

The Jacob Journal

Happy New Year from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

January 2002

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
Cuyapaie
Inaja
Jamul
La Posta
Manzanita
Mesa Grande
Santa Ysabel
Sycuan
Viejas

New Funding Puts Edgemoor on Road to Recovery Jacob Intent on Rebuilding East County's Aging Healthcare Facility

Walk the grounds at Edgemoor Hospital in Santee, and if you're like me, you feel inspired by the courage of its patients and moved by the compassion of its staff. The county-run skilled nursing facility is home to 170 of the County's most vulnerable citizens.

These special souls have illnesses so severe, and so difficult to treat that private nursing homes have turned them away no fewer than 200 times.

They are chronically ill, severely disabled, or suffering from the cruelest of diseases. They contend with excruciating physical pain and emotional challenges too intense for most of us to bear.

Theoretically, the State of California, through its Medi-Cal program, reimburses the County for the cost of patient care, but seldom do state funds cover the level of time-consuming treatment Edgemoor patients need and deserve, let alone pay for the operational costs of the facility.

For years, the County has battled insufficient and unpredictable state funding, complex patient care and increasing operational costs to maintain the facility. Consultants have criticized its aging walls and grand juries

have determined that the facility should be completely revitalized. In the past, there have been several efforts to upgrade the facility, but each has stalled or lost momentum.

When I took office, I also took on the responsibility of Edgemoor and learned of its challenges. Like its old rooms and even older equipment, I also discovered the valuable service Edgemoor provides our region's frailest residents. When people, through no choice of their own, have been handed challenges like the patients at Edgemoor, it is the County's moral responsibility to see that they live with maximum comfort and dignity. That's why, with the help of our region's top minds in public healthcare, we vowed to, at last, prioritize the needs of the facility.

Now, we believe we have a solution. We have identified federal funding which would allow the County to build a \$52 million replacement facility for Edgemoor. Last month, the Board of Supervisors voted to spend \$2 million on architectural plans- a crucial first step toward obtaining the federal money.

As I said to the *The San Diego Union-Tribune* last month, "This would be the most significant step in 25 years by the Board of Supervisors in the rebuilding of Edgemoor."

"This would be the most significant step in 25 years by the Board of Supervisors in the rebuilding of Edgemoor."

*- Supervisor Dianne Jacob
San Diego Union-Tribune
December 2001*

Rebuilding Edgemoor.....Page 1
Edgemoor/Healthy Youth.....Page 2
60 Minutes.....Page 3
Get the Journal at home.....Page 4
How to reach me or my staff.....Page 4



continued on page 2

Edgemoor

Continued from Page 1

Not only does rebuilding Edgemoor give the County the opportunity to provide greater care to patients, it is far more cost-effective than renovation, an expense the federal government will not cover. The federal government will, however, pay nearly half the cost of building a replacement.

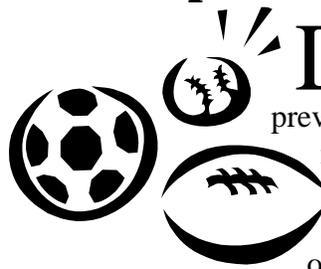
Currently, the County pays \$6.4 million of the \$18 million it takes to operate Edgemoor every year. By building a more efficient facility, it is estimated that the County's share will be reduced to less than \$1.3 million. That's an annual savings of more than \$5 million!

One of the most noble functions of a good government is its ability to properly care for citizens who truly cannot help themselves. By making Edgemoor's replacement facility a top priority, the Board reveals its compassion and respect for the most vulnerable members of our community.

As a County, we cannot heal Edgemoor's patients or make their illnesses less debilitating. We can't tell them they will feel better because, as anyone who works at Edgemoor knows and will tell you, pain is a part of the daily routine. But, there is something we can do. We can build an Edgemoor worthy of its patients and its excellent staff. And, We can build an Edgemoor that truly reflects our commitment to the quality of patient care.

The Board of Supervisors has taken the first step by approving architectural plans for a new and improved Edgemoor. I'm determined to see those plans become a reality!

Youth Sports Keep Kids Healthy, Safe



Did you know that obesity is poised to overtake tobacco as the leading cause of preventable deaths in the America? Late last month, the nation's surgeon general issued an unprecedented call for America's schools to wage war against fat and called on communities to create safe places where kids can exercise their way toward a healthy adulthood.

San Diego County didn't need the Surgeon General's urging to get serious about healthy activities for kids. The County knows kids who are involved in sports are healthier, happier and less likely to get in trouble with the law. Here are a few projects I've been working on to keep East County kids on the move:

Steele Canyon High School Knows the Score

No more guessing the score for fans in the stands at Steele Canyon High School in Spring Valley. The County pitched in to help buy the school a new scoreboard for the football field. The school's hardworking booster club will cover half the cost of the \$16,000 scoreboard while the County will cover the rest. Now it should be much easier to cheer when the Cougars are winning!

Green Fields and a New Gym for Ramona Athletes

Young people in Ramona are serious about doing their best at sports. So I take the conditions of their facilities seriously too. In the last few years, the County awarded \$490,000 million to the Ramona Boys and Girls Clubs for the construction of a new gym. The County spent \$24,000 to install new sod for the Pop-Warner football field at Well Field Park and \$33,000 to improve Well Field Park's four baseball infields and replace aging field equipment.

Julian's Skate Park, Playground on Fast Track

I know Julian's young people are restless to put on their safety gear and hit the half pipe. That's why the County is working overtime to move forward with plans for the much-anticipated skate park at Jess Martin Park. Middle school students from Julian have taken a sneak peek at preliminary design plans for the park and I'm happy to say that plans have met their initial approval. As the permit process continues Julian youth are actively involved in the planning.

Better Bleachers and Green Fields in Lakeside

Some \$120,000 County dollars will be used to grow greener fields and build better bleachers at the home of the Lakeside Bobby Sox at Cactus Park. Visitors to Cactus Park will also enjoy a new tot lot where future Bobby Sox can pass the time while big sis plays softball.





Tough Talkers: Supervisor Jacob and CBS News Correspondent Mike Wallace discuss the San Diego Red Cross for an upcoming edition of 60 Minutes.

Jacob to Discuss Red Cross' Handling of Alpine Fire on TV's 60 Minutes

It took more than ten months of intense public pressure to get a complete accounting of the more than \$410,000 the San Diego chapter of the American Red Cross collected as a result of last year's 10,000 acre Alpine fire. During those long months, local and national media have been an invaluable force when it comes to holding the agency accountable for its fundraising practices and policies.

San Diego Union-Tribune staff writer Norberto Santana Jr., who covers East County issues for the paper, served as the quintessential public watchdog by carefully balancing the concerns of fire victims with the positions and explanations of the Red Cross.

He cultivated sources deep within the local and national Red Cross and was the first to discover a nationwide trend in criticism over the organization's fundraising practices. He obtained an internal audit which detailed the local chapter's mishandling of the Alpine donations and pieced together the link between the resignation of the former national Red Cross President Bernadine Healy and local Chief Administrative Officer, Donita Rotherham.

When KGTV 10 News reporter Mark Matthews couldn't get a straight answer from the local Red Cross, the investigative journalist used his research skills to uncover the salary of the local CEO. In an interview, he asked her about her 1999 earnings and found that she wasn't honest about the entire amount. He then confronted her with tax documents detailing the \$309,000 she was paid in 1999. Without Mr. Matthew's tenacity, the public might not know how much the San Diego Red Cross CEO makes or that she is the highest paid local chapter CEO in the nation or that she's not altogether honest about her earnings.

Finally, late last month, Alpine fire victims bravely told their stories to CBS News correspondent Mike Wallace. I too shared my Red Cross experience with the legendary reporter. The program is still in the editing phase and is scheduled to air sometime this winter. For more information about the program, keep checking my website at www.diannejacob.com.



Join me for Coffee and Conversation...

The Village Garden Restaurant and Bakery

February 8, 2002 at 8:30 a.m.

8384 La Mesa Boulevard

La Mesa

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!

Name _____

Signature _____

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone/e-mail _____

We hope to hear from you soon!

Jan-02

DIANNE JACOB

Supervisor, Second District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 531-5522
(800) 852-7322 toll free
(619) 696-7253 fax

e-mail:
Dianne-Jacob@co.san-diego.ca.us

website:
www.diannejacob.com

(619)531-5522

The Second District Staff

Shannan Sorrell

Chief of Staff

Mike Kulis

Deputy Chief of Staff

Chimene Adams

Policy Advisor

Teresa Alvarez

Administrative Assistant

Caroline Braun

Field Representative

Jeff Collins

Policy Advisor

Darren Gretler

Land Use & Conservation
Policy Advisor

Alan Pentico

Policy Advisor

Donna Sievert

Office Manager & Scheduler

Jennifer Stone

Communications Advisor