

# LOS LAGOS NEWS

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## Announcements

### Annual Meeting

Saturday January 25, 2020,  
10:30am

Avail Property Management,  
51350 Desert Club Drive, #5  
La Quinta, CA 92253

The meeting will feature results of the board elections. In addition, homeowners will be able to pick up the new 2020 Los Lagos Resident Directories.

### From the President

Happy New Year!

Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. We have quite a few new homeowners that we would like to welcome to Los Lagos. We have a special community and sure you will enjoy it here.

Los Lagos has a fresh look with a number of maintenance items we were able to accomplish. Thanks to those that have commented on it. Hope to have another productive year in 2020.  
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## *Who Is San Andreas? Is It All His Fault?*

**Question:** What is a geological “fault”?

**Answer:** It’s a crack in the crust of the earth. There are many of them.

**Question:** Does our planet really have a “crust” with “cracks” in it?

**Answer:** The outermost layer of earth has cooled into a “thin” (relative to the size of the earth) solidified crust that is broken into several slowly moving fragments called “tectonic plates”. Some faults are between “plates”, while others are within them.

**Question:** What makes “tectonic plates” move?

**Answer:** They are moved by the hotter core of the planet, which is still bubbling. Furthermore, a plate may be pushed by the movement of a neighboring plate.

**Question:** Why is the earth’s crust broken in fragments? Who broke it?

**Answer:** The crust has probably always been fragmented because all parts of the outer layer of the planet didn’t solidify at the same time or at the same rate.

**Question:** What’s so special about the San Andreas fault?

**Answer:** It is the fault at the boundary of the “North American Plate” and the “Pacific Plate” – both huge. In California, the fault extends about 800 miles from the Salton Sea to a beach north of San Francisco, but segments often move independently of their fault neighbors. The infamous San Francisco quake of 1906 was the result of movement only in the northern segment of the San Andreas fault.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting.

Have a healthy and happy New Year.

Ilayna Turcott

## Community column

### For Sale in Los Lagos\*

44360 Ontario	499,000
44380 Ontario	499,000
44200 Tahoe	514,900
44255 Tahoe	550,000
74988 Tahoe	394,250
44060 Superior	569,000

\*Taken 12/30 from [zillow.com](http://zillow.com)

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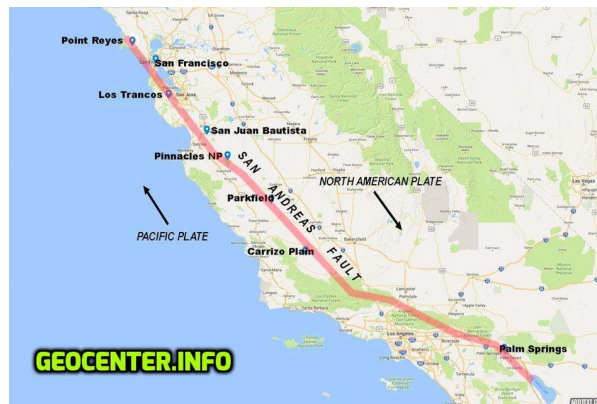
*[Editor's Note] Herb Costner moved from Los Lagos to a nearby senior living facility in April of 2019 and left us three unpublished articles. This is the last of the three. The first, "Seeing Red in Los Lagos", appeared in May, and the second, "The Mountains Around Us", was published in December. Thank you Herb, for your amazing contributions.*

**Question:** Does this fault run through Los Lagos?

**Answer:** No, but it's close. The fault runs along the northern boundary of the Coachella Valley, so it's about six or seven miles north of us.

**Question:** What's happening on the southern part of this fault now?

**Answer:** The Pacific Plate is trying to move north, carrying Los Angeles with it. The North American Plate doesn't want to go in that direction, and it won't budge. The two giant plates are pushing and scraping against each other in a stand-off that's lasted for about 300 years, so far. Some colossal "snag" or blockage seems to be keeping the two plates from sliding past each other in the southern segment. In the meantime, the two plates keep pushing in their own preferred directions, building up enormous pressure. When that pressure becomes strong enough to break the "snag" or push aside the blockage, southern California will shudder.



**Question:** So what do we do now?

**Answer:** Prepare. Stopping the movement of tectonics plates is not an option.

**Question:** But who is San Andreas? How did his name get attached to all this?

**Answer:** Oh, him. San Andreas was the brother of Saint Peter, and he is, among other things, the patron saint of Scotland, where he is known as Saint Andrew. He had nothing to do with the creation or discovery of the fault that bears his name. The man who discovered the fault in 1895 named it after the San Andreas Valley (south of San Francisco), which is a product of the fault.

*By Herb Costner*

## *The Next "Big One"*

*[Editors note: the following was taken from Wikipedia.]*

A study published in 2006 in the journal *Nature* found that the San Andreas fault has reached a sufficient stress level for an earthquake of magnitude greater than 7.0 on the moment magnitude scale to occur. This study also found that the risk of a large earthquake may be increasing more rapidly than scientists had previously believed. Moreover, the risk is currently concentrated on the southern section of the fault, i.e. the region around Los Angeles, because massive earthquakes have occurred relatively recently on the central (1857) and northern (1906) segments of the fault, while the southern section has not seen any similar rupture for at least 300 years. According to this study, a massive earthquake on that southern section of the San Andreas fault would result in major damage to the Palm Springs–Indio metropolitan area and other cities in San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial counties in California, and Mexicali Municipality in Baja California. It would be strongly felt (and potentially cause significant damage) throughout much of Southern California, including densely populated areas of Los Angeles County, Ventura County, Orange County, San Diego County, Ensenada Municipality and Tijuana Municipality, Baja California, San Luis Rio Colorado in Sonora and Yuma, Arizona. Older buildings would be especially prone to damage or collapse, as would buildings built on unconsolidated gravel or in coastal areas where water tables are high (and thus subject to soil liquefaction).

The information available suggests that the fault is ready for the next big earthquake but exactly when the triggering will happen and when the earthquake will occur we cannot tell ... It could be tomorrow or it could be 10 years or more from now.

Nevertheless, in the 13 years since that publication there has not been a substantial quake in the Los Angeles area, and two major reports issued by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have made variable predictions as to the risk of future seismic events. The ability to predict major earthquakes with sufficient precision to warrant increased precautions has remained elusive.

The U.S. Geological Survey most recent forecast, known as UCERF3 (Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast 3), released in November 2013, estimated that an earthquake of magnitude 6.7 or greater (i.e. equal to or greater than the 1994 Northridge earthquake) occurs about once every 6.7 years statewide. The same report also estimated there is a 7% probability that an earthquake of magnitude 8.0 or greater will occur in the next 30 years somewhere along the San Andreas Fault. A different USGS study in 2008 tried to assess the physical, social and economic consequences of a major earthquake in southern California. That study predicted that a magnitude 7.8 earthquake along the southern San Andreas Fault could cause about 1,800 deaths and \$213 billion in damage.

## *Directory Reminder*

In preparation for the mid-January publication of the Los Lagos 2020 Directory, please check your 2018 Directory for any changes that you would like to see. I have already emailed those residents who are new or who recently asked for changes, to confirm that all is in order by email ([dpienta@san.rr.com](mailto:dpienta@san.rr.com)) or by phone (442-274-8100). I must receive changes no later than January 6th. Thank you. *Darlene Pienta*