



# The Jacob Journal

Happy New Year from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

January 2005

## Fire Safety, Youth Ball Fields Top Jacob's Term Ahead

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  
Wynola

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

*On January 4, Supervisor Jacob was sworn in for a fourth term on the Board of Supervisors. She is pleased to provide a summary of her remarks from that ceremony.*

It is a privilege to represent the people of the Second District. Thank you for continuing to put your faith in me. Thank you allowing me to partner with you to fulfill your needs and your goals.

You are the reason why I am ready for Round Four!

During Round Four, public safety will continue to be my number one budget priority. The flames of the 2003 October Fires have been extinguished, but the heroism of that frantic time will stay with me over the next four years.

There is only one way to do justice to the bravery of fire fighters, citizen heroes and October fire victims. We must make our firefighting forces as strong as possible.

Voters in areas hardest hit by the October fires spoke to us loud and clear on November 2. They want to take the many splintered fire agencies in the unincorporated areas of our region and make them whole. They want to end disparities in funding and service from one agency to the next.

The Local Agency Formation Commission, is moving toward the consolidation of our most

fractured fire agencies. Out on the horizon is our long-term goal of a single, regional firefighting entity.

Funding will be our largest obstacle, but the will to make this happen is strong. I will work to identify this funding and I will not let the passage of time lessen the urgency of this effort.

Improved fire safety calls for stepped-up vegetation management on public and private lands.

Two-thirds of our region did not burn in the October fires and we must continue to rid our backcountry of the dead trees that are the favorite fuel of wildfire.

I will continue to seek badly needed resources to remove these trees, conduct controlled burns,

clear fire breaks and restore fire access roads so that emergency personnel can reach remote areas.

Unincorporated communities often have different safety concerns than cities, but they deserve the same sense of security. No one understands that better than Sheriff Bill Kolender. Together, we are working on several key safety projects.

A much-needed Sheriff's station in Rancho San Diego will answer the safety needs of several communities and serve more than 100,000 people.

Federal funding for Community Oriented Policing Programs (COPPS) has dwindled in recent years and we must reverse this. Working side-by-side with communities,



**Commitment:** Supervisor Jacob takes the oath of office. It was administered by Superior Court Judge Patricia K. Cookson.



Year Ahead.....Page 1  
Year Ahead.....Page 2  
Year Ahead.....Page 3  
Get the Journal.....Page 4

Continued on Page 2

Continued from page 2

COPPS deputies have successfully rooted out crime.

We are refusing to ignore gang activity on some of our school campuses. The Grossmont Union High School District, law enforcement, the District Attorney and I have united to purge this thug element from our schools.



**Tinder-dry:** Enhanced fire safety calls for the removal of dead trees.

As the year ahead brings the Fourth Anniversary of the 9-11 attacks, terrorism must remain at the top of our minds. It is the responsibility of the federal government to stem criminal activity along the U.S./Mexico Border. We must continue to call on national leaders to secure that Border from those that would do us harm.

### *Community Character, Open Spaces*

Six years ago, we set out to update our blueprint for growth in the region's unincorporated areas, GPA 2020 as it's commonly known. We set up a process based on a simple idea: any plan designed for communities, must be designed by communities.

That was a long time ago. Some say too long because the plan has not yet been adopted. I agree. Still, GPA 2020 is in the home stretch. As we work to finish it, community character must be front and center. I will do everything in my power to protect the individuality of each community.

The type of development that accompanies Indian gaming has a big impact on neighboring communities, from traffic to groundwater to crime. Gaming brings economic benefits to the region like jobs and increased tourism, but its unintended consequences must be minimized. To that end, I will work with all stakeholders: the Governor, the tribes and communities.

Being a third-generation San Diegan, I feel a deep connection to our County's rural landscape. From the top of Volcan Mountain outside of Julian, you can take in the Anza Borrego desert to the east, Eagle Peak to the south and the working ranches of Ramona to the west.

I'm committed to preserving meaningful open space so that future generations can stay connected

to the same views that inspired my parents and grandparents. This is why I helped initiate the County's open space program in 1997. Our overall goal of setting aside 100,000 acres with riding and hiking trails is more than 92 percent complete!

Setting aside this land does more than preserve our natural resources; it limits urban sprawl, and when we find time to hike, fish or ride horses, open space enhances our quality of life.

Two additional preservation projects will be priorities of mine in the years ahead. These special projects have the potential to keep history alive.

The Old Stowe Trail through Sycamore Canyon along the eastern edge of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar is a logging route dating back to the 1850s. It looks the same today as it looked 100 years ago when wagons traveled the trail.

For many years, a four-mile stretch of the trail from Santee Lakes to Goodan Ranch has been off limits. Today, the opportunity to open that stretch is within our reach.

Working with the leadership at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and trail enthusiasts, it is my goal to see that the public can, once again, enjoy all of Stowe Trail, from Poway all the way to Santee.

The second preservation project is one the Campo area holds dear to its heart: Camp Lockett.



**Happy Trails:** Supervisor Jacob and friends enjoy the view of Sycamore Canyon at Goodan Ranch.

You are probably familiar with most of our region's military landmarks like Camp Pendleton, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Naval Station and the Marine Corps Recruitment Depot. But, are you familiar with

Camp Lockett?

During World War II, 3,000 African Americans were stationed at Camp Lockett in Campo. They were the soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Calvary of the U.S. Army—the last of the famed Buffalo Soldiers, entirely African-American Army units who patrolled the U.S./Mexico Border and guarded the region's trains and water supply.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Segregated from their white counterparts, they faced discrimination and prejudice. Their strength and perseverance should be passed on to others.

The community and I want to preserve the remarkable chapters of military history that have unfolded at Camp Lockett by creating a State Historic Park. First, we must sign an agreement with the State. I intend to accomplish this right away.



**Living History:** Supervisor Jacob with supporters of Camp Lockett.

### *Healthy Kids are Active Kids*

For years, I've been working with my Sports Advisory Committee to create a healthier future for young people. Parents and school officials on this committee agree: a sure-fire way to keep kids out of trouble is to keep them busy on the ball field. Together, we've built or improved over 100 ball fields and playgrounds.

The committee and I will continue to meet regularly and have our sights on several exciting projects.

In Lakeside, along the north bank of the San Diego River, there is an area of land that is perfect for world-class ball fields. Right now, the land has some rusty debris on it and it will take some effort to secure. Still, I envision a ball field complex so state-of-the-art, that it will attract little league teams from around Nation.

With San Diego County's perfect climate and Lakeside's down-home hospitality, this sports complex could become a gem in East County.

We've already worked together to bring the region's first high tech sports turf to Helix and Grossmont high schools. The turf requires no water and is cheaper to maintain than grass. Working with community members and the Grossmont Union High School District, I hope to find other locations for this next-generation turf.

When it comes to ball fields, libraries and other community gathering places, there's plenty to keep me busy these next four years.

The drive to Julian's Jess Martin Park is a beautiful one, but the field itself needs work. The problem is water! The community and I are working on a solution to make the park first rate.

A new gym and teen center should be ready for action in Spring Valley— cause for celebration because it took persistence to secure the funding.

A brand new library will be throwing open its doors in Campo next year, bigger and better than the tiny library that exists now.

The communities of Ramona and Alpine have been working overtime to raise funds to build new libraries too. The quest to find funding continues, and I pledge to be there every step of the way.

### *Strict Fiscal Discipline*

Of course, none of these projects can be accomplished unless the County's financial house is in order. As the custodians of that house, members of current Board of Supervisors took a government on the brink of Chapter 11 and transformed it into one of the best-managed counties in the Nation.

We did it with an award-winning General Management System that is the envy of all the State. This important playbook monitors our spending and tracks our progress. Over the next four years, I will follow the same kind of responsible budget practices that have earned us the stellar financial reputation we enjoy today.

The budget crisis at the State is not over. Years of wild spending have caught up with Sacramento. The governor has tamed some of that recklessness, but the gigantic holes in the State budget remain. It is too soon to know specifics, but we must brace ourselves for another year of serious impacts.

Fortunately, we are in a better position than most local governments to deal with this situation.

If there's one thing I've learned from my years in public service, it's that we have absolutely no idea what's in store for our region over the next four years.

We must plan for the worst, hope for the best and make the most of every moment. Each and every day, there are challenges. There are triumphs and setbacks. There are long-awaited celebrations and days when you dust yourself off and start all over, but never give up!

I am ready for all of it, and I will do my very best to serve you.

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JAN-05

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