

The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

May 2003

Serving the Cities of:
El Cajon
La Mesa
Lemon Grove
Poway
Santee

Serving the communities of:
Agua Caliente
Allied Gardens
Alpine
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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
Wynola

Serving the Indian Reservations of:
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Campo
Cosmit
Cuyapaipe
Inaja
Jamul
La Posta
Manzanita
Mesa Grande
Santa Ysabel
Sycuan
Viejas

Jacob Hits the Trails this Summer

San Diego County is home to more unique plants, animals and diverse landscape than any County its size in the nation. Whether you use hiking boots, a mountain bike or a saddle to explore the natural wonders of our region is up to you. Whether adequate trails through meaningful open space are set aside for outdoor activity is up to all of us.

That's why the County of San Diego is working with local trails advocates to create a coordinated system of trails throughout the region. Such a system would bring needed cohesiveness to the region's many independent trail segments and give outdoor enthusiasts a network of accessible and well-maintained trails through the area's breathtaking scenery.

In years past, trails have been constructed sporadically, many in separate corners of the County, with little regard to similar trail projects or the potential for trails to link to one another. In fact, until trails advocates and I pushed for the creation of our regional trails plan, not a single government agency, local, state or federal, was working to see that trails were connected to form a regional system.

It's been more than two years since the County announced its plans to create a regional trails plan. Since then, communities have been carefully plotting the craggy paths, dusty trails or tree-lined crossings they hope their residents will take the opportunity to explore.

Across the County, community planning group have turned in draft trails maps and are waiting for the County to blend those drafts into a

comprehensive trails plan for the entire region.

In a matter of weeks, the County's preliminary trails master plan will be available to the public. Trails advocates and I are hoping all residents will take a look at the open spaces set aside for

hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders. Residents soon will be able to access the draft of the master plan through the County's website at: www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks or at any of the County's branch libraries.

Three ongoing trails projects are especially beneficial to the people of the Second District. The first is a visionary plan to create a lengthy trail along the banks of the San Diego River that would begin in Lakeside. The second is a waterside trail along the Santa Maria Creek in Ramona. The third is the long-awaited acquisition of

"I've always found that hitting the trails helps me appreciate San Diego County's rural heritage."

-Supervisor Dianne Jacob



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Hit the Trail

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property near Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, which would let adventurers travel the entire length of the historic Stowe Trail from Santee to Poway.

As a young girl, I loved to ride my horse along the San Diego River. Back then, in rural Mission Valley it was possible to gallop for miles along the water's edge. By creating a trail that stretches from El Capitan in Lakeside to the shores of Ocean Beach, trail advocates are hoping to gallop along the river once again. Already, the Board of Supervisors has balanced the rights of property owners along the river with the wishes of trail users. The Board unanimously approved a unique mixed-use plan for the San Diego River that aims to achieve just the right combination of responsible, river-friendly development and accessible trails along this beautiful and natural amenity.



Walk this Way: A late afternoon hike along the historic Stowe Trail is a great way to experience local landscape.

Volunteers from the Ramona Trails Association and the Iron Mountain Conservancy are serious about creating trails that connect to one another. They are also serious about caring for the Santa Maria Creek. This year, the County was pleased to help secure nearly \$2 million in State funds to purchase more than 400 acres of property along the creek. That money will be used to restore habitat and may be used to build a trail. Because many volunteers are willing to donate time and labor to the project, the creek is on its way to a healthier future.

One of the County's most anticipated trails projects is undoubtedly the reopening of the historic Stowe Trail that links Sycamore Canyon near Poway to Santee Lakes and Mission Trails Regional Park. For many years, a portion of the trail that crosses onto Marine Corps Air Station Miramar has been closed for security reasons. Last year, thanks to the leadership of Maj. Gen. William Bowden, then commanding officer of Miramar, the Marines agreed to sell the County acreage needed to re-open the trail. As final details of that deal are worked out, horse riders especially are looking forward to riding the length of the entire trail.

In the future, the San Diego River, the Santa Maria Creek and the historic Stowe Trail will join the hundreds of miles of glorious trails waiting to be enjoyed by you and your family this summer. Thanks to the regional trails master plan you and your family can influence where and how you hike, bike or ride on public lands. I've always found that hitting the trails helps me appreciate our County's rural heritage. My goal is to ensure that you and your children have that opportunity too!

A Financial Heads Up for Community Groups

The County's Office of Resource Development carefully tracks grant availabilities and wants to help your agency tap into those resources. Contact the Office of Resource Development at (619) 658-2292.

In addition, the SBC Foundation can help community groups use technology to maximize service to the public. The SBC Foundation is searching for worthy groups to apply for technology grants. For more information, visit www.sbc.com/foundation.

The State's budget crisis and a weakening national economy mean that tough financial times are upon us. This is especially challenging for non-profit, community-based groups who frequently operate on shoestring budgets and depend on the kindness of the public for financing.





Big Bow: The County welcomes home the military with what is believed to be the nation's largest yellow ribbon.

Operation Yellow Ribbon Reaches New Heights

In the coming months, thousands of brave military men and women will return home from war in Iraq. Most will return to San Diego aboard ships homeported at Naval Station North Island and the 32nd Street Naval Station.

When those ships sail around Point Loma, past the County Administration Center and into the safe harbor of San Diego Bay, San Diego County plans to welcome them home with the nation's largest yellow ribbon.

The Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation is generously underwriting the effort to tie the enormous welcome ribbon around the tower of the historic County Administration Center. The military family support group Operation Homefront, founded by KOGO radio host Roger Hedgecock, is supporting the ribbon and is getting the word out to spouses aboard the ships.

At 25 feet tall and 25 feet wide, the bow alone covers two stories of the tower's west wall. The ribbon is 240 feet long and 8 feet tall and will wrap around all four sides of the tower. The ribbon is made of wind-resistant mesh which can withstand gusts of 100 miles per hour.

There's a very special reason the bow faces west. It is specially designed to be visible from Naval Air Station North Island, homeport to three U.S. aircraft carriers.

The County plans to leave the giant ribbon up for at least a year to salute the more than 55,000 military personnel from San Diego County who have taken part in the liberation of Iraq.

Many thanks to County facilities staff for working overtime to hang the ribbon. Extra special thanks to Tom Flynn at Temecula's Y3K Grafex who coordinated the installation of the ribbon and donated all of his time.



Wrap It Up: The ribbon is 240 feet long. The bow covers two stories of the historic County Administration Center.

Join me for Coffee and Conversation

Friday, May 25, 2003 at 8:30 a.m.
The Golden Goose Coffee and Antiques
10001 Maine Avenue, Lakeside

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We hope to hear from you soon!

May-03

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