



# River District

## State of the River District Featured Mayor, Councilmember and County Supervisor



*County Supervisor Phil Serna, River District Executive Director Devin Strecker, River District Board Secretary Greta Lacin, Mayor Kevin McCarty and Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum at the 2025 State of the River District. Lacin, a long-time board member, was named winner of the 2025 Visionary Award. (Photo by Kent Lacin)*

The third annual State of the River District was held April 15, 2025, at Blue Diamond Growers. The event featured a panel discussion moderated by KCRA Reporter Michelle Bandur. The participants on the panel were Mayor Kevin McCarty, Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum, and County Supervisor Phil Serna.

Alicia Rockwell, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officers with Blue Diamond Growers, welcomed attendees to the event, noting that the historic facility has been Blue Diamond's home since 1914.

Ahmed Hamdy, River District Board President, thanked SMUD for their sponsorship of the event as well as all the board members. "Bold, intentional growth defines the River District," Hamdy said. "We have a shared vision - one of transformation, energy, and purpose."

After each member of the panel spoke, they were asked questions from the moderator as well as stakeholders. Many of the questions centered on the unhoused crisis and the effects it has on businesses in the district.

"[Homelessness] needs to be our singular focus. I'm locked in on that. We're zeroing in on what we can do to make it better," Mayor McCarty said. He said he has been talking with city council on how they can offer better results with less

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

*Place Enhancement  
Working Group  
Sacramento History  
Museum Field Trip  
Tuesday, July 1  
11:00 a.m.*

*Clean & Safe Working  
Group  
Thursday, July 10  
9:00 a.m.  
River District Office,  
651 Bannon St. Ste. 1200*

*River District Board  
Meeting  
Wednesday, July 16,  
3:30 p.m.  
River District Office,  
651 Bannon St. Ste. 1200*

*RSVP to  
[info@riverdistrict.net](mailto:info@riverdistrict.net)*

**River District Private  
Security Number  
(916) 907-4191**

funding. He pointed to recent collaborations with the county on tiny home projects on Stockton Blvd. and Roseville Road.

In response to a question from the manager of Sacramento Pipeworks Climbing Gym, asking what business can do other than just calling 311, Councilmember Pluckebaum replied that "we need to provide basic public safety enforcement - we have to continue to offer folks a place to be off of the street. We have to have a separate conversation [about what the consequences of not accepting help] will be."

County Supervisor Serna talked about safe space campgrounds, with the county currently constructing its fourth facility. "The more folks that we can keep from migrating to the parkway and the surrounding urban neighborhoods, the better."

"Again, it's our number one issue we're addressing," Mayor McCarty said. "Hats off to the city, the prior council and mayor, for opening up I think 1,200 or 1,300 places for people to go. In the next couple of months, there will be about 600 new places to go... We can't have urban camping on sidewalks in front of businesses. There also needs to be a reality for people to accept services."

Closing out the event, River District Executive Director Devin Strecker presented Greta Lacin, River District Board Secretary, with the inaugural Visionary Award.

"For a change, I'm kind of speechless," Lacin said. "I appreciate this award. It's really nice to be recognized for, if nothing else, persistence."

## State of the River District: Video Recap





The State of the River District 2025 was held at Blue Diamond Growers and featured Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty, City Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum and County Supervisor Phil Serna in a panel discussion moderated by KCRA's Michelle Bandur.

## The May Lee State Office Complex: A Model for Development



*The May Lee State Office Complex is a model for future adaptive reuse construction projects. (Photo by Janice Kelley)*

The new May Lee State Office Complex (MLSOC), composed of four mid-rise office buildings in the River District, is the largest all-electric, zero carbon workplace campus in the U.S. and accommodates more than 5,000 state employees. Design began in 2019 and the grand opening was celebrated in March, 2024. The complex received a LEED Gold certification and a SITES Gold certification – a first for the California Department of General Services (DGS), which managed the project.

DGS selected the MLSOC location to be an anchor for revitalization efforts of the River District. With access to Township 9 light rail station across the street and located near the riverfront, DGS Project staff envisioned the complex to serve as inspiration for future adaptive-use and construction projects. MLSOC also creates an opportunity to restore the River District's lost connection with the city and the river, as industrial development in the 20th century formed barriers.

“The original river channels created a large riparian area [now known as the River District]. Building the elevated railroad lines created both a visual and physical barrier. The River District lost its riparian areas and connection to the river,” explained Erik Prince, Principal of Atlas Lab, a Sacramento-based landscape architecture and urban design firm.

Prince led the planning and community engagement element of the River District's strategic planning process as their consultant. “We are always looking for ways to reconnect the River District to the city and the river. Native plantings at MLSOC have helped to restore the North/South connection; and created an opportunity to stitch together areas of native plants and trees,” Prince said.

Written by Janice Kelley, [outdoorjan@att.net](mailto:outdoorjan@att.net)

For the full story and photos, visit our [blog here!](#)

## River District Hosts Massive Concert



*Gabito Ballesteros performed at Lot 427 in the River District on Saturday, April 5.*

San Francisco-based events producer Non Plus Ultra (NPU) worked with Visit Sacramento, the City of Sacramento, and the River District to bring an outdoor concert that attracted nearly 6,000 attendees to the neighborhood. The concert featured singer/songwriter Gabito Ballesteros and DJ Deorro as well as several other acts.

NPU has previously produced similar concerts on Railyards Boulevard but had been searching for a private property, ultimately selecting the empty lot on the northeast corner of Richards Blvd. and North 7th Street. NPU estimated a \$110,000 impact to the local economy as a result of the event.

While NPU planned to produce future events on the site, the lot has now been rented by the State of California to provide parking for employees at the May Lee State Office Complex in anticipation of the governor's Return to Office order which goes into effect July 1, 2025 for some state employees.

## Friends of the River District Block Party + Pop-Up Market





*Neighbors and friends attended the Friends of the River District Block Party and Pop-Up Market at the Hayley Apartments at Township 9 on June 26, 2025.*

Friends of the River District, our initiative to build community for residents of our neighborhood, held its second quarterly block party at the Hayley at Township 9 on Thursday, June 26, 2025. All residents of the district were invited to join together to enjoy food, music, and activities all while getting to know their neighbors. Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum sponsored and visited the event, which included a taco truck with free food for the first 50 guests, a produce stand, local vendors, games and activities. The City of Sacramento Planning Department also participated to raise awareness of the [River District Specific Plan Update](#) and to gather feedback from residents. The next block party will take place in the third quarter at Cannery Place Apartments. For more information, contact Cristina Navarro, Program Manager, at [cristina@riverdistrict.net](mailto:cristina@riverdistrict.net) or 916-358-8770.

**The River District Public Spaces Team**



*Kelly and Dylan with Accurate Cleaning provide cleaning and maintenance services for the River District.*

The River District's Clean Team, provided through a contract with Accurate Cleaning, works from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to reduce the district's litter, debris and graffiti. They also work with the unhoused population to keep encampments as clean as possible, and to assist and encourage unhoused individuals to accept shelter and services.

#### **2025 Litter Abatement Statistics (April/May)**

- 1,772 bags of litter collected
- 335 Instances of human waste removed
- 409 syringes removed
- 226 interactions with unhoused individuals
- 70,880 lbs. or 54.44 tons - total litter disposed

Capital Protection Group (CPG) provides security services, and can be reached via our Private Security Dispatch at (916) 907-4191.

#### **2025 Security Statistics (April/May)**

- 1,569 Officer observations
- 268 Dispatch service calls
- 80 Interactions with Unhoused Individuals

For removal of litter, debris or hazardous waste from public property, contact our team by calling (916) 321-5599 or emailing [cleanandsafe@riverdistrict.net](mailto:cleanandsafe@riverdistrict.net).

Statistics for the entire year 2024 are included in our *River District 2024 Q4/Annual Market Report*, which is [available here](#).

**Petition threatens Sacramento's Railyards stadium deal weeks after council approval** The City of Sacramento's plans to transform the Downtown Railyards into a hub of entertainment and professional sports could be delayed by a last-minute petition organized by a local union. Just two weeks after the City Council unanimously approved a \$92 million public financing plan for the district's new Republic FC soccer stadium and entertainment district, the Sacramento City Financing Authority received notice of a formal protest. That triggered a process to verify whether a majority of residents oppose the plan, which would require shelving the project for at least a year. [Click here for more](#) (via *CapRadio*)

**\$25 million in funding approved for Sacramento I Street Bridge project** The I Street Bridge Replacement Project will receive \$25 million in funding after a decision was reached by the California Transportation Committee, according to the city of West Sacramento. A meeting was held Thursday to decide whether to allocate more funding to the project, which is expected to cost more than \$300 million. The I Street Bridge connecting Sacramento and West Sacramento was built in 1911. The city of West Sacramento said the current bridge is outdated and does not fit modern traffic safety needs. [Click here for more](#) (via *KCRA*)

**Sen. Ashby Proposes Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency**

Regional partners joined Senator Angelique Ashby (D-Sacramento) to unveil newly amended Senate Bill 802, aimed at addressing Sacramento's regional response to homelessness and housing. SB 802 establishes the Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency, a centralized authority designed to coordinate, fund, and implement all Sacramento County housing and homelessness programming. [Click here for more](#) (via *KFBK*)

## SMUD Business Electrification + Rate Changes

On June 11, SMUD partnered with the River District on a Business Walk to speak with owners about an exciting program to help businesses upgrade their properties for energy efficiency. SMUD is offering one-time assistance with assessments and potential funding of the improvements. Following the walk, SMUD and the River District hosted a virtual workshop for businesses to ask questions and learn more. If you were not visited during the business walk, or if you were but still have questions, please [complete this form](#).

In addition, SMUD has been attending River District events to inform its customers about upcoming proposed rate changes. A 3% increase in 2026 and 2027 for residential and non-residential customers is being proposed. For more information, [click here](#).

## Upcoming Events





The Summer Music Series is back at Pintworks Brewpub by [Touchstone Brewing Co.](#) for a third year with all new bands (almost), the same great beer, and exceptional food!

Kick it with us on the last Friday of every month this summer! We're keeping it laid-back and local — outdoor patio, all ages, no cover, and yes, your dog is welcome too. The brewery's open from 4–11 PM, and the kitchen serves until 10 PM, so come early, grab a bite, and settle in for some awesome tunes.

Lineup:

- July 25 – Inverness 95 (Rock) Your favorite 90s and 2000s alternative rock covers — loud, nostalgic, and a whole lot of fun.
- August 29 – Milo Sledge Trio (Blues, Boogie & More ) A childhood piano teacher broke from the dry classical music lesson planting the boogie woogie seed. Early influences include the attitude of Johnny Cash, the straight forward swampy rhythms of CCR, the Chuck Berry and blues infused rock of The Rolling Stones. Then Stevie Ray Vaughn, in the pre-internet age opened the vault to the depths of American blues and the deep dive began. Lightnin Hopkins, Howlin Wolf and the blues harmonica greats. Determined to create an eclectic repertoire while avoiding Top 40 covers, instead you might hear Frank Sinatra, Link Wray, and James Brown.
- September – hotplug (Sacramento Indie) A fresh take on Sacramento's indie rock scene with original vibes and tight musicianship.

No frills, no cover, just good music and good times. See you there.



Lager-licious is BACK for a third year, this year is going to be bigger and better than ever! We will of course have an epic water battle, water dragon, plenty of lagers to sample, commemorative T-Shirts, tanks, and glassware, live music...

NEW this year! We will have a DUNK TANK & A WATER SLIDE!!! Let's goooooo!!!!



Let's have some fun in the sun. Schedule of activities will be posted on our [social media](#)!

Hours of Operation: 1-8pm, kitchen closes at 7pm

The referee will call a timeout if you're not there!

Saturday, August 2, 2025 from 1-8pm at Pintworks, 116 N. 16th Street.

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On Saturday, September 20th, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento will be hosting the elegant Hard Hats & High Heels Gala, as they mark 40 years of building homes, communities, and hope in Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

This black-tie evening will be one to remember—where purpose meets sophistication and your support helps build a brighter future for local families in need of safe, affordable housing.

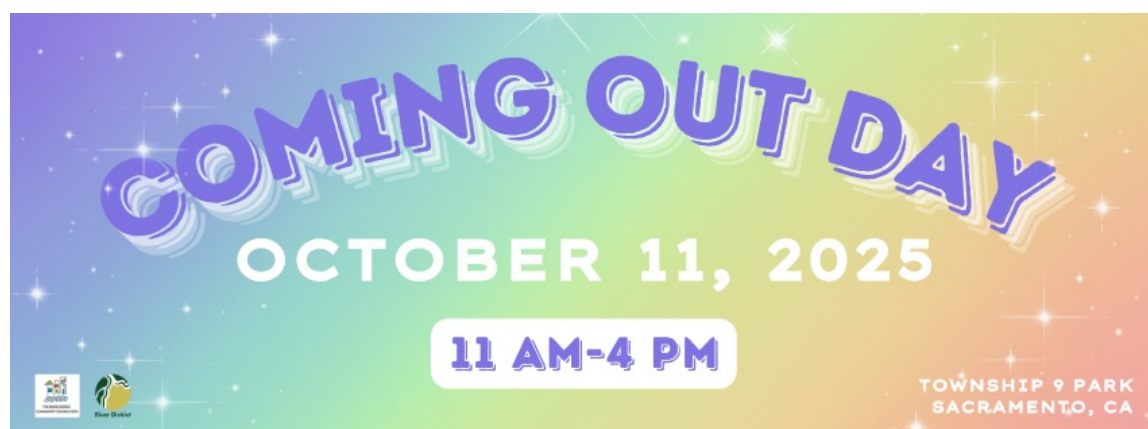
Your support helps continue a legacy of impact that spans four decades.

Here's what to expect:

- An exceptional cocktail reception
- Gourmet dinner & signature cocktails
- Powerful storytelling & heartfelt community tributes
- Live auction with exclusive high-end items & experiences
- An exclusive after party hosted by our friends at U.S. Bank
- A 40th anniversary celebration like no other!

Tickets and sponsorships available now at <https://trellis.org/habitatgala>.

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Calling all LGBTQ+ community members and allies. Come out and celebrate with us on Saturday, October 11, 2025, for day party of celebration, connection, and empowerment as we celebrate [National Coming Out Day](#).

Enjoy live entertainment from Sacramento's talented LGBTQ+ performers and learn about the resources available from safe sex, harm reduction, mental health, to gender affirming care. Support local LGBTQ+ businesses and shop from vendors, makers, and creatives.

Help us create a space where everyone feels seen, supported, and celebrated

Want to connect? Send an email to [Cristina@riverdistrict.net](mailto:Cristina@riverdistrict.net) for more information on how to get involved.



# 311

CUSTOMER SERVICE

## 311 is not just for residents . . .

There is an entire portal dedicated to **businesses** at

**311.cityofsacramento.org/s/business-home**. This portal allows businesses to better interact with City staff. Register to get access to funding, training, procurement opportunities, and more! The goal of this system is to improve our relationships with businesses, provide various ways to engage and get your questions answered.

Here is how to get started:

### 1 Register for an account

An account will let you track and manage your requests and will ensure we have the right contact information.

### 2 Add your business to your profile

Adding your business will allow us to find opportunities specific to your business and respond to requests for service.

### 3 Create a request

Submit requests for funding, training, technical assistance, and more! Our business services are available under the category "Business Resources."



**Pro Tip:**

Add the keyword "MBARK" when submitting your request for personal follow up!

City of  
**SACRAMENTO**

## RIVER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ahmed Hamdy**, President, MatriScope Engineering Laboratories, Inc.

**Eric T. Crane**, Vice President, SMUD

**George Bernabe**, Treasurer, Blue Diamond Growers

**Greta Lacin**, Secretary, Lacin Family Trust

**Gina Albanese**, First Pointe Management Group

**Spencer Applegate**, Applegate Properties

**Andrea Durham**, MOSAC

**Mark Dutrow**, US Glass

**Ernie Gallardo**, Meadows Asset Management

**Sam Greenlee**, Alchemist Community Development Corporation

Kesha Harris, July Forward  
Diane Ortega, Pipeworks  
Patrick Stelmach, CBRE

#### RIVER DISTRICT STAFF

Devin Strecker, LPM, Executive Director, [devin@riverdistrict.net](mailto:devin@riverdistrict.net)  
Cristina Navarro, Program Manager, [cristina@riverdistrict.net](mailto:cristina@riverdistrict.net)  
Maurice Scott, Business Development Manager, [maurice@riverdistrict.net](mailto:maurice@riverdistrict.net)

Security Services are provided through a contract with [Capital Protection Group](#). To reach the guard on duty from 7am-7pm call 916-907-4191

Cleaning and Maintenance Services are provided through a contract with [Accurate Cleaning](#). To request service in the public right of way, please call 916-321-5599.

*The River District is committed to building a community that values and promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion. We recognize that we have a responsibility to establish a culture that celebrates and promotes equitable opportunities for everyone. Through collaboration, advocacy, and strategic investments, we strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive neighborhood that supports local commerce, cultural diversity and sustainable growth.*

The River District | 651 Bannon Street Suite 1200 | Sacramento, CA 95811 US

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