



Friend—

The ICE raids continue to terrorize people in this city that we love. This has been a stretch of tough times for Los Angeles. As community members come together to resist, the following resources continue to be important to know about and share:

[lapl.org/newamericans/knowyourrights](https://lapl.org/newamericans/knowyourrights)

[aclu.org/know-your-rights/stopped-by-police](https://aclu.org/know-your-rights/stopped-by-police)

### **Westwood Greenway THIS Sunday, July 13, 9 am to noon**

If you feel safe, join us THIS Sunday at the Westwood Greenway from 9 to noon to learn about this special space and to support **biodiversity** by helping remove invasive non-native plants. Learn more and RSVP at [ncsa.la/westwood\\_greenway\\_07-13\\_2025](https://ncsa.la/westwood_greenway_07-13_2025).

**Last month**, we were joined by Anna Cummins and Victoria Fulfer of [The 5 Gyres Institute](https://www.gyresinstitute.org/) for a conversation about **microplastics**. Check out the recording, the chat, and some tips at [ncsa.la/microplastics\\_06-08\\_2025](https://ncsa.la/microplastics_06-08_2025).

### **Zone 0**

Upon the recommendation of our [trees committee](#), our representatives voted to join a Defensible Space Working Group led by Nurit Katz and Stephanie Landregan of UCLA to address [CAL FIRE's approach to Zone 0 \(the first 5 feet from your home\) in very high fire hazard severity zones](#), which is raising a range of concerns for people in Los Angeles, and endorse Dr Travis Longcore's proposed revisions to the draft regulations based on [this letter](#). (Dr Longcore is also the president of the [Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council](#).)

### **Land use before and after the January fire**

[This article](#) from our [trees committee](#) is a fascinating historical review and critique of the techno-optimism that preceded **January's fires** and continues now.

### **Blue Ribbon Commission report released**

[LA County's Blue Ribbon Commission on Climate Action and Fire-Safe Recovery](#) released their final report on resilient and sustainable rebuilding after the January fires. Read the full report [here](#).

### **Check out where EV chargers are distributed across the city, and where they aren't**

Curious about the distribution of **electric vehicle chargers** across the city? Check out [this article](#) from Crosstown. We have a lot of work to do.

### **Clean energy taking a hit...**

Clean energy and the environment are taking hits left and right, and not just at the federal level through President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill," which will end federal support for **solar and wind power** as well as **electric vehicle tax credits**. [AB 306](#), which prevents cities and the state from updating building standards affecting residences until 2031, was also passed recently.

Apparently, **Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas**, who championed the bill, cited journalist Ezra Klein's book *Abundance*, which discusses the need to eliminate regulations in order to promote **housing**, as a source of inspiration. Check out this [excellent article](#) from the LA Times' Sammy Roth on Trump's bill, AB 306, and more.

### **...including South Coast AQMD board vote to continue using gas**

The South Coast AQMD board voted to reject an already significantly weakened plan to phase out gas water heaters and furnaces. Learn more [here](#). And learn about the Trump administration's role [here](#).

The gas industry promoted a huge misinformation campaign, so the AQMD published [this fact sheet](#). We do not yet know what effect this will have on the [Go Zero electrification incentive program we discussed in March](#), which

would have been funded by these rules. We are told this effort will not be revisited by the board this year.

Join our [energy committee](#) to discuss how to address California's changing energy climate.

### **Big changes coming to CEQA**

On a related note, Governor Newsom signed into law two controversial bills significantly weakening CEQA, California's landmark law designed to protect the environment. The bills focus on providing CEQA exemptions for **infill development** in California's urban areas, but questions remain about exactly how far these exemptions go and what they risk overlooking. Proponents argue that these changes are needed to address California's **housing crisis** and promote more **sustainable, denser communities**. However, the broader exemptions for advanced manufacturing facilities and the lack of protections for **sensitive and endangered species** worry a coalition of environmental groups in the state. Read more about this debate [here](#) and see a bills summary [here](#).

### **Sustainability guidelines for developers**

Are you experienced in **sustainable development**, **smart land use**, **energy**, or **landscaping and greenery**? We're looking for people to support the Sustainability Alliance's summer interns as they update our [sustainability guidelines for developers](#)—a resource meant to facilitate discussion between developers and neighborhood councils about building more **livable, sustainable spaces**.

If you're interested in contributing your knowledge, please reach out to sustainability policy and communications intern Anders Johnson at [anderspj@usc.edu](mailto:anderspj@usc.edu).

### **Plastic Free July**

[LA Waterkeeper](#) is hosting an **LA River cleanup** at North Atwater Park on Saturday, July 19. Learn more and RSVP at [lawaterkeeper.org/events](http://lawaterkeeper.org/events).

the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)

<https://www.ncsa.la/>