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Meta to pay \$17 billion in landmark kids' safety settlement

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The social media giant Meta has agreed to pay nearly \$17 billion and retool its privacy protections for children in a legal settlement that ends a closely-watched case brought by 29 states, court documents show.

The states argued in federal court in Oakland that Meta, led by CEO Mark Zuckerberg, ignored evidence that its platforms were addictive and harmful to children, pursuing profit from their online data instead. The agreement reached Wednesday brings to a close a dramatic trial in the case that began last week.

The agreement also called for

an additional payment of \$459 million to California, New Mexico, Washington, D.C., and Illinois to settle other privacy disputes. The funds, which included \$2 billion for California, were to be distributed among 52 U.S. states and territories. Meta also agreed to pay the states \$75 million to reimburse legal and

SEE META, 4A



VICKI BEHRINGER REUTERS

Megan O'Neill, a deputy attorney general for California, makes opening statements before U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers as Meta faces a landmark trial in federal court over claims from 29 states, alleging it improperly captured data from minors, designed its social media platforms to addict children and misled the public about their safety, in Oakland, California, U.S., Aug. 18, 2026.



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"Don't sell out Solano" reads a sign held by a protester at a Solano County Board of Supervisors meeting regarding the California Forever shipyard proposal on Tuesday in Fairfield.

Solano County supervisors push back on California Forever shipyard proposal

BY LIA RUSSELL
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The Solano County Board of Supervisors voted to postpone taking a position on potential controversial state legislation creating a shipyard in the outer Bay Area that has the tacit backing of Gov. Gavin Newsom. The supervisors voted to

sidestep weighing in on the Solano Maritime and Manufacturing Act, which would designate 1,350 acres in the Collinsville area as a maritime industrial zone. The proposal grew out of negotiations between legislators, Newsom's Office of Business and Economic Development, and the group California Forever, which pushed the shipyard to poten-

tially jumpstart economic and housing development in the region.

The board heard public testimony for almost four hours, most of which came from community members staunchly opposed to the legislation, which as of Tuesday evening has not been officially introduced in the Legislature or via a trailer bill.

The language needs to be in print by Friday so it can hit California's 72-hour legislative rule before the two-year session ends. Amendments and bills must be publicly available for 72 hours before lawmakers can vote on it. They must do so and send it to Newsom's desk by midnight Monday, when the Legislature adjourns.

A majority of the board appeared skeptical of the legislation, which contains a provision that could allow the state to bypass challenges brought under the California Environmental Quality Act by appointing a state "special master" to resolve disputes and issue binding decisions.

SEE SHIPYARD, 7A

CA Senate issues its own utility wildfire proposal, sets up late negotiations

BY ANDREW GRAHAM AND STEPHEN HOBBS
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A California Senate plan that would change how the state handles utility-caused wildfires differs from an earlier proposal put out by Gov. Gavin Newsom, but aligns itself more with one recently put forward by the Assembly.

That now sets up a high-stakes negotiation between the Democratic leaders of both legislative chambers and the governor over an issue of far-reaching importance to Californians: Who pays for people's losses in the wake of devastating wildfires caused by electrical utility companies.

And yet still, with just days to go in the legislative session, the majority of lawmakers, as well

as the public, do not have any draft legislative language to work with, leaving all but the negotiators in the dark about key details of the proposal.

Notably, state Senate leaders appear to be joining the Assembly in rejecting Newsom's proposal to prevent insurance companies from suing an electrical utility to recoup their losses after paying out massive wildfire claims, according to an

outline obtained by The Sacramento Bee.

Insurance companies received money from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. before many survivors of the 2018 Camp Fire that burned through Paradise and the 2017 North Bay fires, which sparked outrage. But insurance industry representatives said banning their ability to recoup money from utilities when their electrical equipment starts fires would destabilize California's troubled market and lead to higher premiums for coverage, particularly in fire prone areas.

SEE WILDFIRE, 5A

Sacramento tiny home project paused amid higher costs

BY JENNAH PENDLETON
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A controversial housing project for homeless seniors planned to be built on a flood plain in North Natomas has been halted with no clear path on how it can move forward.

Last week The Sacramento Bee obtained a March document which showed that the 40-unit tiny home project planned for 3511 Arena Boulevard was projected to cost \$7.1 million — almost double the city's most recent public estimate. This exceeds the city manager's authority to move temporary shelter projects forward without council approval, risking a vote that could stop the project altogether.

An internal memo from City Manager Maraskeshia Smith confirmed that the most recent comprehensive estimate for the site was prepared in March, and that floodplain requirements identified since that time would result in additional costs on top of the March estimate.

"The site build-out remains officially on pause," Smith wrote in the Friday memo. "Until we receive updated figures, the City cannot move forward."

At a Tuesday council meeting, Councilmember Lisa Kaplan lamented that it took "public records requests and The Sac Bee" to show that her office's questions about the project went unanswered, and said that it called into question city staffers who tried to "subvert the process so that it is not transparent and not above board."

Kaplan asked Smith if the Arena Boulevard project would come to council for a vote.

"At this time, there is no project on Arena Boulevard that is paused," Smith responded.

Kaplan, who has long been vocally against the project and the proposed micro-community model, is treating this response as confirmation that the project is dead, writing on Facebook that the project is halted "permanently."

"While I remain fully committed to supporting compassionate, legally compliant, and effective solutions to address Sacramento's homelessness

SEE TINY HOME, 2A



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