

70 years after Diego Rivera's mural "Sueño de una tarde dominical en la Alameda"

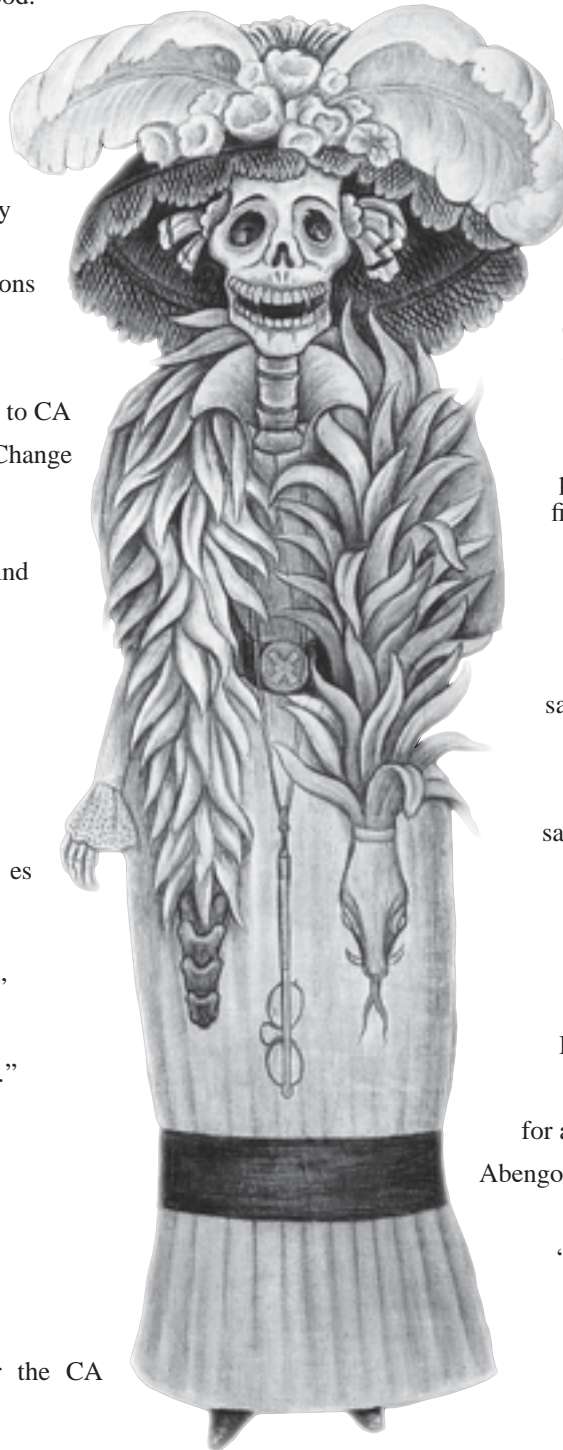
By Kamala Platt

In the 15th year of the 21st Century
Water wars raged, as did fire & flood.
The Calaveras of San Anto-- del Counsel Ciudad,
had jumped at the chance to milk water from blood.

SAWS says,
"Califas has done it for decades,"
not mentioning it was "a strategy of lies."¹
not mentioning Mono Lake, like Owens Valley
before it,
dried down to dust storms with the water diversions
and only, after the 1994 Water Board decisions,
did Mono come back,
until, that is, the Drought of Record sauntered in to CA
piping away fears with songs of "Climate Change
Denial."

Not mentioning that the water spirits stayed behind
to see Lago y tierra go dry,
to see emaciated roots rot in gardens' good earth
earth, first worked by Pauite ...
earth still peopled by ancestors' parched bones.

Catrina laughed...
"Who to choose?... Who to lose?... Agua es
Vida..."
People say
"Our gente built aqueducts and pipelines in CA."
COSA says
"On water, in SA, we're 200 years behind LA,..."
SAWS says
Owens Valley Water flowed to Los Angeles...
Built that City of Bedraggled Angels.
Now we can bottle VR water
For California's Niagara... San Anto says, "No"
But Seguin signs on, (a few less miles to pipe
before hill country water hits the bottle for the CA
Company.)



Catrina laughed...
For decades,
Catrina La Calavera Garbancera
was drinking from LA fountains
eating grapes de Haciendas de
Güeros,
picked by Worker Calaveras, the
first of us poisoned by pesticides.

Catrina could care less that long
before CA's drought of record
ecosystems and gardens were
sacked when they lost their water.

Catrina, then turned east
saying "Texas, Tejas, here I come.
Vámonos..."

And for SAWS & Catrina—
It was love at first sight:
Burleson County officials would
pump aquifers down
for a chance to make money on site.
Abengoa from Spain says "Aquí Vengo.
The rocks and elder trees say,
"Déjà vu! Take flight, this time."
Then hill country people put up
the good fight...

and with Mi Agua Mi Vida
the Alliance would see,
Mighty SA begin to freeze in her tracks...
Councilman Nirenberg would ask for the study
Saying we need research behind our decisions.
“Heretic” was uttered beneath bated breath
but only the crickets crawling the walls remember.

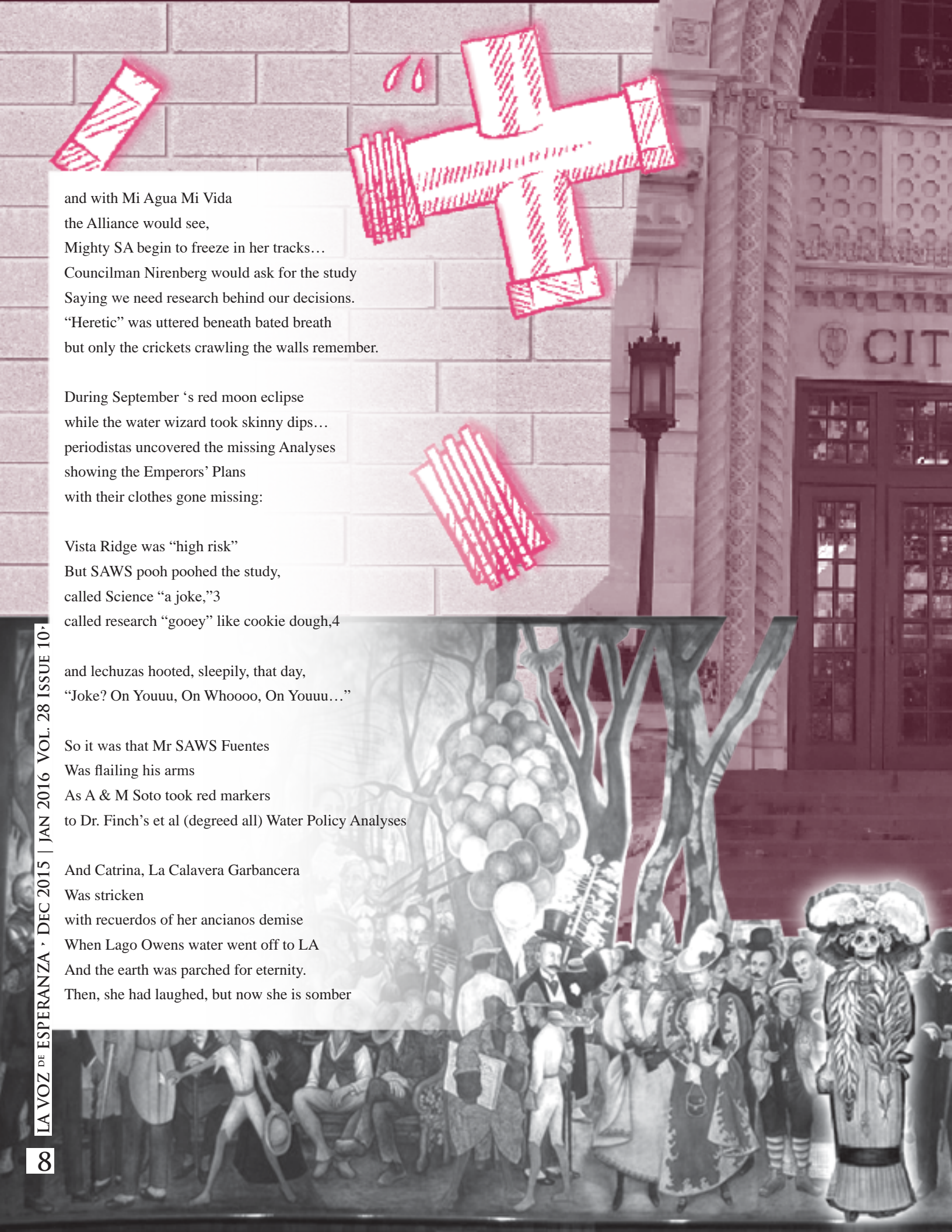
During September ‘s red moon eclipse
while the water wizard took skinny dips...
periodistas uncovered the missing Analyses
showing the Emperors’ Plans
with their clothes gone missing:

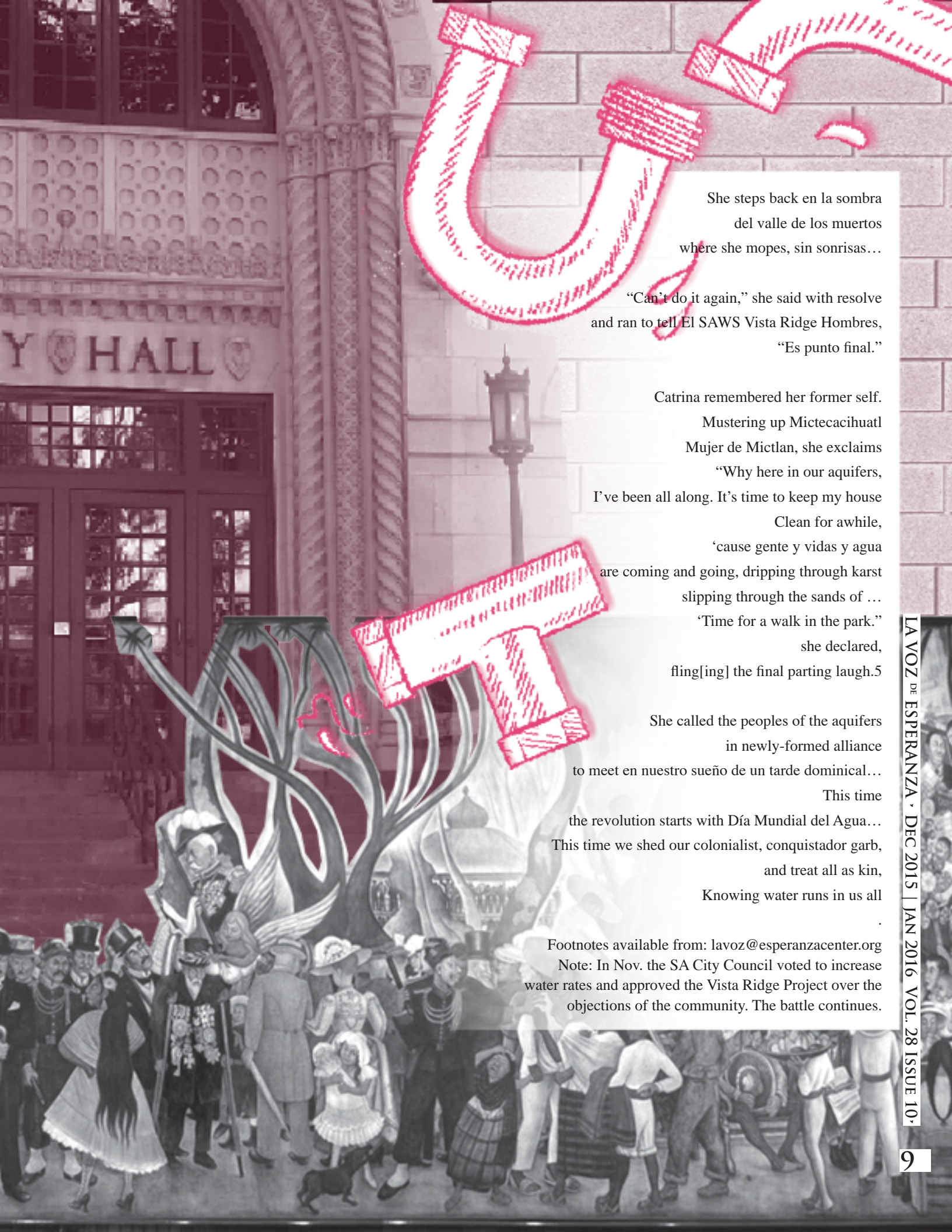
Vista Ridge was “high risk”
But SAWS pooh poohed the study,
called Science “a joke,”³
called research “goeey” like cookie dough,⁴

and lechuzas hooted, sleepily, that day,
“Joke? On Youuu, On Whoooo, On Youuu...”

So it was that Mr SAWS Fuentes
Was flailing his arms
As A & M Soto took red markers
to Dr. Finch’s et al (degreed all) Water Policy Analyses

And Catrina, La Calavera Garbancera
Was stricken
with recuerdos of her ancianos demise
When Lago Owens water went off to LA
And the earth was parched for eternity.
Then, she had laughed, but now she is somber





She steps back en la sombra
del valle de los muertos
where she mopes, sin sonrisas...

“Can’t do it again,” she said with resolve
and ran to tell El SAWS Vista Ridge Hombres,
“Es punto final.”

Catrina remembered her former self.

Mustering up Mictecacihuatl
Mujer de Mictlan, she exclaims

“Why here in our aquifers,
I’ve been all along. It’s time to keep my house
Clean for awhile,

‘cause gente y vidas y agua
are coming and going, dripping through karst
slipping through the sands of ...

“Time for a walk in the park.”
she declared,

fling[ing] the final parting laugh.5

She called the peoples of the aquifers
in newly-formed alliance
to meet en nuestro sueño de un tarde dominical...

This time
the revolution starts with Día Mundial del Agua...
This time we shed our colonialist, conquistador garb,
and treat all as kin,

Knowing water runs in us all

Footnotes available from: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

Note: In Nov. the SA City Council voted to increase
water rates and approved the Vista Ridge Project over the
objections of the community. The battle continues.