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THE New Corolla sits off Huntington Beach on Friday. The crude oil tanker left Iraq just before the Iran war.

Newsom budget puts his legacy on the line

Will governor solve the chronic spending deficit or kick the can

Last tanker may augur California oil shortage

Ship that left before war is final delivery from gulf

BY BLANCA BEGERT

The last California-bound oil tanker to pass through the Strait of Hormuz since war erupted is at the Port of Long Beach offloading its valuable cargo—2 million barrels of crude destined to be transformed into gasoline, jet fuel and diesel.

The New Corolla loaded up in Iraq on Feb. 24 — just days before U.S. and Israeli

distant waters. After that, California must figure out how to replace some 200,000 barrels of oil a day that will no longer be arriving from the Persian Gulf.

California's own supply of crude oil has been declining since the 1980s, due to aging fields and a geology that makes drilling particularly costly. The state's gasoline refining capacity is also fall-

line topping \$6 per gallon, some lawmakers are warning of potential oil and gas shortages.

So far during the Iran war, oil deliveries to California have remained relatively steady. The state imports about 75% of its oil from foreign countries and Alaska. Last year it brought in a mix from Brazil, Iraq, Guyana, Canada, Ecuador, Argentina,

From Caltech grad to alleged D.C. gunman

Cole Tomas Allen was known as a tutor, a gamer and 'a godly person' before arrest.

BY CONNOR SHEETS, PAIGE ST. JOHN, ALENE TCHERKMEYAN, RUBEN VIVES AND JAMES QUEALLY

Before authorities charged him with attempting to assassinate President Trump and top administration officials in a brazen attack at the Washington Hilton, Cole Tomas Allen lived what those who knew him described as a quiet, simple existence.

He worked as a tutor and enjoyed video games, manga and riding his blue scooter. Acquaintances said Allen rarely talked about his political views through much of his adult life.

But on social media, he appears to have expressed concerns about the morality of U.S. policy, particularly its role in the wars in Ukraine and Iran.

Now, those who crossed paths with him are struggling to square the accusations against him with the

man they knew as an unassuming student, gamer and teacher.

Allen grew up in a middle-class, suburban part of Torrance, one of four siblings who would each go on to study at reputable universities. His parents were both teachers and "really solid members of their community," according to Paul Thompson, a Los Angeles County prosecutor who lives next door to the family's two-story house. Allen's father knew many people on the block of single-family homes by their first names, Thompson said, and the suspect's mother once saved Thompson's dog when it ran into the road.

As a high school junior, Allen led Pacific Lutheran's volleyball team in a three-set win over Junipero Serra High School. He was homeschooled, but was allowed via a special program to take a class at Pacific Lutheran in Gardena and to play for its respected squad, according to the private school's principal.

Allen was "a godly person" who never cursed or shared his political views at the time, a former teammate told The Times, but he was [See Allen, A10]

A blow to in-home

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Amid cuts to the arts, San Diego County steps in

BY DEBORAH BRENNAN

San Diego County supervisors plan to launch a new arts and culture initiative, as the city and federal government are slashing arts funding.

On Wednesday, County Board of Supervisors Chair Terra Lawson-Remer and Vice Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe announced their proposal to spend up to \$2.75 million for arts programs the first year, with ongoing spending of \$2.25 million for several arts programs to serve the 3.3 million people in San Diego County's cities and unincorporated areas.

"We believe this will be transformative," Lawson-Remer said. "It is the first time the county is stepping forward to provide public investment in arts and culture for the entire county."

The supervisors unveiled their plan at the San Diego County Administration Center at Waterfront Park, after children from the Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra played violin pieces and breakdancers performed gymnastic moves.

The county arts program would include a \$1-million grant program aimed at individual artists in areas with limited cultural resources. It would allocate \$500,000 each

to improve access to creative spaces and support an existing Black Arts and Culture District, located in nine blocks within the San Diego community of Encanto.

The plan would also set aside \$250,000 each for binational arts collaboration in the San Diego-Baja region and an artist-in-residence program to place local artists within county departments, where they would help devise creative solutions to public challenges.

"This means that communities where San Diegans have been underserved in the arts for too long, will have support and resources," Lawson-Remer said, speaking at a podium where someone had clipped a plush Mozart figure, a gift from the youth orchestra. "We're expanding opportunities for artists, increasing public access and cultural experiences and strengthening connections across our entire diverse, incredible region."

The five-member board of supervisors will vote on the proposal on Tuesday.

The proposed program has been in the works for a year, the supervisors said, but its rollout coincides with San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria's plan to eliminate an \$11.8-million art grant program and close a \$146-million hole in the city budget.

Arts and culture advocates have opposed the proposed cuts, which would slash city arts funding by 85% and also reduce spending on libraries and recreation centers.

The county program isn't a response to city budget cuts, Montgomery Steppe said, but she acknowledged the writing was on the wall as government agencies retreated from arts commitments.

The federal government under President Trump's administration last year revoked money that was previously awarded to local nonprofits through the National Endowment for the Arts. Artists are also being "pushed to the margins" by rising costs, limited access to capital, unstable income and lack of affordable work and living spaces, the supervisors stated in the staff report for the proposal.

"San Diego County's arts and culture ecosystem is at a critical moment," Montgomery Steppe said. "We've all witnessed the resilience of our artists and cultural workers over the past years, as their livelihood has been challenged through pandemic shutdowns and shifting public priorities. But today, we are also facing a new challenge of society stepping back from its long-standing commitment to the arts."

Jared Osoria, a principal



ADRIANA HELDIZ CalMatters

COUNTY supervisors plan to launch a new arts initiative as city and federal agencies revoke funding.

dancer with San Diego Ballet, said his organization lost \$10,000 last year that the National Endowment for the Arts appropriated and then revoked. The county arts program could help the ballet company buy new audio visual equipment for rehearsal studios, cover other supplies and offer free ballet classes to students in San Ysidro and City Heights.

"This puts shoes on our dancers' feet," Osoria said. "It gives us a better budget for props for our main stage productions. It ensures that our 'Nutcracker' continues year after year."

Alex Villafuerte, executive director of the Pacific Arts Movement, which produces the San Diego Asian

Film Festival, said the federal endowment awarded his organization \$25,000 last year, but then clawed back the money.

"Last year was the first year that it had been rescinded with no explanation and no chance for us to take a rebuttal or have them reconsider, and we assume it's largely because of the executive orders around diversity," he said.

Then film festival sponsors reversed their grants, pulling another \$50,000 after telling organizers that they were concerned the donations would run afoul of federal rules restricting diversity, equity and inclusion programs. Because of that, the organization brought in

fewer filmmakers for its main festival and scaled back its spring showcase from seven to three days, Villafuerte said.

Ramel Wallace, founder and chief executive of the Holyfield, an organization that supports storytelling, music and education, said the county's contribution is a good start. But he said artist communities have to become more self-sufficient through grassroots financial structures such as rotating savings and credit associations and savings circles that share capital among members. "Right now, people are going to have to create solidarity economics, microeconomics in our individual communities, because we can't always look to the powers that be," he said.

Arts advocates dismissed the idea that art is a luxury, arguing that investing in the arts boosts community well-being, supports tourism and spurs economic development.

"The arts are not a luxury; they are a public good," said Gaidi Finnie, executive director of the San Diego African-American Museum of Fine Art. "They're jobs, they're small businesses, they're education, they're mental health."

Brennan writes for CalMatters.