

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

Revive & Survive Celebrates 500K Milestone in CPR Training Goal

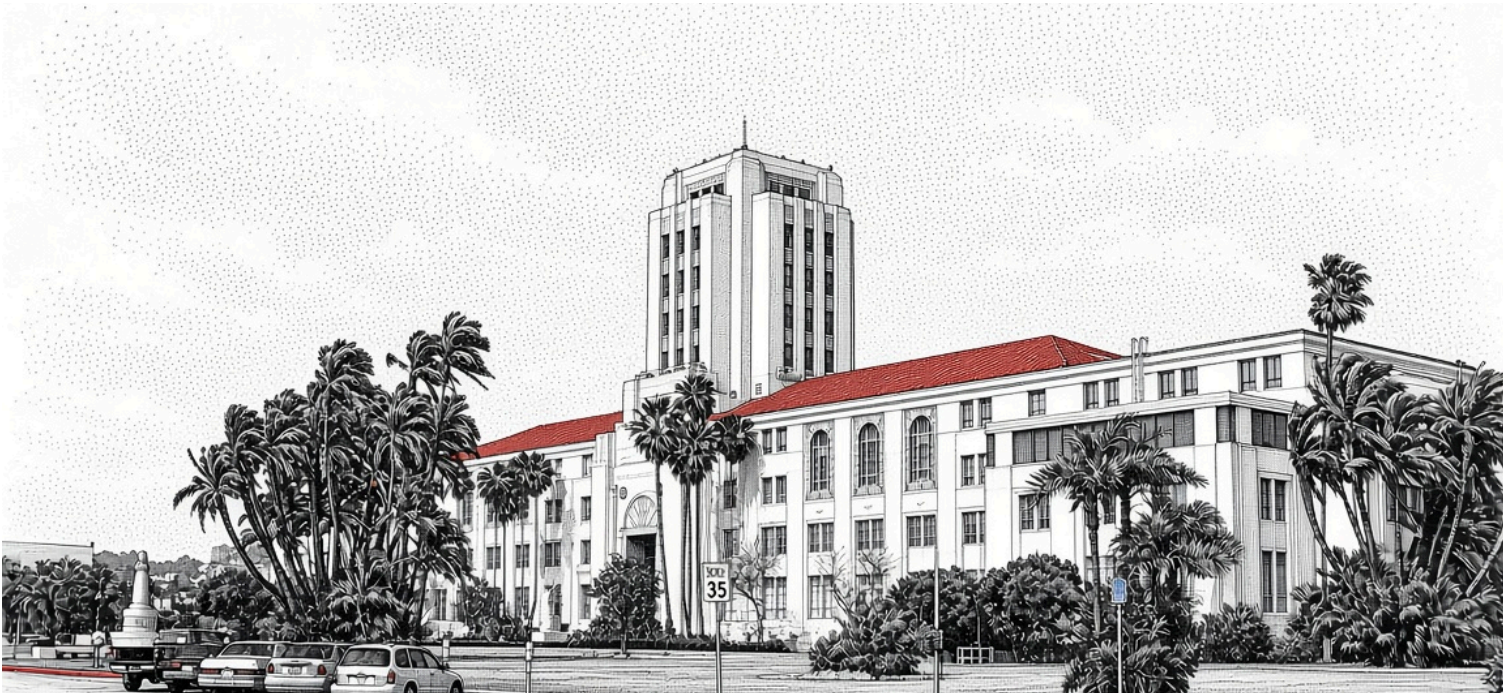


Illustration from a photo by Edward O'Connor (hober) · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

More than 522,000 people learned hands-only CPR as part of the Revive & Survive San Diego Initiative launched in January 2024. The initiative is more than halfway to its goal of training one million people to do hands-only CPR.

They have hosted nearly 14,000 training sessions, including this one at Moonlight Beach, in collaboration with more than 35 community partners. Administering CPR immediately to someone experiencing cardiac arrest can double their chances of survival.

Globally, cardiac arrest claims more lives than colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, influenza, pneumonia, auto collisions, HIV, firearms and house fires combined, according to the American Heart Association.

Learn more about the Revive & Survive Initiative .

County of San Diego news release · Jul 9, 2025



Illustration from a photo by Ruff tuff cream puff · Wikimedia Commons, CCO

COUNTY

Tijuana River Valley Sewage Community Survey Results Complete

The results are in from a second, larger community survey where 2,099 people

in San Diego's South Bay completed questionnaires about their experiences living, working or recreating near the Tijuana River Valley and polluted beaches from the border to Coronado.

Overall, the results show people in the area have concerns about air quality and drinking water and have made changes to their daily lives in response to the sewage crisis.

In November 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) asked San Diegans in the County's south region about how the sewage flows had impacted their lives.

The survey is called the Assessment of Chemical Exposures (ACE). It is used by the ATSDR to quickly assess how many people were exposed to harmful agents and if they are experiencing symptoms or have any immediate needs.

The information collected in the South Region includes anecdotal stories about changes to everyday life along with physical and mental health impacts. The results are being used to determine what steps and support further efforts to address the sewage crisis with local, state and federal partners.

People can view and download the ACE results on an interactive dashboard on the County's Tijuana River Valley and Beach Water Sewage Crisis Public Health Response website (sandiegocounty.gov/southregionhealth).

Regarding demographics of those who took the survey, 49 percent are Hispanic/Latino(a) and 41 percent are white. Among respondents, 86 percent said they live in the area, 31 percent say they visit the area for recreational activities, 21 percent work there and 16 percent attend preschool or school.

67 percent said they do not believe the area is safe to visit, work or live in.

Among the top concerns was air

quality (97 percent), beach water quality (96 percent), Tijuana River quality (94 percent) and drinking water (86 percent).

About 80 percent said they have made many or some lifestyle changes due to the sewage and taken steps to avoid the area.

When it came to drinking water, the majority, 70 percent, said they use bottled water, with only 21 percent drinking tap water.

64 percent reported at least one new or worsening physical health symptom they attributed to the sewage crisis in the past 30 days

People reported headaches, a runny nose, congestion and coughing as the most common symptoms related to the sewage crisis.

Regarding mental health, 65 percent said their symptoms are related to the sewage crisis with 28 percent reporting some anxiety or worry and 21 percent reporting s depression

More than 60 percent of parents answering for children said their child had missed preschool or school due to symptoms they believe are related to the sewage crisis.

34 percent of those working in the area missed work due to symptoms they attributed to the crisis

25 percent of all survey participants have pets with health symptoms like skin, ear or eye issues or respiratory, cardiac or digestive symptoms, they believe to be linked to the sewage crisis.

When asked about unmet needs, 48 percent said clean water, 25 percent said medical care and 20 percent said mental health care.

The results of ACE confirmed the results of the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) completed last October while expanding participation to more impacted communities and to the individual level instead of households

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

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Tijuana River Valley Sewage Community Survey Results Complete

Community members reporting physical symptoms and mental health issues they felt were caused by the sewage crisis were prevalent in both surveys. Concerns about the safety of the community and of the safety of tap water for drinking were also common to both surveys.

The County is leading an ongoing collaboration with multiple agencies , bringing them together for regular meetings to address air and water issues related to the Tijuana River Valley crisis.

Based on assessment results, the County has identified the following priority actions to address with collaborating partners.

Communication: Share health and resource information in multiple formats including social media and via community outreach workers.

Drinking Water: Educate the community about how household drinking water is tested and not sourced from the Tijuana River.

Mental Health Concerns: Promote mental health services and resources.

Healthcare Providers: Update providers on surveillance activities and ongoing projects.

Pet Concerns: Engage with vets, hospitals and area animal organizations.

Expected to take about two years, another public health assessment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease

Registry (ATSDR) will evaluate the Tijuana River Valley for hazardous substances, health outcomes, and community concerns.

This new public health assessment will look at environmental data from government agencies and researchers, review air, surface water, sediment, soil, fish tissue, and odor complaint data, identify information gaps and uncertainties where there is not enough data to determine health risks and make recommendations to agencies, community members, and others to prevent and minimize harmful exposures.

To view the ACE and CASPER studies and regularly updated information about health concerns and impacts from sewage and pollution in the Tijuana River Valley, visit sandiegocounty.gov/southregionhealth.

Mental health resources are available for anyone feeling emotionally affected by the Tijuana River Valley sewage crisis through the San Diego Access Crisis Line by calling 1-888-724-7240 or 988.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 8, 2025

COUNTY

County Urges Pet Owners to Protect Pets During Extreme Heat

With extreme heat expected across the region this week, County Animal Services is urging pet owners to take immediate steps to protect their animals.

Parts of San Diego County will be under a heat advisory or an extreme heat warning from 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, through 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10, with dangerously hot temperatures expected in

inland valleys, mountains and desert areas. The National Weather Service forecasts highs in the 90s in valley and mountain communities and temperatures up to 118 degrees in the desert.

Hot weather can quickly lead to heat-related illness, especially for vulnerable people and pets.

“Extreme heat puts pets at serious risk of heatstroke and dehydration,” said Animal Services Director Vaughn Maurice. “Never leave pets in cars, always provide them with water and shade, and avoid walking them on hot surfaces. These simple steps can save their lives.”

Even on an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car can hit 102 degrees in just 10 minutes, even with the windows cracked. It can soar past 120 degrees shortly after. That kind of heat can cause pets to suffer brain damage, heatstroke or even death. The best advice is to leave pets at home during hot summer days.

If you see a pet left in a vehicle and believe the animal is in danger, California law allows you to remove an animal from a vehicle if it appears to be in distress. Call County Animal Services’ 24/7 emergency line at 619-236-2341 for animal-related emergencies. If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 911.

Pets can also overheat quickly on walks or hikes. A good rule of thumb: If it’s too hot for you to walk barefoot, it’s too hot for your dog. Hot pavement, asphalt or sand can burn their paws. If you take your dog out, do so only in the early morning hours, stick to grass and shaded

paths, and always bring plenty of water for both you and your pet.

Apply cool—not cold—water to lower their body temperature.

Place cold, wet towels on the head, neck and chest.

Offer small amounts of cool water or ice cubes to lick.

Keep pets indoors when possible, especially during peak heat hours.

Ensure they have access to shade all day, as the sun shifts.

Use tip-proof containers for water, and make sure it stays cool—some pets won’t drink hot water.

Consider a misting system or kiddie pool to help them cool off.

It’s also a good time to review your pet emergency plan . Create or update a pet evacuation kit with food, water, medications, a leash or carrier, and vaccination and microchip records. If your pet isn’t microchipped, now is a good time—it could help reunite you if you’re ever separated during an emergency.

By taking these precautions and being aware of the heat, San Diego County residents can help keep their pets safe during extreme summer temperatures.

For additional pet safety tips, visit the County Animal Services website .

County of San Diego news release · Jul 8, 2025

COUNTY

Owner Identified in Dog Dragging Case – Charges to be Filed

San Diego County Animal Services has identified the person responsible for the

Courts · Transit · Public safety

horrific July 2 incident in Spring Valley in which a dog was dragged behind a vehicle.

After seeing video coverage of the incident on television, the dog’s owner contacted County Animal Services and admitted that it was his truck and his dog involved. Animal Control Officers responded to the suspect’s residence and confirmed that he was indeed the individual seen driving the truck in the video.

Tragically, due to the extent of the dog’s injuries, the animal had already been euthanized by a veterinary clinic prior to officers’ arrival. Animal Services was able to intercept the dog’s remains before cremation to preserve evidence for the investigation.

“This is an incredibly sad and disturbing case,” said Vaughn Maurice, director of County Animal Services. “While we are grateful to have identified the person responsible, our hearts break for this dog and what it endured.”

Animal Services is filing charges against the suspect with the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office.

“We want to thank the media and everyone in the community who shared this story and provided information,” Maurice said. “Your efforts were instrumental in helping us identify the individual involved and move toward justice for this innocent animal.”

Anyone with additional information related to this case is encouraged to contact San Diego County Animal Services at 619-236-2341.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 4, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Royal Knights Limousine

Member Spotlight – Royal Knights Limousine

Estefanía Kramber, Chief Operating Officer

We’re not here just to sound professional or to fit the typical mold of a limousine company.

We are people with a dream – a dream that started when we stumbled into the transportation world and stayed, not because it was planned, but because we saw an opportunity to build something

different.

From the beginning, our vision was bigger than just cars and rides. We wanted to create a company where executives, employees, and clients are part of the same foundation – where people are not just accounts or numbers, but real connections we value.

At Royal Knights Limousine, we aim to build meaningful relationships with the customers who trust us with their lives and their time. We believe in being reachable, listening to real needs and concerns, and working together to create a way of doing business that feels almost forgotten in today’s fast-paced world.

We are a private transportation company based on strong values and integrity. Our goal is to deliver professional service without ever

losing the human touch.

We are open to collaborating with anyone – individuals, families, corporations, high-profile executives – and we are committed to working hand-in-hand to find the best way to meet each client’s unique needs.

Whether it’s a CEO heading to an important meeting or a family celebrating a special day, we are here, ready to deliver a service that feels personal, trustworthy, and exceptional.

As a thank you for your time and support, we are offering 15% off your first reservation when you mention the Chamber.

We look forward to making that connection.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 26, 2025

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Anila Care at Home

Spotlight: Anila Care at Home – Compassionate, Personalized In-Home Care for San Diego’s Aging Community

Founded by Missa, a dedicated healthcare professional with deep roots in caregiving, Anila Care at Home is a trusted provider of non-medical, around-the-clock care across San Diego County. With experience spanning cardiac units, trauma centers, memory care, hospice, and one-on-one in-home support, Missa brings unmatched compassion and clinical knowledge to the community she serves.

Anila, which stands for Accountability, Noble-heartedness, Integrity, Life enhancement, and Acts of

kindness, was created to meet a growing need for personalized home care that goes beyond basic assistance. Missa built this company with one mission in mind: to deliver care that feels like family.

Anila Care at Home offers a wide range of services including:

Nutrition, hydration, and medication reminders

Meal prep, companionship, and social activities

Support for post-rehab recovery and aging-in-place

Education and guidance for families transitioning from hospital to home care

With flexible pricing, consistent caregivers, and multi-lingual support (English, Spanish, Arabic, Amharic), Anila ensures every client is matched with a caregiver

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BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Member Spotlight:
Anila Care at Home

who meets their physical, emotional, and cultural needs.

Anila’s care plans are

custom-built in collaboration with clients, families, and professionals to support quality of life, independence, and comfort—wherever home may be. Whether you live in a private residence, with loved

ones, or in a retirement community, Anila Care at Home is there to support you.

Missa personally trains and mentors every caregiver on her team, ensuring Anila’s heart-centered values are

present in every visit. For her, care is more than a service, it’s calling. And through Anila Care at Home, she’s making a lasting impact on San Diego’s elderly population, one family at a time.

To learn more, visit www.anilahomecare.com or call 858-230-8025.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 26, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



County urges you to protect pets from heat

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY

Orange County’s \$649 Million Streetcar Project Criticized as Fiscal Mismanagement

Athan Joshi, a visiting research assistant for the California Policy Center, argues that the OC Streetcar exemplifies wasteful transit spending, with costs exploding while delivering negligible benefits to residents.

California’s high-speed rail project may grab most of the attention as a costly failure, but other local transit initiatives also deserve scrutiny for squandering taxpayer dollars.

In a new commentary, visiting research assistant Athan Joshi highlights Orange County’s 4.15-mile OC Streetcar, running from Santa Ana to Garden Grove, as a prime example of misguided priorities and poor oversight.

According to Joshi, the

project was promoted as a vital connection between neighborhoods, jobs and transit hubs. Yet as its delayed opening approaches in 2026, ballooning expenses, dubious ridership forecasts and harm to local businesses reveal deep flaws.

Joshi notes that the OC Streetcar’s price tag has surged from an initial \$250 million estimate in 2015 to \$649 million today — a 2.6-fold increase that could rise further. That equates to roughly \$156 million per mile, almost twice the cost of the next highest streetcar project, the DC Streetcar at \$83 million per mile.

Because part of the funding comes from Orange County’s Measure M2 half-cent sales tax, local taxpayers shoulder an extra load. Any additional overruns would be covered entirely by county funds.

A recent 2024-25 Orange County Grand Jury report delivers a harsh critique of the project’s operational and financial mismanagement. The report faults the Orange County Transportation Authority for failing to plan for problems such as contaminated soil, Native American remains and outdated utilities, which have driven up both delays and expenses.

Even before the pandemic, OCTA projected only 6,000 to 7,500 daily riders — a modest figure for such a large investment. Those expectations now appear overly optimistic given demographic and ridership trends.

Santa Ana’s population has dropped from 326,626 in 2015 to 315,325 in 2025. Meanwhile, Metrolink rail lines that the streetcar is meant to support have seen weekday ridership on the Orange County and

Inland-Empire Orange County lines fall over 50 percent, from 14,892 in the second quarter of 2019-20 to 7,121 in the second quarter of 2024-25.

At its highest anticipated ridership of 7,500 passengers per day, the streetcar would reduce Orange County’s annual vehicle miles traveled by just 0.015 percent. When fully built with ten stations, it would transport about as many people daily as one arterial bus route in neighboring Los Angeles County.

As the Grand Jury report states, quoted by Joshi: “this is an extraordinary amount of money for a project that will serve a tiny fraction (less than ¼ of 1%) of the 3.2 million Orange County residents.”

Construction has also inflicted serious damage on downtown Santa Ana

businesses. The Grand Jury report describes the work as “devastating,” citing “confusing street closures” and a “hopscotch method” of construction that cut off customer access. In response, the city council provided \$1.5 million in 2022 to assist affected merchants — another expense ultimately paid by local taxpayers.

Joshi adds that OCTA’s overall finances raise further concerns, with the agency’s last two budgets drawing down \$300-350 million in reserves each year. While the authority promotes the streetcar as a “zero-emission transit option,” its environmental gains are insignificant relative to the price tag and any relief for traffic congestion will be minimal.

As the project nears its spring 2026 debut, Orange County taxpayers remain

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COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)

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Orange County’s \$649 Million Streetcar Project Criticized as Fiscal Mismanagement

responsible for a costly venture that is over budget, behind schedule and disconnected from practical needs.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Jul 8, 2025

COMMENTARY

California’s High-Speed Rail: A Boondoggle That Refuses to Die

Lance Christensen of the California Policy Center argues that the state’s long-promised bullet train has become an expensive project devouring taxpayer dollars with little to show.

More than a decade after labeling California’s high-speed rail project “the gift that

keeps on taking,” Lance Christensen says it remains a boondoggle that refuses to die.

Christensen, vice president of government affairs and education policy at the California Policy Center, notes that voters approved Proposition 1A in 2008 expecting an 800-mile system linking San Francisco to Los Angeles along with extensions to Sacramento and San Diego.

Instead, construction is limited to a 119-mile segment between Madera and Shafter, far short of even the scaled-back 171-mile Merced-to-Bakersfield route once discussed.

The project was promoted as an environmental solution that would combat climate change and reduce housing sprawl, yet it has evolved into a fiscal nightmare with

ever-rising costs and slipping deadlines.

Original estimates placed the project’s price at \$33 billion. Current projections now exceed \$100 billion, with the Initial Operating Segment alone expected to cost \$35 billion. So far, \$13 billion has been spent.

Ridership forecasts have also been cut. A 2023 report from the High-Speed Rail Authority reduced projections by 25 percent, reflecting post-pandemic preferences for cars and airplanes that deliver passengers directly to their destinations.

The planned route fails to connect major cities, tourist sites or economic centers, likening it to “building a luxury cruise line between two puddles.”

Christensen argues that the real beneficiaries are politically connected contractors,

unions and bureaucrats who benefit from project labor agreements and prolonged construction timelines, while taxpayers and displaced families bear the burden.

Eminent domain has forced thousands of families to lose homes, farms and businesses, with some still entangled in compensation disputes years later.

Funding continues through the state’s cap-and-trade program, which directs about \$1 billion annually to the rail effort. This effectively raises costs for energy, gasoline and even food to subsidize a train most Californians will never use.

Even if the system eventually reaches San Francisco and Los Angeles, the unresolved “last-mile” challenge forces riders to rely on taxis, subways or other transport to complete their trips.

What was sold as a European-style high-speed network has instead become “a taxpayer-funded endurance experiment in how long a state can keep throwing good money after bad while calling it visionary.”

The project is not a people train but a gravy train, and it will continue as long as taxpayers are willing to foot the bill.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Jul 7, 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

COUNTY

County to Spray in Rolando Area for Mosquitoes to Reduce Risk of West Nile Virus

To protect the public and keep mosquitoes from potentially spreading West Nile virus, the County is scheduled to conduct ultra-low volume, truck-mounted, pesticide-mist treatments this week to reduce the number of adult mosquitoes on approximately 4,000 parcels in the community of Rolando, including parts in San Diego and La Mesa.

County Vector Control truck treatments will use AquaDuet—a pesticide approved by the Environmental Protection Agency that poses low risks to people and pets. The treatments are scheduled to take place from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9 through Friday, July 11, depending on conditions.

As recently reported , the County detected West Nile virus in mosquitoes collected in that area on June 24. Follow-up surveillance and testing revealed additional West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes nearby, which necessitates the spraying for adult mosquitoes to reduce the risk of the disease being spread to people.

More information, including a map of the treatment area, frequently asked questions, and contact information for Vector Control, can be found on Vector Control’s

Adult Mosquito Control Information webpage.

While the treatments pose a low risk to people and pets and the pesticide dissipates in roughly 20 to 30 minutes, residents may wish—as a precaution—to stay inside, keep pets and pet bowls inside, and close windows during the treatment.

Normal activities can be resumed 30 minutes after the treatment. Also, beekeepers and those with insects kept outdoors are encouraged to shelter hives and habitats during treatments. Beekeepers registered with the County’s Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures can request to receive advance notice when pesticide spraying that may affect bees is applied to blossoming plants in their areas.

So far, there have been no reported human cases in San Diego County this year. In 2024, the County reported 2 cases. However, West Nile virus remains a potentially deadly threat. Some people who become infected can suffer fever with other symptoms, headaches, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. But in rare cases, West Nile virus can make people extremely ill and even kill them. If you have symptoms, seek medical care.

County officials said people should continue to follow the County’s “Prevent, Protect, Report” guidelines to protect

themselves from mosquitoes. Those include finding and dumping out standing water around homes to keep mosquitoes from breeding.

Dump out or remove any item inside or outside of homes that can hold water—whether from rain or landscape irrigation. Those things can include plant saucers, rain barrels, buckets, garbage cans, toys, old tires and wheelbarrows. Mosquitofish, available for free by contacting the Vector Control Program, may be used to control mosquito breeding in backyard water sources such as stagnant swimming pools, ponds, fountains and horse troughs.

Protect yourself from mosquito-borne illnesses by wearing long sleeves and pants or use insect repellent when outdoors. Use insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, 2-undecanone or IR3535. Make sure screens on windows and doors are in good condition and secured to keep insects out.

Report possible mosquito activity and dead birds

Report increased mosquito activity, unmaintained green swimming pools, and other mosquito-breeding sources, as well as dead birds—crows, ravens, jays, hawks and owls—to the County Vector Control Program by calling (858) 694-2888 or emailing vector@sdcounty.ca.gov .

Go to San Diego County’s “Fight the Bite ” website to learn how to prevent and protect against West Nile virus and mosquitoes.

For more information about West Nile virus, go to the County Health and Human Services Agency’s West Nile virus webpage .

County of San Diego news release · Jul 7, 2025

COUNTY

County Animal Services Seeks Public’s Help in Identifying Animal Abuse Suspect

UPDATE July 4, 2025: San Diego County Animal Services has identified the person responsible for the horrific July 2 incident in Spring Valley in which a dog was dragged behind a vehicle.

San Diego County Animal Services is asking for the public’s help in identifying the person responsible for a horrific act of animal cruelty in Spring Valley.

On July 2, 2025, at approximately 5:45 p.m., witnesses observed a red and brown Doberman being dragged behind a vehicle traveling at an estimated 30 miles per hour near the 9100 block of Edgewood Drive in Spring Valley. Witnesses reported that the dog was flipping over while being dragged, and that the driver appeared to laugh and ignored bystanders’ attempts to intervene. The incident continued for several

minutes along Bancroft Drive.

“This is a truly shocking act of cruelty,” said County Animal Services Director Vaughn Maurice. “We are doing everything we can to identify the person responsible and ensure they are held accountable. We need the community’s help. If you saw anything or know who was involved, please contact us immediately. Your tip could make all the difference for this innocent animal.”

Witnesses described the suspect as a white male in his thirties with long gold or brown hair and a red beard. The vehicle involved was described as an older model black Jeep Cherokee. Investigators have determined that the vehicle may have previously been owned by another individual, and they are working to locate the current owner.

Graphic Content Warning: This video contains graphic footage of a dog being dragged behind a vehicle. Viewer discretion is advised. Click to watch the video .

Anyone with information about this crime, the suspect, or the whereabouts of the dog involved is urged to call San Diego County Animal Services at 619-541-1155. Callers can remain anonymous.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 3, 2025

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