



# THE JACOB JOURNAL

A Newsletter from Chairwoman Dianne Jacob

March 2009

## County using innovation, discipline to weather tough budget year

2009 State of the County Address Focuses on County's Economic Challenges

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Viejas

San Diego County filed a lawsuit to keep the State of the California from withholding aid payments to foster families and the poorest San Diegans, a move first announced by Chairwoman Dianne Jacob in her State of the County address last month.

The lawsuit, which called on the State Controller to release previously appropriated dollars, is one of several ways County government is coping with what Chairwoman Jacob called a "financial triple whammy" barring down on the County.

"Stock market losses and a decline in local revenues like property and sales taxes are adding to the County's financial challenges," Jacob said.

"The good news is County government is in a far better position than most to navigate rough waters," Jacob told the overflow crowd at the Communications Arts Center at

Cuyamaca College in El Cajon.

She said the County would use strict fiscal discipline, technology and innovation to continue to provide as many services as possible.



Packed House: An overflow crowd attended Chairwoman Jacob's 2009 Address at the Communications Arts Center at Cuyamaca College.

Jacob warned that current pension benefits for employees are not sustainable and cautioned that the County must consider returning to a two-tiered system, calling on employees to shoulder more of their contributions to the retirement fund and increasing the retirement age, among

other options.

"I believe our employees and our labor unions understand the gravity of our economic situation. A government that cannot stay afloat helps no one. There are really only two choices here: pick up an oar and row, or watch as we take on water," Jacob said during the 30 minute address which included more than ten rounds of applause.

Jacob said health and human services programs would be the hardest hit by State budget cuts and said she



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**Ready for the Challenge:** Chairwoman Jacob says County government must make tough, unpopular decisions to survive the economic crisis.

would ask her colleagues to consider outsourcing certain programs.

“We already know that, in some situations, the private and non-profit sectors can perform services cheaper than government without compromising quality. This may be the only way to keep some programs alive,” she said cautioning that County government will change dramatically in the year ahead.

“We will be a smaller government providing fewer services,” she said.

In addition to addressing budget problems, Jacob said the County would step up water conservation efforts and promote the use of solar energy.

She called on local governments to join the County to mandate water-wise and fire-wise landscaping on all new development.

Among other measures, she said the County was seeking State legislation to require utilities to

buy back residential surplus solar energy at a fair market price. Currently, if solar customers generate more solar energy than they use, any surplus goes to San Diego Gas and Electric, not the homeowner.

Jacob praised District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis and Sheriff Bill Kolender for keeping the region’s crime rate low. She said she was working with regional gang experts to partner with the faith-based community and community service organizations to reach the children of gang members during gang sweeps and operations.

She also said she would continue to work with regional firefighting experts to ensure that the region is the best prepared that it can be for wildfire. Despite the tight budget conditions, Jacob said she would ask her colleagues to fund a sweeping review of the region’s fire and emergency services network.

“This will tell us what’s working and what needs to change. Some believe we can’t fix the \$450 million dollar system without a new tax. I say we should realize efficiencies first, particularly when it comes to dispatch and training,” she said.

The morning after her address, Jacob and three Board colleagues flew to Sacramento to join other counties to pressure State legislators into preserving direct aid benefits to foster families and poor San Diego families, including more than 63,000 children.

The 2009 State of the County Address was sponsored by Cox Communications, NRG West, EDCO, Allied Waste, Cuyamaca College and AT&T.

The invocation was given by Dr. Jim Garlow from Skyline Wesleyan Church. Julia Spurgeon, a fifth grader at Jamul Primary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was performed by Grammy-winning guitarist Wayne Johnson, a clinician at Taylor Guitars of El Cajon. Chief Augie Ghio of the San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District introduced the Chairwoman.

Read the text of the 2009 State of the County Address at [www.diannejacob.com](http://www.diannejacob.com). Click on “Press Box.”

Watch the State of the County Address on the County website at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov).

## Lakeside Baseball Park Scores with Fans

Spring arrived early in Lakeside as Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and officials from the County of San Diego recently unveiled the new Lakeside Baseball Park, a state-of-the-art baseball complex situated on 10-acres of land along the banks of the San Diego River.

Chairwoman Jacob and officials and players from the Lakeside National Little League threw out the ceremonial first pitch as a happy crowd of young ballplayers and their families joined in a chorus of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" sung by County Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard.

"It's been a seven year journey to build this gem of a ballpark for Lakeside kids," Chairwoman Jacob told the crowd. "Yet, the success stories that will come from these special fields will last for generations," she said.

The new field features classic ballpark amenities and boasts four artificial turf fields, premier stadium lighting, two batting cages, a playground and concession building. Team members from the Lakeside National Little League contributed to the overall design of the project.

"This is so much more than a ballpark," Chairwoman Jacob said. "It's a source of pride for the people of Lakeside and we hope it'll bring economic benefits. Already, the park is attracting national tournaments. We want those visitors to shop, eat and play in Lakeside."

Chairwoman Jacob credited the league and a long list of Lakeside community groups for seeing the project through to reality. She thanked the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, the Lakeside Planning Group, the Lakeside Design Review Board, the Lakeside River Conservancy, the Lakeside Revitalization Committee and others.

The facility's price tag was \$8.5 million and does not include the purchase of the land. It was funded through state bonds, the County general fund and Second District Community Projects funds. The Lakeside National Little League will manage and operate the park.

For more information, please visit [www.sdparcs.org](http://www.sdparcs.org).



**Home Team:** Chairwoman Jacob and Lakeside National Little League President Troy Kuenne join County officials to cut the ribbon on the new Lakeside Baseball Park.



### Coffee With Constituents



Got ideas to make Lakeside a better place to live? Join Chairwoman Jacob for an informal community coffee and share your thoughts!

**Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Mario's Italian Restaurant**  
**12440 Woodside Ave., Lakeside**



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