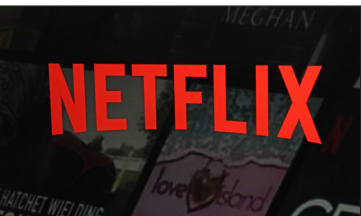


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'THE BALANCE HERE IS INCREDIBLY PRECARIOUS'



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Protesters opposed to the war in Gaza block southbound Interstate 880 in Oakland on Monday. Protesters arrived around 7 a.m. to block the freeway, which forced frustrated motorists to wait nearly four hours until a path was reopened.

## Tactics by protesters drive penalty debate

Prosecutors weighing demonstrators' rights with public's demand for harsh punishment

By John Woolfolk and Rick Hurd  
Bay Area News Group

Protests over the Gaza war that snarled San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge and Interstate 880 in Oakland for hours Monday inflamed tempers, led to dozens of arrests and drew a finger-wagging from Gov. Gavin Newsom.

"I hope we don't see it again," Newsom said, "and I do think people need to be held to account for their actions."

The governor didn't say what penalty would be appropriate and declined to elaborate. But after years of disruptive and sometimes destructive protesters often getting a slap-on-the-wrist treatment in the courts, his comments reflect growing calls for tougher consequences from the public and legislators.

"People are sick and tired of these protestors blocking highways," said Assemblywoman Kate Sanchez, a Republican from Rancho Santa Margarita, who has introduced a bill to increase fines for protesters who ob-



ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A protester is carried away by police officers after he and others shut down traffic along northbound Interstate 880 near the 5th Avenue exit in Oakland.

struct a highway where they could impede emergency vehicles. "When they hold up traffic, they prevent first responders from responding to emergencies and jeopardize the safety of innocent people. Sacramento needs to get tougher on these adult tantrums. Enough is enough."

Authorities booked Monday's bridge protesters on unusual criminal conspiracy charges that kept them jailed 48 hours while prosecutors weighed charges. And San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins this week took the extra step of urging motorists to stay off the bridge.

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DUBLIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Critics say equity grading will fail high achievers

By Molly Gibbs  
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Hrihaan Bhutani is already thinking about college. The Dublin High freshman is taking four Advanced Placement classes next year and has crammed his schedule with extracurricular activities to better his chances of getting into an Ivy League school.

But a change at the high school designed to get students less focused on grades has done the opposite. Suddenly, in some classes, A's are almost unachievable, unless you score 100%. And F's don't exist. For high-achieving students like Bhutani,

the pressure to be perfect is even more of a burden.

"I feel more stressed ... now with this new system," said Bhutani, who is especially sweating his biology class, one of dozens trying a variety of new grading scales under a two-year experiment. "Even if you're at a 99, you would get moved down to an 85," he explained, which translates to a world-ending B.

Dublin Unified's new grading policy will go into effect for all 6th through 12th grade classes next year and is part of a national shift toward "equity grading" — a controversial con-

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ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dublin High freshmen Hrihaan Bhutani, left, and Bhuvan Krishnamohan attend school on Thursday. Bhutani says he feels "more stressed" because of the new grading system.

REACTION TO AUDIT

## Newsom calls out homeless 'failures'

Governor unveils plan for more accountability and oversight of efforts to solve growing problem

By Ethan Varian  
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On the heels of a new state audit that found California has failed to consistently track and assess the effectiveness of its billions of dollars in homelessness spending, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday announced a plan to ensure cities and counties are doing their part to solve the crisis.

The announcement is the latest example of Newsom's calling for more accountability from local governments as California's un-housed population has ballooned to an estimated 181,000 people despite more than \$24 billion in state funds spent over the past five years to combat homelessness.

"I'm not interested in funding failure any longer," Newsom said during a virtual news conference on Thursday.

Newsom's plan calls for stricter benchmarks for jurisdictions receiving state homelessness grants and threatens tougher penalties, including potentially withholding funding, if the goals aren't met. It will expand the authority of the state's Housing Accountability Unit — formed in 2021 to crack down on local officials who fail to plan for new housing — to oversee local homeless programs and assure that cities and counties work toward adding more affordable housing for homeless people and residents with extremely low incomes.

On Thursday, the governor also announced \$192 million in state grants to help 17 communities across the state clear encampments and move displaced homeless people into shelters or housing. The money comes from a \$750 million "encampment response fund."

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Newsom

BAY AREA AIRPORTS

## SFO files lawsuit to stop name-change proposal in Oakland

By George Avalos  
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**OAKLAND** » San Francisco is suing Oakland over a controversial move to add "San Francisco Bay" to Oakland International Airport's official name, marking the start of a possible legal war between the two cities.

The East Bay aviation complex — which, like its busier competitor to the west, abuts San Francisco Bay — is seeking a new name to heighten its profile among air travelers visiting the Bay Area.

The Port of Oakland on April 11 gave preliminary approval to change OAK's name to San Francisco Bay Oakland International Airport, sparking an immediate outcry from elected officials in San Francisco and SFO leaders. The port, which operates the East Bay airport, is scheduled to take a final vote on the matter in May.

San Francisco struck back Thursday with the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court.

"We had hoped Oakland would come to its senses," San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu said in a statement. "The defendant's (Oakland's) refusal to collaborate on an acceptable alternative name leaves us no choice but to file a lawsuit to protect SFO's trademark."

In response, the Port of Oakland said it believes the name change won't harm San Francisco International Airport.

"Oakland Airport's proposed renaming does not harm San Francisco International Airport."

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