



# The Jacob Journal

Happy New Year from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

January 2007

## Reflecting on Jacob's Greatest Hits of 2006

### Year in Review Features Fire Protection, Public Safety Taking Top Billing

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

Like a lot of folks at the start of the new year, Supervisor Jacob paused to take stock of the past 365 days. Jacob celebrated long-sought improvements to the region's fire and emergency system in 2006 and scored big victories for public health and safety. Community character was a winner too. Jacob hopes this look back at accomplishments will prepare you for another year of progress!

### Improving Fire Protection and Emergency Services

Weeks ago, San Diego was named one of only six regions in the nation to earn top marks from the Department of Homeland Security for its ability to communicate during disasters.

Thanks to sweeping changes made in the wake of the 2003 Cedar Fire, the region is far better prepared for disasters than it was during that awful time. The consolidation of the region's scattered and underfunded fire districts moved forward in 2006 and a key report detailing financial challenges is due out this spring.

Other improvements were put to the test in August of last year when the Horse Fire

scorched a big swath of our Backcountry. All systems made the grade. Two County-owned firefighting helicopters took to the skies while the Regional Communication System (RCS) functioned markedly better after a \$22 million upgrade by the County.

The improved Emergency Operations Center earned its stripes putting an army of disaster officials in one place, as the new Reverse 9-1-1 phone system successfully dialed homes in harm's way.



**Nerve Center:** 2006 saw the unveiling of a thoroughly upgraded Emergency Operations Center for major disasters.

Backcountry fire districts had more personnel and equipment on the fire lines thanks to \$8.5 million from the County. An agreement between the military and CDF allowed military resources to help the fight. A new website, [www.sdemergency.com](http://www.sdemergency.com), sped

the flow of information to media by posting information in real time.

### Alvarado Hospital Stays Open

Last summer, Alvarado's owners, Tenet Healthcare, announced plans to sell or close the facility under terms of a legal settlement reached with federal prosecutors.

Patients and employees were on edge. One of only two hospitals in East County, Alvarado serves more than 900,000 people.

Jacob moved quickly to protect public health. She asked Tenet executives to sell, not close, the hospital. She also asked Tenet to condition the sale so that the facility would



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**Year in Review**

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remain an acute care facility with an emergency room.

Tenet was noncommittal at first, but a press conference right outside the hospital applied needed pressure. In the end, the company did the right thing, selling to two physicians who are committed to putting patients ahead of profits.

**Jessica's Law Approved**

California's pathetic sex offender laws got a lot of publicity in 2006. The media clued into what SD County has been complaining about for years: State laws are too weak.

The public had enough of policies that favored offenders over victims. Jessica's Law was its answer and passed with flying colors.

The initiative accomplishes much of what the County has badgered the State to change: bar registered sex offenders from schools and daycare centers, use GPS tracking, and exclude sex offenders from prison programs that reward inmates for "good behavior."

**Unincorporated Area Gains Permanent Seat at SANDAG**

Unincorporated communities finally have guaranteed representation on the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the agency that oversees regional transportation planning. Acting on a proposal begun by Jacob, the Governor

signed legislation giving the unincorporated area a permanent seat at SANDAG.

Previously, the County had one seat on the 20-member body. Traditionally, the County appoints its chairperson to the SANDAG



**Good Sign:** With Jacob's help, our County collected more signatures for Jessica's Law than any other county.

board, a position that rotates each year among five supervisors. Communities were often left without representation because only two districts

contain unincorporated area.

**New Fields of Dreams**

Since 1999, Jacob has helped build or improve more than 116 ballfields in her district. In 2006, three major projects took big leaps forward.

The revitalization of Monterey Heights Park, home of the Lemon Grove Little League, was a testament to community teamwork. Thanks to Jacob, the Lemon Grove Little League, the San Diego Padres and the City of Lemon Grove, a rundown ballpark has been transformed into a true community gem.

In Lakeside, where the little league now plays on run down fields, a world class sports park is on the horizon. At Jacob's urging the County has acquired needed land for the project and funding is falling into place. One day, the park will attract national tournaments and be a source of

pride for Lakeside.

Last year, young athletes at El Capitan High School put the high tech turf of their football field to good use. This year, a new track was the star of the school. Jacob, the County and the Barona Band of Mission Indians joined forces to install the all weather track. Coaches say it will help the school host numerous tournaments.

**Forcing Alternatives to the Sunrise Powerlink**

SDG&E's Sunrise transmission line is the largest energy infrastructure proposal in the history of the region.

SDG&E says the line is needed to carry renewable energy to homes and businesses. Yet, the utility's efforts to secure green power have not been successful. Not one project has been permitted by the California Energy Commission. In most cases, the permitting process has not even begun.

Before SDG&E destroys property values and invests in expensive imported power, it must examine other options.

Twice in 2006, Jacob appeared at public hearings to speak against the project. Experts believe that by re-tooling existing "in basin" power plants, our region can meet future energy demand. Conservation projects like the Governor's Million Solar Roofs program are far preferable to this costly and destructive line.

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**Repeat DUI Offenders**

**M**ore than one-quarter of people arrested for DUI in our County have prior arrests.

Determined to stop individuals who get drunk and take to our roadways again and again, Jacob found a new piece of technology for drinkers who won't put down the car keys: alcohol detecting ankle bracelets.

Strapped around the ankles of repeat offenders, the bracelets work round-the-clock to alert law enforcement to alcohol in an offender's system. Offenders can be intercepted before they injure or kill. Typically repeat offenders are prohibited from drinking alcohol as a condition of being placed on probation, rather than go to jail.

**Stopping the Jamul Casino**

**A** billboard in Jamul might claim a casino in Jamul is a done deal, but Jacob thinks the tribe may be bluffing.

A final draft of the project's environmental report is out and still fails to resolve concerns raised by the County and the community. Two lawsuits are still pending in federal court as several of the Village's own members dispute ownership of the land.

The *San Diego Daily Transcript* uncovered another problem. The casino is being

bankrolled by a company called Lakes Entertainment. According to the paper, the company did not disclose the federal lawsuits in its annual financial reports.

Financial experts claim Lakes may have broken laws by excluding information. The casino's luck may be running short.

**Tackling Welfare Fraud**

**L**ast year brought to Jacob's attention an eye-opening investigation into welfare fraud. The District Attorney examined a number of welfare cases for potential fraud and boy, did she find it.

She found fraud in more than half of the cases. Welfare cheats were scamming the system for their own personal gain. Some made up fake employers and exaggerated work hours to qualify for taxpayer subsidized child care. Some split the subsidy with relatives who claimed to be caring for kids when, in fact, there were no kids. The price tag:

\$450,000!

At Jacob's request, the County is asking the State to stop payments to those involved in fraud. Currently, payments can't be stopped. Jacob also wants the state to fund additional

investigations into child-care subsidy scams.

**Taking on Identity Theft**

**F**aced with statistics showing a surge in identity theft in the region, Jacob spent 2006 working to

keep personal information collected by County departments from falling into the hands of hackers and thieves.

Jacob, the District Attorney and Supervisor Greg Cox initiated a risk assessment plan which will help departments identify any vulnerabilities to identity theft.

Departments are reviewing all procedures for storing and destroying personal information. The assessment will be made public this winter.

In 2004, there were more than 1,500 reported cases of identity theft in the county. That's four victims every day! 1,125 were connected to the meth trade.

**Supporting the Chargers**

**E**arly 2006 ushered in fears of the Chargers shopping for a new home.

It would be a crying shame if this region were to lose the Chargers. The team gives us more than just a good show on Sunday. The Chargers are an economic asset in terms of jobs, tourism and public revenues from parking and concessions. They're also a source of civic pride. If we lose the team, we lose a part of our regional identity.

Knowing this, Jacob, along with Supervisor Ron Roberts initiated the Chargers subcommittee to find ways to keep the team in town and assist in finding a spot for a new stadium.

The County has top-notch consultants with proven NFL experience on the case. We can't sit on the sidelines and hope. We have to try.



**A Diamond:** The successful rehabilitation of Monterey Heights Parks was a real hit.

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Jan. 07

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