

# The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Chairwoman Dianne Jacob

March 2004

## STATE BUDGET CRISIS

# Budget cuts will be deep, not fatal

**A**fter a decade of strict fiscal discipline, like refusing to spend more money than we take in and creating a structurally balanced budget, San Diego County is being forced to pay the price for years of outlandish overspending by State elected officials.

It's not fair and it's not right, but it's happening, and your County government intends to survive. We will meet State budget cuts by holding fast to the same prudent practices that have made us one of the three best managed counties in the country.

We will be part of the solution to bring the State back from the brink of a multi-billion budget deficit, but we refuse to sit back and watch as the State raids local dollars for the second time in just over a decade. More importantly, we will not let dwindling funds compromise one of our most important responsibilities to taxpayers—keeping County government financially sound.

Governor Schwarzenegger's California Economic Recovery Plan—Propositions 57 and 58— was approved handedly by voters this month. That success is proof positive that

San Diegans want to see California on the road to recovery. The County was proud to have supported the Governor's plan to save our State. His calls to tame state spending, overhaul the budget and bring reform to a failing workers compensation system are

music to our ears. His plan to steal \$55 million of our local tax dollars to help the State pay its bills, however, hits a sour note.

Just like it did a decade ago, the State is trying to grab an enormous chunk of our discretionary dollars, the only money we have that's not already shackled to State mandated

programs. We use this money for parks, libraries and public safety services. Once again the State is trying to steal it to pay for a mess that local taxpayers did not make.

The County has decided that if the State is going to keep reaching into our cookie jar to feed its appetite for spending, we are going to strike back with a diet plan.

Every year, our County spends millions of precious local dollars paying the bill for programs that the State is legally obligated to fund under the California Constitution. For too long, the State has shirked its responsibility to reimburse the County for these programs. That's about to change. The County had taken legal action intended to keep the State from unfairly pushing its bills

**“The State budget crisis was not San Diego County's doing. It will not be our undoing either.”**

**- Dianne Jacob**

*Serving the Cities of:*  
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Lemon Grove  
Poway  
Santee

*Serving the communities of:*  
Agua Caliente  
Allied Gardens  
Alpine  
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Bostonia  
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Crest  
Cuyamaca  
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Dulzura  
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Guatay  
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Julian  
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Lakeside  
Mount Helix  
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Pine Valley  
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Ramona  
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**Budget**

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off on us. We have filed two lawsuits to hold the State accountable for deliberately refusing to fund its own programs. The first would recover more than \$30 million owed to the taxpayers of this region. The second would free us from having to perform services that the State refuses to fund.

In addition to the lawsuits, the County is aggressively supporting a measure headed for the November ballot. If approved, California voters will decide if and when the State has the right to raid local property taxes, and the State would no longer have the ability to shackle local governments to programs without funding.

As Governor Schwarzenegger looks for ways to reign in State spending, the County's stand against unfunded mandates should give the Governor good cause to push for a wholesale budget overhaul. A structurally balanced budget is a crucial step toward solvency and one that the County achieved years ago.

At its core, however, the Governor's recovery plan includes cuts. Those cuts will run deep and wide in San Diego County. They will be painful and people will be hurt. Like any family facing lean budget times, the County is reordering its priorities. We will direct our resources to places where they have the ability to do the most good for the most people. We want San Diegans to know that we are committed to weathering the budget storm without compromising vital services like public safety or venturing down the dangerous path of deficit spending.

The State budget crisis was not our doing. It will not be our undoing either.

**“Like any family facing lean budget times, we are reordering our priorities.”**



**Just Desserts:** Jacob samples the desserts of Franz Dorninger of Lake Cuyamaca Restaurant.

## East County Shines During State of County Address

**W**as it the fabulous desserts? Was it the spirited song and dance by the young people of Christian Youth Theater? Was it the beautiful Performing Arts Center at West Hills High School in Santee?

Judging from the audience buzz in the lobby after the 2004 State of the County address last month, all of those wonderful factors made the night a wild success. Chairwoman Jacob discussed the many challenges facing the County in the year ahead and pledged to steer the County through the State budget crisis.

After the 40 minute address, the audience was treated to an array of desserts from the very best East County restaurants and cafes. Chairwoman Jacob extends her deepest thanks to the following businesses: **Alpine Bread Basket, Annie Oakley's Cowboy Café, Branded Oak Restaurant, Experience Coffee, Golden Goose Coffee, Hooleys Irish Pub and Grill, Lake Cuyamaca and Edelweiss Restaurants, Mary's Donuts, Pat & Oscar's, Starbucks of Fletcher Hills, The Brigantine Family Restaurants, the Incredible Cheesecake Factory and the Julian Pie Company.**

The event was underwritten by **Allied Waste Industries, Cox Communications, EDCO, the Hartford Life Insurance Company, and SAIC.**

## OPERATION SPEED BUMP HALTS METH PROBLEMS

The Meth Strike Force and nearly every law enforcement agency in the region have joined forces to launch Operation Speed BUMP or, Bring Us More Prisoners, Patients and Phone Calls.

The operation is simple. At this moment, the County is crawling with agents and officers ready to arrest and people who buy, sell, make or use this illegal and highly addictive stimulant. People involved in the underworld of meth have two choices: Get drug treatment to kick the drug or end up in jail. The County operates an anonymous hotline to help people find treatment for meth addiction. Users can seek treatment referrals. Others can report suspicious activity or request additional information.

*If you or someone you love has a meth problem call 1-877-No2Meth.*

### County Seeking Workers to Cleanup and Restore Parks

Thanks to a \$1.2 million federal grant, the County is giving some TLC to parks and open spaces ravaged by the October fires.

The grant has created a number of temporary jobs for people willing to assist in cleanup and restoration efforts. Priority to participate will be given to those who have experienced temporary or permanent job loss because of the October fires. Eligible workers can be employed for up to six months. The maximum wage paid to a participating worker will be \$12,000.

*Interested? Call 1-888-884-SDWP or visit [www.sandiegatwork.com](http://www.sandiegatwork.com)*

### On Our Way to PETCO Park

Planning to take in a few Padres games at brand new PETCO Park this year? The Padres want their loyal East County fans to know that April 16 is East County Night at the ballpark. The Padres will take on the Arizona Diamond Backs at 7:05 p.m.

Check out the team's website to learn more about the many ways to get from East County to the East Village. The address is: [sandiego.padres.mlb.com](http://sandiego.padres.mlb.com)  
See you at the game!



**Pros:** Chairwoman Jacob and fan favorite Dave Winfield prepare for East County Night on April 16.

### Jacob Warms Up for Little League Season

Chairwoman Jacob loves a good ballgame. This month, she's thrilled to be helping little leaguers begin their exciting 2004 seasons. On Saturday, March 13, keep an eye out for her at these games:

*Lakeside National Little League 9797 Marilla Drive at 8:00 a.m.*

*Lakeside American Little League, 13145 Willow Rd. at 9:00 a.m.*

*La Mesa National Little League, University Avenue and Memorial Drive at 10:00 a.m.*

*Ramona Pony Little League, 239 Aqua Lane at 11:30 a.m.*

# Get The Jacob Journal!

The Jacob Journal will be mailed to you on a regular basis by request only. 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. You can also sign up to receive the Jacob Journal on our website at [www.diannejacob.com](http://www.diannejacob.com).

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We hope to hear from you soon!

MAR-04

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