jr. won an Academy Award for his role as Emil Foley, the steely, no-nonsense drill sergeant in “An Officer and a Gentleman.”

LOUIS GOSSETT JR., 1936 - 2024

‘Roots’ star broke racial barriers in Hollywood

He became first Black man to win supporting actor Oscar in 1983.

By Steve Marble

Louis Gossett Jr. was still a teen, fresh off a successful Broadway run, when he landed at LAX and headed to Beverly Hills in a cherry red Ford Fairlane, feeling on top of the world.

He didn’t get far before the cops pulled him over,

saying he matched a description of someone they were looking for. A few miles later, it happened again. And then again. By the time he got to the Beverly Hills Hotel, a squad car had rolled up and the officers handcuffed Gossett to a tree as they tried to figure out what a young Black man was doing in town.

“Welcome to Hollywood,” the Oscar-winning actor wrote years later in his memoir, “An Actor and a Gentleman,” recounting his inaugural trip to L.A. in 1967.

[See Gossett, A10]

Why is it so hard to help Gazans?

With warnings of “imminent” famine, there is a global push to deliver aid. **WORLD, A3**

People Mover is likely delayed

Strained ties between LAX and contractor might push it to late 2025. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Morning downpours. L.A. Basin: 57/50. **B8**

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