



# The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

October 2006

## Odds Stacked Against Jamul Casino Complex

*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

In glossy advertisements and on pricey billboards, the Jamul Indian Village and its out-of-state financial backers insist that construction of a giant casino complex in tiny Jamul will begin next month. But huge hurdles in the project's way tell a different story.

The all-important gaming compact between the Village and the State of California says that the Village must consider off reservation impacts and make a, "Good faith effort to incorporate the policies... of the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act consistent with the Tribe's governmental Interests."

An environmental study of the casino project made public recently by the Village falls appallingly short of that good faith effort.

Faced with permitting issues from a half dozen regulatory agencies, hampered by two lawsuits pending in federal court and bogged down by questions of fire protection, the casino's luck is running thin. In and outside of Jamul, people are shaking their heads with concern.

### A Long List of Access Problems

The California Department of Transportation has informed the Jamul Indian Village that the only suitable access to the proposed casino site is via Melody Road, a County maintained road just northwest of the proposed casino. Strangely, the Village's environmental study ignores numerous access problems associated with that roadway.

In order to use Melody Road, the Village would need to obtain an encroachment permit from the State and produce an up-to-date traffic study of State Route 94. The Village also would need a grading permit from the County, in addition to producing a traffic study of Melody Road.

These aren't the only lengthy and complicated processes not mentioned in the environmental study.

The land between Melody Road and the casino site is not sovereign and falls under the County's land use jurisdiction. If the Village wants to disturb it, the Village would need permission from the County and a variety of other agencies, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife, State Fish and Game, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the State Water Quality Control Board and others.

Because the land is part of the Otay Ranch Specific Plan, there are restrictions on it. If the Village wants to break from that plan, the

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Village would need a Specific Plan Amendment, a change that doesn't happen overnight.

**Sewage Confusion**

Unfortunately, the environmental study doesn't specifically detail how or where the Village will treat sewage from the casino. But the United States Environmental Protection Agency will need to know and its findings will be reported to the public.

In order to protect the health of those off Village land, the County Department of Environmental Health will need to review the Village's plan too. The Regional Water Quality Control Board may have concerns as well.

**Fire Safety Questions**

The Village may claim that it has secured fire protection services from San Miguel Fire Department, but those services are not finalized.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the two parties but it is non-binding and doesn't include specifics.

The agreement must be reviewed by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a State entity that decides whether agreements such as these are permissible. Notorious for its attention to detail, LAFCO can take months, sometimes years to evaluate an agreement.

**Tied Up in Court**

The Village is facing another hurdle involving a regulatory agency of a higher sort: the federal courts. Several members of the Jamul Indian Village are disputing the Village's acting leadership and ownership of the land. These crucial issues must be settled before a casino is built.

**The Real Deal**

The Jamul Casino proposal is not about creating financial freedom for Village families. The

Village already receives \$1.1 million annually through revenue sharing.

Instead, the proposal is about greed. It's about making money for an out-of-state company that doesn't care about Jamul or its rural way of life.

Blinded by easy money, Village members are proposing to sell out their neighbors and sell their town and that's a shame.

The Village has options. Federal legislation called Casino Consolidation would let the Village partner with an existing casino to avoid destroying the community they claim to love.

Facing permitting hurdles from every level of government, staring down a detailed LAFCO review and lawsuits in federal court, the Jamul Casino is a high stakes gamble that some say amounts to a bluff.

I certainly wouldn't bet on it.

**Questions Surround Powerline Proposal**

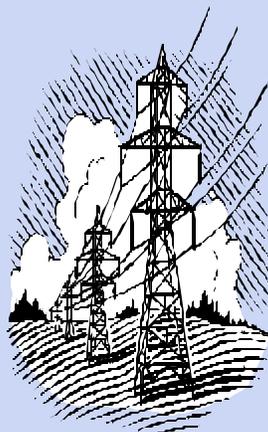
Unprecedented in size and scope, SDG&E's Sunrise transmission line is the single largest energy infrastructure proposal in the history of the region and has generated a mountain of doubt.

SDG&E says the line is needed to carry renewable energy to San Diego homes and businesses, but, the utility's efforts to secure wind, thermal and solar generation haven't been aggressive. Not one project has been permitted by the California Energy Commission and, in most cases, the permitting process has not begun. That process is lengthy and involves many local, State and

Federal agencies.

Supervisor Jacob continues to believe that before SDG&E impacts a pristine state park, destroys property values, ruins beautiful views and invests in expensive imported power, it must examine other options. Experts believe that by re-tooling existing power plants already located in San Diego County, our region will move closer to meeting future energy demand. This effort, coupled with support for solar energy projects and conservation projects are far preferable to the destructive line.

SDG&E is now preparing the project's environmental report and Supervisor Jacob continues to monitor the process.



## Warrior's Farewell

**S**upervisor Jacob, an SDSU alumna, was glad to present a proclamation to Carlos Gutierrez, the original Aztec Warrior mascot who retired late last month.

For more than a decade, Carlos inspired Aztec faithful at football and basketball games, often bringing the crowd to its feet by bounding up and down arena aisles, spirit conch in hand.

With supreme composure, Carlos endured a contentious battle over whether his role as warrior



**Monty and Me:** Supervisor Jacob and Carlos Gutierrez celebrate SDSU.

for SDSU should be phased out or reinstated. During numerous heated debates, Carlos addressed the differing voices of campus community with respect and deference.

Supervisor Jacob wishes Carlos the best of luck in all his new endeavors.

## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



**W**ant a yummy way to help San Diego's military families?

Eat spaghetti! Pernicano's Italian Restaurant in Pacific Beach is hosting a spaghetti dinner to benefit Operation Homefront, the important

organization that supports spouses and children left behind when duty calls for American servicemen and women. Supervisor Jacob is a proud member of Operation Homefront and hopes you'll consider this fun event.



**Spaghetti Dinner for Military Families  
November 11 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
711 Turquoise Street, P.B.**

For ticket information contact (866) 424-5210

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Supervisor Jacob invites you to an informal coffee to share your thoughts and ideas.

**Friday, October 27  
at 8:30 a.m.**

**Barrett Junction  
Café  
Highway 94  
Dulzura**

## Frau Jacob Cheers Oktoberfest



**B**avarian food is great. Bavarian music is fantastic. But it's Bavarian beer that steals the show this time of year.

Supervisor Jacob and hundreds of Oom-Pah-Pah fans soaked up the culture of the German American Society El Cajon Oktoberfest this month. The apple peeling contests and authentic clothing make this event a family affair.

She also stopped by the always boisterous La Mesa Oktoberfest sponsored by the East San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce and the La Mesa Village Merchants Association.

Our local events may draw fewer people than the 6 million who flock to Germany every October, but it's hard to say which country has more fun!



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We hope to hear from you soon!

Oct. 06

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