

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

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COUNTY

Report Storm Damage in Unincorporated San Diego County with the Tell Us Now App



Illustration from a photo by Edward O'Connor (hober) · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

Most people in the region likely noted this week's rain and — in some parts of the county—snow. Residents of San Diego County's unincorporated areas can report non-emergency storm damage through the “Tell Us Now!” app.

Storm damage includes potholes, fallen trees, flooded roadways and downed powerlines. The free app makes it easy to report these issues and track the progress of your report on your smartphone.

You can download the app on both Apple and Android devices, it is also available in Spanish for those whose phone settings are set to Spanish.

To report storm-related damage in unincorporated areas, follow these steps:

Download and open the Tell Us Now! app on your Apple or Android device.

Select a category and the nature of the request.

Attach a photo of the request if available.

Provide the location and a description of the request.

When a report is submitted, the appropriate County departments will be quickly notified. If the complaint is not under the County's jurisdiction, the app will notify you of the correct authority to contact to fix the problem.

In addition to storm-related issues, residents can also report:

Air quality complaints, such as smoke, odors or dust.

Vector control issues, like mosquito breeding areas, green pools or dead birds, which can be indicators of West Nile virus.

Code compliance issues, like abandoned vehicles, graffiti or illegal dumping.

Pricing and scale issues at businesses, including gas pumps and grocery stores.

Non-emergency problems at a County-operated park or space.

Other road service requests that are not storm related.

The app is available in the app stores for iPhone and Android smartphones. Download and Tell Us Now!

County of San Diego news release · Mar 14, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Woodstock's Pizza – A San Diego Favorite Since 1985

For nearly 40 years, Woodstock's Pizza has been serving up legendary pies in Pacific Beach and the College Area, bringing people together over hand-tossed, fresh-baked goodness.

Founded with a love for quality ingredients and strong community ties, Woodstock's has stayed true to its college-town roots, becoming a go-to spot for students, locals, and businesses alike.

Our commitment to feeding the masses goes beyond just our dining rooms. We specialize in catering for campus events, corporate meetings, team gatherings, and celebrations —no order is too big! Just ask the team at USD, where we recently delivered 300 pizzas for new student orientation.

From feeding a few to serving a few hundred, we make it easy with a seamless ordering process and fresh, crowd-pleasing options.

As a proud San Diego Chamber of Commerce member, we're excited to connect with fellow businesses and offer an exclusive 15% catering discount to Chamber members. Whether you need pizzas for an office lunch, a community event, or a company party, Woodstock's has you covered.

Beyond great food, Woodstock's is committed to

supporting local organizations, fostering partnerships, and keeping the San Diego spirit alive—one slice at a time. So next time you're looking for a casual team lunch, an after-hours happy hour, or a massive pizza order, let's make it happen!

Visit us in Pacific Beach or the College Area Order catering today & claim your Chamber discount! <- for Catering inquiries and discount, please email Emiley at estake@woodstockscsca.com

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Mar 14, 2025

BUSINESS

From the Desk of Veronica Perondi – March 2025

2025 is flying by and we're already rounding out the first quarter of the year.

As I reflect on the recent Influence program, it provided me unique opportunity to witness the power of different perspectives coming together, breaking silos, and fostering connection. Being part of the conversations, hearing from the leaders who are navigating both the

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BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

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From the Desk of
Veronica Perondi –
March 2025

challenges and opportunities and connecting with others who can help be part of the solution is what LEAD is about. Our collective potential is limitless when we connect and learn from one another.

I’ve been reading Good Power by Ginny Rometty, and many of her insights have deeply resonated with me. She writes about how leaders can use their power for good, driving meaningful change

not just for themselves or their organizations, but for the many. A key takeaway for me is the emphasis on learning, how a willingness to develop new skills at every stage of life is invaluable. This growth mindset is essential for leaders who aim to make a lasting impact.

Another idea Ginny shares, that I believe, is the understanding that positive change is rarely achieved alone. Trying to effect meaningful progress requires collaboration. We need others, diverse voices, experiences, and talents, to bring about the positive

outcomes we seek. This belief is at the heart of what LEAD San Diego offers. Our programs provide opportunities to connect, learn, and gain a competitive advantage by stepping outside of the silos we can so easily find ourselves in.

Community leadership programs like LEAD help individuals harness their own “good power” by connecting with others who share a drive for continuous learning and positive change. Together, we create networks that not only advance careers but also strengthen our region through shared knowledge,

collaboration, and understanding.

With that in mind, I’m excited to share that nominations for the 2025 Visionary Awards are now open ! The Visionary Awards recognize individuals whose leadership helps others see the world in broader and more creative ways. To me, being a visionary leader means supporting others to envision possibilities they may not have seen on their own. It’s about encouraging innovative thinking, embracing diverse ideas, and connecting people and resources to create real,

positive change.

I encourage you to think about the visionary leaders in your own networks. Who inspires you to see the world differently? Who is driving change that benefits many? Let’s celebrate those who are using their leadership and power for good, those who remind us that leadership is ultimately about lifting others and creating a community where everyone can thrive.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Mar 10, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Rain pours, app launches, wallet stays empty.

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

COMMENTARY

Los Angeles Controller
Highlights Severe
Fiscal Warnings, Urges
Long-Term Planning

California Policy Center senior fellow John Moorlach reports that City Controller Kenneth Mejia is pressing leaders to address ongoing budget shortfalls and avoid further service declines.

Kenneth Mejia, Los Angeles city controller, released the city's annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal

year ended June 30, 2024, on Feb. 6.

According to John Moorlach, senior fellow and director of the Center for Public Accountability at the California Policy Center, Mejia used the report to highlight that the city ended the year in deficit.

Moorlach writes that the controller's announcement attributed the deficit to general fund revenues that lagged behind projections while expenditures rose

sharply, leading to unsustainable short-term measures that brought the city close to having to declare a fiscal emergency.

The California Policy Center fellow notes that Mejia stated in his release, "As we are all painfully aware, revenue shortfalls, liability payouts, and departmental over-expenditures caused the City to draw down nearly half the City's General Fund Reserves."

Moorlach reports that these

pressures triggered austerity measures that adversely impacted city departments and services, including in critical areas related to infrastructure, public works, animal services, accounting, and payroll.

The analysis from the California Policy Center details several specific shortfalls compared with the approved spending plan: general fund income missed targets by \$222.1 million.

Moorlach explains that

various costs exceeded budgeted amounts, notably liability claims that ran \$153 million above projections, with police-related payouts \$75.1 million over and miscellaneous claims \$71.6 million higher than expected.

According to the Center, the police department exceeded its allocation by \$127 million, while general services went \$105 million over budget.

These combined pressures

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COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

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Los Angeles Controller Highlights Severe Fiscal Warnings, Urges Long-Term Planning

reduced the reserve balance to \$330.6 million, Moorlach writes, an amount falling below the city's policy target of 5 percent of general fund revenues and \$317.7 million lower than the previous year.

Moorlach adds that the recent wildfires have compounded the strain, with the city projecting \$358 million in initial costs for emergency actions, damaged infrastructure, structural repairs and debris clearance through January 10, 2025.

The California Policy Center fellow reports that

credit agencies have taken notice: in January 2025, S&P, Fitch and Kroll placed the city's ratings on negative watch, while Moody's shifted its outlook on wastewater revenue bonds from stable to negative.

These moves, Moorlach explains, stem from concerns over potential wildfire liability claims against the general fund and the effect of unplanned recovery spending on available resources.

Mejia continues to call for city leaders to create a strategic five-year financial plan, according to Moorlach.

Without such a sustained strategy, the California Policy Center fellow writes, Mejia

warns that "short-term decisions will doom Los Angeles to an inexorable decline in public services, undermining our quality of life and the economic prospects of our residents."

Moorlach notes that the controller praised the mayor's Executive Directive No. 9 on capital infrastructure as an example of the comprehensive thinking required.

The Center reports that Mejia's office stands ready to partner with the mayor, council members and the broader public to overhaul budgeting practices and spending choices.

Moorlach emphasizes that Mejia stresses the need for a

long-term, phased approach because the difficulties have built up over years.

Budget changes and stronger oversight are essential to prevent sudden service reductions that hit vulnerable residents hardest, according to the controller as relayed by the California Policy Center.

Moorlach observes that Mejia, who is 34 years old, is a young accountant bringing fresh energy to Los Angeles governance and proposing sensible remedies.

The California Policy Center fellow states that city officials should accept Mejia's offer of assistance and work together to create an achievable roadmap to

restore the city's finances.

Moorlach warns that without that coordinated long-term commitment, short-term decisions will lead to continued decline in public services.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Mar 16, 2025

ABOUT THIS PAPER

San Diego Newsline covers downtown San Diego first — City Hall, the Gaslamp Quarter, East Village, Little Italy, Barrio Logan and the waterfront — and the county around it. Every item names its source; read the originals and our standards at sandiegonewsline.com.

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