



THE JACOB JOURNAL

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

Fall 2010

Serving the Cities of:
El Cajon
La Mesa
Lemon Grove
Poway
Santee

Serving the communities of:
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Alpine
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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
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San Carlos
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Tierra del Sol
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Campo
Cosmit
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Inaja
Jamul
La Posta
Manzanita
Mesa Grande
Santa Ysabel
Sycuan
Viejas

A Deadly Obstacle?

Recent Monte Fire stokes fears that Sunrise Powerlink May Block Firefighting Efforts



Drop It: An S-2T bomber makes a retardant drop on the El Monte Fire in Lakeside just weeks ago

Opponents of SDG&E's controversial Sunrise Powerlink have warned for years that stringing a massive 500 kilovolt transmission line through the high fire areas of East County is a recipe for disaster.

The recent 2,000 acre Monte Fire in Lakeside has thrust that debate into the spotlight at the very moment SDG&E says it will begin construction of the line.

Sunrise will traverse rugged areas previously scorched by the horrific 2003 Cedar Fire and 2007 Harris Fire. Its route runs right through the footprint of the Monte Fire. Many East County residents believe the initial attack on the El Monte Fire would have been impeded by hulking towers and obtrusive wires had Sunrise been in place.

Some residents point to the harrowing rescue of two climbers and eight others plucked by helicopter from advancing flames on El Cajon Mountain and question what will happen during the next fire when helicopters and other aerial firefighting assets are forced to navigate not just thick smoke, but high voltage electric wires.

Deadly Obstacle
Continued on Page 2



Healthy Makeover for Favorite Julian Park

Julian residents have a new way to work off calories gained from eating the town's famous apple pie: with new fitness equipment and recreation areas at Jess Martin Park.

The improvements include a nine station fitness area, community exercise path, a permanent restroom building, shade structure, picnic tables, barbeque grills, rock retaining walls and footbridges.

Supervisor Jacob salutes the community of Julian for working so hard to pass a critical vote in 2008 that kept the park open for public use.

So far, the County has invested \$752,000 since 2008 to make Jess Martin a first class facility. Special thanks to the County Department of Parks and Recreation for its commitment to the project.



Deadly Obstacle/Julian Park.....	Page 1
Solar Setback/Marijuana Initiative.....	Page 2
Good News/New Preschool.....	Page 3
Next Community Coffee.....	Page 3
Get the Journal.....	Page 4

Feds Threaten County's Solar Financing Program

A promising program that would help San Diegans more easily afford solar electric systems by spreading the costs over 20 years on property tax bills is in jeopardy.

Federal loan giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are refusing to buy or sell home loans that come with property tax assessments for solar because the feds liken the assessments to loans that must be paid off in full in the event of a sale or foreclosure.

Supervisor Jacob believes that logic is horribly flawed and said as much in a recent letter to the President and Congress. She argues that the assessments are no different than ongoing assessments for fire districts or hospitals. These assessments stay with a property in the event of a sale or foreclosure so the risk to lenders is next to nothing!

Public interest in solar financing programs has been extraordinary. It is stunning the feds won't listen to reason. The California Attorney General is suing the feds over the issue and County is fighting in Washington D.C.

**Read Supervisor Jacob's letter at www.diannejacob.com
Click on "In the News"**



Power up: County program would have helped fund solar arrays on rooftops like this commercial roof in Alpine.

Legalizing Marijuana Would Drain, Not Add to State Budget Deficit

Some think Proposition 19, which would legalize the use of marijuana in California, is good a way to solve the state's ongoing budget woes. Supervisor Jacob disagrees.

She thinks the initiative would worsen the budget situation by creating entire new bureaucracies to regulate "legal" amounts and keep what would be a widely-available drug from reaching those under 21. Not to mention, the need for increased police and court costs resulting from increased driving under the influence.

Supervisor Jacob thinks Prop.19 is selling out the health and safety of the state for the false promise of a quick budget fix. At her request, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to formally oppose to the measure.

Deadly Obstacle

Continued from Page 2

SDG&E insists that the fire dangers posed by Sunrise can be "mitigated" with things like steel poles, more money to fire agencies and grant funds for defensible space around homes and other structures. Unfortunately, that's not what the project's own environmental documents say.

Sunrise is classified as a "Class I Significant Unmitigable" fire threat—the highest level possible. In formal comments to state and federal regulators, CAL FIRE officials issued this warning about the fire danger posed by the line: "Retardant and water dropped from aerial fire-fighting assets can cause line to ground arcing. Therefore, aerial firefighters avoid dropping on transmission lines. While its not likely that the

lines will cause fire ignition they may, however, allow for fire to grow to a larger size thus becoming more resistant to control," CAL FIRE said.

The four political appointees in San Francisco who approved the Sunrise Powerlink despite the evidence of extreme fire danger have never taken the time to respond to East County residents who are now living on edge. These residents include people like Candy Barra-Jenkins who, during the El Monte Fire, snapped photos of locations where the line is to run. Her dramatic shots featured in this news-



Photo by Candy Barra-Jenkins

letter depict helicopters and planes dousing flames amid thick curtains of smoke.

"How will we fight fires in the future?" Candy wants to know. Candy's question has never been properly addressed by those who support the dangerous Sunrise Powerlink.

Now for some good news...

Saving a Favorite Santee Golf Course

The fate of Santee's beloved Carlton Oaks Golf Course was in the rough recently because the City of San Diego was preparing to sell 65 acres it owns and leases to the course.

The San Diego River Conservancy, a government body that aims to enhance areas along the San Diego River, which runs through the golf course, had first refusal rights to buy the property.

The price tag was steep in these challenging times and golf course supporters feared the sale to the Conservancy would compromise the future of the course.

Enter the owner of Carlton Oaks, TY Investments. The owner offered to buy the land and agreed to put restrictions on the property in keeping with the goal of a contiguous river trail system along the San Diego River—a vision shared by the City of Santee and the Conservancy.

As a member of the San Diego River Conservancy Supervisor Jacob supports the sale to TY. This is a win-win. The golf course can continue to provide jobs and recreation for the City of Santee while the Conservancy fulfills its

mission to protect the natural resources along the river, which includes a trail. However, the San Diego City Council still must approve the sale.

Fighting Lavish Salaries for Pension Employees

When Supervisor Jacob got word recently that Sacramento leaders were considering legislation that would have given public pension systems the power to set salaries independent of Boards of Supervisors oversight, she and Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price got busy.

They vigorously argued against the provision with Supervisor Jacob speaking from experience. As a member of the San Diego County Employee's Retirement Association Board, opposed a compensation package that grossly exceeded County salary limits for the top fund manager position. She spoke out against efforts to circumvent the County salary rules by contracting out that position.

In the end, the state provision died a quick death but Supervisor Jacob remains on guard in case it resurfaces in the future.

**Read Supervisor Jacob's letter to
at www.diannejacob.com
Click on "In the News"**



New Preschool in Spring Valley

You'll find up to 40 new little faces at the expanded Spring Valley Community Center. Why? The County Department of Parks and Recreation listened to the Spring Valley community and responded with a 2,500 square-foot facility complete with play equipment.

As part of the project, the community center was remodeled and will include a learning center with eight computers for public use. The project includes a solar electric system to reduce energy costs.

Supervisor Jacob was thrilled to join Community Center Director Renell Nailon to cut the ribbon during the official opening.

The \$1.9 million price tag was funded by federal and state grants and County money. The Parks and Recreation Department operates five centers to serve the unique needs of the unincorporated area.



Join Supervisor Jacob for Coffee and Conversation in Julian

Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

Julian Town Hall, upstairs

2129 Main Street

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Summer 2010

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