

# The Jacob Journal

A NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB

September 1999

## MARINE HELICOPTERS: BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT

### THE PROBLEM

I support Congressman Duncan Hunter's position for the Marines to follow the paths that are the safest for pilots and the most cost effective in determining helicopter flight paths from Miramar. Unfortunately, some politicians are playing politics with our national security.

If the organizers of the Escondido Town Hall Meeting last month had permitted me to speak, I would have offered to work with others who are adversely affected by the Marine helicopters to come up with a solution that works for all areas of the County.

The solution is to work together and together work with the Marines rather than escalating an already volatile situation. I believe working together provides the best opportunity for us to find a solution that works for the Marines and the community as a whole.

If for some reason that is not possible, I am prepared to fight back on behalf of the communities I represent to make certain that the Escondido problem does not become our problem. The problems expressed last month by Escondido residents are real and must be resolved. But, simply pushing this problem from one area into another is not the solution.

I stand ready, willing and able to become either a formidable opponent or a helpful ally. The latter would be my first choice.

There is no question that having a military presence is a tremendous asset for this region and the Marines are no exception. I respect the fact that the Marines have a mission on behalf of our national defense. And, I applaud and appreciate all the Marines have done over the years fighting for our Nation and our freedom as Americans. However, the Marines too have a responsibility to be sensitive to the needs of the people in this region.

Major General Bowdon, since taking command in July, is like a breath of fresh air. He has demonstrated a sensitivity and willingness to work with the communities by his swift action in ordering changes and issuing new flight instructions which will certainly make life better for some. But, there is much more work to be done!

Earlier this month I convened a meeting with leaders of the communities and entities which would potentially be affected by the alternative eastern route study – Ramona, Lakeside, Eucalyptus Hills, Poway and Santee, the San Diego Wild Animal Park, County Airports staff representing Ramona Airport & Gillespie Field and the San Diego Air Pollution Control District.

We presented information to Major General Bowdon and staff outlining serious concerns with the proposed routes released by MARCH. Concerns include the degradation of air traffic safety and increased potential of mid-air collisions at both Ramona and Gillespie Airports, noise, air pollution and the adverse effect on the 3,500 animals at the Wild Animal Park.



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We know that the settlement agreement obligates the Marines to perform an eastern route study, but it does not require one to be selected. We also know that the final decision will be made by the Marines and the Federal Aviation Administration and that they will base their flight path decisions on safety, efficiency, and effectiveness, as well as noise and air quality impacts.

We are working with the Marines to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem. I urge others to do the same.



Supervisor Dianne Jacob celebrates the grand opening of Phase II Woodhaven Park in Rancho San Diego.

*Supervisor Dianne Jacob proudly serves the communities of:*

*Agua Caliente Springs Allied Gardens Alpine Barrett Blossom Valley Bostonia Boulevard Campo Canabrake Casa de Oro Crest Cuyamaca Dehesa Del Cerro Descanso Dulzura El Cajon Eucalyptus Hills Fernbrook Flinn Springs Granite Hills Guatay Harbison Canyon Jacumba Jamul Julian La Mesa Lake Morena Lakeside Lemon Grove Mount Laguna Mount Helix Pine Hills Pine Valley Potrero Poway Ramona Rancho San Diego Rolando San Carlos San Pasqual Valley Santa Ysabel Santee Shelter Valley Spring Valley Tecate Tierra del Sol Vallejos*

*and the Indian Reservations of:*

*Barona Campo Cosmit Cuyapaipe Inaja Jamul La Posta Manzanita Mesa Grande Santa Ysabel Sycuan Viejas*

## KEEPING EAST COUNTY GREEN

Armed with letters from the region's leading environmental organizations, last month Supervisor Dianne Jacob embarked on a campaign to convince Governor Gray Davis and Sacramento legislators to be supportive of more funding for open space acquisition and park improvements.

Jacob is concerned that the state could be doing more to assist the region in protecting natural resources and in providing recreational opportunities in wilderness areas. "I want to make sure that the new administration understands the importance of preserving these sensitive lands, and will continue to work with the County in establishing and maintaining a meaningful open space system," Jacob said.

Besides the Governor's office, Jacob met with State legislators and Mary Nichols, Secretary of Natural Resources, to also lobby for support of the proposed Park Bond Bill. This bill, if approved by voters, would provide \$2.1 billion in funding for parks and open space. Jacob says that she would expect the County of San Diego to receive between \$70-100 million dollars.

"This bill would mean significant expansion and improvements to our regional parks," Jacob said. "As our area becomes increasingly threatened by urbanization it becomes increasingly critical to improve recreational opportunities and to conserve open space in order to adequately protect our quality of life."

To emphasize that this is a high priority, Jacob presented letters from the local Sierra Club, the Endangered Habitat League, the League of Conservation Voters, the California Native Plant Society, the San Diego Audubon Society, the Palomar Audubon Society, the Buena Vista Audubon Society, the Backcountry Coalition and the Backcountry Land Trust.

"The Endangered Habitats League greatly appreciates the work of Supervisor Jacob in moving the Park Bond Bill forward. Her efforts to preserve open space is widely recognized...which is why the County of San Diego has achieved more in conserving open space than any other jurisdiction in California," said Michael Beck, chairman of the Endangered Habitats League.

Jacob co-authored the County of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) that has created a 101,000 acre open space preserve in unincorporated San Diego County. As part of the preserve system, Jacob has personally helped to negotiate the acquisition of over 10,000 acres of open space, including lands in Lakeside, Crest, Rancho San Diego, Steele Canyon, Singing Hills and Jamul. The County's MSCP was awarded the Governor's Excellence in Economic and Environmental Leadership award in 1998.

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*We hope to hear from you soon!*

Sept 1999

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