



# THE JACOB JOURNAL

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

Winter 2012

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

## Another step toward better fire protection

Supervisor Jacob spearheaded the effort to better fund and better coordinate firefighting and emergency medical services in rural areas after the 2003 firestorms. Since then, the County has dramatically transformed the region's firefighting network by bringing more than a dozen rural fire agencies together under one authority.



**Impetus for Change:** The 2003 Cedar Fire jumpstarted an effort to unify fire agencies.

Jacob and her partners just completed the second of a three-phase plan that will ultimately put more than a million acres under the command of the County Fire Authority—more than half the geographic area of the county! The second step placed the Mount Laguna, Palomar Mountain, Boulevard, Campo and San Pasqual communities under the umbrella of the County Fire Authority and means increased staffing, training and stipends for some volunteers, among other improvements.

What was once a haphazard array of cash-strapped agencies with incompatible equipment and differing levels of training is becoming a stronger, more cohesive firefighting force. The County has pumped more than \$200 million into regional fire protection over the last decade, including \$15.5 million annually to keep more than 50 rural fire stations at-the-ready every day of the year.

## Regulators zap SDG&E's solar 'grid tax'

An SDG&E proposal to charge solar customers for feeding energy into and out of the grid has been given the heave-ho by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The proposal drew fierce opposition from Supervisor Jacob and solar customers who argued that rooftop solar provides benefits that are undervalued, if not outright ignored, by the utility.

Rooftop solar spells fewer fossil-fueled power plants, fewer hulking transmission lines, cleaner air and reduced dependence on foreign fossil fuel, among other positive contributions to the region.

After months of turmoil that placed local solar jobs at risk, the CPUC did the right thing and nixed the "grid tax."

That SDG&E forced struggling public agencies, including cash-strapped schools and water districts, to spend attorney's fees plus time and travel to San Francisco in order to oppose the proposal is unconscionable.

SDG&E could have and should have brought stakeholders to the table *before* crafting its losing proposition.



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## Jacob looks back at busy 2011

Here's a quick rewind of just a few of the more exciting accomplishments and activities that topped Supervisor Jacob's 2011.

### *Battling Sex-Trafficking*

2010 saw a spike in the number of criminal street gangs selling young girls for sex. Supervisor Jacob teamed with the Sheriff and the District Attorney to crack-down on those in the business of sexual exploitation. The three are behind a state bill that would add pimping and pandering to the types of crimes that warrant enhanced surveillance and additional resources. The bill would make schools "exploitation free zones" and toughen penalties for those convicted of pimping.

### *New Sheriff's Station*

Years in the making, the new Rancho San Diego Sheriff's Station is rising from the ground at

long last. The new 27,000 square foot station will be located on Campo Road near the intersection of Highways 54 and 94 and will serve the communities of Rancho San Diego, Spring Valley, La Presa, Jamul, Casa de Oro and Mt. Helix among others. Supervisor Jacob worked for many years with former Sheriff Kolender and Sheriff Gore to secure the land and the financing for this needed public safety asset.

### *Stop the unfair Fire Tax*

Supervisor Jacob spent many months beating back a proposal by members of the state legislature to stick rural property owners with a \$150 tax, purportedly for fire protection. Problem is: rural property owners already pay for fire protec-

tion via property taxes and special assessments, some as much as \$400 a year.

While Jacob made some progress holding the line in 2011, the governor just resurrected the unfair tax. Because there are fewer rural residents than urban residents, this is a politically convenient way for the state to try to pawn off its budget mess on people in rural areas. The fight goes on.



**Groundbreaking:** Jacob, Sheriff Gore and friends break ground on the new Rancho San Diego Sheriff's Station.

## Jacob, Cox Move to Protect Solar Turbines and its 3,800 Local Jobs

At the urging of Vice Chairman Greg Cox and Supervisor Jacob, the Board of Supervisors just adopted a resolution opposing a luxury condominium project that threatens Solar Turbines and its 3,800 jobs in San Diego.

The Board voted unanimously to oppose the Fat City Lofts development at the corner of Pacific Highway and Hawthorne Street in downtown San Diego. Solar Turbines, a major local company that has been in San Diego for 83 years, is located directly across the street from the project.

Allowing the 232-unit residential development only 100 feet from Solar Turbines' property would create insurmountable conflicts between residential and industrial uses that could ultimately result in the

company having to relocate its operations -- and the jobs that come with it.

"I've seen my fair share of problems when new residential development infringes on local commercial or industrial businesses," Jacob told her colleagues on the Board. "Solar Turbines has been the bedrock to our business community and is the *crème de la crème* when it comes to major manufacturing. Solar Turbines is a key component to the success of our local economy."

"I encourage development when it makes sense, but not at the expense of thousands of highly skilled, good paying, long-term jobs," Vice Chairman Cox said. "In this down economy, we must do everything we can to protect jobs." Agreed!

## More 2011 Accomplishments...

### *Jacob's Ordinance Creates Boutique Winery Boomlet*

Supervisor Jacob and San Diego County winemakers tasted the fruits of their labors in the form of a thriving boutique wine industry at last in Ramona and elsewhere. In 2010, Jacob worked with grape growers to end regulatory hurdles that stymied the mom and pop tasting rooms now dotting the wine trail along Highway 67 and the new and old Julian highways. A perfect balance of agriculture and industry done right!

### *New Lakeside Fire Station*

Supervisor Jacob and Lakeside Fire Protection District officials unveiled Lakeside's new \$15.2 million fire station and administrative center. The world-class station — funded with \$14.5 million in County redevelopment funds — is 24,000 square feet and replaces the district's outdated station in Eucalyptus Hills. All of the district's current administrative services

will be housed at the new station along with an engine, reserve engine, ambulance, classroom and emergency operations center. The station supports a full strike team.

### *Community Welcomes New Ramona Library*

Over 21,000 square feet — and four times as big as the old building — the Tuscan and Southwestern-style Ramona Community Library has been a hit with the community since it opened its doors last winter. The library features special spaces including a teen area, a children's space and read-aloud room, community meeting rooms, a homework and tutoring center, and a Poet's Patio for live performances.

### *Nature Trails Thrill*

If you like the sight of eagles soaring overhead and the quiet of the great outdoors, and you haven't seen the El Monte Park Train in Lakeside or the trail through the Ramona

Grasslands Preserve, you're missing out! The new 2-mile long El Monte Park Trail offers breathtaking views of El Capitan Mountain's spectacular rocky face. The 4-mile loop trail through the one-of-a-kind Ramona Grasslands lets visitors glimpse of the Backcountry the way it looked to its earliest settlers. Mountain bikers, hikers and horseback riders are welcome!

### *County's Finances in Order*

New fire stations, libraries, trails, and other community assets wouldn't be possible without the County's strong financial health. While it's true the state's never-ending budget crisis could impact the County dramatically, for the moment, our budget is balanced,

our credit ratings are the highest possible and we are committed to our long-standing policy of never spending more than

we take in so that core services like public safety are never in jeopardy.



**Cheers:** Celebrating San Diego County's boutique wine boomlet.



**For the books:** The gorgeous new Ramona Library is a community showstopper.



## Coffee with Constituents

Got ideas to make your community a better place? Have questions or concerns about County government? Join Supervisor Jacob at an informal community coffee!

**Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.**

**Guy B. Woodward Museum, 645 Main St., Ramona**

# Get The Jacob Journal!

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Winter 2012

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