



# The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

July/August 2007

## Tales from Supervisor Jacob's Mailbag

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

**E**ach week, Supervisor Jacob receives hundreds of letters by mail and e-mail. It's time once again to take a peek at a sampling of letters. From retiree healthcare to crematoriums, letter topics are as diverse as the district she represents. Here are some excerpts from letters received in the last few months along with updates and responses.



Dianne Jacob:

The five years prior to my retirement [from the County] in 1998, I had not received a raise. Many of us older and sick retirees are wondering how we are going to pay for health benefits if we are unable to work. We did not receive any "enhanced retirement benefits." Future retirees will know they have to pay for their healthcare so they can plan for it.

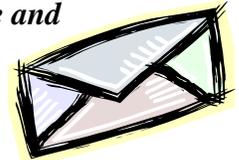
Constituent  
El Cajon

**Editor's Note:**

*A December 2006 vote by the Board of Supervisors, which recommended that the County's independent retirement board end non-guaranteed healthcare subsidies to so-called "Tier A" retirees, prompted many letters like the one above. The Supervisors' proposal was designed to tackle mounting retiree healthcare debt which threatened to compromise guaranteed pension benefits as well as the County's good credit rating.*

*The proposal targeted Tier A retirees— those who received generous benefit enhancements in 2002— not older and more vulnerable retirees such as the letter writer.*

*Many believe that the Supervisors' proposal forced the retirement board to address its long-ignored problem of costly retiree healthcare and more appropriately fund the pension system. In the end, taxpayers will save \$1.8 billion and healthcare benefits for about 7,000 retirees will be preserved.*



Supervisor Jacob:

Why don't we focus our attention on an issue such as Highway 67? It seems that people die on that highway every month and if not dying there, they are being severely injured. My fiancé and I have family that live in Ramona who make the dangerous drive each and every day. We make the trip up the 67 from Scripps Ranch many times.

Constituent  
San Diego

**Dear Constituent:**

*Since the County does not have authority over improvements or funding associated with State Route 67, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to Pedro Orso-Delgado, director of District 11 CalTrans.*

**Editor's note:**

*A steady stream of letters regarding the safety of State Route 67 recently prompted*

	Mailbag.....Page 1
	Mailbag.....Page 2
	Making a Splash.....Page 3
	Get the Journal.....Page 4

**Mailbag**

Continued from Page 1

**Supervisor Jacob to, yet again, call on the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to fund improvements for the deadly road. Portions of her formal request follow:**

**Dear SANDAG Executive Director:**

**The delay of improvements to State Route 67 has long been a source of frustration for those who live in and around communities served by this route. I hosted a transportation summit in Ramona and the overwhelming concern I heard from the community was the need for improvements to SR 67. The level of service of State Route 67 should be of great concern to SANDAG. I request that the project be given top priority in the Regional Transportation Plan.**

**Sincerely,  
Dianne Jacob**

To: Dianne Jacob  
Subject: Backcountry Meeting

We think that these meetings are certainly subject to the provisions of the Brown Act and we think it is outrageous that the public's comments can be censored based on whether a developer has a project in process.

Name withheld  
Sent via e-mail

**Editor's Note: The above letter is one of many Supervisor Jacob received regarding a proposal to**

**build a military and law enforcement training facility in Potrero. Many writers urged the Supervisor to**

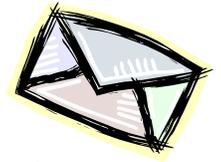


**take a position on the facility, something she legally can't do until the project's final hearing before the Board of Supervisors. When members of a group of citizens arrived at a community revitalization meeting in Campo and wanted to discuss the training facility, Supervisor Jacob had to decline because of rules governing the County's land use process. She asked top County attorney, John Sansone for a legal opinion that would better explain those rules. Portions of Mr. Sansone's letter follow:**

**A local public agency governed by the Brown Act must be "created by statute or Constitution." The informal gathering does not meet this requirement. The fact that Supervisor Jacob attends the meetings does not make them subject to the Brown Act. While the Board of Supervisors itself is a legislative body of the County, one Supervisor does not comprise a quorum of the Board. Therefore, the Brown Act does not apply.**

**You also inquired about the source of the limitation on a County Supervisor's interactions when an application is pending. Section 375.11 of the County's Administrative Code provides: "No member of a decision-making body shall, after an application necessitating a hearing has been filed with the**

**County, discuss said matter with other members of a decision-making body or with proponents, opponents, or other interested parties, except in the course of and during said public hearing."**



**John Sansone,  
County Counsel**

Hello Dianne,

Has there been any serious work done to get the proposed cremation facility in Spring Valley moved to Otay Mesa? I imagine that even after rezoning, there will still be appropriate sites down there.

Name withheld  
Sent via e-mail

**Dear Constituent:**

**Any desire to move the proposal is up to the individual property owner. The owner still must obtain approval from the Air Pollution Control District before any building permit would be issued. The process is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act and a full environmental review would take place before a decision.**

Dear Supervisor Jacob:

I am preparing a request from St. Madeline Sophie's Center to the U.S. Department of Education seeking funds for their unique arts program and gallery

**Mailbag**

**Continued on page 3**

Mailbag

Continued from page 2

in El Cajon's Rea Avenue Arts District. The focus of the grant is recreational activities for persons with disabilities that take place with members of the general community. If you are willing to support us with a letter, we would pick it up from your office. Thank you for all that you have done for St. Madeleine's!

Nichole Keith  
Development Consultant

Dear Grant Review Committee:

*I am well aware of the services St. Madeleine Sophie's Center provide. Their Open Studio program provides opportunities for adults with disabilities to be out in the community, enjoying the shared experience of creating original works of art. Sophie's Gallery plays a pivotal role in the economic health of the Downtown District and serves as a creative and entrepreneurial social service provider. Thank you for your consideration.*

Sincerely,  
Dianne Jacob

Dear Ms. Jacob,

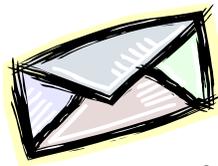
The idea of a jail in the center of a community next to an elementary school and family homes is nuts! Expanding that same jail is outrageous. Granted, the jail was there many years before Santee Town Center, but it should never have been placed in the center of

town in the first place. Jails need to be in less populated areas. Santee has been the dumping ground for the county whether it be the landfill, Edgemoor or the jail. An expanded jail may be needed, but not in the heart of a community. I hope you'll work to find a more appropriate location for a jail. Thank you.

Name withheld  
Sent via e-mail

Dear Constituent:

*The process for the proposed replacement or expansion of Las Colinas is at a very early stage. There will be ample opportunity for additional public comments during the Environmental Impact Report process which will take approximately 18-24 months. I encourage you to continue to provide your input. I pride myself on having all of the facts on an issue before reaching a decision. It is important to me to continue to receive valuable input from residents, as well as review all options available. I applaud the City of Santee for commissioning an independent consultant to study the fiscal impacts and alternatives. I will consider the report as well as all other information and options before making a decision.*



## Updated Aquatic Facility Makes a Big Splash

After 26 years of use, the aquatic center at El Capital High School needed more than a little TLC.

A new pool deck was in order, along with new drains, paint, pool plaster and a host of other changes. Supervisor Jacob was glad to partner with the Grossmont Union High School District and other parties to make the new center a reality. She helped secure \$100,000 in County funding for the project.

Last month, she joined with district officials and young swimmers to celebrate with a poolside ribbon cutting.



### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Got any ideas to make Alpine a better place to live, work and play? Supervisor Jacob invites you to an informal community coffee to share your thoughts.

**September 14 at 8:30 a.m.**  
**The Bread Basket**  
**1347 Tavern Road, Alpine**

# 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).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

We hope to hear from you soon!

Jul-Aug 07

(619)531-5522

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**DIANNE JACOB**