



The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

December 1999

EAST COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS MISSING - IS THIS SMART GROWTH?

Serving the Cities of :

El Cajon
La Mesa
Lemon Grove
Poway
Santee

Serving the communities of:

Agua Caliente
Allied Gardens
Alpine
Barrett
Blossom Valley
Bostonia
Boulevard
Campo
Canebrake
Casa de Oro
Crest
Cuyamaca
Dehesa
Del Cerro
Descanso
Dulzura
Eucalyptus Hills
Fernbrook
Flinn Springs
Granite Hills
Grantville
Guatay
Harbison Canyon
Jacumba
Jamul
Julian
Lake Morena
Lakeside
Mount Helix
Pine Hills
Pine Valley
Portrero
Ramona
Ranch San Diego
Rolando
San Carlos
San Pasqual
Santa Ysabel
Shelter Valley
Spring Valley
Tecate
Tierra del Sol
Vallecitos

Serving the Indian Reservations of:

Barona
Campo
Cosmit
Cuyapaipe
Inaja
Jamul
La Posta
Manzanita
Mesa
Grande
Santa
Ysabel
Sycuan
Viejas

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) recently released a draft of its latest Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that will serve as the guide for funding immediate and future transportation improvements throughout the San Diego region. Composed of representatives from each of the region's 19 local governments, SANDAG has the responsibility of allocating transportation dollars throughout the region. Out of an available \$1.9 billion, SANDAG's plan will fund only two major East County transportation improvement projects over the next five years. This is unacceptable.

Seeing the tremendous transportation needs of the East County, Assemblywoman Charlene Zettel and I have been holding transportation summits recently in the communities we represent. During these summits, several critical East County transportation needs have been raised that are not included in SANDAG's five-year plan.

State Route 67

Most notable was the omission of the widening of SR-67 between Mapleview Street in Lakeside to Dye Road in Ramona. SANDAG is proposing to study this corridor before making these necessary improvements. We do not need to waste time and money studying something we already know is so desperately needed. This project must be built now - before any more precious lives are lost on this roadway.

State Route 94/125 Interchange

Last April, the County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the completion of this interchange as part of the SR-125 extension project. With the estimated 150,000 new vehicles that SR-125 will carry by the year 2010, this project must be completed at the same time as the SR-125 extension. If these projects are not done in unison, the result will be gridlock on surface streets and dangerous traffic back-

ups onto our freeways. Ironically, this project has been ranked by SANDAG as the most important freeway-to-freeway connection project in the region - yet is left out of the five-year plan.

Interstate 8

During the El Cajon Transportation Summit, participants voiced their support for the widening of I-8 between SR-67 and Los Coches Road. This widening needs to happen now, not be put off until some future year as proposed by SANDAG. There are already frustrating and dangerous traffic jams occurring daily on this section of highway.

State Route 67/Bradley Avenue Interchange

The interchange at Bradley Avenue and SR-67 is currently operating at a Level of Service F while serving as the primary connection between Gillespie Field and SR-67. Considering the regional smart growth efforts to bring jobs closer to population centers, Gillespie Field could serve as the poster child for smart growth. However, the potential for the land surrounding the airport can only be maximized if adequate infrastructure is in place. We need to begin the process of improving this busy intersection today. In light of the County's funding commitment in this year's budget toward improving the Bradley Avenue intersection, this project should be expedited.

SANDAG's public comment period for their plan is scheduled to end on January 12, 2000. The SANDAG Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on January 28, 2000. I will continue to fight for the inclusion of these projects and others of importance to East County communities.

If you agree that these projects must be a top priority in order to improve traffic flow for East County motorists, I encourage you to write to SANDAG at 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101 and voice your opinion during the public comment period.



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WWW.DIANNEJACOB.COM

THE CROSS STAYS!!

We all have a favorite “get away” place - maybe it’s a hiking trail, a nearby lake, or a quiet room in your own house.

For Mary Carpenter Yawkey, it was the peace and natural beauty of Mt. Helix that made it her favorite place. Because of this, when Mary Yawkey died in 1923, her family was given the land in order to build her a memorial. In turn, the Yawkey family turned that land over to the County so that people from all over could appreciate the beauty and serenity of Mt. Helix.

The Mt. Helix Cross means different things to different people. To some, it is a survey marker, to others, a symbol of peace. But to most everyone, the Mt. Helix Cross is a significant East County landmark and an historic site.

Over the years, people from all over San Diego County have attended sunrise services, weddings, musicals, graduations and plays atop Mt. Helix. It is an historic landmark in East County and holds many memories. In fact, the Cross was designated a County historical site in January of 1990, and a State Point of Historical Interest in August, 1991.

In 1991, a federal judge found that the presence of this Cross on public property violated the California Constitution. Since that time, I have said repeatedly that I will do everything in my power to ensure that the Mt. Helix Cross is **never** removed and that it remains an East County landmark forever! I can finally say with certainty that the Cross will stay!

On September 23, the Honorable Judge Thompson approved the County’s request to appoint a trustee in place of the County. The Grossmont Mt. Helix Improvement Association (GMIA) has stepped up to the plate by creating the Foundation for the Preservation of Mt. Helix Nature Theater. On November 24, the Superior Court approved the transfer of the property from the County to the new foundation which will now maintain and operate the park.

Whatever the Cross means to you - it is truly an historic landmark, one will forever stand atop Mt. Helix!

RECENT LEGISLATION

A word on what's happening at the County of San Diego

Childcare Funding

Childcare has been key to our successful "Welfare-to-Work" efforts. On November 16th, the Board unanimously supported my efforts to assure continued funding for childcare, a critical component to keeping families off welfare. Continued flexible funding will ensure working families are given the opportunity to succeed.

Live Where You Work, Work Where You Live

Traffic has become a major concern for all County commuters. In order to help reduce travel miles, I proposed a new telecommuting incentive program to convince more employers to provide flexible hours and to allow more employees to work from home and satellite offices close to where they live. My proposal was unanimously adopted by the Board on November 9th.

Transportation Summits

In an effort to address immediate transportation issues, Assemblywoman Charlene Zettel and I are hosting transportation summits in the communities we represent. The summits bring together State and local transportation officials to provide updates to citizens and allow our constituents to develop a bottom-up grass-roots strategy to resolve transportation concerns.

Happy Holidays !

I would personally like to wish you and your family a joyous and safe Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

If you haven't stopped by my Internet site, WWW.DIANNEJACOB.COM, I invite you to take a peek. For your convenience, I have posted information about County programs as well as proposals that I have brought to the County Board of Supervisors. Also, you can look at previous editions of the Jacob Journal, Press Releases, and *Sites to See* in the Second District. Stop in and say "Hello" !

Join me for Coffee and Conversation...

Thursday, January 13, 2000, 8:30 to 10:30am

Mary's Donuts

9031 Mission Gorge Road, Santee

Get The Jacob Journal!

The Jacob Journal will be mailed to you on a regular basis by request only. So, if you like what you've read, fill out the form below and mail it back to us at 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101 or fax it to us at (619) 696-7253. We'll put you on our mailing list to get The Jacob Journal regularly!

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Dec 1999

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