



The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

March 2005

Triple Border Fence is a Security Must

Project is designed to deter terrorists, respect environment

The story in the Feb. 17 edition of the *New York Times* was chilling. Top CIA officials warned of new intelligence that strongly suggested the Al Qaeda terrorist network has considered infiltrating the United States through the Mexican Border.

It was another scary reminder that we live in a post 9/11 world, where crazed fanatics plot unfathomable acts of horror, quietly analyzing ways to exploit weaknesses in America's homeland security system.

The porous U.S./Mexico Border, with its millions of illegal and desperate crossers, its ruthless human smugglers, drug runners and fleeing fugitives, remains a glaring security risk.

U.S. Border Patrol Supervisory Agent Mike Hance said that much and more during a recent visit to the Board of Supervisors to urge support for the completion of a 14-mile triple border fence from the San Ysidro Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

Nine miles of the fencing project are complete. A one and half mile stretch on the eastern end needs to be built. Three and a half miles— from the ocean to a point west of Interstate 5— have been stalled by the California Coastal Commission, which claims that the fence is too destructive to the sensitive habitat in the area.

It's absolutely true that the area should be treasured and cared for.

Border Field State Park, which includes much of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Reserve, and the adjacent Tijuana River Valley Regional Park are environmentally significant public lands, home to hundreds of species of

migratory and native birds.

It's not true that the fence will eliminate habitat. And it's certainly not true that the Border Patrol has paid no heed to environmental concerns. On the contrary, the fencing project has been painstakingly engineered to minimize its negative impacts.

Project opponents who continue to view the triple fence as a clash between the environment and national security concerns are making two grave mistakes. First, the minds entrusted with keeping America safe cannot be ignored when they insist that a project is necessary to fight terrorism.

Second, a review of mitigation measures called for in the project's environmental document shows that far from posing a threat to plants and animals, the fence will actually improve ailing lands that, for

“ The triple border fence goes a long way to protect our homeland and its landscape. ”

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



Border Fence.....Page 1
Border Fence/Edgemoor.....Page 2
District Happenings.....Page 3
Get the Journal.....Page 4

Border Fence
Continued on Page 2

Border Fence

Continued from page 2

decades, have been trashed and trampled by illegal crossers who don't stop to consider delicate habitat.

Agent Hance used a color density map to show the Board of Supervisors the areas along the fencing project that have been the most impacted by human foot traffic in recent years. That map said it all.

The unfinished areas of the project, especially on the west end, have been scarred by a constant stream of illegal crossers. Completed portions, however, have experienced an 80 percent drop in apprehensions. Plants and wildlife are bouncing back after years of struggle, and the Border Patrol has been able to replace vehicle access roads with native plants.

Hance was adamant that the 30 seconds it takes to dash from Mexico into the U.S. along the unfinished portions of the fence pose a big security threat to the nation, particularly heavily populated areas of southern San Diego County.

"This would be a prime way to try to bring in somebody who might have a terrorist bent," Hance warned, underscoring the immediate need for a federal waiver in order to complete the project.

Hance was also adamant that his agency has designed the fence with impacts to the environment top of mind. He committed to the County that more than 100 miles of Border Patrol access roads would be swapped out for native plants. He also showed how the project uses protective measures to care for archeological sites in the area.

He disputed the myth that the project would lead to the buildup of silt in the estuary because the materials being used have been proven not to erode. It's no wonder that U.S. Fish and Wildlife has given the project its blessing.

In the end, the Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to support the Border Patrol's plan and the federal waiver to jump-start the stalled project. We backed a triple



Danger Zone: The CIA warns that terrorists may exploit the porous U.S./Mexico Border. Illegal crossings are commonplace in the area west of the San Ysidro Port of Entry shown above.

fence designed to environmental standards that, in the long run, will actually improve the area for plants and animals.

When the commission investigating the 9/11 attacks issued its report detailing the failures of that dark day, it found, "A lack of well-developed counterterrorism measures as a part of border security and an immigration system not able to deliver on its basic commitments." I believe the triple border fence goes a long way to protect our homeland and its landscape.



Breaking Ground on Better Care

The County is building a new home for people with severe disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. The new Edgemoor Hospital will rise north of the old Edgemoor in Santee. That outdated facility that has long struggled with postage stamp-sized patient rooms, disconnected buildings and substandard heating. The 192-bed facility is specially designed to comfort patients, and it will be much less expensive to operate. The County expects to save \$3.5 million a year.

Compassionate Construction: After years of planning, Supervisor Jacob and County officials were the first to start building a new Edgemoor Hospital in Santee.

COMMUNITY ROUND-UP

Bigger Digs for Campo Firefighters

The Campo Fire Department is getting some much-needed elbow room. At my urging, the County is set to lease the department a 1,400 square foot facility adjacent to the community's existing firehouse. The department needs the space to house and train its volunteers.

Rancho San Diego Celebrates Poetry

Get those adjectives ready. The Rancho San Diego Library is hosting a poetry contest open to all County residents. Prizes will be awarded in four categories: Elementary School, Middle School, High School, and Adult. Winners will be announced April 30. For more information call (619) 660-5370.

No more Wishing for a Well up in Julian

Despite its lack of water, Julian's picturesque Jess Martin Park is a community favorite with its cool skateboard area, playground and three ball fields. For years, parents in Julian and I have been trying to bring water to the nine-acre recreational area. At my urging, the County will soon drill a well on County property across the road from Jess Martin. The goal is to get that water flowing soon!



Free Trees for Spring Valley

People and business owners near State Round 125 between Highway 94 and 54 can help beautify roadways in the area by planting shade trees. With one phone call to People For Trees, you can obtain your free shade tree and improve the look of the street near you. People For Trees will dig the hole for you and even help you plant your tree. For a limited time, they can even make cuts into concrete. Contact Patrick Stevenson with People for Trees at (619) 222-8733.



ALL SMILES IN LAKESIDE Neighborhood Healthcare Lakeside is known for providing quality, affordable healthcare. By partnering with the California Endowment, the Grossmont Healthcare District and the County, the group is expanding its services to care for healthy teeth and gums too. The dental center is next to Neighborhood Healthcare Lakeside at 10039. Call (619) 390-9135 to schedule an appointment.

Grinning Left to Right: Kari Cornicelli, Margaret Estrada and Dr. Chris Gist of Neighborhood Healthcare, Supervisor Jacob, Tracy Ream of Neighborhood Healthcare, Steve Eldred and Judy Larson from the California Endowment and Peggy Yamagata from Share the Care.

Coffee and Conversation in Wynola

Join Supervisor Jacob at a friendly coffee to talk about what's on your mind

Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 10 a.m.

Wynola Pizza Express
4355 Highway 78, Wynola

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.

Name _____

Signature _____

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone/e-mail _____

We hope to hear from you soon!

MAR-05

(619)531-5522

The Second District Staff

Geoff Patnoe

Chief of Staff

Caroline Braun

Field Representative

Jeff Collins

Senior Policy Advisor

Erin Farris

Policy Advisor

Darren Gretler

Senior Policy Advisor

Nate Karlsgodt

Field Representative

Donna Sievert

Office Manager & Scheduler

Jennifer Stone

Communications Advisor

Adam Wilson

Policy Advisor

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@sdcounty.ca.gov*

*website:
www.diannejacob.com*