

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

County Residents Learn About County Budget, Services



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County residents had a chance to ask questions and learn about the role of the County budget in their daily lives at an evening open house in Kearny Mesa Thursday.

The Chief Administrative Officer's recommended budget won't be released until May 1, but staff members were on hand to spotlight some of the County's many services, talk about where funding comes from, and speak to how decisions are made in developing and adopting the County's budget.

Visitors could also give their feedback.

Regionally, County government provides services like:

Criminal prosecution, detention facilities and emergency preparedness

Food and restaurant inspections and beach water monitoring

In the unincorporated area, County government provides things a city government would typically do like:

Some cities also contract with the County to provide some of these services

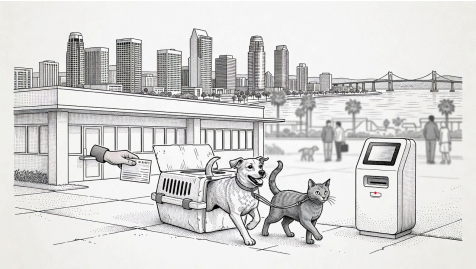
Attendees were invited to bring their kids and explore how the County helps the community. They visited with adoptable animals, met a live owl, watched a K9 demonstration and saw emergency vehicles up close, and more.

Another budget open house is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday May 22 at the County Operations Center. A virtual community budget meeting will take

place at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28.

More information on how to register for these events or request language and accessibility services can be found in the upcoming weeks on Engage San Diego .

County of San Diego news release · Apr 18, 2025



Illustration

COUNTY

County Pet Licensing Easier, Adds Services with DocuPet

Customers who buy a dog license, either as a new adoption or for renewal through San Diego County Animal Services are getting added value with a new free 24/7 lost pet service that helps keep animals out of shelters and gets them safely back home.

The new DocuPet system makes it easier than ever. Pet owners can license their pets online, by mail, phone, or in person. Through this partnership, San Diego County gains a powerful tool to improve efficiency, boost pet reunification rates, and enhance public compliance.

"This innovative system streamlines pet licensing and improves animal welfare across our community," said Vaughn Maurice, County Animal Services director. "With fewer pets entering shelters, we can focus more resources on those that truly need our care. We're thrilled to launch this partnership with DocuPet."

Dog licensing and an up-to-date rabies vaccination is required in San Diego County, but too many pet owners overlook this essential step. The easier

system could boost participation while providing a more convenient and beneficial experience for pet owners.

"We're proud to partner with San Diego County to support responsible pet ownership," said Grant Goodwin, CEO of DocuPet. "Pets with DocuPet tags spend little to no time in shelters, compared to unlicensed pets. This partnership is a meaningful step toward reducing shelter intake and increasing return-to-owner rates."

With the new system, residents can choose from hundreds of colorful, designer tags—or even create their own using a simple customization tool. Every tag includes DocuPet's free HomeSafe® lost pet service, which links the tag's unique code to a secure online profile. If a pet goes missing, the finder can use the tag to instantly file a Found Pet Report, while owners can do the same if their pet is lost. DocuPet's 24/7 dispatch team is always available to help reunite pets with their families.

Come adopt your new best friend at County animal shelters . This month, you can name your own adoption price for adult animals as part of Spring Break-Out for Shelter Pets. And if you dress in your favorite beach attire — think Hawaiian shirts, board shorts, or a sunny straw hat — you'll receive a free beach party kit to get the party started. Plus, County shelters are offering 25% off adoption fees for puppies and kittens.

County Animal Services' top priority is to protect the health, safety and welfare of animals and people. The department responds to the needs of the community and animals, promotes the humane and responsible care of pets, and works to find forever homes for every healthy and adoptable shelter animal.

DocuPet provides pet identification, licensing, and lost pet recovery services with the mission is of ensuring every pet has a safe, happy home.

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

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County Pet Licensing Easier, Adds Services with DocuPet

County of San Diego news release · Apr 18, 2025

COUNTY

Applications Open for Teen Summer Camp Focused on Public Health

A popular summer camp for local high school students who want to learn more about public health is accepting applications.

For the third year in a row, the County’s Health and Human Services Agency and the San Diego County Office of Education are teaming up to offer Public Health Advocate Camp. The no-cost, five-day summer camp runs from June 23 – June 27 and explores the world of public health.

Students will receive hands-on, project-based training from public health professionals who work with critical public health issues daily. Topics include Tuberculosis, Epidemiology and Immunization Services, HIV, and Mental Health.

Instructors include public health professionals and doctors from the County’s Public Health Services department. The agenda is designed to expand students’ understanding of health careers beyond hospital systems, providing an excellent introduction to public health careers and a professional network.

“This is a great opportunity for us to engage and inspire the next generation of public health professionals,” said Dr. Ankita Kadakia, County interim public health officer. “Students will leave this camp with real examples of how their work can keep the communities they live in safe and healthy.”

Eligible students must be a sophomore or junior in high school during the 2024-2025 school year. The application

deadline is May 2.

For details and to register, visit SDCOE . View camp video Public Health Advocate Camp 2023 .

County of San Diego news release · Apr 18, 2025

COUNTY

State of the County Address Focuses on New Ideas in Challenging Times

San Diego County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Terra Lawson-Remer gave the State of the County address during an evening presentation on Wednesday, April 16.

Vice Chair Lawson-Remer focused her address challenges at the federal level and how they affect programs that impact San Diegans.

She outlined proposals on how to support the County’s health, behavioral health and homelessness programs, the environment, consumer protections and more.

Vice Chair Lawson-Remer told the audience she wants the County to start a Medicaid plan of its own, a managed health care plan that could come to fruition in four years.

She said a local revenue measure could leverage \$1 billion a year to support the health program and other needs, like public safety, essential services, childcare for working families and expand in-home supportive services for the older adults.

The vice chair called for reform of the County’s reserves policy to staff and equip the new public health lab.

She supports a bill that would use border toll revenues to clean up the Tijuana River Valley and proposes using freed up County reserves to create a \$10 million matching fund to match state grants or philanthropic donations.

The vice chair would like to create a new County Consumer Financial Protection Division to protect

San Diegans and she’s exploring the possibility of creating a public bank that could finance affordable housing.

She closed by recognizing the efforts of County employees who serve the people in the region.

The live address took place at the San Diego Natural History Museum at Balboa Park and was available in American Sign Language at the venue, on social media channels and television. The broadcast offered live interpretation in Spanish via Zoom.

For details and information on additional proposals, watch the entire address above.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 17, 2025

COUNTY

New Public Health Services Live Well on Wheels Bus Hits the Road

Public Health Services has a new mobile resource to help deliver health services and information directly to local communities.

The County’s latest Live Well on Wheels (Live WoW) bus made its debut this month and will soon hit the road. It expands the fleet of two existing Live WoWs and a recently added HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Live WoW bringing the total number to four mobile vehicles available for use.

The nearly 12-foot-long Winnebago Freightliner will serve as a rolling public health resource, expanding the County’s ability to meet people where they are and offer a wide variety of programs and services to individuals right in their own neighborhoods.

Live WoWs can be outfitted to meet the needs of the community. Common uses are for delivering outreach for public benefits, providing educational health information, and giving vaccinations.

The new Live WoW will have a special focus on public health. It can be used to test for communicable diseases, like Hepatitis A, dengue, and food-borne illness. It can support large-scale site investigations for tuberculosis and serve as the command-and-control vehicle for related testing.

The newest Live WoW also can be used for emergency public health preparedness response training and available for mobile support during natural or man-made disasters.

Since the first Live WoW debuted in July 2021, the mobile offices have supported over 1,400 community events across the region providing more than 117,000 service interactions, including almost 16,000 COVID-19, flu, and general vaccinations.

The County’s Live Well on Wheels mobile vehicles are dispatched by the County and made available to the community for events.

Information on how to request a LWoW bus is available online.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 17, 2025

COUNTY

County Ahead of Schedule to Meet State Housing Goals

The County recently reported its 2024 housing totals through the General Plan & Housing Element Annual Progress Report .

This information is required annually by the state of California to track housing production across various income levels, which shows how local governments are meeting the state-defined housing needs for their jurisdiction. The County is well on track to meet its goals.

The report, shared with the Board of Supervisors on April 23, is a summary of housing and land use actions under the General Plan, from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2024.

Courts · Transit · Public safety

The numbers come from housing applications that require environmental review or approval (discretionary projects), building permits issued and move-in ready homes in the unincorporated area.

It does not reflect the number of housing units currently in the approval process or “pipeline,” which could take more than the 12 reported months depending on the complexity of the development, as well as outside influences such as builder financing, labor and supply shortages, mortgage interest rates, new laws and litigation. As of April 2024, there are more than 4,500 units in this process.

The report was presented as an informational item and does not require action by the Board. A more in-depth look at County policies related to housing will be presented at a housing workshop this fall.

The County is 84% of the way to meeting its goal of 6,700 total units over an eight-year period (2021-2029).

While meeting or exceeding other income category goals, the County has more work to do toward meeting its housing goals for its very low-income population.

Building trends and numbers are largely impacted by economic factors and have been declining since the post-2008 recovery.

There was an 11% drop in permitted homes and a 24% decrease in completed homes compared to 2023.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) projects have increased as an overall portion of permitted housing units (489 units – 45%).

More information about the data presented in the report can be found in this helpful Q&A.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 23, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

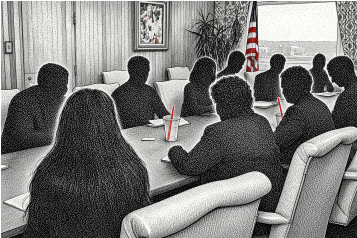


Illustration from a photo by Department of Housing and Urban Development. Office of the Chief Human Capital O · Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

BUSINESS

PAGA Call to Action

CALL TO ACTION – The Chamber, in partnership with leading business organizations across the state, supported meaningful reforms last year to the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA)

to curb decades of litigation abuse. As a refresher, PAGA was a well-intentioned effort enacted decades ago to address workplace violations. It unfortunately turned into a vehicle for private attorneys to take advantage of workers, profiting off these cases, financially burdening companies, and rarely benefiting employees.

A deal was announced on June 18th, 2024, between the “Fix PAGA” Coalition, labor leaders, the Governor’s office, and legislative leadership. The legislation for the deal included AB 2288 and SB 92,

which moved through the legislature quickly last month. Governor Newsom officially signed the bills into law on July 1st, solidifying and formalizing the PAGA reform deal. This will help refine some of the most burdensome aspects of PAGA for businesses by capping penalties, imposing a one-year time limit on claims, and improving right-to-cure processes.

Now, SB 310 (Wiener) threatens to undo that progress by creating a new private right of action under Labor Code section 210,

fueling duplicative lawsuits, stacked penalties, and inflated settlements that harm employers across California. This would open the door to renewed litigation abuse, increase costs for employers of all sizes, and undermine the balance achieved through recent reforms. The Chamber joined a coalition letter voicing our strong opposition to the bill.

We urge you to make your voice heard by reaching out to State Senators, via email or phone. Please feel free to reach out to Chamber Executive Director of Public

Affairs, Justine Murray, directly for more updates and information as to how to engage with the legislature as this bill moves through the legislative process this year at jmurray@sdchamber.org .

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Apr 22, 2025

BUSINESS

Trade and Tariffs Update

President Trump declared April 2nd as Liberation Day with an executive order declaring a national emergency arising from U.S. goods

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BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

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Trade and Tariffs Update

trade deficits. The executive order imposed a 10% baseline tariff that went into effect on April 5th and reciprocal tariffs to over 180 countries while exempting Canda and Mexico due to USMCA provisions. However, our North American partners were not exempt from 25% tariffs on imported vehicles and auto parts that went into effect April 3rd.

Some countries retaliated to reciprocal tariffs including China, imposing tariffs to U.S. imports, and prompting President Trump to respond with an increase effective immediately. The trade war with China has led to multiple increase in tariffs, now standing at China being subjected to 245% levies and the U.S. subjected to 125%. The Administration later announced a 90 day pause on all other reciprocal tariffs and conveyed it is looking into separate tariffs on semiconductor chips and certain electronics. Effective July 14, the

Administration also plans to impose 20.91% tariffs on tomatoes imported from Mexico, as the U.S. withdrew from a bilateral agreement aiming to protect domestic tomato growers.

In the latest efforts to prevent tariffs, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited the White House where President Trump assured there will be 100% be a European Union tariff deal and is working his way to make other deals with other countries. On the other hand, Governor Newsom is also holding conversations with trade partners around the world to encourage them to invest in California and maintain stable trading relationships. His latest action is suing the Trump administration, challenging the president's constitutional authority to enact tariffs.

This month, the Chamber led its annual binational delegation trip to Washington, D.C., where trade and economic development were a top priority. On our meeting with Mexican Ambassador

Esteban Moctezuma, he expressed optimism due to strong bilateral ties and ongoing communication between economic, foreign affairs, and public safety authorities. In our meetings with Department of State, Small Business Administration, and Department of Commerce, top-level officials underlined the importance of business delegations which continue to be a powerful mechanism to educate decision makers on our region's contribution to national economy and elevate regional priorities such as infrastructure and policies that our businesses need to thrive.

The Chamber continues to actively voice opposition on tariffs in partnership with state and nationwide partners including the U.S. Chamber who has shared an online tool to highlight how trade helps boost growth in the U.S. We welcome your input on how tariffs and/or the uncertainty of tariffs has impacted your business – please reach out to kzamarripa@sdchamber.org

to share your story.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Apr 22, 2025

BUSINESS

TJRV Update

Earlier this month, the Chamber hosted a Green Agora meeting in partnership with Tijuana Innovadora to discuss ongoing collaborations amongst authorities and stakeholders on both sides of the border to mitigate transboundary pollution and ensure key players take part to address other water challenges in the region.

As part of the Chamber's annual binational delegation to D.C., delegates raised the urgency of critical wastewater infrastructure projects to address the transboundary polluted flows, including the expansion and improvements of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Ysidro. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced plans to visit the region to address permanent solutions. The agenda this week included a tour of infrastructure

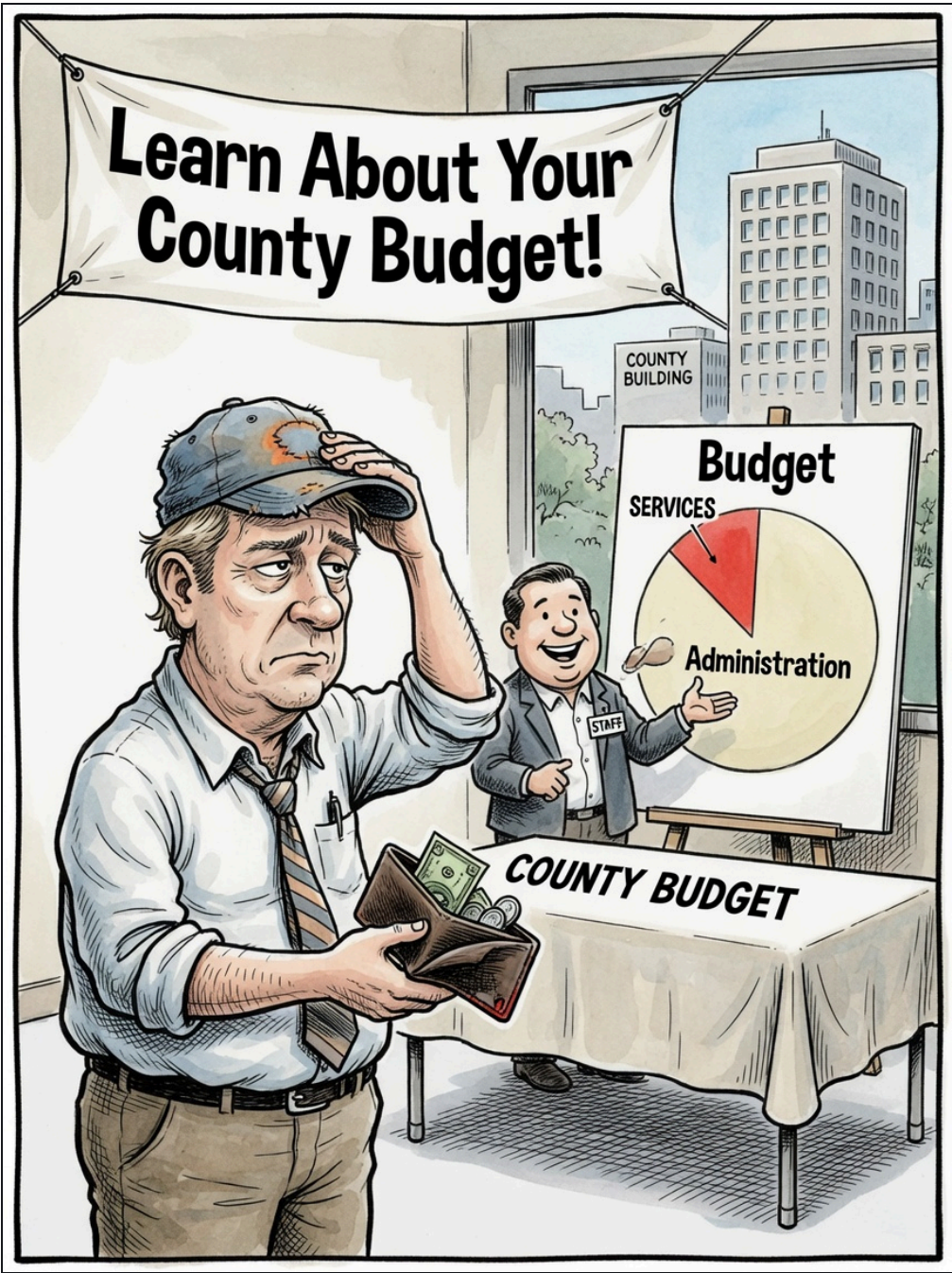
projects and meetings with regional leaders and authorities from both sides of the border including upcoming Chamber President & CEO Chris Cate.

On regional efforts, Imperial Beach City Council introduced a Resolution in attempt to hold Mexican authorities accountable for transboundary polluted flows. Chamber Policy Advisor Lauren Cazares raised concern on language within the resolution and urged to remove a section aiming to limit access (operations) across land ports of entry. The resolution passed with all council members voting in favor and Mayor Aguirre voting against the resolution. The Chamber stands by the belief that closing our borders is not the solution as limiting activity at our ports of entry is detrimental to our region's economy, workforce, and binational community.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Apr 22, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Your wallet's role in their daily lives
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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 sandiegonewslne.com.

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