

The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

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

Jacob, Marines to Reopen Historic Trail

If you enjoy the outdoors like me, there is nothing better than the wide open spaces of East County. I love riding horses along the many hundreds of miles of Backcountry nature trails. I love breathing easy and just taking in the landscape.

Long-time horse riders like the Poway Ridge Riders will agree that one of the most scenic trails in all of San Diego County is Sycamore Canyon Trail along the eastern edge of Miramar Marine Corps Air Station. With its picturesque coastal sage scrub and wild chaparral, Sycamore Canyon Trail showcases our region's most dramatic terrain.

For many years, an important four-mile stretch of the trail, from Santee Lakes to Goodan Ranch, has been a missing link in our regional trails system. Now, after years and years of negotiations, horse riders, hikers and mountain bikers may soon get their wish to travel the entire length of Sycamore Canyon Trail from Ramona to Poway.

The credit belongs in large part to Marine Major General William G. Bowden, commander of Miramar and its highest ranking officer. Major General Bowden was willing to meet with me on numerous occasions to

discuss future plans for the trail.

Thanks to Major General Bowden, the Marines have agreed to sell more than 350 acres of land to the County. In fact, the Marines helped craft the proposal which was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The plan calls for the Marines to work with the County to survey and appraise the land and then, determine a price. When the sale is complete, residents can again enjoy all of Sycamore Canyon Trail from Goodan Ranch just east of Poway through the Sycamore Canyon Open Space Preserve all the way to Santee Lakes near Mission Trails Regional Park.

Because the land belongs to the Federal Government, it could take legislation from the U.S. Congress or permission from the Department of Defense to approve the deal, according to top Marine Corps officials.

While the sale will certainly please trail lovers, it could also help ease the increasing costs of living for younger Marines. The Marines don't know how much the land would be worth but, proceeds may be used for military housing.

"The timing is right, and the benefits are mutual," I told the *San Diego Union-Tribune* late last month. "This is a rare opportunity to reopen this historic trail and wildlife corridor to the public."

"The benefits are mutual. This is a rare opportunity to reopen this historic trail and wildlife corridor to the public."

*- Supervisor Dianne Jacob
San Diego Union-Tribune*

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Sycamore Canyon

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The trail, which officially begins near Santee Lakes at Mast Boulevard, traces the Stowe Trail, an old logging route that dates to the early 1850s. The route was designated Old Survey Road 55 by the Board of Supervisors in 1886.

Today, the land is considered sensitive habitat and is home to several endangered species. The deal with the Marines will preserve the land and create a protective wildlife corridor from Santee to Poway. Soon, animals will be able to migrate freely through the corridor. This will especially aid the dwindling deer population in Mission Trails.

Throughout the years that the Sycamore Canyon Trail has remained closed, several individuals worked hard to keep the issue alive and should be commended for their efforts. Robert Coates, regional president of the California Horseman's Association, Ernie Smith of the Poway Ridge Riders and other trail enthusiasts remain passionate about giving the public greater access to nature trails and historic routes. Working together, we can continue to explore more of our majestic Back Country. See you on the trail!



Happy Trails: A late afternoon hike along scenic Sycamore Canyon Trail.
Photo courtesy of Goodanranch.com.



Tax Breaks For Historic Sites

Beautiful old buildings speak volumes about the history, architecture and values of yesteryear. That's one of the reasons why I recently urged the Board of Supervisors to provide tax breaks to owners of carefully-maintained historic properties. As a former teacher, I find historical structures enormously valuable for young people. By preserving older homes and buildings, we make it easier to pass along our region's heritage to future generations.

The Board unanimously agreed to my request and voted to allow the County's historical property owners to obtain property tax relief under the 1985 Mills Act. Beginning this month, property owners in the unincorporated areas can enter into historical property contracts with the County. In return for preserving and improving their properties, qualifying owners get a significant reduction in their annual property tax.

The tax savings on Mills Act properties is usually in the neighborhood of between forty and sixty percent. Five cities with the County of San Diego have adopted ordinances embracing the Mills Act program. Several property owners in the City of San Diego already benefit from a savings of almost ninety percent!

To qualify for Mills Act benefits, properties must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or listed in any state or local register of historical or architecturally significant sites, places or landmarks. Properties listed in any registered historic district also qualify for relief under the Mills Act.

For more information, contact Donna Beddow at (858) 694-3656 or Glenn Russell at (858) 694-2981 with the County's Department of Planning and Land Use.

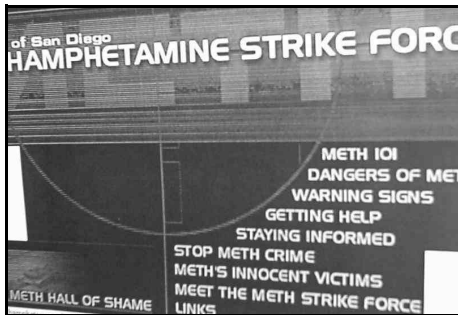
Fight Meth on the Web

Since the day it was activated more than five years ago, hundreds of San Diegans have found solutions to meth problems by calling the County's Methamphetamine Hotline at 1-877-No2Meth. Now, the Strike Force is hoping its new website will give San Diegans yet another tool in the fight against the deadly stimulant.

Does a friend or a family member have a drug problem? Worried your neighbor is illegally cooking methamphetamine? Want to find research or articles about meth in the San Diego region. Help is just a mouse-click away at www.no2meth.org. Like the hotline, all inquiries to the website are completely confidential.

Users can escape the horrors of meth addiction by accessing the "Getting Help" section. One button brings up a comprehensive list of drug treatment providers which links visitors to programs closest to their homes. The section isn't just for meth users. Anyone with a drug or alcohol problem can seek help on the site.

The "Stop Meth Crime" section puts the power of law enforcement in the hands of residents by allowing visitors to report suspicious drug activity including the crude and explosive kitchen labs often used in the illegal manufacture of meth. Reports of drug activity are handled just like the tips that come in on the hotline. Each tip is forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation. The tips are anonymous and are used only to respond to the person who submitted the information, or to investigate a possible crime.



Cyber Help: Supervisor Jacob and Dr. Roger Lum, director of the County's Health and Human Services Agency urge meth users to seek treatment by logging onto www.no2meth.org.

www.no2meth.org

The site features links to other drug prevention sites and is constantly updated with current research and information.

If the web site is as successful as the hotline, the community will make significant strides in the battle against meth. The hotline has received tips leading to arrests locally and in neighboring counties. But, many calls to the hotline aren't referred to police. This year, more than one-fifth of the calls came from people seeking help with drug problems. Hotline staffers refer those callers to community-based agencies, where they can get counseling.

When I initiated the Strike Force more than five years ago, I wanted to educate the community about the dangers of the drug and help those in its grasp to get clean and stay clean. I'm thrilled that San Diego has a new, high tech tool to work toward that goal.

Join me for Coffee and Conversation...

Friday, February 8, 2002

8:30 a.m.

The Village Garden Restaurant

8384 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa

Get The Jacob Journal!

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Feb-02

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