

The abstracts listed in this report describe long form local news stories KCLU-FM, KCLU and KCLM broadcast about issues of community significance during the calendar quarter noted above. Unless stated otherwise, local features in Morning Edition aired at 6:46, 7:46 and 8:46 a.m. Local features in All Things Considered aired at 3:44 and 5:44 p.m. The length of each story is noted with the date of broadcast.

ENVIRONMENT / SUSTAINABILITY

4/4/2023 0:54 Morning Edition

A proposal to create fish farms in the Santa Barbara Channel meets some local opposition. The sites are part of a wider proposal to develop 19 sites in US federal waters. The sites, which include 8 in the Santa Barbara Channel, are being proposed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) following a Trump-era Executive Order to develop sites for fish farms..

AFFORDABILITY/ HOUSING

4/4/2023 0:49 All Things Considered

Anger over mass evictions in Isla Vista prompts some tenants to seek help from Santa Barbara County. But, Santa Barbara County's ability to intervene may be limited legally. Anger over plans by the new owners of three South Coast apartment complexes to evict hundreds of residents bubbled over Tuesday. Dozens of the upset tenants asked Santa Barbara County Supervisors for help.

PUBLIC SAFETY

4/5/2023 4:10 Morning Edition

Who's going to be staffing Santa Barbara County's ambulances? Controversial issue still unsettled. Santa Barbara County's process gave highest score to company already holding contract, but County Supervisors lean towards County Fire Department. It's something you don't think about, unless you need one. Exactly who is operating the ambulance that would come to you during a medical emergency? Depending on where you live in the Tri-Counties, it could be one of nearly a half dozen companies.

PUBLIC HEALTH / MENTAL HEALTH

4/6/2023 3:40 Morning Edition

New jail unit in Ventura County takes on issue of inmates with mental health, or medical care issues. 64,000 square foot expansion at Todd Road Jail features facilities specifically designed to get specialized care to inmates who need it. It's hard to imagine that so many people are excited to be behind bars, in jail. But, about 200 invited guests are at Ventura County's Todd Road jail, for the opening of a long-sought expansion intended to safely house, and help people with mental health, and severe health care issues.

PUBLIC SAFETY / DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

4/11/2023 4:41 Morning Edition

What would you do if there was a nuclear bomb blast? Ventura County launches education campaign. Key elements include getting inside of a building ASAP, and staying inside until authorities say radioactive fallout has dissipated. You hear about earthquake and brush fire preparedness regularly. But, would you know what to do if there was a nuclear explosion? "A nuclear detonation is another disaster that could happen," said Dr. Robert Levin, who's Ventura County's Public Health Officer. The county has launched a public awareness campaign intended to give everyone the basic information we need to react, and protect ourselves and our families from the impacts of a nuclear blast.

ENVIRONMENT / SUSTAINABILITY

4/12/2023 3:40 All Things Considered

What is aquaculture and why are eight sites proposed in the Santa Barbara Channel? There's a proposal to create eight seafood farms in the Santa Barbara Channel and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently released a report on the environmental impact of the proposal. In May 2020, then President Trump signed an Executive Order which called for the expansion of sustainable U.S. seafood production. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – NOAA – was tasked with proposing 19 sites in US federal waters for aquaculture – also known as seafood farming. Eight of those sites are in the Santa Barbara Channel.

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

4/13/2023 0:49 Morning Edition

Cal State Channel Islands has set an ambitious goal to become carbon neutral by 2040. There's a target for the state of California to become carbon neutral by 2045. Cal State Channel Islands is aiming to eliminate its greenhouse gas emissions from the main campus in Camarillo and its Channel Islands Boating Center in Oxnard by 2040.

PUBLIC HEALTH

4/13/2023 0:58 All Things Considered

Tuberculosis case discovered at Amazon warehouse in Ventura County: 180 people may have been exposed. Ventura County Public Health officials say education and testing has been offered to workers at the massive Amazon Fulfillment Center in Oxnard. An employee at a major online warehouse facility in the Tri-Counties has been diagnosed with tuberculosis. Ventura County Public Health officials say an employee at the massive Amazon Fulfillment Center in Oxnard tested positive for an active case of TB.

ENVIRONMENT / ARTS

4/18/2023 0:49 Morning Edition

Art students from Cal State Channel Islands have created a kelp forest sculpture...with a difference. It's a unique way to highlight the problem of marine debris in the Santa Barbara Channel. It stands about ten feet tall, with multi-colored kelp leaves making a kelp forest. "There's one of the largest kelp forest right off of the coast of Santa Rosa Island," explained Cal State Channel Islands Art capstone student Karly Kennedy, one of the artists who created the Help the Kelp art sculpture on display at the Santa Barbara Zoo. The sculpture is created entirely out of recycled marine debris which was collected by fellow CSUCI students.

NON PROFIT

4/21/2023 4:41 Morning Edition

Dental clinic for Afghanistan's poor started by Santa Barbara dentist reopens, after Taliban shutdown. Program has treated more than 200,000 people since being founded 20 years ago. Sometimes, good things come in very mysterious, and unexpected ways. The Taliban government shut down a 20-year-old free dental care program for the poor created by a Santa Barbara dentist. But, a California dental school's decision to honor the dentist for his efforts set the stage for the desperately needed program to reopen this week.

ENVIRONMENT / ANIMAL PROTECTION

4/21/2023 3:46 All Things Considered

Beach please: It's nesting time for some rare shorebirds so beach-goers are reminded to be careful. With the weather warming up, you might be considering a trip to one of our South Coast beaches on Earth Day, this weekend. Ormond Beach in Oxnard is one of the locations where the Ventura Audubon Society's Shorebird Recovery Program monitors nesting Western Snowy Plovers. "The area that we look for nests is this whole two mile stretch of beach, it's about 150 acres," explained Cynthia Hartley, who leads the program to protect the rare, endangered little birds, which are decreasing in numbers.

HATE CRIMES / INTOLERANCE / AAPI COMMUNITY

4/26/2023 0:50 Morning Edition

Santa Barbara County based conference focuses on tackling the rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans. Next week marks the start of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month and the free event will discuss ways to tackle the surge in hate violence. The pandemic saw the start of a surge of hate crimes and hate incidents against Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. "In the previous administration, they were constantly referring to the 'China Virus' and the 'Wuhan Virus', and that kind of rhetoric demonizes Asian-American people who are not at all responsible for the Coronavirus pandemic," explained Dusty Hoesly, the Associate Director of the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UC, Santa Barbara.

PUBLIC SAFETY

4/26/2023 4:39 Morning Edition

Centralized dispatch center could mean faster 9-1-1 response for firefighters in Santa Barbara County. Work officially underway on center which will combine fire dispatching duties now at five sites in Santa Barbara County into one centralized facility. When you call 9-1-1 for help, you'd think that the closest fire truck would be heading your way, right? That's not necessarily the case right now in Santa Barbara County. Chris Mailes in Santa Barbara Fire Chief. "I've been involved in EMS, and fire now for about 38 years, and I've watched these multiple dispatch centers, and I've watched centers hand off calls to other centers," said Mailes.

AFFORDABILITY/ COLLEGE COSTS

4/28/2023 0:51 Morning Edition

There's a way to help some Central Coast High School students pay for their first year at college. Allan Hancock College is expecting to help around a thousand eligible students with a year's free tuition. They call it the Hancock Promise – and it's a way to help promising students on the Central Coast with the costs of higher education. "The Hancock Promise provides our local high school graduates with a year's free tuition", explained Lauren Milbourne from Hancock College.

PUBLIC SAFETY / INFRASTRUCTURE

5/2/2023 4:39 Morning Edition

Study shows Ventura, Santa Barbara Counties face annual \$320 million damage risk from big earthquake. Annualized total for state now estimated at \$9.6 billion, which is about two thirds of the national number. It's a part of life in the Tri-Counties. It's the potential for an earthquake. A new study shows California is projected to have \$9.6 billion a year from earthquake damage. And, in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, the annual loss is estimated at about \$320 million. "This is a study we have been updating for the last 20 years...this is our fourth major update," said Doug Bausch, the the Director of Data Science at NitamIT. He's one of the researchers involved in a new project which looks at how much earthquakes could cost parts of the nation.

PUBLIC SAFETY / INFRASTRUCTURE / ENVIRONMENT

5/4/2023 4:16 Morning Edition

Massive sewage spill dumps estimated 10 to 16 million gallons of raw sewage in Ventura County arroyo. Storms blamed for damaging decades old underground pipeline in Moorpark. It's a massive sewage spill in Ventura County that may have gone undetected for weeks because of its remote location. "It's hard to say exactly...it's somewhere between 10 million gallons, and 16 million gallons," said Joe Pope, the Director of Water and Sanitation for the Ventura County Public Works Department. Pope says the spill involves the Ventura County Water and Sanitation facility which serves Moorpark.

HOMELESSNESS

5/9/2023 0:50 All Things Considered

A new way to help those experiencing homelessness on the Central Coast is a step closer. Construction started Tuesday on the 94 room community. Dignity Moves Hope Village will provide temporary interim housing specifically for people experiencing homelessness in the Santa Maria Valley. "Santa Maria has historically had a very serious homeless problem," explained Jack Lorenz, the regional advancement director for Dignity Moves – he says the groundbreaking Tuesday is a big step in helping folks in the area. Lorenz explained Hope Village in Santa Maria will have 94 rooms, which will include housing for Transitional Age Youth (those between the ages of 18-24, many of whom are leaving the foster care system).

ENVIRONMENT / CONSERVATION / FOOD WASTE

5/10/2023 4:16 Morning Edition

Are you throwing out good food because you think it's expired? New law seeks to improve labeling. Experts say we are tossing about 20% of our food because we mistakenly think it's expired. We're in the dairy section of a Thousand Oaks supermarket. Two people are stopped in front of one of the display cabinets, looking at the date on a carton of milk. "I think a lot of people who see Sell By, at least in my family, will take that as Use By," said Sofia Sperber. "It depends for me," said Donald Nichol. "You've got to give it the smell test...you want to look at the Sell By, Use By date."

ENVIRONMENT / CONSERVATION

5/12/2023 4:38 Morning Edition

Santa Barbara park, botanic garden team up for project which lets public help as citizen-naturalists. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden will spearhead pilot project to restore native vegetation in part of Elings Park. We are hiking up a steep hill in a Santa Barbara park. There's thick brush on both sides of the trail. Suddenly, as we reach the crest, there's a spectacular view. "We're up at the top of the Elings Park south bluffs. Behind us there are sweeping views of the city...you can see the Mission over there...you can see downtown, and State Street," said Dean Noble, who's the Executive Director of the 230 acre park. "Over here, on our left are the Channel Islands." The park is huge. It's more than double the size of Disneyland.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

5/16/2023 0:47 All Things Considered

Ventura County prosecutors say the Ojai City Council violated the state's open meeting laws. DA's Office issues letter demanding that the council agrees to comply with a cease-and-desist order. Ventura County prosecutors say a city council in the county has violated the state's open meeting law. Ventura County prosecutors say the Ojai City Council violated the open meeting law, known as the Brown Act. They say that in December and January, the city council discussed matters which exceeded the scope of what they claimed they were going to talk about in closed session.

PUBLIC SAFETY / DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

5/18/2023 0:48 Morning Edition

A new way to support domestic violence victims in Ventura County. Gun violence and domestic violence are often linked together. There are approximately 7000 allegations of domestic violence each year in Ventura County and a new program in the county can help victims gain a restraining order to request the removal of a gun from a household if it creates an unsafe and threatening environment. The Coalition for Family Harmony supports survivors of family violence in Ventura County and are behind the support program. Their Executive Director Caroline Prijatel-Sutton says the support is designed to keep those affected by domestic violence, safe.

PUBLIC HEALTH / ELDER CARE

5/19/2023 0:44 All Things Considered

Help for families on the Central Coast navigating the complex choices in geriatric care. A free event in Santa Maria features experts in the field sharing information. It's a way to help some people on the Central Coast to navigate the options for geriatric care and the City of Santa Maria Public Library in partnership with the Santa Maria branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will offer a free presentation on geriatric care on Saturday.

FOOD INSECURITY

5/20/2023 4:42 Morning Edition

Non-profit which helps feed one in four Ventura County residents reports demand for aid is surging. Oxnard-based Food Share helped more than 260,000 people in 2022. Joy Demdordan is one of dozens of people lined up for a food giveaway in Oxnard. She's a senior, on a fixed income with health issues. "Sometimes we would go hungry. Sometimes I would go to bed with nothing," said Demdordan. The Port Hueneme woman said the food from Ventura County's Food Share food bank makes a huge difference.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

5/23/2023 3:28 All Things Considered

Ventura County's first in-person Public Works event since COVID welcomed more than 1200 students. From sanitation to survey, and transport – it's a chance to learn about some of our public workers. The works of hydrology are being demonstrated to this group of elementary school students in Ventura, at the Ventura County Public Work Agency Headquarters. From sanitation, to storm water and construction to conservation, they are some of the over 1200 students in the county to attend the event and this is just one stop on their tour to learn about the Agency.

ENVIRONMENT / CONSERVATION

5/24/2023 4:30 Morning Edition

Turning wastewater into drinking water: Ventura gets \$173 million in loans for cutting edge project. Officials call \$374 million project a 'drought buster' which when completed will meet 20% of the city's water needs. It's something we take for granted. We flush the toilet, and all the nasty stuff goes...it goes...well, where does it go? In Ventura, it ends up at the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility, near Ventura Harbor. Vince Ines, who's Ventura's Wastewater Utility manager, gives us a tour of the plant. We walk by huge processing facilities, where the water is going through a purification process. It handles about eight to nine million gallons of wastewater a day. After a three step process, the water is discharged into the nearby Santa Clara River Estuary.

ENVIRONMENT / SUSTAINABILITY

5/26/2023 4:40 Morning Edition

Tiny plant once thought to be extinct rediscovered on Vandenberg Space Force Base. Researchers say the Santa Ynez groundstar is smaller than a penny, and is only found in a tiny area smaller than a high school gym. It's a rare plant, so rare that it hasn't been seen for decades. It only lives in a tiny area of the Central Coast, smaller than a high school gym. And, it's not easy to find, because it's smaller than a penny. But, researchers have rediscovered it.

ACCESSIBILITY

5/31/2023 4:33 Morning Edition

Botanical Gardens helps some who are color blind experience flowers in true colors for first time. Ventura Botanical Gardens gives some who are color blind cutting edge sunglasses which adjust colors, and makes them available on loan to others.

ENVIRONMENT / SUSTAINABILITY

6/1/2023 0:51 All Things Considered

How the City of Goleta is cracking down on single use plastics. It's estimated there are over five trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean and the Santa Barbara County community is cracking down on single-use plastics. The City of Goleta had given businesses 10 months to prepare for comprehensive plastic pollution reduction regulations – and that deadline runs out on June 1. "This is getting more and more businesses to go reusable," said Dana Murray, Sustainability Manager for the City of Goleta. The new rules prohibit single use plastic cutlery and polystyrene foodware. "Because they are light-weight and not recyclable, this policy really targets polystyrene food packaging. It can blow away and get into the environment," said Murray.

PUBLIC SAFETY / ENVIRONMENT

6/2/2023 3:47 Morning Edition

Emergency dredging project trying to prevent a salt marsh from flooding the Carpinteria area. January's storms carried sediment into creeks which feed the nature preserve. Flood control officials say the situation puts Carpinteria at risk. It's a lush nature preserve which sits on the west side of Carpinteria. The Carpinteria Salt Marsh is home to more than 190 species of birds, 37 types of fish, and 11 kinds of mammals. But, this year's storms have created a major problem with the marsh which not only threatens nearby property, but the habitat that's so important for wildlife.

FOOD INSECURITY

6/5/2023 3:57 Morning Edition

Drive up food giveaway created during pandemic to feed those in need in Ventura County continues. Food Share officials say even though the pandemic is over, the need for help remains high. They continue a weekly Oxnard drive up food distribution project. Susan Waterson is leaning against an old, beat up van in an Oxnard parking lot. Dozens of cars, trucks, and SUV's are parked behind her. They are all here for one thing: a drive-through food giveaway intended to help those in need.

ENVIRONMENT / PRESERVATION

6/6/2023 0:50 All Things Considered

Preserving prime watershed: The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy buys chunk of land southwest of Ojai. The nearly 10 acres of land will be added to the San Antonio Creek Preserve. San Antonio Creek feeds into the Ventura River. A land conservancy has announced the purchase of nearly ten acres of land to help efforts to protect and preserve the Ventura River watershed. The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy acquired the property in the San Antonio Creek Area. It will be an addition to the existing San Antonio Creek Preserve, which is southwest of Ojai.

PUBLIC SAFETY / LOCAL GOVERNANCE

6/7/2023 0:43 All Things Considered

Tiny Santa Barbara County community gets badly needed new public safety building. New 9,000 square foot building in New Cuyama is a combined fire station and Sheriff's substation. This is a big week for a tiny Santa Barbara County community. Its more than seven decade old fire station is being replaced with a new combined state-of-the-art fire and sheriff's facility. New Cuyama is officially getting a new combined fire station and Sheriff's Department substation.

INCLUSION

6/12/2023 0:49 Morning Edition

Juneteenth - which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans - is being marked a couple of days early in Oxnard, with a celebration on the 17th, ahead of the official holiday on the 19th. The Juneteenth annual event will feature Gospel music, Ventura College Jazz Band and dance performances, as well as food and face painting. It also features an encampment exhibit by the Buffalo Soldiers 10th Cavalry, said Angela Landers, one of the organizers of the celebration, which has been running in the city of 32 years.

AFFORDABILITY / HOUSING

6/14/2023 0:48 Morning Edition

Ventura County Community Development Corporation is hosting a Homeownership Virtual Conference aiming to give prospective homeowners guidance and practical tools to help them achieve their dream of owning or staying in their own home. In a difficult market, home ownership for low or moderate income families has become increasingly challenging to achieve. "It's always difficult but it's even more difficult now with home prices staying high and interest rates increasing," said Keily Victoria, from Ventura County Community Development Corporation.

HOMELESSNESS / NON PROFIT

6/15/2023 4:39 Morning Edition

Ventura County homeless shelter which has helped hundreds now needs help itself to prevent closure. Harvard Shelter in Santa Paula facing serious budget shortfall. The non-profit, grass roots organization serves Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru. It's been a rough month for Linda Richter. The 82-year-old Santa Paula woman had been renting a room in a mobile home, but two weeks ago suddenly found herself homeless. "The told me to leave, so that's when I had to come here," said Richter. "I didn't have any other place to go." We're at Santa Paula's Harvard Shelter. Fortunately, Richter was able to find help through the shelter. It's a four-year-old grass roots center in Santa Paula which helps some of those who have nowhere else to go. Kay Wilson-Bolton is the shelter's director.

PUBLIC SAFETY

6/16/2023 0:47 All Things Considered

Are Ventura County's water providers ready for a major wildfire? A new Grand Jury report says no. The report says one key issue is inadequate power backup for some of the water purveyors in case utility service is disrupted. A new Ventura County Grand Jury reports says some of the county's water providers aren't adequately prepared to deal with the impacts of wildfires. The report says one of the top issues is many of the 15 water suppliers don't have adequate backup power to deal with disruptions due to the loss of utility power, or fire damage. It calls on them to have on-site emergency power backup at critical infrastructure.

FOOD INSECURITY / CHILD HUNGER

6/19/2023 0:49 Morning Edition

A program in Ventura County is one of many that offers free nutritional lunches. During school time, free breakfast and lunch are provided to children in public schools – so when school is out – they no longer have access to those meals. "There's a lot of students that it impacts their daily life when they don't have a meal," explained Director of Child Nutrition for Moorpark Unified School District, Orlando Orozco. Their summer food program provides a no-cost healthy meal for students while school is out. "We offer a non-stop service...when school is not in session we have a participation of around 1000 to 1500 students," explained Orozco.

INCLUSION

6/19/2023 3:47 All Things Considered

Back in 2021, as Joe Biden was being inaugurated as the 46th President, a Ventura County mom was welcoming her first child. Since then, we have been following the family, who are reflecting on what Juneteenth means to them as a mixed-race family. Two-year-old Fin Semler is playing with her little sister Tea at home in Ventura County. Tea is just 14-months younger, having arrived on the scene ten weeks premature. Their mom – Genessee is home from work with them on Monday as their daycare is closed for the Juneteenth holiday. "We have Juneteenth now that's recognized as a Federal holiday as a response to George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement," she notes, about the holiday which was made a federal holiday the same year that she welcomed her first daughter, Fin.

PUBLIC SAFETY

6/23/2023 0:49 Morning Edition

It's a way to bring local artwork to the Central Coast as well as tackling an anti-social issue.

The City of Santa Maria is asking local artists to showcase their work in a unique way – on 15 utility boxes around the city. "They're these gray boxes that sit on the side of the road often tagged with graffiti or an eyesore as they're just a large metal box," said Dennis Smitherman, the Recreation Services Manager for the City. He says that the artworks don't just brighten up a commute – it also serves as a way to reduce graffiti on the boxes. "Artists whether you're a street artist or a muralist tend to respect each other's work and there tends to be less graffiti on those that already have artwork on it," he explained.

AFFORDABILITY / HOUSING / RENTERS RIGHTS

6/27/2023 0:47 All Things Considered

After mass evictions in Santa Barbara County, new renters ordinance gets preliminary approval. But, county officials say there are limits on what they can do legally. It's been a heart-wrenching issue in Santa Barbara County. Around a thousand people received eviction orders in the county, following the sale of some large apartment complexes in the county, and plans by the new owners to remodel them. Now, Santa Barbara County Supervisors have given preliminary approval to an ordinance intended to provide new renter protections.