

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

Tuesday is Last Day to Vote in District One Special Primary Election



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Tuesday, April 8, is the final day to cast your ballot in the special primary election for the County of San Diego’s First Supervisorial District.

Monday, April 7 will be the last chance to vote early. Eligible voters can cast their ballots from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at any one of seven vote centers or 29 official ballot drop boxes around the district.

On the final day of voting, April 8, the Registrar’s office and an additional six vote centers will be open for a total of 13 vote centers in the district. All will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Any voter who is in line at a vote center or an official ballot drop box at 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote. However, no one can join the line after the 8 p.m. deadline.

The person elected will fill the district’s vacant seat for the remainder of the current term that ends in January 2029. If no candidate receives a majority vote at the April 8 election, the top two vote-getters will move on to the special general election on July 1. Only those who live in the district can vote in the election.

District 1 runs from the Pacific Ocean to the Otay and San Miguel mountains in the east, and from Barrio Logan in the north to the U.S./Mexico international border on the south. The district includes the cities of Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, National City, and some communities within the City of San Diego, including Barrio Logan, East Village, Golden Hill and more. It also includes the unincorporated

areas of Bonita, East Otay Mesa, Lincoln Acres, Sunnyside and La Presa.

If you’re not sure if you live in District 1, you can look it up at sdvote.com.

If you live in District 1, and you’re not currently registered to vote, you may visit any vote center or the Registrar’s office to conditionally register and vote provisionally through April 8.

Vote centers have replaced polling places and provide more services. You can:

- Vote in person or drop off a mail-in ballot
- Vote using an accessible ballot marking device
- Receive assistance and voting materials in multiple languages
- Register to vote or update your voter registration and vote on the same day

Voters can use a touch screen to make their selection on ballot marking devices. When finished, the voter will print out the official ballot, review it, place it in a secrecy sleeve, and hand it to a poll worker to insert it in the ballot box to be counted at the Registrar’s office. The ballot marking device does not store, tabulate or count any votes.

Remember that campaigning or electioneering within 100 feet of a vote center or official ballot drop box is not allowed. This includes the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate on the ballot.

Additionally, an individual may not circulate any petitions, including those for initiatives, referenda, recall or candidate nominations.

If you already returned your mail ballot, you can confirm when it was received by the Registrar’s office at sdvote.com.

Learn more about voting in the District 1 special primary election at sdvote.com, or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 7, 2025

COUNTY
Special Primary Election Results – When to Expect Them
Counting ballots takes time, even for a special election like the First Supervisorial District, Special Primary Election.
So, what can you expect on election night?
The first set of unofficial election night results will come in shortly after 8 p.m. This update will include mail ballots received before Election Day and vote center ballots from early voting between March 29 – April 7.
To follow the latest results update on election night, you can visit sdvote.com or follow the Registrar’s office on X (formerly Twitter).
After the first unofficial report, election night updates will only include vote center ballots cast on Election Day.
The Election Day ballots come in after the vote centers close at 8 p.m. There will be a gap in time for the next set of results due to poll workers packing up supplies and driving in from the vote centers.
After arriving at the Registrar’s office, the vote center ballots will be scanned,

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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Special Primary Election Results – When to Expect Them

and results will be periodically updated until all vote center ballots have been counted.

The final unofficial election night results may not come in until 10 p.m. or later and will only cover the ballots that could be counted immediately.

The counting of ballots does not end on election night.

These are the ballots dropped off at vote centers, official ballot drop boxes or picked up from the U.S. Postal Service on Election Day.

Ballots mailed right before or on April 8 have seven days to arrive if postmarked on or before Election Day.

People who missed the March 24 registration deadline may conditionally register and vote provisionally up to and on Election Day.

Once their voter registration is processed, the voter registration becomes active, and the provisional ballot is counted.

The Registrar’s office cannot predict how many residents who are not registered, but otherwise eligible, will take advantage of this.

After election night, the next release of unofficial results is scheduled to be posted by 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, Friday, April 11 and Monday, April 14. Additional updates are at the discretion of the Registrar of Voters.

Election results must be certified by May 8. For this special election, the Registrar expects certification to occur on an earlier date, while making sure every legally cast vote is added to the count in the most expeditious, yet careful manner available, ensuring accurate results. All updates will be posted on sdvote.com with the final certified results posted by May 8.

Learn more about voting in the District 1 special primary election at sdvote.com, or call

(858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 8, 2025

COUNTY

Spring Break-Out for Shelter Pets

Join the sun, fun, and forever homes spring break “paw-ty” at County Animal Services.

Shelter pets are ready to trade kennel life for beach vibes — and you can help make their spring break-out dreams come true.

Come adopt your new best friend and join in the fun by dressing in your favorite beach attire — think Hawaiian shirts, board shorts, or a sunny straw hat — and you’ll receive a free beach party kit to get the celebration started.

All month long, you can name your own price when adopting adult dogs and cats. Plus, we’re offering 25% off adoption fees for puppies and kittens.

▮ A one-year dog license (for residents in our service area)

▮ South Shelter: 5821 Sweetwater Road, Bonita

▮ North Shelter: 2481 Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad

Walk-in hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Just bring a valid photo ID — adoptions are first-come, first-served.

▮ Pets who’ve been in the shelter 30+ days

▮ Seniors adopting (60 years and older)

Not ready to adopt? Try fostering ! Give a shelter pet a temporary break and help them adjust to home life — it’s a great way to help, and we provide all the supplies you need (food, leash, bedding, etc.). Fostering makes a huge difference in helping pets get adopted.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 9, 2025

COUNTY

Southeastern Live Well Center Wins National Award

The County’s Southeastern Live Well Center (SELWC) has been named the Best of the

Best by a national engineering and construction journal.

After a nearly yearlong review of 800 contenders nationwide, the Southeastern Live Well Center was named the best construction project in 2024 and highlighted by the editors of Engineering News-Record (ENR) .

The publication says the SELWC secured National Project of the Year honors for excellence in U.S. design and construction as well as fostering innovation, safety culture and community impact. A panel of 100 construction industry members judged the entries and after several elimination rounds, the SELWC was awarded first-place win.

The Live Well Center had previously been honored by ENR prior to being announced as best of the best in their Western Region, and then in the nation-wide Government Category. The Award of Excellence gala and award presentation was held in New York City on March 27.

“Our experience with the Southeastern Live Well Center has reshaped the way we approach new building development here at the County,” said Marko Medved, Director of County General Services. “The community helped shape this facility from start to finish and we are so proud of the final product.”

The Best of the Best win put the SELWC on the cover of ENR’s March 2025 national publication along with a feature write up inside the magazine and online.

The \$63.5 million project was praised for acknowledging the socioeconomically diverse and historically marginalized community the facility serves and the meaningful involvement of community members in every step of development.

“There was a lot of initial distrust of the county in the community,” said Medved. “We had to make personal connections and stand behind our commitments, truly integrating them into

the process.”

The SELWC also received top marks for its energy saving efficiency, trauma informed design, expansive open spaces and lots of bright light from large windows and skylights. The project’s warm colors and numerous public art pieces inside and outside the building were also celebrated for creating a sense of comfort, healing and belonging.

Additionally, the County’s dedication to community engagement helped secure the SELWC’s first place win. For the first time in a County development, the design-build team committed to hiring contractors from surrounding zip codes, spending \$8 million via local community firms. Ultimately, 14 percent of the SELWC workforce lived in the community, nearly tripling the initial 5 percent goal.

Information is available online about the SELWC and the services available to the public.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 8, 2025

COUNTY

County is Warning the Public Not to Eat Locally Harvested Shellfish

The County of San Diego is advising people not to eat locally harvested mussels, clams, scallops or oysters that were not purchased from a state-certified commercial shellfish harvester or dealer.

Shellfish safety notifications also have been issued in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties .

In each county, dangerous levels of domoic acid, which can cause amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP), have been detected in locally harvested mussels.

The naturally occurring domoic acid toxin can cause illness or death in humans. Cooking does not destroy the toxin.

The warnings do not apply to mussels, clams, scallops, or oysters sold at stores from approved sources, such as those sold at local markets or restaurants, because state law

allows only state-certified commercial shellfish harvesters or dealers to sell to restaurants and markets. Shellfish sold by certified harvesters and dealers are subject to frequent mandatory state testing to monitor for toxins.

The symptoms of amnesic shellfish poisoning can happen within 30 minutes to 24 hours after eating toxic seafood. In mild cases, symptoms may include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, headache, and dizziness. Symptoms resolve within several days. In severe cases, a person may experience trouble breathing, confusion, disorientation, cardiovascular instability, seizures, excessive bronchial secretions, permanent loss of short-term memory, coma, or death.

Local information on amnesic shellfish poisoning is available online . The California Department of Public Health will continue local sampling to determine when sport-harvested shellfish is safe to eat again.

The California Department of Public Health also operates a toll-free Shellfish Information Line at (800) 553-4133. For additional information, please visit the CDPH Marine Biotoxin Monitoring web page .

Marine mammals are also susceptible to domoic acid. The public is reminded to please maintain a safe distance (at least 50 yards) from any injured or deceased marine mammal. Although you cannot get domoic acid from the sea lions directly, these are large animals and protected species that need to be given space.

Sick marine animals can be reported to SeaWorld Rescue by calling 800-541-7325. Deceased marine mammals and sea turtles can be reported by calling the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (858) 546-7162. More local information on zoonotic disease is available online.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 4, 2025

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Illustration from a photo by Sgt. Lillian Stephens · Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Veterans Village of San Diego– Serving Those Who Served Our Nation

Since 1981, Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) has been a beacon of hope and transformation for thousands of veterans facing homelessness and other barriers to stability. With a mission to “Leave No One Behind,” VVSD provides a comprehensive range of integrated services that support veterans on their path to self-sufficiency, wellness, and long-term stability.

VVSD operates a nationally recognized continuum of care that includes transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, mental health services, and employment readiness programs. The organization also offers specialized services such as Bridge Housing for veterans preparing for permanent placement and the Special Needs Program for Frail and Elderly Veterans. Veterans also have access to wraparound resources, including financial assistance, childcare support, rent and utility aid, transportation, food,

clothing, and more.

VVSD’s primary campus is located at 4141 Pacific Highway, San Diego, and its services extend to multiple sites across the region. In partnership with the Cohen Veterans Network (CVN), VVSD also operates mental health clinics in San Diego, Oceanside, and Los Angeles, offering confidential, high-quality care for veterans and their families.

In addition to supportive services, VVSD provides permanent housing solutions, including Vet Villas, a 52-unit apartment complex in Escondido offering 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom homes for veterans and their families. VVSD also manages a 7-unit furnished apartment complex in San Diego for veterans transitioning into permanent housing.

VVSD is also known for hosting the renowned annual Stand Down event, a two-day intervention that connects homeless and at-risk veterans with a wide array of essential services in a single location. These services include:

Housing assistance (transitional, bridge, and permanent)

Employment assistance and job skills training

To learn more about Veterans Village of San Diego, visit www.vvsd.net or call 619-393-2000.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Mar 27, 2025

BUSINESS

President Trump’s Cabinet

Since November, U.S. Senate has been working on confirming the President’s executive and judicial nominations. As of now, the following members have been confirmed :

With unanimous support, Secretary of State, Marco Rubio

Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins

Secretary of Health & Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem

Secretary of Housing & Urban Development, Scott Turner

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Doug Collins

Small Business Administrator, Kelly Loeffler

Central Intelligence Agency Director, John Ratcliffe

Office of Management and Budget Director, Russell Vought

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Lee Zeldin

Office of National Intelligence Director, Tulsi Gabbard

United States Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer

Deputy Secretary of the State, Christopher Landau

Members still pending confirmation hearings are:

Elise Stefanik to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

Rodney Scott to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Brandon Williams to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security under the Department of Energy

Stephen Vaden to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

Dean Sauer to be Solicitor General of the United States under the Department of Justice

Michael Rigas to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources

Aaron Reitz to be Assistant Attorney General

Mehmet Oz to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

James O’Neill to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services

Janette Nesheiwat to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service

Emil Michael to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering

Troy Meink to be Secretary of the Air Force

Mark Meador to be Federal Trade Commissioner (term of seven years)

Martin Makary to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs for the Department of Health and Human Services

William Long to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Luke Lindberg to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign

Agricultural Affairs

Scott Kupor to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management

Jare Isaacman to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Jacob Helberg to be Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment)

Preston Griffith to be Under Secretary of Energy

Dario Gil to be Under Secretary for Science for the Department of Energy

Paul Atkins to be Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission

David Fink to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration

Michael Faulkender to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury

Michael Duffy to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment

Harmeet Dhillon to be Assistant Attorney General

Elbridge Colby to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Samuel Brown to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs

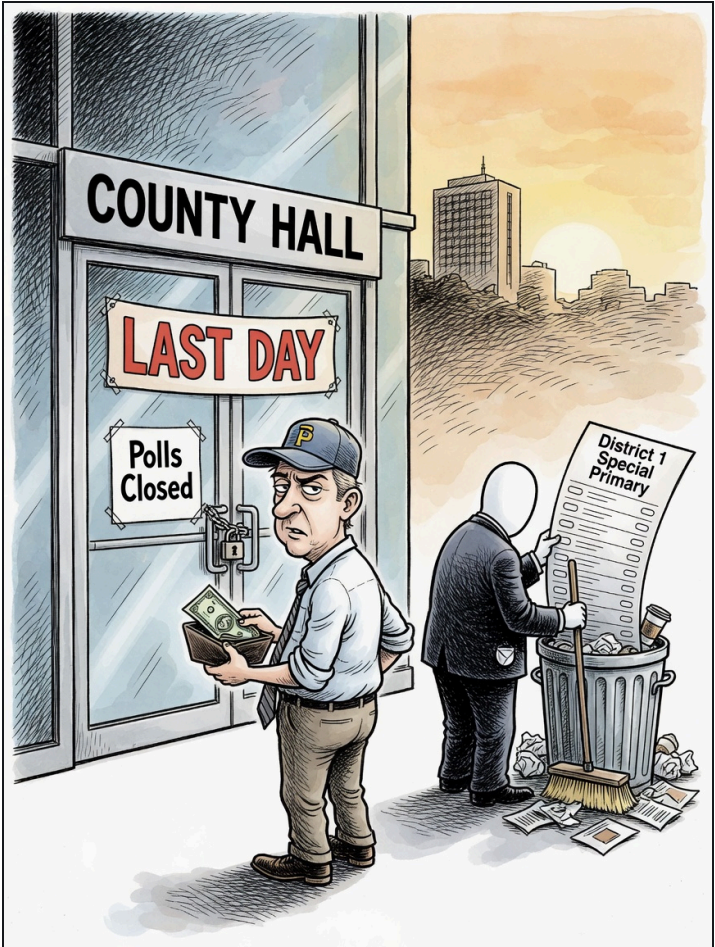
James Bishop to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Jayanta Bhattacharya to be Director of the National Institutes of Health

Keith Bass to be Assistant Secretary of Defense

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Mar 25, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON



Missed it by that much. Again.

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Rebuilding Los Angeles After Wildfires Demands a Fresh Look at Environmental Rules, Argues Edward Ring

Edward Ring, director of water and energy policy at the California Policy Center, says outdated regulations that limit housing, water and development are inflating costs and slowing recovery from the January fires.

As Los Angeles works to recover from the destructive wildfires that swept through the region in January, Edward Ring contends that existing state and local policies are not only failing to prevent such disasters but actively complicating rebuilding efforts.

Decades of environmental regulations have artificially restricted housing supply and driven up construction expenses, leaving many communities ill-equipped to recover quickly, Ring writes. While officials have moved to expedite permits and

insurance claims for fire victims, the crisis should prompt a deeper examination of policies that ration housing, water and energy.

These rules, intended to safeguard the environment, often harm low- and middle-income Californians the most, Ring argues. For years, state and local ordinances have discouraged suburban expansion in favor of dense infill development within existing urban boundaries. Yet building multi-story housing in cities costs far more per square foot than single-family homes on cheaper outlying land.

Ring challenges the notion that California faces a shortage of usable land. He notes that only 5 percent of the state is currently urbanized, even though 94 percent of residents live in those areas, resulting in some of the nation’s highest urban population densities. Vast stretches of open terrain along Highway 101 and Interstate 5 remain undeveloped.

Even a substantial

expansion to accommodate 10 million new residents—assuming four people per household on quarter-acre lots, plus equivalent space for infrastructure—would raise the state’s urban footprint only from 5 percent to 6.2 percent.

On the chronic water shortages plaguing the state, Ring insists the problem stems from policy choices rather than natural limits. Instead of pursuing supply-enhancing solutions, officials have focused on rationing. Available technologies include wastewater recycling, desalination, storm-runoff capture and new methods to divert and store millions of gallons from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta during heavy rains.

Ring asks why Los Angeles should not be reimaged as a greener “Garden City.” He suggests replacing drought-tolerant xeriscapes with more lawns and trees, which help retain moisture and mitigate the urban heat island effect. Rather than banning lawns, policymakers should limit

harmful herbicides, pesticides and overly flammable vegetation while allowing the Los Angeles River to be revitalized.

Neither Los Angeles, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta nor the Santa Monica Mountains can ever revert to a pristine, primeval condition, Ring writes. Fire suppression, levees and invasive grasses have permanently changed these landscapes. The real question is how best to manage these altered environments going forward.

He questions why hills surrounding a city of more than 10 million people remain largely off-limits to development. Strategic expansion into these areas, paired with fire-hardened construction and mandatory vegetation management by private landowners, could both increase housing supply and reduce wildfire hazards more effectively than leaving the land untouched.

Although California is 95 percent rural, strict greenbelt rules prevent responsible

urban growth, Ring writes. The choice is not between absolute preservation and uncontrolled sprawl but between balanced development that improves safety, affordability and environmental care.

Expanding cities thoughtfully while updating outdated policies can deliver abundant water, energy and housing without sacrificing most of the state’s wildlands, Ring concludes. Such an approach would make California more affordable, particularly for those now trying to rebuild their lives after the fires.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Apr 8, 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.

MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

State Declares Citrus Quarantine Expansion in Valley Center

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) declared a citrus quarantine expansion in Valley Center on March 26, after detecting the fatal citrus tree disease known as Huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening, in two citrus trees in residential neighborhoods in the Valley Center area during regular inspections.

This bacterial disease is a major threat to San Diego County’s \$144 million annual citrus crop and can impact residential citrus tree owners. HLB causes misshapen, bitter fruit and eventually kills infected trees. There are over 350 businesses that may be affected by the quarantine expansion, including over 100 growers with approximately 1 , 700 acres of commercial citrus and three commercial nurseries.

This new quarantine expansion adds to the existing HLB quarantines in Fallbrook, Oceanside, Rancho Bernardo and Valley Center.

The expanded quarantine will encompass portions of the citrus-growing regions of Pala and Pauma Valley. The maps for this HLB quarantine are available here .

The quarantine protects the region’s food supply , agricultural economy, and environmental sustainability by restricting people and businesses from moving citrus nursery stock, plant parts and fruit outside the quarantine boundaries and off their properties. The only exception is for agricultural businesses that must adhere to specific requirements for treatment, cleaning and packing commercial fruit prior to movement.

The disease is not harmful to people or animals but is deadly to citrus and could be devastating to the county’s citrus industry. HLB is spread by tiny insects, the Asian citrus psyllid, if they are carrying the bacterium when they feed on citrus trees. Samples from trees on the property where HLB was confirmed—as well as the surrounding area—are undergoing tests for the disease.

“Unfortunately, Huanglongbing is fatal to citrus,” said San Diego Agricultural Commissioner Ha Dang, “Our goal is to prevent this disease from spreading. By working together, we can all protect our food supply, local agriculture, and environment from this devastating disease. Partnering with state and federal regulatory partners, we are working closely with residents and agricultural operators and ask for everyone’s cooperation with the ongoing regulatory activities.”

CDFA will work with residents in the immediate area to arrange for treatment of citrus trees as a protective measure against the disease. County officials are also proactively notifying local citrus growers, plant nurseries, and other related businesses. If the disease is detected in additional citrus trees in the quarantine area, CDFA officials will contact properties regarding treatment and removal of the infected trees. Nearby trees will be treated, and detection efforts will be increased to prevent the spread of the

disease in the area.

Infected trees may have areas with mottled yellow leaves, generally seen in asymmetrical patterns and bear small, asymmetrical fruit, which is partially green, bitter, and not fit for sale or eating. The disease destroys the appearance and economic value of the trees and eventually causes their death, typically within a few years.

Inside the quarantine area, the County urges residents to take the following steps:

Do not move citrus plants, leaves or foliage into or out of the quarantine area.

Remove all leaves and stems and thoroughly wash backyard citrus before moving from the property where it was grown.

Dry or double-bag plant clippings prior to disposal.

Cooperate with agricultural officials who are inspecting trees, taking samples , and treating for the pest.

If residents no longer wish to care for a citrus tree, consider contacting a tree removal service to discuss options to help ensure trees do not continue to be a host

to the pest and disease.

Only buy citrus trees from reputable local nurseries.

Report citrus trees that seem to be sick or dying even though they also appear to be well-watered and well-maintained by contacting CDFA’s toll-free Pest Hotline at (800) 491-1899 or visit www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp .

Visit CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org to learn more about the pest and disease and to see pictures.

For questions regarding moving commercial citrus and HLB quarantine regulations, please contact the San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures (AWM) at (858) 614-7770, email cqp.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov , or visit www.sdcawm.org .

CDFA and AWM will be holding public meetings on April 10 and April 11 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the North Coast Church Pauma Valley located at 32077 Community Church Dr, Pauma Valley, CA 92061 .

County of San Diego news release · Apr 4, 2025

SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

The news, every day.

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