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## BAY AREA'S WORLD CUP PREPARATION

# BUZZ FOR SOCCER STILL BUILDING



This composite image shows fans supporting their national teams participating in the World Cup in June in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Several factors have some organizers worried about attendance. PHOTO BY GETTY IMAGES

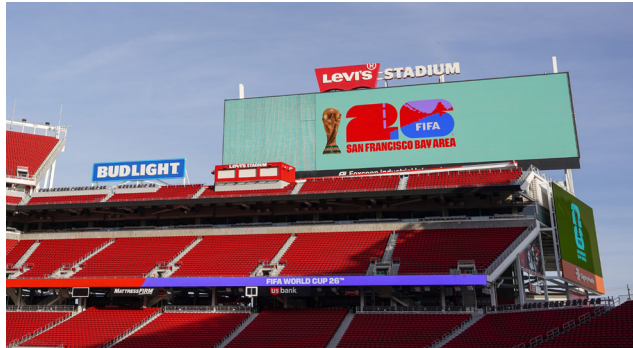
Levi's Stadium will host its first match on June 13, but high ticket prices, expensive hotel rooms, visa worries have attendance estimates fluctuating

### U.S. AND BAY AREA WORLD CUP GAMES

**Team USA opponents**  
**June 12:** Paraguay, 6 p.m., SoFi Stadium in Inglewood  
**June 19:** Australia, noon, Seattle Stadium  
**June 25:** Turkey, 7 p.m., SoFi Stadium in Inglewood  
**Games at Levi's Stadium**  
**June 13:** Qatar vs. Switzerland  
**June 16:** Austria vs. Jordan  
**June 19:** Turkey vs. Paraguay  
**June 22:** Jordan vs. Algeria  
**June 25:** Paraguay vs. Australia.  
**July 1:** A round of 32 game between the winner of Group D and a wild-card team that finishes third in its group but advances into the knockout stage.

By Mark Zeigler  
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The World Cup is a quadrennial celebration of soccer, futbol, futebol, fotboll, voetbal, calcio, sakka, chuggu, sepak bola or your language of choice to describe the beautiful game.  
Crazy to think, then, that it's coming to the Bay Area next month, two days after the tournament kicks off in Mexico City.  
Rapt anticipation, though, is not a phrase most would use to describe its arrival, with matches scheduled for 11 stadiums across the United States, including Levi's Stadium.



Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara will be the host site for six World Cup matches, starting June 13 with Qatar facing off against Switzerland. LOREN ELLIOTT — GETTY IMAGES

It is the biggest World Cup in history — with 48 teams rather than 32 — but bigger might not necessarily be better, judging by the lack of a palpable buzz due to the

furor over ticket prices, match assignments, visas, hotels, transportation and pretty much everything else associ-

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## GOVERNOR'S CAMPAIGN

# Clarity begins to form in race

Latest polling shows Becerra, Steyer and Hilton starting to consolidate the most support

By Grace Hase  
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Former Health Secretary Xavier Becerra has continued his surge in the California governor's race as a new independent poll shows him at the top of the leaderboard followed closely by former Fox News host Steve Hilton and billionaire philanthropist Tom Steyer.



Becerra

The Emerson College poll, which surveyed 1,000 likely primary voters May 9 and 10, is the latest survey that signals a tightening of the race just weeks before the June 2 primary. The poll has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.



Hilton

GOP consultant Mike Madrid said that recent polls show that Democrats have started to consolidate behind Becerra and Steyer.

"The frontrunners are established," he said. "Now the question is what can happen to change those dynamics, if anything. It would take a Swalwell-type of explosion to change the trajectory of the race."



Steyer

Ex-Rep. Eric Swalwell was leading in the race to succeed Gov. Gavin Newsom, but dropped out last month following sexual misconduct allegations, which he denies, and resigned his seat in Congress. Becerra has benefited the most from Swalwell's exit. Emerson College's March survey had him toward the back of the pack with 3% support, compared with the latest poll that showed

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## 8 DIE IN LAKE TAHOE IN JUNE 2025

# Report provides details on boat tragedy

A survivor says the victims elected not to put on life jackets

By Paul Rogers  
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Eight people who drowned when their boat capsized last June on Lake Tahoe declined requests from one of the passengers to put on life jackets, did not call 911 and tried to bail out water with a beverage cooler as heavy waves crashed overboard, according to a police report released Wednesday.



A 27-foot vessel capsized due to a large swell near D.L. Bliss State Park at Lake Tahoe on June 21, 2025. Eight people were killed, with one of the two survivors saying there was "no sense of urgency" when the waves hit. COAST GUARD VIA AP

County sheriff's Deputy Mathew Grey that without warning the weather turned stormy, there were large waves and high winds, and she tried to help.

"The boat started to take on water from the waves and the engine stopped," his report

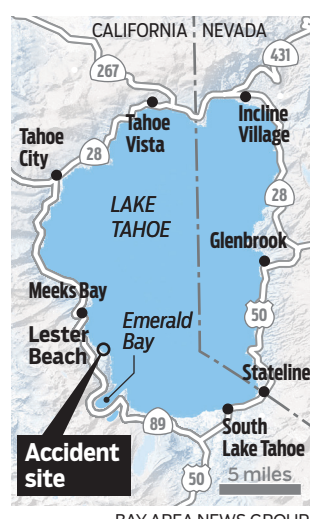
stated. "She told everyone on board to keep bailing out water, but there was 'no sense of urgency.' The occupants of the boat began to argue and the boat turned sideways to the waves and wind. They began to take on even more water and things got worse.

All of the sudden the boat flipped."

The police reports were released to the Bay Area News Group on Wednesday under a public records act request.

The accident occurred

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BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

## BAY AREA AIR DISTRICT

# Regulators split on natural gas water heater ban

Debate shows divisions over health concerns and cost for homeowners

By Paul Rogers  
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Leaving homeowners in limbo for months more on whether they will fact costly upgrades, a divided Bay Area Air District board of directors on Wednesday decided to move forward with a final vote in October on sweeping rules that would ban the sale and installation of new natural gas water heaters in homes starting Jan. 1.

At a meeting in San Francisco, the directors, county supervisors and other local officials, weighed the air pollution benefits from requiring homeowners to replace traditional water heaters with electric heat pump models when they break or need to be replaced with the added costs in an era when polls show public concern over rising prices for food, housing and gasoline is soaring.

The air district staff estimates it will cost an average of \$3,500 more for homeowners to buy and install an electric heat pump water heater instead of a traditional gas-powered one.

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