



The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne

January 2001

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
Potrero
Ramona
Rancho 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

365 Days Around The County

Jacob Reflects on a Whirlwind Year as Chairwoman

I've always said that when you have a solid foundation, the sky's the limit. This notion is especially meaningful as I reflect on my time as Chairwoman during the year 2000.

In the 1990s, the four members of the current Board and I had the guts to launch legendary reforms which, at last, brought competition to the public sector. We streamlined our services and saved our budget and today, I am elated to have realized my goal of a government which embraces the principles of good business.

This past year, taxpayers saw a return on the foresight of their leaders. County government is operating cheaper, better and faster than ever.

Preserving our Parks and Open Space

One of the greatest rewards of the San Diego lifestyle is enjoying the wonders of our majestic Back Country - our forests, deserts and grasslands. In a move that I consider an enormous quality of life issue, I initiated the development of a **Strategic Trails Plan** in 2000. The

plan gives East County families greater access to the mysteries of the wild and at the same time, allows nature to flourish in undisturbed habitats. The County's acclaimed **Multiple Species Conservation Plan** is now considered a model blueprint to preserve meaningful open space for our kids and us. We are years ahead of pace to acquire our goal of 101,000 acres of land. To date, we've acquired more than 73,500 glorious acres and are aggressively pursuing more than 8,500 additional acres of breathtaking terrain including Volcan Mountain Preserve, Wright's Field, and Hollenbeck Canyon.

The overwhelming passage of Proposition 12 is proof positive that our ongoing interest in parks and open space is truly the will of the people. The Proposition will bring in over \$100 million dollars to create and care for community parks, wildlife preserves, and open space countywide. Spring Valley's Sweetwater Lane and Rancho San Diego's Cottonwood III are shining examples of our County's commitment to safe recreational spaces.

We don't have to hold our breath as we consider the payoff from our smog and emission controls this year. Our latest figures tell us that residents enjoyed the cleanest air the County's ever had since testing began more than 40 years ago.

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Around the County

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Bringing San Diego County into the 21st Century

In 2000, the County recognized that if government wants to keep pace with its residents, it must harness the technology used by its residents. It began with my State of the County Address nearly one year ago. Now, all of our Board meetings are web cast over the internet, giving more San Diegans the opportunity to take part in the legislative process.

Our **information technology outsourcing** effort is making life easier for residents by providing everything from property taxes to information on pet adoptions in the convenience of the taxpayer's home. And, how's this for public outreach? The County's web site receives an astounding 125,000 hits every day.

Our County's so-called "digital divide" grows closer and closer thanks to the **Futures Foundation**. In 2000, we provided 1,027 computers to more than 60 schools and community organizations.

When the Federal Communications Commission decided it was going to force two huge portions of San Diego County to change regional telephone area codes this last year, I was outraged. I did some research and discovered there were nearly 145 million unused regional telephone numbers needlessly stockpiled in FCC limbo. When I made this information known to the Board, we killed the unfair and inconvenient area code splits.

Accountable Budget Practices

Financially, County government headed out in a business-savvy direction in the year 2000. With an upgraded bond rating of AA, we were able to devote as much attention to the quality of our services as we did to their bottom line.

Our acclaimed principle of "**managed competition**" is thriving. We trimmed \$44 million dollars of governmental excess from our expenses in 2000 and breathed new life into the quality and creativity of our programs by allowing private and non-profit agencies to bid on providing services.

We saw to it that the County of San Diego secure an estimated \$752 million dollars over a 25 year period from the tobacco settlement. With proactive forethought, we've earmarked those funds to go toward health-related programs like healthcare for uninsured residents, mental health programs and, something I am committed to make become a reality, a **state-of-the-art cancer research and treatment institute**.

The County's wise investments in effective social service programs have enabled 41,000 families to graduate from welfare to self-sufficiency, saving taxpayers a remarkable \$820 million dollars.

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In 2000, I was determined to go after the public's fair share of the state's \$6 billion surplus transportation dollars nailing down \$14 million for the upkeep of County roads. Prioritizing the needs of East County, the Board secured an additional \$60 million for connector ramps along State Route 125 and State Route 94 and \$45 million for State Highway 52.

Committed to protecting ratepayers from shouldering the burden of the shoddy deregulated electricity market, I waged a full-scale lobbying attack on the state's Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Whether it's testifying before the FERC or pursuing plans for a municipal utilities district, I will continue to heed the demands of the taxpayers when it comes to utilities.

Investing in the Future - Our Kids!

No matter how many times I hear it, it always rings true. Investing in the health and well being of children really does pave the way for a solid and secure future. We know that healthy bodies and happy hearts make for minds that are prepared to learn, grow, and achieve.

When we talk about caring for kids, we relate it to everything from crime prevention to economic security. To me, it is simply the right thing to do. That's why, in my State of the County Address nearly 12 months ago, I asked that the County make it a goal to provide health insurance for 50,000 uninsured children. I'm thrilled to report that in one short year, we've met that goal.

This fall, with the support of the Board, I urged the County to provide additional health screenings for children in care centers using mobile health vans to travel from facility to facility. We are now researching ways to partner with existing mobile vans to provide an array of crucial health services for children. It is not just children, however. Healthcare for all was very much a hot-button issue in 2000. I believe it will remain so until the frightening number of people unable to afford basic healthcare decreases. Though our resources are limited, we made significant inroads to address the healthcare crisis this last year.

The year 2000 witnessed our "**Caring for Caregivers**" proposal. We are working to identify specific healthcare needs of those who spend their days with our neediest populations. Foster parents, child care workers, and those who care for seniors deserve proper medical care to carry out their challenging roles.

Additionally, the County is looking into a health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses in hopes of obtaining lower health insurance rates. This will, no doubt, help low-income workers currently unable to afford health care while bringing in nearly one billion dollars to help provide health insurance to the uninsured.

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Another promising program in the development stages under the umbrella of our Health and Human Services Agency is the innovative **Autoworks** program for CalWORKs recipients. The goal is to help CalWORKs recipients help themselves by finding suitable transportation. I believe that a car can make the difference for a person struggling to hold down a job or seek adequate day care for children. It's one more way our County is revolutionizing welfare system by sending the message that we are willing to assist people who are moving toward self-sufficiency.

2000 saw the expansion of another creative program that teaches CalWORKS families how to care for themselves. The **Senior Mentor** program pairs struggling families with older, supportive mentors who provide training and resources in life skills and ethics. I believe in this program because of its flexibility in addressing the many unpredictable needs of families like childcare, time management and legal issues.

In 1999, the Board was made aware of an upswing in teen suicide rates. In 2000, we acted fast to address those troubling statistics. We now are rolling out a number of prevention strategies to target key populations. Most notably, the redesigned Children's Mental Health Initiative is active and Children's Mental Health Services will receive an additional \$30 million dollars for the expansion of its **Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment** program. This model strategy works with schools to identify at-risk youth with minor mental health problems. It promises to comfort and insulate young people from the painful path of anger, depression and suicide.

Making our Streets Safer

It simply cannot be understated. We've made enormous strides to update our aging criminal justice facilities this past year. We've launched the planning of a new Downtown courthouse, a new traffic court facility and a juvenile detention center. These are projects of great magnitude and each will set the quality of public service for decades to come. I admire the conscientious planning going into the creation of these structures and think they serve as a testament to the health of our County's financial practices .

In 2000, we kept up with the changing demands of our rural areas by securing the creation of new Sheriff's substations in Fallbrook, Valley Center, Julian and Pine Valley. Because we've learned that deputy presence bolsters a community's sense of safety, it gives me great joy to add to the sense of well-being for residents in those areas.

In a move that has significantly trimmed administrative costs from our public safety expenditures, we consolidated the Marshal's court security and field operations with our County Sheriff's Department. This functional arrangement has also increased information sharing among law enforcement officials.

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Finally, 2000's **Community Resource Officer Project** offers a fresh approach to dealing with problem juveniles. This unique alliance of probation and law enforcement officers serves as a much-needed support system for at-risk young people with the ultimate goal of insulating the youth from more serious brushes with the system. Reach troubled kids today, stop crime tomorrow, as our deputies often say.

Ready for 2001

In light of our County's more business-like atmosphere, I'll report to County residents as I would report to investors. I take great pleasure in announcing to our region's shareholders, that San Diego County government is primed for a another year of fiscal responsibility and excellence in customer service. In the words of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, we are, more than ever before, "The model of creative and innovative local government leadership."

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...

Friday, January 26, 2001, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Steele Canyon Country Club
3199 Stonefield Drive, Jamul

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Jan-01

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