

The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

March 2001

Serving the Cities of:
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La Mesa
Lemon Grove
Poway
Santee

Serving the communities of:
Agua Caliente
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Alpine
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Ramona
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Serving the Indian Reservations of:
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Campo
Cosmit
Cuyapaipe
Inaja
Jamul
La Posta
Manzanita
Mesa Grande
Santa Ysabel
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Viejas

Jacob Taps Potential Power to Beat Summer Heat

As the state's doomed electricity de-regulation legislation continues to unravel, at every fatal twist I become more determined to do everything I can to protect innocent ratepayers.

With help from East County residents and businesses, I've railed against greedy wholesale power companies who are running away with profits in excess of 300, 400 and even 900 percent.

With support from my colleagues on the Board, I've demanded investigations into the frequent "unscheduled maintenance" taking place at too many of California's power generation plants and insisted that federal energy regulators control the obscene price of wholesale power in California.

The County is now looking to take charge of its energy destiny by exploring ways to become our own power supplier. In the meantime, I'm hard at work on two crucial issues which need your immediate attention.

First, the County is on an all-out quest to identify all potential sources of power generation, large and small, which can be brought on-line before the summer months.

Second, our region's largest utility, San Diego Gas and Electric claims to be an estimated \$605 million in debt and wants to raise the rates of San Diego customers to pay this tab. I am determined to stop this rate hike!

In this issue, you'll learn about the County's race to find power in time for the summer crunch and you'll find out how and why you must oppose SDG&E's proposed rate hike. In both instances, our homes and businesses depend on it.

Calling All Generation Sources

As the mercury rises, high temperatures are expected to drive power demand through your roof, my roof and the roof of the state's power grid.

The San Diego region needs 3,470 megawatts of power during the summer but we're capable of producing only 1,390 megawatts. With a whopping 2,080 megawatt deficit, I've issued a countywide call to activate all potential power generation sources.

Hospitals, schools and private businesses may be situated next to smaller generators which are vital during power droughts. It's time to identify those sources, quickly obtain all the necessary permits and be ready to fire them up for summer.



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Beat Summer Heat

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In its own small way, the County has answered my call. At the inactive Jamacha Landfill in Rancho San Diego, we'll soon turn yesterday's trash into tomorrow's power. The Board unanimously approved my plan to convert methane gas into electricity which will generate enough power to service 300 homes. It's a small but symbolic step. With similar generation sources at work, we can avoid the summer crunch. If you have a generator you would like to operate, please call the Air Pollution Control District at (858) 650-4700.

No Bailouts for 'Children' of Wealthy Power Generators

How did San Diego Gas and Electric end up hundreds of millions of dollars in the hole and does the utility really need to hike ratepayer fees to pay off this so-called debt?

It's true SDG&E has been paying a pretty penny for wholesale power. And it's true that for much of last year, the utility was forced to sell its power at a lower retail rate frozen by state law. What's not often discussed, however are the healthy profits of SDG&E's parent company, Sempra Energy.

Sempra's revenues are one of many reasons SDG&E doesn't need a rate increase:

- Sempra is rolling in dough thanks to its unregulated wholesale power operations. Last year, the company reported record revenues of \$7 billion with \$429 million in profits. In the last quarter of 2000, Sempra made \$52 million in profits from its power plants alone! The company made just \$10 million in the same period the previous year.
- Sempra Energy is just one of more than a dozen power wholesalers making millions in what looks to be a game of market manipulation. When one-third of the state's power generation is conveniently off-line at the same time, I think the public has more than enough reason to be suspect.
- SDG&E was instrumental in crafting the design of California's deregulation legislation (AB-1890) and actually lobbied for its approval in the state legislature. In fact, SDG&E promised that deregulation would decrease bills by 10 percent immediately and decrease bills by another 10 percent in the future.
- SDG&E's first reduction was not a decrease at all. It was financed by low-interest bonds which were paid back by consumers through a new "Trust Transfer Amount" charge. Instead of a second reduction, customers have seen bills skyrocket from 3.5 cents last summer to over 25 cents per kilowatt hour.
- It's no small wonder that the salaries of Sempra's top three executives total nearly \$4 million.

Write, fax or e-mail the Governor and state regulators to oppose SDG&E's insulting rate increase. Do not allow the same utility which designed and approved the structure of the state's failed electricity market to receive a public handout!

• **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 or lyn@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 or governor@ca.gov

Road Work Ahead: Jacob Plans Smooth Commutes

I want your daily drive safe and I want it smooth. That's why, every five years, the County adds a fresh protective coating to its roadways. The helpful overlay not only shields roads from sun, rain and traffic wear and tear, it saves taxpayers from the inconvenience of more costly asphalt pavings.

One hundred and forty-nine miles of County roadways will be carefully sealed this summer including many miles in San Diego's East County. The County is investing \$5 million in the project which should be completed by October of this year.

In the La Mesa/ Mount Helix area, expect improvements along sections of Grossmont Boulevard, Kenwood Drive, Mt. Helix Drive, Viviera Drive and Troy Street. Around Jamul, watch for sealing along parts of Alta Loma Drive, Deerhorn Valley Road, Honey Springs Road, Jefferson Road, Lyons Valley Road and Olive Vista Drive. Portions of Old Highway 80 will be sealed near Sunrise Highway, Jewel Valley Road in Manzanita and also a stretch through Boulevard.

In the Potrero and Barrett Junction areas, Barrett Lake Road, Potereo Park Drive, Potrero Valley Road and Round Potrero Road are slated for improvements along with Lake Morena Drive and Oak Grove and Molchan Roads in the Lake Morena Village Area. In the Ramona area, Mussey Grade Road, Tenth Street, and Twelfth Street will be enhanced.

In the Lakeside area, parts of Wildcat Canyon Road, Ashwood Street, Vigilante Road, Moreno Avenue and Muth Valley Road will receive face-lifts. Watch for improvements along portions of Dehesa Road, Otay Lakes Road, Sycamore Canyon Road and Vista Del Valle Boulevard too.

'Operation Watch Dog' Cracks Down on East County Livestock Maulings

Residents in the community of Jamul, frustrated by roaming dogs who've attacked and killed pets and livestock, can rest easier.

Using the combined efforts of the County's Department of Animal Control, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Border Patrol, I've put together a coordinated strike team to step up patrol of the Jamul area. The team will detain loose dogs to prevent additional attacks.

A 24-hour hotline is up and running to help law enforcement respond to reports of animal sightings. All calls from Jamul will be prioritized. The number is 1-888-838-9999.

Join me for Coffee and Conversation...
Friday, March 23, 2001, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Mary's Donuts
9031 Mission Gorge Rd. Santee

Friday, March 30, 2001, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Experience Coffee
2963 Jamacha Road, El Cajon

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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!

Name _____

Signature _____

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Mar-01

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