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Serving the Villages and Neighborhoods of Irvine

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## Publisher's Perspective

### Citizen Activism

Did you notice? ...*Irvine Community News & Views* is growing!

At the beginning of 2015, ICNV was an 8-page community newspaper with a circulation of 10,000. Then we grew to 12 pages, and now we've expanded to 16 pages. **Our Irvine print circulation is now up to 18,000, and our online following has zoomed to 12,500.**

ICNV is available to our readers in three different ways: **First**, you can pick it up at one of the 100 Irvine businesses and other public places that carry ICNV. (See our printed list on page 10.) **Second**, we make old-fashioned "driveway deliveries" to a growing number of Irvine villages and neighborhoods. And, **third**, it's available to our online subscribers. Just sign up — [www.irvinecommunitynews.org](http://www.irvinecommunitynews.org) — for **free** delivery to your inbox!

Our September issue is packed with news about Irvine citizen activism. Our Page 1 story is again about the Council majority's cruel cut of Irvine's Living Wage (from \$11 per hour to \$9 per hour). But now, sensible and compassionate citizen-activists are beginning to circulate an initiative petition to restore the Irvine Living Wage in 2016. If you want to help with this effort, go to: [www.IrvineLivingWage.org](http://www.IrvineLivingWage.org)

Page 3 reports on a remarkable letter that Larry Agran, Irvine's former Mayor and Councilmember wrote to Governor Jerry Brown, urgently requesting the Governor to intervene and order long-overdue testing for toxic contamination at the site for Portola High School, now under construction. The full text of Agran's letter is printed on pages 14 and 15, and you can join nearly 1,500 Irvine residents who have signed our Safe Schools Petition, printed on page 4 and available online at:

[www.IrvineCommunityNews.com/safe-schools](http://www.IrvineCommunityNews.com/safe-schools)

Citizen activism, YES! Let's make our Irvine community a better place for *everyone*.

*Franklin J. Lunding*

Franklin J. Lunding • Publisher and Editor  
[www.IrvineCommunityNews.org](http://www.IrvineCommunityNews.org)

# Living Wage Initiative Launch

Volunteers begin circulating initiative petitions to restore Irvine's Living Wage.

At the June 9th Irvine City Council meeting, there was one particularly rare and riveting moment of public testimony from an Irvine religious leader. Just before the City Council cast a final vote to eliminate Irvine's Living Wage — an action that will actually *cut* the minimum wages of hundreds of Irvine's lowest-paid service workers — Pastor Paige Eaves of University United Methodist Church stood at the podium and, in a soft voice, issued a warning to the Mayor and Councilmembers. "Throughout Scripture," she said, "God commands us to treat workers with respect and dignity, and God brings us to account when we grind the faces of the poor."

Now, three months later, Pastor Eaves, dozens of religious leaders and hundreds of residents who are part of a broad grassroots organization called the Irvine Living Wage Coalition, are apparently not waiting for Divine Intervention to "bring the City Council to account" for its actions.

The Irvine Living Wage Coalition chose Labor Day to launch a citizen initiative to reinstate Irvine's once-pioneering Living

### What's Inside...

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(From left to right) Councilmember Beth Krom, Luis Alemán, and Planning Commissioner Mary Ann Gaido — official Proponents of the Irvine Living Wage Initiative — are shown here at a meeting of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE). The Living Wage Initiative is garnering unprecedented support from a broad cross-section of Irvine and Orange County faith communities. (See Open Letter on page 12.)

Wage Ordinance, restoring it word-for-word.

Chair of the Coalition, UCI student and Irvine resident Luis Alemán, said, "The

**Citizen Activists who wish to help with the Irvine Living Wage Initiative can volunteer at:**  
[www.IrvineLivingWage.org](http://www.IrvineLivingWage.org)

initiative is now in circulation. We need to gather more than 10,000 signatures of registered Irvine voters, and we have to do

→ continued on page 2 →



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continued from page 1 → Living Wage Initiative Launch

it in just a few months to put the measure on the ballot in 2016." "Obviously," he said, "this is going to require scores of Irvine volunteers who will commit time and resources to this historic effort." Alemán added: "We're going to be gathering signatures the old-fashioned way — one signature at a time on printed petitions from friends and neighbors throughout Irvine."

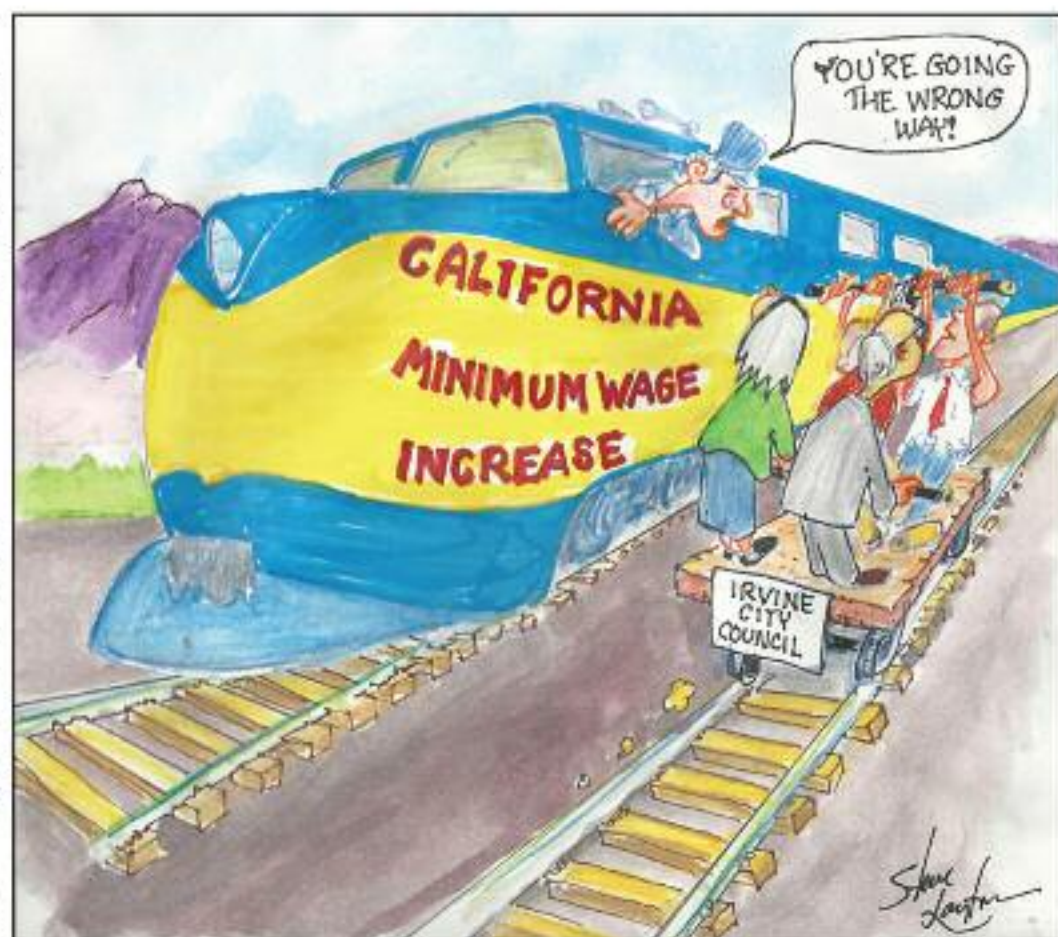


Many of Irvine's low-wage contract service workers typically work odd hours, including evenings and weekends, to clean and maintain public facilities.

The Faces of the Working Poor

When the City Council majority (Mayor Steven Choi and Councilmembers Christina Shea, Jeff Lalloway and Lynn Schott) voted to repeal Irvine's 8-year-old Living Wage Law, they effectively cut the pay of

Irvine's lowest-paid contract service workers from nearly \$11 per hour (\$10.82) to just \$9 per hour (which is the State minimum wage). These City contract service workers include hundreds



Making Wages Go Up...And Down. While leading California cities — and the State of California itself — have been considering measures to raise their prescribed minimum wage, Irvine stands alone as the only major city in the State, or the U.S., to actually repeal its Living Wage law, cutting wages. The Irvine Living Wage Initiative, now in circulation, would reinstate the City's Living Wage law in 2016 if voters approve the ballot measure.

of janitors and housekeepers, maintenance and landscape workers — the often faceless low-wage workforce that maintains the City's parks and recreation facilities, scrubs the restrooms, trims the trees, and keeps Irvine clean and beautiful.

For full-time janitorial workers earning about \$22,000 per year, repeal of Irvine's Living Wage law could result in a pay cut of about \$4,000 annually, causing many to fall below the poverty line. City Councilmember Beth Krom — the only Councilmember voting against the repeal of Irvine's Living Wage law — called the Council action "mean-spirited and contrary to Irvine community values."

Krom recently joined with Luis Alemán and Irvine Planning Commissioner Mary Ann Gaido as one of the three official Proponents of the Living Wage Initiative. In their official Proponents' Statement, they said: "This initiative, placed on the 2016 ballot with the signatures of more than 10,000 Irvine voters, will enable Irvine voters to reinstate our City's Living Wage by restoring the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, word-for-word."

The Proponents' Statement continues: "When the City Council is out of step with the community, the initiative process allows the residents to speak for themselves and take constructive, corrective action. Irvine is a nice community with nice people who understand that those who work for us are entitled to a decent day's pay for a decent day's work." The statement concludes with these words: "By using the initiative process, as citizens we can reinstate the Living Wage Ordinance and once again show the true spirit of Irvine." ICNV

"By using the initiative process, as citizens we can reinstate the Living Wage Ordinance and once again show the true spirit of Irvine."

Luis Alemán, Mary Ann Gaido, Beth Krom

Irvine Community News & Views logo and contact information including Executive Staff (Franklin J. Lundung, Ken E. Smith, Kerrie Mahan), Logistics, Distribution & Advertising (Joel Smith, Mary Edmonds, Cheryl Honig), and Staff Writers & Contributors (Mary Edmonds, Carolyn Inmon, Steve Layton, Harvey Liss, Joel Smith, Harris Kershner).

AGRAN ASKS GOVERNOR TO ORDER TOXICS TESTING

The long-simmering Irvine controversy over the Portola High School site — where there is mounting evidence of serious toxic contamination — has recently made its way to Sacramento. In fact, the worrisome problem is now on Governor Jerry Brown's desk.

In a four-page letter that reads like a legal brief, Larry Agran, formerly Irvine's Mayor and long-time City Councilmember, has called on Governor Jerry Brown to order "immediate, comprehensive soil-gas testing for toxics" on the entire 40-acre Portola High School site — before the school is fully built and occupied.



The 40-acre Portola High School site is located just 800 feet from this "capped" toxic waste dump — with permanently restricted access.

Agran has long opposed locating the new high school site on the abandoned El Toro Marine Corps airbase, along Irvine Boulevard. He has repeatedly pointed to its proximity to a toxic waste dump — just 800 feet from the high school. And, as was later revealed in the Irvine Community

News & Views 5-part series on toxic contamination, the Portola High School site is located at the end of the El Toro airbase runways, where military personnel for many years directly dumped tons of fuels, solvents, and other hazardous substances.

In his letter, Agran pointed to data about toxic contamination acquired under the California Public Records Act. These records revealed that while just a small number of test wells were drilled at the perimeter of the school site, the tests — coupled with accidental discoveries during excavations — confirmed serious toxic contamination. The toxics included dangerous heavy metals and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) chemicals on all four perimeter sides of the Portola High School site.

The records also revealed that virtually all of the interior of the 40-acre high school site has not been tested for the same toxic and carcinogenic agents associated with long-ago military operations. (See map.)

Agran asks in his letter: "What are the chances — after having found significant quantities of [toxic and even cancer-causing compounds] present along the four-sided perimeter of the school site — that the entire untested interior of the 40-acre site would somehow be free of serious toxic contamination?"

Agran answers his own question: "Most people would likely say the chances are 'zero' or close to it." He continued: "That's why we need testing...before teachers, staff and students occupy facilities, risking exposure."

The testing that Agran calls for would involve about 100 soil-gas test wells, drilled at a cost of just under \$1,000 per well — or about \$100,000 for all the testing. Agran calls this "a pittance when it's compared with the \$300 million cost for land and construction of the new high school, and the incalculable legal and moral liability in the event that we fail to test now, and toxic exposure later leads to diseases, disabilities and even deaths."

In his appeal to Governor Brown, Agran noted that many scientific experts and others — including nearly 1,500 Irvine families who have

signed a School Safety Petition — have called upon the Irvine Unified School Board and the City of Irvine to undertake immediate, comprehensive testing. "All of our requests," he said, "have been met with stony silence."

"Meanwhile," Agran pointedly writes to Governor Brown, "the Department of Toxic Substances Control — the State agency charged with protecting the public from toxic exposure in schools and elsewhere — has shown itself time and again to be weak and unresponsive, cravenly dismissive of well-founded public concerns."

"As a result," Agran concludes, "much of the Irvine community remains increasingly worried that thousands of future students, teachers and staff will be put at risk of toxic exposure when Portola High School opens in September, 2016." ICNV



Larry Agran

The full text of Agran's letter is reproduced in the Open Forum section, pages 14 & 15.

Map of Portola High School Site (40 Acres) showing Test Well Locations For VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds). Includes labels for Capped landfill, Toxic contamination found Oct. 2013, Toxic contamination found Nov. 2014, Former fuel pipelines, and Agua Chino Wash. A legend explains the test well locations and dates.





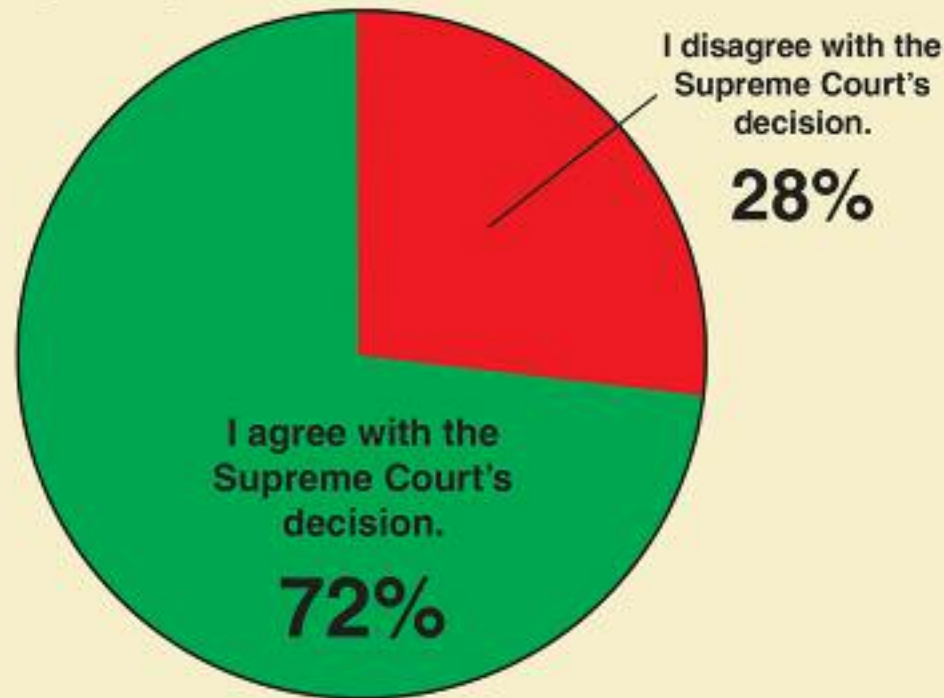
To Our Readers:

CityWatch, now an expanded two-page section, offers insights into what your Irvine neighbors are thinking... what they are doing...and what's happening in our town. Our CityWatch columnists on page 7 — Carolyn Inmon (SchoolWatch), Joel Smith (SportsWatch), and Harris Kershner (WordsWatch) — continue to offer their own perspectives on our Irvine community. I hope you enjoy this expanded format. - FJL

RESULTS OF THE AUGUST, 2015 IRVINE COMMUNITY POLL:

“Do you agree or disagree with the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized marriage of same-sex couples, nationwide, overturning all state laws that banned it?”

Marriage Equality...What Do You Think?



Irvine Community Poll: [www.IrvineCommunityPoll.org](http://www.IrvineCommunityPoll.org)

LET'S GO OUTSIDE



Quail Hill, in Irvine, shown here in Winter, is an easily-accessible area of the Irvine Open Space Preserve. There is a trail loop open daily, and more extensive trails are offered through scheduled programs. Find out more at [www.LetsGoOutside.org](http://www.LetsGoOutside.org).

Photo credit: Irvine Ranch Conservancy

READER COMMENTS ON THE MARRIAGE EQUALITY ISSUE

- All people are equal. The Creator gives us the right to "pursue happiness." The government may not stand in the way of these citizens' right. — *Lee King*
- Denying some people the option to marry is discriminatory and creates a second class of citizens. Same-sex couples should also have access to the same benefits enjoyed by heterosexual married couples. — *Martha Clay*
- Everyone is entitled to the same rights and privileges as all of our citizens. — *Pat Kennedy*
- Marriage is between a man and woman. God created Adam and Eve. The gays are throwing this in God's face. This is on the same level as adultery. — *Annlisa Rethwisch*
- My partner and I had been together for 30 years when we were finally able to marry legally last September. The support we received from friends and family was amazing and heart-warming...and something we couldn't even have imagined back in 1984! We were able to revise our estate plans, file joint tax returns, and in general receive all of the legal benefits of marriage. But, more importantly, our loving and enduring relationship could now be celebrated by all. — *Sharon Nantell*
- A gay or straight couple should be treated no differently under the law, and that was what was decided by the Supreme Court. Pieces of anti-LGBT legislation such as Proposition 8 or Measure N here in Irvine, were created purely from prejudice and ignorance and have no place in America. — *Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström*
- Read the Bible! — *Beverly Holmes*



COMING SOON! IRVINE GLOBAL VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Bill Barber Park. (Irvine Civic Center)

Info: [festival@cityofirvine.org](mailto:festival@cityofirvine.org) or 949-724-6606 (See Calendar page for more details)



Carolyn Inmon

SCHOOL WATCH by Carolyn Inmon\*

First Face in the Morning — Irvine Crossing Guards

"Good morning, Sammy. Is that your science project? It looks great." A crossing guard greets an Irvine child with a smile, a word of encouragement, and the quiet assurance of safe passage across a street with heavy traffic. Many crossing guards actually know the names of all the children they help each day.

For thousands of Irvine's younger students, the crossing guard is likely the first adult employee they encounter each school day. And this friendly, protective interaction each morning helps set the tone for the entire school day.

School crossing guards play a crucial role in the lives of children who walk or bicycle to school.

Not only do they help children to safely cross the street; they remind occasionally thoughtless drivers that pedestrians are present.

Unfortunately, too many drivers are in a hurry. Yet others simply do not pay attention to the crossing guards. There can be a stiff fine for ignoring the crossing guards, but many parents — and others — do so anyway.

For a number of months in 2014, my friends and I visited Irvine schools early in the morning — when children first arrive at school — and in the afternoon when they are walking or biking home. The "morning rush" is the worst traffic at our schools — posing real dangers to children, and to our crossing guards too.

- We saw drivers who were speeding, willfully ignoring the special speed limits posted at schools.
- Too often, we watched drivers bolt through crosswalks when small school children — led by a crossing guard holding up a "STOP" sign — were making their way from one side of the street to the other.
- We also watched many parents park their cars across the street from the school, then dash across the busy street mid-block instead of using a nearby crosswalk or relying on the crossing guard.
- And, too many times we saw parents and other adults in the area actually arguing with crossing guards who had given them direct instructions.

As we begin a new school year, what can we do to increase safety for our children? It would be great if we reduced the automobile traffic at our schools. What if Irvine families pledged to take every opportunity to do more walking to school and less driving, and to do more carpooling where possible? And here's another idea: Our school districts — both Irvine Unified School District and Tustin Unified School District — should be encouraged to establish a real school bus system for children who live a considerable distance from school. Meanwhile, what we can all do right now is to make it a practice to leave a little earlier on school days, be extra careful around our Irvine schools, and respect and appreciate Irvine's outstanding crossing guards and the very important work they do.

\*Carolyn Inmon is a retired Irvine teacher. She has taught at virtually every grade level, from K - 12, as well as community college. She served as President of the Community College Association from 2005-2007. Carolyn has recently co-authored a forthcoming book with Tanya Brown, available this Fall. It is entitled "The Seven Characters of Abuse: Domestic Violence — Where It Starts and Where It Can End." Carolyn always welcomes your comments and ideas at: [Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org](mailto:Carolyn@IrvineCommunityNews.org)

SPORTS WATCH by Joel Smith\*

BACK TO SCHOOL...BACK TO SPORTS...BE SAFE AND BE SMART

Summer and summer vacations are over. It's back to school and back to sports — both school sports and community sports. The fall sports season is a great time for young athletes, but of course with sports activities come risks of injuries.

I've been involved in youth sports in Irvine ever since I was 4 years old. I'm 27 now, and as a "veteran" of youth sports myself — and now a coach — I've gained a good understanding about sports injuries and risks among youth athletes.

Let's look at it according to age categories. Ages 4 to 6 are what I call the "boo boo phase." There's not much to worry about here. Kids are experimenting with sports — they don't quite know the rules and strategies. So there is a lot of running around, tripping, even bumping into each other. Hint: I've found the best remedy for a bump or fall is to ask the youngsters involved what happened and distract them from whatever momentary pain they're feeling.

Youth athletes ages 7 to 10 are in what I call the "hyper phase." They are bigger, faster, and smarter — and very enthusiastic about sports. They don't have to be forced to go to practice or games; they live for sports. Injuries most likely to occur at this age result from fatigue and overexertion. Beware of jam-packed sports weekends, with multiple sports and sometimes two or three athletic events in a single day. The result can be exhaustion, which itself can be a serious matter.

At ages 11 to 15, youth athletes are in the "growth spurt phase." They are at the biggest risk for injuries — especially with longer practices and games. With more size, weight and speed, the risks are greater for fractures, broken bones and serious knee injuries.

But for all kids in all age categories, the No. 1 safety issue is dehydration. It's absolutely vital that youth athletes — all athletes — drink plenty of water before, during and after games and practices.

Stay safe and game on! And, be sure to check-in with our partner, [247Irvine.com](http://247Irvine.com), for all the latest Irvine sports news!

\*Joel Smith is a hometown Irvine athlete and Concordia University graduate who excelled in soccer, and now coaches in Irvine.

**247IRVINE.COM**  
**ALL IRVINE.**  
**ALL SPORTS.**  
**ALL THE TIME.**



WORDS WATCH by Harris E. Kershner\*

In 2007 when the Irvine City Council adopted the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, it included the following statements: "The purpose of this division is ... to ensure that Employees of city service contractors earn an hourly wage that is sufficient to live with dignity and to achieve economic self-sufficiency." "Public expenditures should be in accordance with a community economic standard that permits workers to live above the poverty level."

In 2015 when the current Irvine City Council repealed the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, it included the following statements: "Payment of a living wage will no longer be a legal requirement for those engaged in contracts with the City." Finally, the Council declared: "Ordinance No. 07-15 adopting the City's Living Wage Requirements is hereby repealed in its entirety."

Query: Which statements reflect your values?

\*Harris E. Kershner is a local attorney, specializing in Employment Law. He has lived in Irvine for over 30 years, and currently resides in Woodbridge.

# Community Calendar

# September/October 2015

## IRVINE GLOBAL VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Make plans to travel the world at the City of Irvine's annual Global Village Festival on **Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Bill Barber Park.** This multicultural event features international cuisine, live entertainment, a kids village with crafts and activities, cultural and religious exhibits and an international marketplace. Admission and parking is free.



## Clinic in the Park (Sept. 13) September is Back to School Month!

- 11AM: Health Chat: Nancy McGinn from Woodbridge Walk-In "When a Band-Aid Isn't Enough"
- Free Books • Information on Immunizations
- Come learn basic first aid skills!
- Adventure Farm Tour: Learn about the Great Park Farm!

Visit: [www.ClinicInThePark.org](http://www.ClinicInThePark.org) Email: [info@clinicinthepark.org](mailto:info@clinicinthepark.org)  
Call: 949-385-3067

When: Sunday, September 13, 2015; 10AM-2PM  
Where: Great Park Farmers Market in Irvine  
Enter on Marine Way off Sand Canyon

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED • FAMILY FUN

## ALL MEDIA EXHIBITION

### All Media: Annual Juried Exhibition

Exhibit runs now thru Oct. 24. All Media 2015, the Irvine Fine Art Center's annual juried art exhibition, showcases Southern California artists. Juried by artist and curator Max Presneill, the exhibition features painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, printmaking, ceramics, digital media and more.

The Irvine Fine Arts Center promotes mutual engagement between artists and the community. Juried exhibitions enable local community artists to exhibit artwork in a collaborative and educational atmosphere. Admission and parking are free.  
Info: 949-724-6880



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6 SEPTEMBER</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. 10am-2pm. Rain or Shine. 	<b>7</b> Labor Day. 	<b>8</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5pm. 	<b>9</b> Harvest Wildflower Seed. Native Seed Farm. Sign up to help behind the scenes at the Irvine Ranch Conservancy's one-of-a-kind Native Seed Farm in Irvine! 8-11am. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>10</b> Stroller Strides. OC Great Park. 4-5pm. \$39 for 5-week series. Info & Registration: OCGP.org. 	<b>11</b> Toddler Storytime. Heritage Park Library. 10am. Info: 949-936-4040 	<b>12</b> Garden Workshop: Beautiful, Water Thrifty Landscaping. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 10-11am. Info: OCGP.org Read to a Dog. Katie Wheeler Library. This event is for beginning readers and held upstairs in the Children's Area. 2-3pm. Info: 714-669-8753
<b>13</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org Clinic in the Park. OC Great Park Farmers Market. 10am-2pm. Info: ClinicInThePark.org	<b>14</b> Solar Decathlon Exhibit. Irvine Fine Arts Center. The Irvine Fine Arts Center will host a photo and video exhibit of the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013 that was held at the Orange County Great Park. Exhibit runs 9-14 through 10-10. Info: 949-724-6880	<b>15</b> Fitness Hike. Paved Hicks Haul Road. 7:30-10am. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>16</b> Adults Book Club. Katie Wheeler Library. 7pm. Info: 714-669-8753 	<b>17</b> Agriculture Wellness + Environment (AWE) Lectures. OC Great Park Art Gallery. 7-8:30pm. Info: OCGP.org KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE AND YOUR FARMERS CLOSER. LOCALLY GROWN FOOD FROM LOCALLY GROWN FARMERS. 	<b>18</b> Canyon Explorers: Moon Madness. Bommer Canyon. Enjoy this evening hike through Bommer Canyon, and explore how the different moon's phases effect our surrounding environment. 7-8:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>19</b> Wilderness Access Day. Bommer Canyon. Enjoy self-guided access in the southern portion of Irvine's Open Space Preserve. 8am-2pm. Info: LetsGoOutside.org Free Travel Seminar. Rooter's Luggage Center. Maximize space, tips for travel in the digital age, and more! 17775 Main St., Irvine. 10am. Info & Registration: 949-250-0774
<b>20</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org Children's Garden Workshop. OC Great Park Farm + Food Lab. 9-11am. Info: OCGP.org	<b>21</b> Evening Hike. Orchard Hills. 6:30-8:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org 	<b>22</b> City Council Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 5pm. Great Park Board Meeting. Irvine City Hall. 2-4pm. 	<b>23</b> After Work Fitness Hike. Hicks Haul Road. This hike travels about 3.5 miles, up to the top of Loma Ridge and back down. 6-7:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>24</b> Live Music at Eureka! Each Thursday night Eureka! features Live Music at their University Town Center location! 8pm. Info: 949-596-8881 	<b>25</b> Toddler Storytime. Heritage Park Library. A storytime for children 3 years and under and their parents. 10-10:20am. Info: 949-936-4040	<b>26</b> Global Village Festival. Bill Barber Park. Make plans to travel the world at the City of Irvine's annual Global Village Festival! 10am-6pm. Info: festival@cityofirvine.org or 949-724-6606
<b>27</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org 	<b>28</b> Family Storytime. Heritage Park Library. 7-7:30pm. Info: 949-936-4040 	<b>29</b> Adults Book Club. Katie Wheeler Library. This morning book group meets on the last Tuesday of every month. 10:30am-12pm. Info: 714-669-8753	<b>30</b> Mid-Week Hike. Bommer Canyon. Recharge your batteries with a refreshing mid-week hike through Bommer Canyon. 7am-12pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>1 OCTOBER</b> Fall Food Drive Begins. Help support hunger relief efforts by donating canned goods or non-perishable food items to benefit local food banks. Donations accepted at the OC Great Park Visitors Center Thursdays & Fridays 10am-10pm, and Saturdays & Sundays 9am-10pm. Runs through November 20. Info: OCGP.org	<b>2</b> All Media Exhibit. Irvine Fine Arts Center. Exhibit runs 8-22 through 10-24. 10am-5pm. Info: 949-724-6880 	<b>3</b> Solar Decathlon Exhibit. Irvine Fine Arts Center. The Irvine Fine Arts Center will host a photo and video exhibit of the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013 that was held at the Orange County Great Park. Exhibit runs 9-14 through 10-10. Info: 949-724-6880
<b>4</b> Certified Farmers Market. OC Great Park. Rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Info: OCGP.org 	<b>5</b> School Age Book Club. University Park Library. 6:30pm. Info: 949-786-4001	<b>6</b> Irvine Residents with Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting. Irvine Civic Center. 6pm. Info: 949-724-6633	<b>7</b> After Work Fitness Hike. Hicks Haul Road. 6-7:30pm. Info & Registration: LetsGoOutside.org	<b>8</b> U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon returns to the Orange County Great Park for its 2015 competition, to be held October 8-11 and October 15-18. \$10 parking fee. OC Great Park. 11am-7pm. Info: SolarDecathlon.gov 	<b>9</b> U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. OC Great Park. 11am-7pm. Info: SolarDecathlon.gov	<b>10</b> U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. OC Great Park. 11am-7pm. Info: SolarDecathlon.gov Ray's Review. Knowlwood Restaurant in Old Town Irvine. An evening of live music at Knowlwood's Irvine location! 7-9:30pm. Info: rstarsiak@live.com

## Adoptable Pet of the Month

Each issue we feature one "adoptable" pet from the Irvine Animal Care Center. The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) is a progressive and innovative municipal animal shelter that continually strives to strengthen the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of animals by promoting their humane care and treatment. The Center's 3.73 acre, park-like facility cares for thousands of homeless, neglected and abused animals every year. All animals in their care receive veterinary care, high-quality food, soft bedding and daily socialization.

"Taki" is a female, spayed, calico shorthair mix, weighing 13 pounds. She is 3 years old.

For more information about "Taki" and other adoptable pets, or the IACC, call 949-724-7740 or email [info@irvineshelter.org](mailto:info@irvineshelter.org)



## Returning In October...

### THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON 2015



The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2015 is returning to the Orange County Great Park. Riding the success of the eight-day event with 64,000 attendees in October 2013, the Department of Energy will produce an 18-team event, hosted by the City of Irvine at the destination location **Great Park, October 8-11 and October 15-18, 2015.** This free event will be held 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Great Park. Parking is \$10; Metrolink shuttles are available from train travel to Irvine Station.  
Info: [SolarDecathlon.gov](http://SolarDecathlon.gov)



# THANK YOU TO THESE OUTSTANDING IRVINE BUSINESSES... WHERE YOU CAN PICK UP IRVINE COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

Red highlighted businesses have an ad in this issue. Check it out!

**Alton Square/Alton & Jeffrey**  
Chronic Tacos  
Donut Star  
Kriser's for Your Pets-All Natural Life  
MOOYAH burgers-fries-shakes  
Ralphs

**Campus Plaza/Campus & California**  
Gatten Sushi  
**Gina's Pizza**  
Hen House Grill  
Starbucks  
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## An Open Letter from Orange County Religious Leaders To the Irvine City Council RE: Rescinding Living Wage Ordinance

As religious leaders and workers in the field of providing services to those most in need in our City of Irvine, we, the undersigned, protest the vote that was taken by the Irvine City Council on June 9, 2015, to rescind the Living Wage Ordinance and call for it to be reinstated.

According to recent figures supplied by Families Forward, it takes an average of four full-time salaries at minimum wage to support a family with two children in a two-bedroom apartment in Orange County. Irvine is even more expensive. This is intolerable. It has grown to be an impossible situation that we, as leaders in our community, by virtue of the positions we hold and serve, are morally compelled to address. Instead, a choice has been made to inflict more pain with the decision to reduce wages for our lowest paid workers.

Each of our religious traditions speaks to the need to look after the poor, the outcast and the marginalized. A decision to reduce the wages of some of the lowest paid workers during a time of strong economic growth is antithetical to what our unique faiths teach us about fairness and justice. In no religious tradition does it teach practicing members to come together to remove 20% or, in fact, any percentage of a struggling person's wages—someone who just wants the same chance to live and raise a family as anyone else.

At a time when our country is working to address income inequality, we cannot be the only city that is marching against all that is good and all that is moral and ethical. It is against the precepts of all of our religious traditions.

Rescinding the Living Wage Ordinance does not show the people of Irvine to be the people we claim to be — fair, equal and desirous of looking out for the happiness and well-being of our entire community. As religious leaders, we are compelled to act as a moral compass when good people momentarily lose their way and march down the wrong path. We want to be proud of our city and what it stands for again, and so we, the undersigned, ask that the Living Wage Ordinance be reinstated.

Yours Most Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström – Irvine United Congregational Church

### ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL SIGNATORIES: IRVINE

The Rev. A. Paige Eaves – University United Methodist Church  
The Rev. Mark E. Whitlock, Jr. – Christ Our Redeemer AME Church  
Sheikh Atef Mahgoub, Religious Director – Islamic Center of Irvine  
The Rev. Ken Wyant – Retired Minister, United Church of Christ  
Rabbi Arnold Rachlis – University Synagogue  
Sherri Sisson, Presiding Clerk – Orange County Friends Meeting,  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
The Rev. Dr. Bil Aulenbach – Retired Episcopal Priest  
The Rev. George Johnson – Retired Minister, ELCA  
(Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)  
The Rev. Terry Le Page – Intentional Interim Minister, United Church of Christ  
The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce – Bishop Suffragan,  
Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

### GREATER ORANGE COUNTY

The Rev. D. Mark Davis, Ph.D., Pastor – St. Mark Presbyterian Church,  
Newport Beach  
The Rev. Chineta Goodjoin – New Hope Presbyterian Church, Orange  
Pastor Gale L. Oliver, Jr. – Greater Light Missionary Baptist Church, Santa Ana  
The Rev. Fernando Tamara – Primera Asamblea del Condado de Orange,  
Santa Ana  
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson – Fairview Community Church, Costa Mesa  
Imam Sayed Moustafa Al Qazwini – Islamic Educational Center of OC,  
Costa Mesa

Mobed Maneck Bhujwala – The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations  
of North America, Huntington Beach  
The Rev. Kent Doss – Tapestry Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Mission Viejo  
The Rev. Dr. Michael Holland – Church of the Foothills, Santa Ana  
The Rev. William Moses Summerville – Kingdom Come Community Church,  
Buena Park  
The Rev. Dr. Peggy Price, Minister Emeritus –  
Seal Beach Center for Spiritual Living, Seal Beach  
The Rev. R. Winston Presnall – First Presbyterian Church of Orange, Orange  
The Rev. Sian Wiltshire – Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, Costa Mesa  
Rabbi Dr. Stephen J. Einstein, Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation B'nai Tzedek,  
Fountain Valley  
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## IRVINE LIVING WAGE INITIATIVE... CALL TO ACTION!

On June 9, 2015, despite strong citizen opposition, the City Council voted to cut Irvine's own minimum wage — known as the Irvine Living Wage — from nearly \$11 per hour to just \$9 per hour (which is the State minimum wage). This will hurt hundreds of City workers and their families — mostly janitors and housekeepers, maintenance workers, and landscape workers. These are the City contract service workers who keep our City clean and beautiful.

The Council majority's mean-spirited action has diminished Irvine's reputation as an innovative City that values forward-thinking policies and respects the workers who serve our citizens. While other cities across the country are raising their minimum hourly wage, Irvine is America's only major city to *repeal* its Living Wage. The Mayor and City Council are taking Irvine in the wrong direction.

When the City Council is out of step with the community, the initiative process allows the residents to speak for themselves and take constructive, corrective action. Irvine is a nice community with nice people who understand that those who work for us are entitled to a decent day's pay for a decent day's work.

**This initiative, if placed on the 2016 ballot with the signatures of more than 10,000 Irvine voters, will enable Irvine voters to reinstate our City's Living Wage by restoring the Irvine Living Wage Ordinance, word-for-word. By using the initiative process, we can once again show the true spirit of Irvine. Please join us in this important Living Wage campaign.**

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP...  
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**LARRY AGRAN**  
Irvine, California 92612

August 26, 2015

Governor Jerry Brown  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 558-3160

**Re: Toxic contamination on the construction site of Portola High School in Irvine, and the need for comprehensive soil testing of the entire site**

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to you regarding a matter of urgent public importance. This involves the failure of State agencies — most notably the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the California Department of Education — to safeguard the public against exposure to dangerous toxic contamination at a new high school site in Irvine.

**Introduction**

Despite growing opposition and widespread community anxiety, the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) is rushing construction of a \$300 million high school that is located on a former military airbase — on land that was designated a national Superfund cleanup site and is apparently still contaminated with toxics.

Against all reason and common sense, IUSD — with the approval of DTSC and the Department of Education — last year voted to build Portola High School, Irvine's sixth high school, on a remote parcel of land that was once part of the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. El Toro was declared a Superfund site in 1989 and was closed in 1999. The federal government sold the property at auction in 2005, and the property is now being redeveloped by FivePoint Communities as Irvine's 1,300-acre Orange County Great Park, surrounded by residential neighborhoods that, of course, will include new public schools.

A critically important land-use fact is that the 40-acre Portola High School site is located at the end of massive runways that were operational at El Toro for nearly 50 years. This area — at the end of the runways — is known among retired military personnel and other knowledgeable professionals as the place where all sorts of aircraft fuels and maintenance petrochemicals were dumped in large quantities. Moreover, the Portola High School site is just 800 feet from a primitive, unlined, "capped" toxic waste landfill that operated from 1943 to 1955. [See attached map.]

Two years ago, a former Orange County school facilities official stated that the Portola High School site, because of its location at the end of the runways, was the "worst possible location" for a new Irvine high school. He predicted that if IUSD went ahead, serious problems would surely arise.

And sure enough, less than two years later, those problems have already become evident. Following an exhaustive investigation, including review of thousands of pages of records secured through several Public Records Act requests, Harvey Liss, Ph.D., a distinguished civil engineer and former Irvine Planning Commissioner, authored a remarkable five-part series of articles in a local newspaper, *Irvine Community News & Views*. Dr. Liss meticulously documented the extensive toxic contamination found at the Portola High School site. Presented, below, is a summary of the essential facts as we now know them.

**The Factual Record: 2013**

In the fall of 2013, while trenching in the Agua Chion Wash — near the capped toxic waste dump (known as IRP Site 3) and close to the northwestern perimeter of the Portola High School site — construction workers encountered discolored soil and pungent odors, evidence of what appeared to be extensive petrochemical contamination of the soil. [See attached map.] IUSD officials and their environmental consultant later described the discovery in minimalist terms — they said the soil was simply "stained" and "odorous" from "non-hazardous" petroleum hydrocarbons. Without even considering the possible source or extent of the contamination, these officials left the impression that the discovery was the consequence of a long-ago minor, isolated incident — a "spill."

In fact, documents eventually revealed that the soil was laden with toxic and, in some cases, carcinogenic (cancer-causing) contaminants, including heavy metals and various chemical components of jet fuels, solvents, and hydraulic fluids. Among the discoveries were significant concentrations of barium, chromium, vanadium, as well as naphthalene, xylenes, and 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene.

Far beyond a tiny "spill," records now reveal that more than 40 truckloads of contaminated soil were hauled away. Later, when Dr. Liss and I — and others — raised questions about the extent of the toxic contamination, its source, and the possible health hazards posed to future teachers, staff and students at Portola High School, we received not answers but institutional rationalizations. Officials from IUSD, with the tacit approval of regional officers of DTSC, said there was no problem because, while the toxic contamination accidentally discovered was near the high school site (about 200 feet away), it wasn't actually on the site.

**The Factual Record: 2014**

In December, 2013 and in April, 2014 — in rushing to secure final DTSC approval of the 40-acre Portola High School site as meeting minimum State standards — certain on-site soil testing was ordered for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). But, with the exception of 6 test wells dug along an abandoned jet fuel pipeline, the soil-test wells that could identify the presence of dangerous VOCs (petrochemicals and solvents, including benzene and its derivatives) were only required along a portion of the perimeter of the school site. *Nevertheless, a later review of hundreds of pages of test results revealed that about half of these perimeter wells — tested at depths of 5 and 15 feet — registered positive for VOCs, such as various xylenes, toluene, benzene, trichloroethylene (TCE) and other potent carcinogens. All of these perimeter test wells were on the school site.*

Once again, IUSD officials and regional DTSC officials publicly expressed no ideas — or even any concern or curiosity — about the perimeter contamination and its likely source. But a growing number of experts believe the contamination is probably the result of widespread, direct dumping of fuels, solvents, hydraulic fluids and other contaminants decades ago at the end of the runways — precisely where the new Portola High School is now being built. [See map.]

In yet another incident — this time in mid-November of 2014 — while workers were trenching on the northeastern perimeter of the school site (adjacent to Irvine Blvd.) to construct a large storm drain, they discovered what turned out to be a 100-foot swath of contaminated soil that extended 29 feet into the Portola High School site and was still evident at a depth of 28 feet. Laboratory tests of the soil revealed high levels of jet fuel derivatives, including diesel and carcinogenic naphthalene. The diesel fuel contamination far exceeded City of Irvine standards. The naphthalene was at a level 92 percent of the State health screening level. Of course, if another sample had been taken 10 feet away, the contamination level might have been double or triple the screening level. Records revealed that, ultimately, 78 truckloads of contaminated soil were hauled off to a far-away hazardous waste dump, although the School District continued to describe the contaminants in minimalist terms — "stained soil" of a "non-hazardous" nature.

David Richter, the environmental and geotechnical consultant for the City of Irvine, was so alarmed by the discovery of toxic contamination at the storm-drain site — where no testing had been previously done — that he wrote a November 18, 2014 memorandum to City staff. He alerted staff to the discovery and said he expected State DTSC officials would *decertify* the site, halt all school construction, and not allow it to resume until the site was tested, remediated where necessary, and then officially re-certified only when it was determined to be safe for school purposes.

Months went by and the City, IUSD and DTSC did nothing, absolutely nothing. Finally, with mounting public pressure, DTSC Project Manager Rana Georges issued a one-page letter on April 28, 2015 that simply restated the agency's prior approval of the school site. Ms. Georges didn't even acknowledge Mr. Richter's memo and his pointed expectation that DTSC would decertify the site and order more testing to ensure public safety.

**Conclusion: The Urgent Need for Comprehensive Testing**

*What are the chances — after having found significant quantities of VOCs present along the four-sided perimeter of the school site — that the entire untested interior of the 40-acre site, where thousands of future students, teachers and staff will be located in school facilities, would be free of toxic contamination? Most people would logically say "zero" or close to it.*

But the best way to definitively determine the nature and extent of toxic contamination at the Portola High School site is by appropriately testing for VOCs. This requires immediate, independent, comprehensive soil-gas testing over the *entire* school site. According to professional estimates that were part of Dr. Liss' investigative report, a program of credible and comprehensive testing — involving about 100 soil-gas test wells — can be completed in a matter of weeks at a total cost of less than \$100,000.

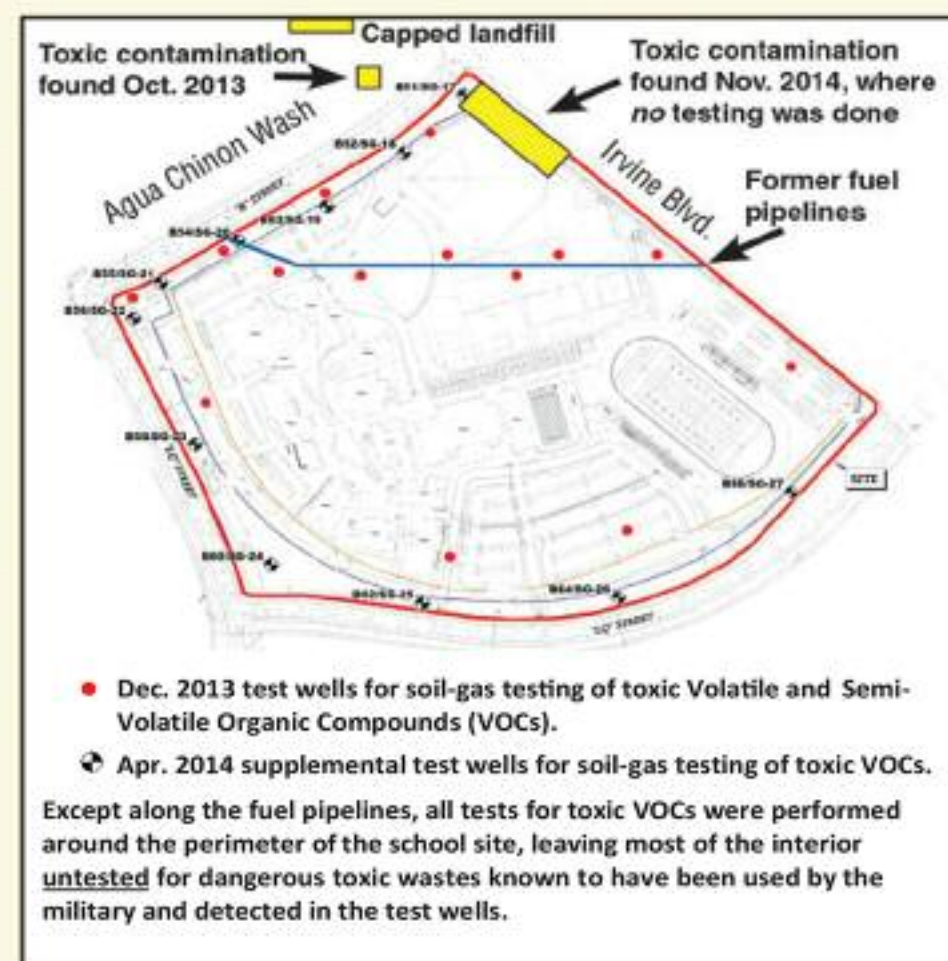
This common-sense testing is precisely what 1,400 Irvine residents (and their families) have officially requested in an Irvine Safe Schools Petition, which was recently presented to IUSD and City officials. But so far, petitioning for soil-gas testing has been met with stony silence. Meanwhile, DTSC — the State agency charged with protecting the public from toxic exposure in schools and elsewhere — has shown itself time and again to be weak and unresponsive, cravenly dismissive of well-founded public concerns. As a result, much of the Irvine community remains increasingly worried that thousands of future students, teachers and staff will be put at risk of toxic exposure when Portola High School opens in September, 2016.

On behalf of the growing community of concern throughout Irvine, I plead for your urgent attention to this matter. I ask you to order immediate, independent, comprehensive soil-gas testing at the Portola High School site in Irvine.

Sincerely,

Larry Agran

**Portola High School Site (40 Acres) Test Well Locations For VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds)**





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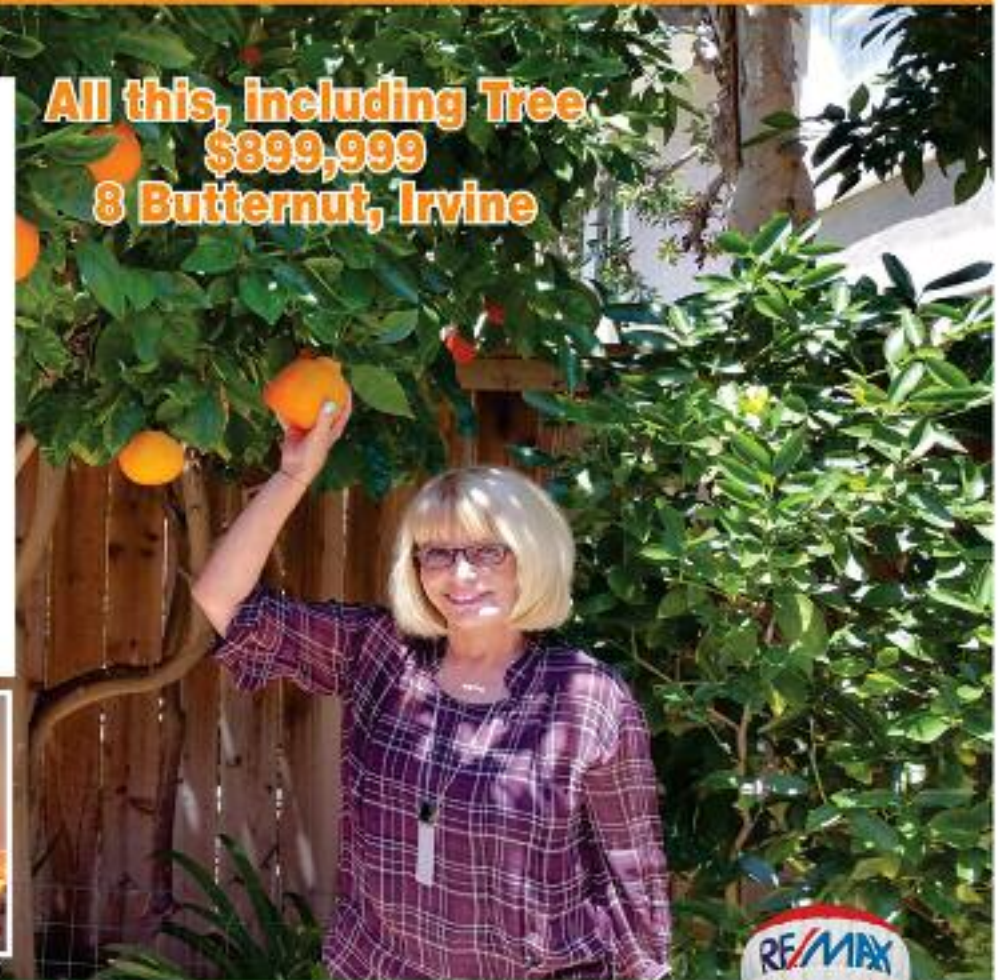
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