



# THE JACOB JOURNAL

A Newsletter from Chairwoman Dianne Jacob

July 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

## County Opposes SDG&E's High Wind Shut-off Plan

*Jacob says utility's flawed plan is misguided and dangerous attempt to shift liability onto taxpayers*

It was a packed house at the County Administration Center late last month when rural water districts, the San Diego County Office of Education, telecommunications companies and residents cheered as the Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 to oppose San Diego Gas and Electric's controversial high wind shut-off plan.

Chairwoman Jacob, along with Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, brought the matter before the Board and encouraged their colleagues to take a strong position against the proposal, which calls for shutting off power to some 60,000 mostly rural homes during high winds.

SDG&E first approached Chairwoman Jacob about the controversial proposal more than a year ago. She was skeptical but not entirely dismissive. The concept is radical and unprecedented, but fire is an especially deadly force.

Chairwoman Jacob issued SDG&E this challenge: if SDG&E could convince stakeholders that the shutoff plan was the right thing to do, she wouldn't oppose it.

One year later, however, nearly all key stakeholders are vehemently against the plan, including vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and two safety divisions within the California Public Utilities Commission, the State regulatory agency that will ultimately decide the plan's fate.

Opposition groups have offered clear and convincing evidence that the plan is not worth the gamble. Its risks to

## Coordination is Key to Fight Fire from the Air



When fierce Santa Ana winds rip through the backcountry, they blow across federal, state, local and private lands. As the region learned in 2003 and 2007, it takes a coordinated attack with all agencies at-the-ready to halt such fast-moving flames.

This is true on the ground, but it's especially true during a daring air campaign when the potential for a mid-air collision is extremely high.

That's why Chairwoman Jacob was glad to help kick off a multi-agency safety summit at Cal Fire's Air Attack Base in Ramona several weeks ago.

Pilots from the Sheriff's Department, Cal Fire, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Forest Service, the City of San Diego— even pilots from the

Wind Plan  
See Page 2



Wind Plan.....	Page 1
Wind Plan/Air Safety.....	Page 2
100 Years Young.....	Page 3
District Happenings.....	Page 3
Get the Journal.....	Page 4

Air Safety  
See Page 2

# Makeover on Main Street

*Julian celebrates removal of power poles and lines*

The recipe to bury the utility poles that once lined Main Street in Julian began taking form more than a quarter century ago.

Some said the idea was pie-in-the-sky, but the County and community groups, working with local utility and cable companies have turned the skies above Julian into a bigger slice of heaven.

Today, about a dozen old-fashioned light fixtures stand in place of the 40 wooden poles that once flanked the gold rush town's favorite street. Finally, the jutting array of overhead wires are underground for good!

The County Department of Public Works took the lead in

coordinating the project with the utility companies while Chairwoman Jacob was thrilled to work alongside Julian's community leaders to enhance the historic look of the picturesque mountain town.

On any given weekend, visitors from Southern California and the world over flock to Julian for its apple cider, quaint shops and famous apple pies.

Congratulations to Julian and its partners for a job well done!



**Before and**

**After:** Visitors to Julian will be pleasantly surprised by improvements along the town's historic commercial district.

**Air Safety**

Continued from Page 1

local news media— sat at the same

table to chart a course for a safe, coordinated attack during the next big fire. Safety and coordination are two sides of the very same coin: where there is coordination, there is safety and where there is safety, there is coordination.

Chairwoman Jacob thanks Cal Fire for taking bringing the crowd of pilots together. She commends participating agencies for working cooperatively to better prepare for the months ahead.



**Wind Plan**

Continued from Page 1

to life and property are far greater with the power off than the power on.

Here's a possible scenario: SDG&E cuts power. A fire breaks out. The fire is not caused by a power line; it's caused by a tossed cigarette or a lost hunter. It's night. Try evacuating in the darkness. Your electronic garage door won't work. You smell smoke. You have no TV, radio or Reverse 911. Your family can't reach you because cell sites need electricity. Now, imagine you're a senior on a breathing device or a young, scared child.

It's no wonder the County's Office of Emergency Services is opposed to entering into an agreement with SDG&E on the shutoff plan. OES recognizes the problems associated with that action. Taxpayers would be on the hook for the flood of lawsuits that would ensue if the plan is approved!

Instead of a risky plan that would jeopardize lives and property, Chairwoman Jacob is urging the utility to focus on proven measures that will prevent fire: underground lines in high-risk fire areas, wider spacing between poles to prevent arching, stepped up maintenance scheduled, improved vegetation management near lines and swapping wooden poles with steel poles.

## Around the District



# Hero Finn Celebrates Century Mark

**P**earl Harbor hero and East County legend John Finn will add another accomplishment to his extraordinary legacy this month. The oldest living Medal of Honor recipient turns 100 years young on July 23.

Finn was a chief petty officer in his early 30s when bombs fell on the U.S. Navy base in Hawaii that fateful day in 1941. Wounded five times, he refused to leave his position and continued firing his machine gun at Japanese planes. His bravery inspired fellow soldiers to return to their guns and stand their ground.

More than 500 people flocked to the La Posta Diner last month to wish Finn early birthday cheers. He received numerous commendations, ceremonial flags

**Honorable:** In honor of Pine Valley resident John Finn's distinguished military service, Chairwoman Jacob proclaims a day in his honor throughout the region.

and hugs and handshakes from the masses. Chairwoman Jacob was honored to proclaim the day John Finn day throughout the region and is grateful for the service of this cherished constituent.

## Cool Zones are Open!

**J**ust in time for summer, Chairwoman Jacob and the County officially opened more than 100 air-conditioned Cool Zones throughout the region. Cool Zones are designed to help residents, especially seniors, beat the heat, meet new friends and cut down on home energy bills.



Happy to open the first summer Cool Zone.

**Call 1-800-510-2020 for Cool Zone near you.**

## County Tackles Illegal Dispensaries

**A**ccording to top State law enforcement officials, for-profit medical marijuana dispensaries are illegal in California. Cooperatives and collectives registered with the State, however, are not. As more dispensaries pop up around the region, the County wants to make sure unincorporated area residents are protected from unlicensed and illegal businesses. That's why the County is crafting an ordinance to make absolutely certain illegal dispensaries are outlawed in areas that fall under the County's land use authority.

## Eye on Federal Stimulus Funding

A new website lets you track how millions of federal stimulus dollars are being used by the County. The site provides the public with transparency and accountability required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a \$787-billion stimulus package approved by Congress and signed into law by the president last February.



**[www.recoverysdcounty.org](http://www.recoverysdcounty.org)**

# 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 09

(619)531-5522

The Second District Staff

**Jeff Collins**

*Chief of Staff*

**Caroline Braun**

*Senior Field Representative  
Policy Advisor*

**Natalie Clark**

*Policy Advisor*

**Marilu Glassman**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Tale Halse**

*Policy Advisor*

**Alice Re**

*Office Manager & Scheduler*

**Robert Spanbauer**

*Policy Advisor*

**Jennifer Stone**

*Communications Advisor*

**Adam Wilson**

*Land Use Advisor*

## **DIANNE JACOB**

*Supervisor, Second District  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101*

*(619) 531-5522*

*(800) 852-7322 toll free*

*(619) 696-7253 fax*

*e-mail:*

*Dianne.Jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov*

*website:*

*[www.diannejacob.com](http://www.diannejacob.com)*