



THE JACOB JOURNAL

A Newsletter from Chairwoman Dianne Jacob

May 2009

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



New County Operations Center Now Under Construction

Infrastructure project is among County's largest ever

San Diego County government knows that the only thing more expensive than replacing aging public infrastructure—especially critical facilities used during emergencies—is *not* replacing it.

Unlike other governments, the County's strict fiscal discipline allows us to replace and repair our aging facilities, which saves precious taxpayer dollars in the long run. This prudent philosophy is being put into action with the new County Operations Center; a campus of public buildings designed to be kind to the environment, accessible to the public and more functional for the wide array of services the County provides.



Builders: The Board gets the job started.

The estimated \$500 million project will rise in three distinct phases in the footprint of the current operations center, an outdated cluster of inefficient buildings located in

Ops Center
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Keeping Tabs on the H1N1 Virus

Nervous parents, cautious doctors and a media frenzy; San Diegans stay informed without losing perspective.

The good news about the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, is that it appears to be no more severe than the common flu.

The bad news is there's a lot the medical community doesn't know about the new strain. Because influenza tends to be unpredictable, health experts say its best to err on the side of caution.

That's why the County is heading direction from the Centers for Disease Control and actively tracking cases.

Chairwoman Jacob is grateful to San Diegans for keeping their composure and helping the region deal with the inconvenience of the bug. She especially appreciates the outstanding cooperation from the region's educational community.



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*For up-to-the-minute H1N1 information, visit the County website:
www.sdcounty.ca.gov.
To talk to live person, call 2-1-1.*

Operations Center
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Economic Boost: In the years ahead, the campus will put more than 3,500 San Diegans to work and fuel the local economy.

Kearny Mesa. The \$188.5 million first phase includes two 150,000 square-foot office buildings, a 1,700-space parking garage and utilities plant.

With plans for energy-efficient roofing and windows, drought tolerant landscaping and work stations that take advantage of abundant natural light, the County hopes the project will achieve at

least a LEED Silver rating from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The first phase of construction is taking place without the help of the federal stimulus package and in the years ahead the project is expected to put

more than 3,500 San Diegans to work. Chairwoman Jacob is optimistic that the project will pump dollars into the local economy.

The County began to explore the feasibility of its new campus in 2005 when a study determined that maintenance costs for the existing complex would top \$216 million over the next 20 years.

By rebuilding instead of retrofitting, the County plans to achieve additional cost savings by doing away with expensive leased space and consolidating services now scattered in separate locations. In the end, customers will find a greener and easier to access “one-stop-shop” for County services.

The first phase is expected to be completed in the fall of 2010 with employee move-in scheduled for the winter of 2010.

The project’s master developer is Lowe Enterprises Real Estate Group-West, Inc. Other partners include ROEL Construction, RJC Architects and Project Management Advisors, Inc.

You can learn more about this exciting County project at www.lowecoc.com

County’s Energy Innovations Take Top Honors



Positive Energy: Chairwoman Jacob and the County Energy Team celebrate the big win.

From a re-circulating water filtration system that zaps harmful bacteria at an aquatic playground to the solar panels on the new Edgemoor Hospital, innovative energy-saving projects helped the County earn the coveted organizational achievement award at the San Diego Excellence in Energy Awards hosted by the California Center for Sustainable Energy. The judges singled out three sustainable County projects that are helping the environment and saving money. The SANDEE Awards recognize activities that result in significant savings through energy efficiency and conservation measures.

- El Cajon’s Hilton Head Park where the filtration system uses ultraviolet disinfection as it recycles the water.
- Replacing gas-fired heating at the Health Services Complex on Rosecrans with ultra-efficient chillers.
- The solar panels and energy efficient technology at the new Edgemoor Skilled Nursing Facility.

Savings: \$9,217 annually

Savings: \$220,000 annually

Savings: \$207,000 annually

THE PROGRESS REPORT: *Updates on important initiatives unveiled at the 2009 State of the County Address*

Ignition Interlocks:

About 9,000 San Diegans get arrested for DUI every year. Of those 9,000, one-third have already been convicted of one or more DUIs. That's 3,000 people who didn't learn the first time how to put down the car keys after they've picked up a few beers.

For these 3,000 reckless individuals, the County wants to put a special device on their cars. It's called an ignition interlock. If a repeat offender tries to take to the road, they must blow into the device. The car won't start if the driver has been drinking. Thanks to Assembly Bill 91, the County may soon become one of four pilot counties to put the devices into wider use.



Support Services program started out with a noble goal: keep patients out of expensive facilities and in their homes.

The program should be saving the state money. Instead it's putting lives at risk. Timecards are turned in on the honor system; there's no way to validate actual hours. Background checks should be mandatory; they're not.

The price tag is now \$260 million in San Diego alone and could easily double over the next eight years if its growth remains the same. The County is formally on record with the State calling for an overhaul of the program!

Fire Deployment Study:

Chairwoman Jacob heard voters loud and clear last November when 63 percent of the region said it wanted to invest in better fire protection. She pledged to conduct a sweeping review of the existing system— also known as a deployment study.

Last month, the County set aside \$300,000 for this important study to tell us what's working and what needs to change. Some say

we can't fix the \$450 million system without a new tax. Chairwoman Jacob says the region should realize efficiencies first, particularly when it comes to dispatch and training. The study will be a blueprint for a safer, more prepared future with regard to fire.



A Fair Price for Surplus Solar

More San Diegans should be taking advantage of State incentives and powering their homes with clean energy from the sun. Right now, there's a kink in the system. If a homeowner generates more solar energy than he or she uses, the excess is carried forward on the customer's bill for 12 months. Any yearly surplus goes to the utility. However, if the utility were to buy back that surplus energy at a fair market price, the customer would get back more of a return on their investment. The County is backing State Legislation to do just that. Assembly Bill 920 encourages more homeowners to go solar!

In-Home Care Reform:

Of the thousands of programs that the State mandates the County to perform, one stands above all others when it comes to out-of-control spending and the potential for fraud. The In-home

Coffee with Constituents

Got an idea to make Ramona a better place to live? Have concerns about traffic or crime? Please join Chairwoman Jacob for an informal coffee and share what's on you mind!



May 28, 2009 at 8:30 AM

Guy B. Woodward Museum, 645 Main Street, Ramona

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May 09

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