



# THE JACOB JOURNAL

A Newsletter from Chairwoman Dianne Jacob

Fall 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

## No Need to Revisit SDG&E Shutoff Plan

*Regulators point to new “recloser” policy as effective, less intrusive fire prevention measure*

State regulators with the California Public Utilities Commission did more than simply reject San Diego Gas and Electric’s proposal to cut power to rural areas during high winds. CPUC officials identified SDG&E’s new “recloser” policy as an effective way to prevent wildfire without stranding 60,000 homes and businesses without water or access to evacuation instructions during high winds.

Reclosers are switches along power lines that work like circuit breakers in your home. Until recently, the switches were programmed to power up automatically if a falling branch or high winds disturbed wires. Now, however, many reclosers in high-fire areas have been programmed to work manually.

If a line experiences trouble, the juice won’t flow again until an inspector can view the area in person and give the all-clear. The new policy cuts down on the risk of dangerous sparks that can result when large amounts of electrons are sent down a line.

By SDG&E’s own admission, the new policy would have prevented the devastating Witch Fire in October 2007 had it been in place. Dig a little deeper into the history of the recloser policy and several troubling facts emerge. Well before the 2007 firestorms, SDG&E knew its automatic reclosers posed a dangerous fire risk. Unlike another utility,



**See the Light:** Chairwoman Jacob joined the Center for Sustainable Energy recently to promote solar.

## Rays of Hope for Affordable Rooftop Solar

Owners of home solar and wind energy systems that generate extra kilowatts can soon turn those surplus electrons into compensation thanks to new legislation signed by the Governor.

Assembly Bill 920, which earned strong backing from the County of San Diego, requires electric utilities to pay solar and wind customers for surplus power those customers produce.

In the past, for systems up to one megawatt, any surplus power was carried forward on the customer’s bill for 12 months. The yearly excess went to the region’s utility, that would then sell it for profit.

Chairwoman Jacob believes that solar and wind customers deserve the return

**Solar**  
See Page 2

**Reclosers**  
See Page 2

	<b>Reclosers.....Page 1</b>
	<b>Reclosers/Solar.....Page 2</b>
	<b>Ramona Library.....Page 3</b>
	<b>District Happenings.....Page 3</b>
	<b>Get the Journal.....Page 4</b>

## Good Things are Growing at East County Parks

From the fragrant pine trees of Alpine to the sun-bleached desert of Vallecito, the County operates a bounty of scenic parks and majestic open space areas just waiting to be explored.

Thanks to sound budgeting practices, the County can afford to invest in park projects that make outdoor experiences enjoyable and cost-effective for your family.

Here is a small sample of the many exciting parks projects the County will be working on in the year ahead. New trails, walkways, and shade structures are on tap!

• **El Monte Staging Area and Trail:** A trail connecting Blossom

Valley to El Monte Park and the San Diego River, with a staging area at El Monte Park. Coming: Spring 2010.

• **Camp Community Center Playground:**

Design and construction of a playground facility at Mountain Empire Community Center. Coming: Fall 2010.

• **New Additions at Jess Martin:**

Construction of a new trail, exercise stations, new footbridges, shade structures, new staircases and restrooms. Coming: Summer 2010.



Fresh: A picture-perfect day at Julian's Jess Martin Park.

• **A New 'Goal' in Ramona:** The first phase of design and construction of an outdoor soccer arena and basketball court at Collier Park. This exciting project is a partnership between the County and the Ramona Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Diego. Coming: Fall 2010.

### Solar,

Continued from Page 1



on their investment, not the region's utility!

AB 920 is one of two ways the County hopes to stimulate local solar. The County is moving forward with a plan to help homeowners afford the upfront cost of rooftop solar. Residents would be able to pay for the systems through property tax bills over 20 years. Currently, the County is evaluating two possible financing options. The first is designed for a statewide pool of participants while the second is designed exclusively for the San Diego region. Expect an update as soon as December!

### Wind Plan

Continued from Page 1

SDG&E did not change its recloser policy in response to this known threat.

Language from a document titled: "Power Line Fire Prevention Field Prevention Guide" prepared by SDG&E and other utilities in 2001 tells the tale. The guide reads: "Automatic reclosers re-energizing the line into the fault, may cause repeated arching and increase the probability of igniting."

Since 1996 Southern California Edison has disengaged automatic recloser switches during Santa Ana winds. A system operating bulletin dated January 10, 1996 is instructive. It states, "When reclosing restrictions are in effect, line or line section that relay to a lock out, will not be energized without the express permission of the Distribution System Operator... or until the subject line or line section has been patrolled."

It's time for SDG&E to focus less on the rejected shut-off plan and more on proven fire prevention measures like a new recloser policy. In the months ahead, I look forward to sitting at the table with SDG&E to get serious about undergrounding, swapping steel poles for wood poles, increased inspections, better vegetation management and other measures SDG&E should have tackled long ago.

**View the documents related to reclosers at [www.diannejacob.com](http://www.diannejacob.com).**

## New Library Takes Shape in Ramona

**S**hovels are poised for the groundbreaking of the newest branch of the San Diego County Library in Ramona. A ceremony is set for Monday, November 16 at 10 a.m.



When completed, the 20,894 square-foot building at 1349 Main Street will be more than four times larger than the existing library on Montecito Road and is the cornerstone of a larger intergenerational campus planned for the site.

Chairwoman Jacob believes construction would not have been possible without tremendous support from the people of Ramona. She salutes the Friends of the Ramona Library for working to turn the dream into reality.

The County is funding most of the \$11.6 million library. The Friends of the Library raised more than \$1 million for furniture and fixtures.

The building's architecture is Southwest Tuscan-style and includes a spacious community room, study

rooms, a space for teens, a larger children's area with a homework center, public computers and a Friends of the Library bookstore.

The project will meet LEED Gold criteria and include water-efficient landscaping, water-conserving fixtures, photovoltaic panels and parking spaces for fuel-efficient vehicles.

The project's design-build team is C.W. Driver, Ferguson Pape Baldwin Architects and Manuel Oncina Architects.

The library is targeted to open December 2010. The larger, intergenerational campus will eventually include a senior center, childcare and teen facilities.

Library services will continue at 1406 Montecito Road until the new branch opens.



**Prepared:** Chairwoman Jacob thanks San Diegans for staying informed about H1N1 happenings.

## County Urging Patience During H1N1 Vaccine Rollout

**T**he H1N1 vaccine is arriving slower than expected and the County wants to waste no time reaching target populations first. Priority populations include pregnant women, children six months to 24 years old and caregivers of infants less than six months old. You can help by being patient as more shipments arrive in the weeks and months ahead. Follow these simple steps to protect you family. Wash your hands often with warm water and soap or use hand sanitizer. Cough into your sleeve. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Stay home if you're sick.

Stay up to date on H1N1 vaccine arrival at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov).



## Eye on Federal Stimulus Funding

Did you know you can monitor how millions of federal stimulus dollars are being used and allocated by the County? A new County website provides the public with transparency and accountability required by the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

[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!

Fall 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)*