

The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

February 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
Cuyapaipa
Inaja
Jamul
La Posta
Manzanita
Mesa Grande
Santa Ysabel
Sycuan
Viejas

Jacob Takes Helm For Historic Third Term

I am honored to serve as San Diego County's Second District Supervisor for a third term. This month, I'm pleased to share with you remarks from my Swearing-In Ceremony on January 9, 2001.

This event has a very special significance for me. My re-election last March marked the first time in over 50 years that a County Supervisor representing the 2nd District has been elected to a third term in office.

I am honored that the voters of my district have placed their faith in me in three separate elections. They obviously share my enthusiasm for the tremendous changes we've been able to make in County government, establishing it as a model of local government accountability, efficiency and innovation.

For much of what has been accomplished during the past eight years, I owe thanks to my colleagues on the Board, my hardworking staff and my husband Paul, whose support, cooperation and commitment have made these dramatic changes possible.

But I've never been one to rest on my laurels, and I'm not going to start now. So, rather than listing the accomplishments of the past, I'd like to talk about the exciting challenges in our immediate future.

First, let me say a few words about the terrible wild fire that swept through a portion of my district last month.

While talking with families who suffered losses and many others who had been evacuated, there was a silver lining. This tragedy showcased the wonderful people of the 2nd District and others who came together to aid their neighbors at a time of need.

It also showcased the dedicated fire fighting professionals from our local fire districts, CDF, Forest Service and departments throughout the state that responded to our crisis. These people are true heroes who deserve our recognition and support.

This emergency also showcased several weaknesses in our current approach to backcountry fires.

Because of an arbitrary deadline established in Sacramento, fire season in San Diego had been declared over reducing staffing and equipment readily available.



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Historic Third Term

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If the local CDF commander Ken Miller had not had the foresight, one day prior to the out break of this fire, to bring back into service equipment and personnel, there may have been more damage done during the first critical hours of this fire. Because the risk of wild fires is year-round, I will push for a year-round fire season designation in San Diego County due to our unique circumstances.

I will also push to get the state to refund property tax dollars taken from local fire districts during the state budget crisis in 1993, so they can invest these local tax dollars in the staff and equipment they so badly need. I will also work to resolve public policy conflicts regarding clearing of brush around homes, so that we don't have environmental protection restrictions endangering the life and property of backcountry residents.

And finally, I will push for renewed efforts for controlled burns and to make certain backcountry residents are able to obtain burn permits to dispose of unwanted brush.

Now, let me move on to other major challenges we face in the coming year:

Our first and most immediate challenge is the cost and supply of energy for our region. San Diegans have been on the cutting edge of these impacts since last July, but we are no longer alone, as the entire State and Nation take notice of the dislocations caused by a failed deregulation plan.

Since the crisis first hit us last summer, I've been on the front line, demanding action to protect residents and businesses from the worst of these impacts. We succeeded in getting the legislature's and PUC's attention last fall, when they capped our rates and approved legislation to accelerate development of new generating sources.

But since those actions, it has become clear that more fundamental changes are needed to solve this problem and avoid saddling ratepayers with the entire burden for past mistakes by the state legislature and regulatory agencies. Over the next several months, I will continue to put pressure on state and federal decision-makers to protect consumers and rectify these problems.

I will argue for a windfall profits tax on generators that are continuing to manipulate the market and sell power at exorbitant rates. Receipts from this tax should be used to refund residential and business customers whose bills were affected by these overcharges.

I will continue to argue for a more proactive role by federal and state regulators to stop the price gouging, establish fair market pricing and require full public disclosure of the terms of all such transactions.

Closer to home, I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Board and others in the region so that we can become independent in meeting our energy needs.

I've worked very hard over the past eight years to get county government finances in order, to make our operations more efficient, so more tax dollars would be available to provide high quality facilities and services for our residents.

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Viejas Fire

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Less than 48 hours after the fire, Star 100.7 Radio personalities Jef and Jer rallied their loyal listeners and raised nearly \$70,000 for the Judd family of Alpine who lost their home in the fire. The Clear Channel family of radio stations including KOGO 600 AM, feverishly gathered donations of food and clothing.

Perhaps it was the smaller acts of kindness that came with the most heart. Children gave up allowance money to help friends whose toys were damaged by smoke and water. Teens went door to door with jelly jars to raise money for injured animals. I was moved by the beautiful posters painted by Lakeside Brownie Troop 6206 and touched when I read about the elderly man who pressed a \$10 dollar bill into the hand of a firefighter.

It shouldn't take a harrowing brush fire to draw attention to the goodwill of a community. I have no doubt, that the kindness exhibited by the people and businesses of Alpine existed long before the flames of the Viejas fire. It is my sincere wish that the harried moments we shared the first week of January will make Alpine and all of East County even stronger.

Jacob Needs Your Help to Fight SDG&E Rate Hike

Once again, San Diego County ratepayers are being asked to pay for the mistakes of others. Unregulated power generators continue to charge the state's utilities obscene prices for wholesale power. State and federal regulators continue to ignore their duty to ensure just and reasonable prices for power. Utilities continue to threaten to pass the burden onto innocent ratepayers. And, I will continue to fight to protect ratepayers from shouldering these costs.

San Diego Gas and Electric's debt has mushroomed to an estimated \$500 million dollars and the company soon will ask the California Public Utilities Commission for permission to raise the electricity rates of San Diego customers. What SDG&E isn't saying is that its parent company, Sempra Energy, raked in \$7 billion last year. I'm asking ratepayers to fax, write and e-mail the CPUC and Governor Davis to oppose this rate increase. Tell them before SDG&E asks San Diegans for a rate hike, it should ask its parents for a loan!

- **California Public Utilities Commission:** Loretta Lynch, President 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 Phone: (415) 703.2782 Fax: (415) 703.1158 Web site: www.cpuc.ca.gov
- **Governor Gray Davis:** State Capitol, Sacramento, CA, 95814
Phone: (916) 445.2841 Fax: (916) 445.4633 Web site: www.governor.ca.gov

Join me for Coffee and Conversation...

Friday, February 9, 2001, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Annie Oakley's

12212 Woodside Avenue, Lakeside

Tuesday, February 20, 2001, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Kountry Kitchen

826 Main Street, Ramona

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Feb-01

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