



Fall 2024

President's Message:

Happy Fall, and may our record-breaking temperatures continue to fall as well. This coming weekend, Cal Water will be hosting a special "Water Tank Open House" in the Riviera (details on page 3). In October, your new RHA Board will be holding their first in-person meeting (details below). Come and ask your questions!

If you support or oppose any of the state bills coming from Sacramento, we have suggestions on how best to make your voice heard on page 3. On page 4, the RHA addresses the continuing coyote concerns of pet owners. The unhoused are also an ongoing worry for some residents; page 2 has information about Los Angeles County's Measure A as well as steps you can take in Torrance.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting!

Elizabeth "Libby" Spatz, RHA President

The RHA Is Looking for a Web Designer!

Do you have experience and a passion for combining visual design elements such as text, videos, and graphics? Would you like to volunteer in your community? We'd love to talk to you!

Email us for more information at info@hollywoodriviera.org.

General Meeting October 15th

We will be having an in-person meeting at the Riviera United Methodist Church (375 Palos Verdes Blvd. Redondo Beach) at 7 PM on October 15th. Former Councilmember Mike Griffiths will be speaking on current state legislation that may override local zoning and the Hillside Overlay Ordinance. Jean Adelsman, Torrance Civil Service Commissioner and author of the *Take Back Torrance* newsletter, will provide an overview of the Torrance upcoming ballot Measure TC—and what makes it potentially problematic. Cal Water's Operations Manager Robert Thompson will also be there with information of the water tank replacement on Calle de Arboles.

We plan on having Q&A sessions for each speaker. Our new RHA Board members will be on hand to answer questions as well.

August Landscaping Awards



August's winner is the Kenny residence at 432 Calle de Felipe. Aided by their children, Diana & Chase Kenny made two white window boxes that hold colorful coleus, a variety of native plants, succulents, and miniature ivy. The family worked with landscaping team at [Lisa's Garden Therapy](#) to plant the front garden around their palm trees. The Kennys created a backyard vegetable garden as well.

The Unhoused in Torrance

A Riviera resident recently discovered a man living among the trees on their property. Given that [over 70,000 people are currently homeless in Los Angeles County](#), this isn't surprising. Last May, at the RHA's virtual General Meeting, Torrance Outreach Coordinator Valerie Hernandez spoke about her work finding housing and services for homeless. Torrance has approximately 300 souls who are unhoused at any given time, but [only 40 tiny homes in their 3290 Temporary Housing Village](#). Should you come across an unhoused person, call Ms. Hernandez directly at 310-803-3390 or email her at VHernandez@TorranceCA.gov.

There is a measure addressing homelessness on the Los Angeles County ballot this November 5th: [Measure A](#). Measure A would repeal [the quarter-cent sales tax increase of 2017](#), replacing it with a half-cent sales tax increase. 60% of the revenue generated (estimated at over 1 billion annually) would then fund LA County's subsidized housing and shelter, mental health care, case management, employment services and acquisition of existing housing.

35.75% would fund the new Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (for construction of new housing, preservation of affordable housing, and tenant protections).

Taking Action on State Legislation

In an effort to combat a housing shortage, the California State Legislature has recently passed multiple laws overriding local housing ordinances, such as [AB 1033](#), [AB 2221](#), and [SB 9](#), [SB 7](#), and [SB 450](#).

If you are unhappy about these bills, or any other state bills, the most effective course of action is to [call your legislators directly and let their staffers know how you feel](#).

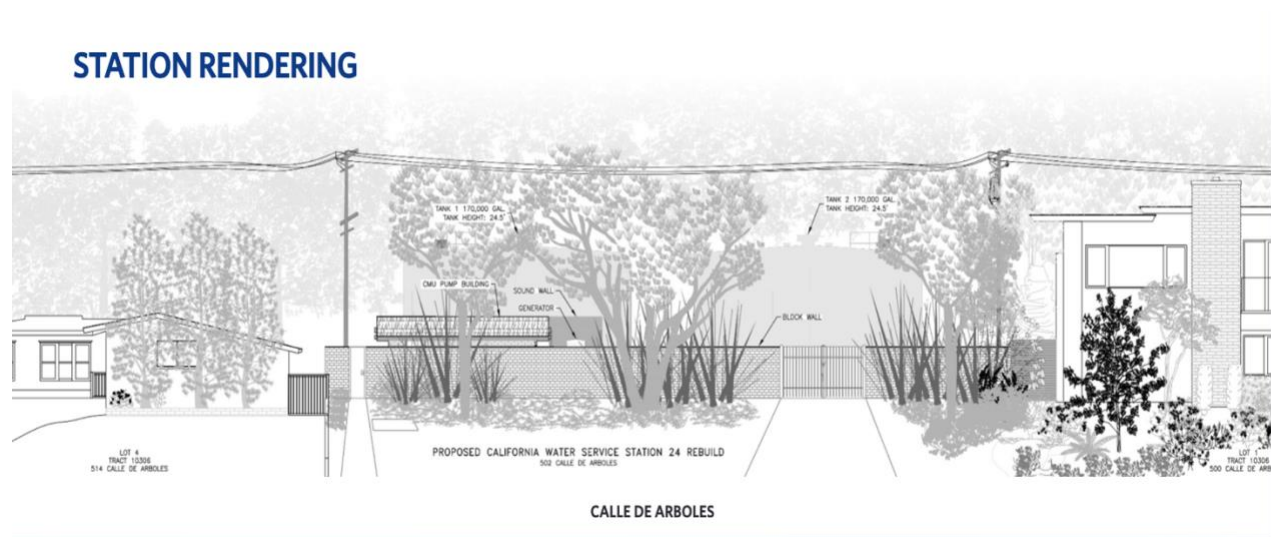
- Our Assemblyman, Al Muratsuchi, can be reached by phone at: (310) 319-2066.
- State Senator Ben Allen's District office phone number is (310) 414-8190.

Water Tank Replacement Project

California Water Service (Cal Water) currently maintains Station 24 at 502 Calle de Arboles. Built over 70 years ago, the 4 original tanks are made of wood. These aging tanks are prone to leaks and no longer meet industry or seismic standards. The on-site pumps have also become noisy and unreliable. Cal Water will be replacing the tanks, pipes, and pumps over the next 10-12 months. There will be two, new steel tanks, with an increased capacity—which means the new tanks will be higher than the previous tanks. This has been a concern for residents.

From 11-1 PM on Saturday, September 28th, Cal Water will be holding an open house at Station 24 with an exhibit showing how the new station will look after completion, as well as a taco truck and giveaway items. Cal Water experts will be there to answer questions and listen to community concerns.

To attend, RSVP to Robert Thompson at Cal Water: rthompson@calwater.com.



Ask the RHA

Dear RHA,

I would like to let you know that the neighborhood is being attacked. Coyotes have attacked our dog in our back yard. She is gone. Something has to be done. Please put this on the agenda. There are many pets taken.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Dogless & Despairing

Dear Despairing,

We are so sorry for your loss.

Almost every member of the RHA Board has pets and coyotes are always a concern. Thank you for sharing your story, painful as it is.

Five years ago, [Torrance created a campaign](#) to educate residents about the dangers of coyotes. Coyotes generally avoid humans, but they are also opportunists. If they see a pile of cat food or an animal under twenty pounds and there isn't a human within six feet? They will take it and run.

Torrance advises residents to keep a pet's food and water inside. A small pet should always be attended when outdoors, especially at night. Residents are also advised to report coyote sightings by:

- Completing a report on the [Coyote Management Portal](#)
- Calling the 24-Hour Hotline at (310) 618-3868
- Using the [myTorranceCA app](#)

It's crucial to haze any coyotes that become habituated to human contact—loud noise is usually effective. Some folks yell. Others carry airhorns. Some people blast heavy metal music at coyotes. One RHA member even charged a coyote with her giant dog barking like mad. (The dog woke up all the neighbors, but the coyote ran away.)

Torrance also hired a trapper to catch and kill coyotes within the city; that trapper [is now under investigation](#)).

While it is natural to want vengeance when we lose a family member, the RHA, like the [California Department of Fish & Wildlife](#), finds euthanizing coyotes short-sighted and a waste of resources. Torrance's own [Coyote Management Plan](#) points out that killing coyotes is ineffective—another coyote will simply move into the area. This is why both your RHA and wildlife experts recommend hazing the coyotes instead; once a family of coyotes learns to avoid the loud, scary humans, they will avoid areas with humans and pass that behavior onto their offspring.

If residents want extra protection for their dog, there is one more option:



[Companies now make anti-coyote vests.](#)

Losing a pet is heartbreaking. However, the [shelters and rescues in Los Angeles have been operating beyond their capacity for months.](#) If you eventually choose to honor your last dog by adopting another, we commend you.

-Your RHA

Do you have a question or concern about an ongoing issue in the Riviera? Send your question to info@hollywoodriviera.org! We may answer it in our next newsletter.

Membership

Your yearly membership of only \$25.00 supports newsletters, neighborhood display signs, meeting space rentals, and gives scholarships to high school seniors.

We also accept donations of any amount.

Mail checks to: RHA Membership
PO BOX 1074
Torrance, CA 90505

To pay via PayPal/ credit card:
visit [our membership page](#)
or use your phone to scan the QR code



The RHA is always looking for sponsors to advertise in our newsletter, [on our website](#), and to support our programming.