

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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DOWNTOWN

The Great ShakeOut at Waterfront Park



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There was a whole lot of shaking going on Thursday at San Diego County's Waterfront Park for Great ShakeOut day — the yearly event where people learn and practice how to protect themselves from a potential quake.

State emergency officials brought their earthquake simulator to the park to teach about quake preparedness and let people actually feel what a 7.0 magnitude earthquake would be like.

At 10:16 a.m. on 10-16, state officials at the park and potentially 10 million other Californians who registered to take part in the annual earthquake preparedness day practiced their “drop, cover and hold” techniques designed to keep them safe during an actual earthquake. Meanwhile, visitors to the Waterfront Park got the chance to ride the simulator and experience 30 to 40 seconds what we all hope will never happen but what inevitably could — a 7.0 temblor — the kind of earthquake that can cause serious and widespread damage.

They also got the chance to pick up preparedness materials and learn how to stay safe. Tips included information about the free MyShake earthquake app, which gives people “seconds to 10s of seconds” of early warning before earthquake-shaking starts in their areas. There was also information about buying and using straps for bookcases and putty material to adhere glass items to shelves to protect them from one of the biggest sources of earthquake injuries, flying debris.

For more information about

protecting yourself from earthquakes, wildfires and other emergencies, go to AlertSanDiego.org.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 16, 2025



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COUNTY

Registrar Urges Voters to Vote Early for November Special Election

If you're a registered voter and haven't cast your ballot yet, you'll soon get a reminder from the Registrar's office that you have less than two weeks to cast your ballot for the Nov. 4 special election .

The Registrar sent over 1.6 million reminder postcards to registered voters in San Diego County who had not voted as of Oct. 16.

Don't delay! If you have been holding onto your ballot, act now and vote from the comfort of your home. Sign and date your return envelope, seal your completed ballot inside and return it by mail or at any of the Registrar's over 140 official ballot drop boxes.

The Registrar's secure stand-alone drop boxes feature the Registrar's logo along with the County seal and are labeled “Official Ballot Drop Box.” Find one close to you through the Registrar's online locator map or inside your voter information pamphlet . Check each location's hours of operation before heading out at sdvote.com. All will close at 8 p.m. on Nov. 4.

The sooner the Registrar's office receives your ballot, the sooner it is processed for the first release of election night results.

If you want to vote in person, the Registrar's office urges you to take advantage of early voting days. There are fewer vote center locations for this special election, so if you wait until Election Day to vote, you should expect long lines.

Starting Saturday, Oct. 25, select vote centers located around the county will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting Saturday, Nov. 1, all vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On the final day of voting, Nov. 4, all vote centers, official ballot drop boxes and the Registrar's office will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Early voting is already underway at the Registrar's office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Voters throughout the state will decide whether to adopt Proposition 50, an amendment to the State Constitution related to redistricting. You can learn more about the proposition in the California Voter Information Guide .

Voters who reside in the City of Poway's Council District 2 will have an additional question on their ballot. Poway District 2 voters will decide whether to remove their elected representative on the city council from office. Only voters living in Poway's Council District 2 are eligible to vote on this contest. If you're not sure whether you live in the district, you can look it up at sdvote.com .

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

County of San Diego news release · Oct 22, 2025

COUNTY

Register to Vote by Oct. 20 for November Special Election

If you want to vote in the Nov. 4 special election , you must register by Monday, Oct. 20 to receive a ballot in the mail. Otherwise, you will need to make a trip in person to the Registrar's office in Kearny Mesa or visit a vote center starting Saturday, Oct. 25 to conditionally

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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Register to Vote by Oct. 20 for November Special Election

register and vote provisionally through Nov. 4.

Registering to vote is quick and easy and can be done online at sdvote.com. You will need to register to vote if you:

If your signature is confirmed through records at the California Department of Motor Vehicles, your registration will automatically be sent to the Registrar’s office. If your signature is not confirmed, you can print the form, sign it and return it to the Registrar’s office by 5 p.m. on Oct. 20.

Registration forms must be postmarked or delivered to the Registrar’s office by Oct. 20. Voters may also register online until midnight.

If you don’t have access to a computer, you may request a registration form by calling (800) 696-0136 or emailing rovmail@sdcounty.ca.gov .

Not sure if you’re registered to vote? Check your registration status online at sdvote.com.

For voters who need language assistance, voting materials are also available in Spanish, Filipino, Vietnamese and Chinese.

Early voting is already underway from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Registrar of Voters office in Kearny Mesa , located at 5600 Overland Ave., San Diego.

If you want to vote in person, the Registrar’s office is encouraging voters to take advantage of early voting. There are fewer vote center locations for this special election, so if you want to avoid long lines don’t wait until Election Day.

Starting Saturday, Oct. 25, select vote centers located around the county will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting Saturday, Nov. 1, all vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On the final day of voting, Nov. 4, all vote centers, official ballot drop boxes and the Registrar’s office will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

You can find the location for a vote center or an official ballot drop box near you inside your voter information pamphlet, or you can look up

your pamphlet online with the View Voter Information Pamphlet (Sample Ballot) tool at sdvote.com.

Voters throughout the state will decide whether to adopt Proposition 50, an amendment to the State Constitution related to redistricting. You can learn more about the proposition in the California Voter Information Guide .

Voters who reside in the City of Poway’s Council District 2 will have an additional question on their ballot. Poway District 2 voters will decide whether to remove their elected representative on the city council from office. Only voters living in Poway’s Council District 2 are eligible to vote on this contest. If you’re not sure whether you live in the district, you can look it up at sdvote.com .

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

County of San Diego news release · Oct 17, 2025

COUNTY
County Acquiring Firehawk Helicopter

In response to the destructive wildfires in Los Angeles this January, the County is further strengthening the region’s aerial resources with the purchase of a firefighting helicopter.

The Sikorsky S70 Firehawk adds to the region’s fleet of 12 firefighting helicopters and planes serving the region to protect residents. It will substantially improve day and night firefighting response.

The Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to buy the helicopter for San Diego County Fire and upgrade it to accommodate a full crew for firefighting and rescues missions.

The Firehawk will be able to fly at night, which can be a vital first line of attack. It carries up to 1,000 gallons of water and will have a hoist for rescues, according to County Fire Director Jeff Collins.

This helicopter is a big investment in the County’s firefighting capabilities, it flies faster and longer and drops more water than smaller helicopters, said CAL FIRE/County Fire Chief Tony

Mecham. It is the same model used by CAL FIRE since 2018, and City of San Diego as well as in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Last year, the County’s existing helicopter made 1,400 water drops on wildfires and rescued 159 people in San Diego County.

Through a partnership, the County will provide the helicopter and CAL FIRE will provide staffing, maintenance, fuel and training at an estimated in-kind value of \$5.5 million annually.

Once purchased, the helicopter will need to be outfitted with specific firefighting equipment and seating for a full crew. It will be ready to respond next fall. In the interim, CAL FIRE can provide a reserve helicopter to the region in the spring as a temporary asset.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 21, 2025

COUNTY
Puppy Recovering from Severe Collar Injury; County Seeks Public’s Help

County Animal Services is asking for the public’s help to learn more about a puppy found with a severe neck injury caused by a collar that had become embedded in his skin.

The puppy was brought into the County’s Bonita shelter as a stray on Monday, Oct. 13. The 10-month-old male shepherd was wearing a chain collar that had not been loosened as he got older. The collar had tightened around his neck, causing a wound.

The puppy was immediately examined and treated by County veterinary staff, who had to surgically remove the chain to treat his wound. He is now recovering comfortably at the shelter. Veterinary staff are providing daily bandage changes, and he is expected to undergo additional surgery in the coming days to help the wound heal fully.

Despite his injury, staff describe him as happy, silly and playful. The puppy has a microchip, but Animal Services has not been able to trace it to a registered owner.

“Once he’s fully healed, he’ll be neutered, vaccinated, and ready to find a loving

home, said Animal Services Director Vaughn Maurice. “Despite everything he’s endured, the puppy remains cheerful and full of life—wagging his tail at anyone who stops by to say hello.”

If you recognize this dog or have information that could help identify his owner, please contact San Diego County Animal Services at 619-236-2341. Callers may remain anonymous.

The County reminds pet owners to check their animals’ collars frequently, especially as young pets grow, to prevent injuries like this. Microchipping—and keeping contact information up to date—is one of the most effective ways to reunite lost pets with their families.

County Animal Services promotes responsible pet ownership and the humane care of animals through 24-hour rescues, cruelty and neglect investigations, and community education. The department works closely with more than 300 local rescue partners to find foster and forever homes for every healthy, adoptable animal that comes into the shelter and provides services such as low-cost microchip and vaccination clinics daily at its Bonita and Carlsbad locations.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 17, 2025

COUNTY
EMS Students Helped Teach Hands-Only CPR to the Public, County Employees

The idea of having to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on someone who is not breathing, whether it’s a stranger or someone you know, makes most people feel uncertain about their ability to help.

But if someone you love needs CPR, you wouldn’t want anyone to delay in starting the lifesaving measure.

That’s why a group of Emergency Medical Services Corps students did not hesitate to volunteer to help teach people hands-only CPR, with supervision by CAL FIRE/County Fire firefighters and paramedics, this week as part of a Revive and Survive free public training event in Kearny Mesa.

The students, who are from traditionally under-served communities, are participating in a free Emergency Medical Technician program offered by the County.

The County and UC San Diego partner to implement Revive & Survive San Diego to train 1 million San Diegans on how to perform hands-only CPR for people in cardiac arrest.

“We’re here to help train the public on compression CPR,” said Nick Bye-Carnes, EMS Corps program manager. “The sooner you get someone to do compression CPR, the higher the person’s chances are for survival. I want our EMS Corps students to get to the point where they can teach it and be a community service at the same time.”

Hands-only CPR involves chest compressions at 100 beats to 120 beats per minute without using mouth-to-mouth breathing. If someone can perform this before medical professionals arrive, it vastly increases a person’s likelihood of survival.

Brain death starts to occur four to six minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest if there is no CPR and defibrillation during that time. For every minute CPR is delayed, survival from cardiac arrest decreases by 7% to 10%.

Twenty-five people, comprised of members of the public and County employees, received training and practiced CPR on adult and infant training mannequins at the County Operations Center training event.

Since January 2024, the initiative has trained 655,441 people at 17,543 training events, said Colin King of San Diego County EMS.

Evelyn Villa, one of the student trainers, said it really is important for everyone to learn they can do this CPR, it’s not hard to do and not just professionals can help.

Christie Cosby said she heard about the event through social media and has been interested in learning how to do CPR.

“This is my first time ever doing this,” she said. “Now that I’ve practiced, I want to get certified.”

County of San Diego news release · Oct 16, 2025

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BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



BUSINESS
Continue Your Leadership Journey at Amplified Impact Partners

For LEAD graduates and alumni looking for avenues to channel their spirit of civic and community engagement beyond our programs, Amplified Impact Partners offers a unique opportunity. At Amplified, you can apply your professional and leadership skills to create lasting benefit for the San Diego region.

Amplified Impact Partners is a San Diego-based 501(c)(3) that mobilizes skilled professionals to provide strategic, pro bono consulting for local nonprofits. Each year, Amplified collaborates with

more than 30 nonprofits serving San Diegans in areas such as the arts, homelessness, veteran support, youth opportunity, animal welfare and more.

Partners work in small consulting teams alongside nonprofit leaders to identify solutions and strategies that drive long-term results. Beyond the impact made, these projects foster deep connections among professionals who share a passion for community progress, collaboration, and purpose-driven work. Amplified is currently recruiting its next cohort of new Partners—professionals experienced in areas such as strategy, operations, marketing, human resources, finance, and beyond. No prior consulting experience is required; Amplified provides all necessary training to help translate your expertise into meaningful nonprofit impact.

Amplified is hosting two ‘Why Amplified’ information sessions this fall where you can learn more about what’s involved in becoming a

Partner and the experience you can expect to have:

Session 1 : Tuesday, November 4 | 1:00–2:30 p.m. | Amplified Office, Old Town

Session 2 : Wednesday, December 10 | 1:00–2:15 p.m. | Zoom

If you’re looking for a rewarding and distinctive way to give back, register for an information session at amplified.org/become-a-partner.

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

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight: 3D Expo Solutions

Your Partner in Designing the Ultimate Trade Show Exhibit

Dennis Doyle’s journey in the trade show industry began in 1994 as a union carpenter with locals 974 and 831 in Baltimore and San Diego. While he honed his craft, he envisioned running his own business, so when the convention and trade show events world shut down in 2020 due to the pandemic, Dennis tapped into his

lifelong love of surfing and opened a surfboard repair, sales, and rental business. It was built on resilience, craftsmanship and his deep commitment to helping others succeed. That entrepreneurial spirit set the foundation for 3D Expo Solutions.

Whether you’re a Fortune 500, startup or small business, 3D Expo Solutions handles every detail of your exhibit booth needs from custom design, fabrication and graphics to logistics, shipping, installation and dismantling. Clients know exactly what to expect well before an event thanks to detailed mockups and full setup photos from our 15,000 sq. ft. design studio in El Cajon. We create eye-catching, high-impact booths for conventions and trade shows, highlighting your brand and merchandise. We also design and build smaller, permanent, museum-quality, private installations to your specifications.

3D Expo Solutions is continuously upgrading and using the latest technologies

and materials to deliver top-quality graphics, lighting, lamination, and printing. Booths are available for rental or purchase, and every project is tailored to your specifications, timeline, and budget. Sizes range from 10’ x 10’ to any size and are shipped domestically and internationally with trusted partners to ensure everything arrives show-ready.

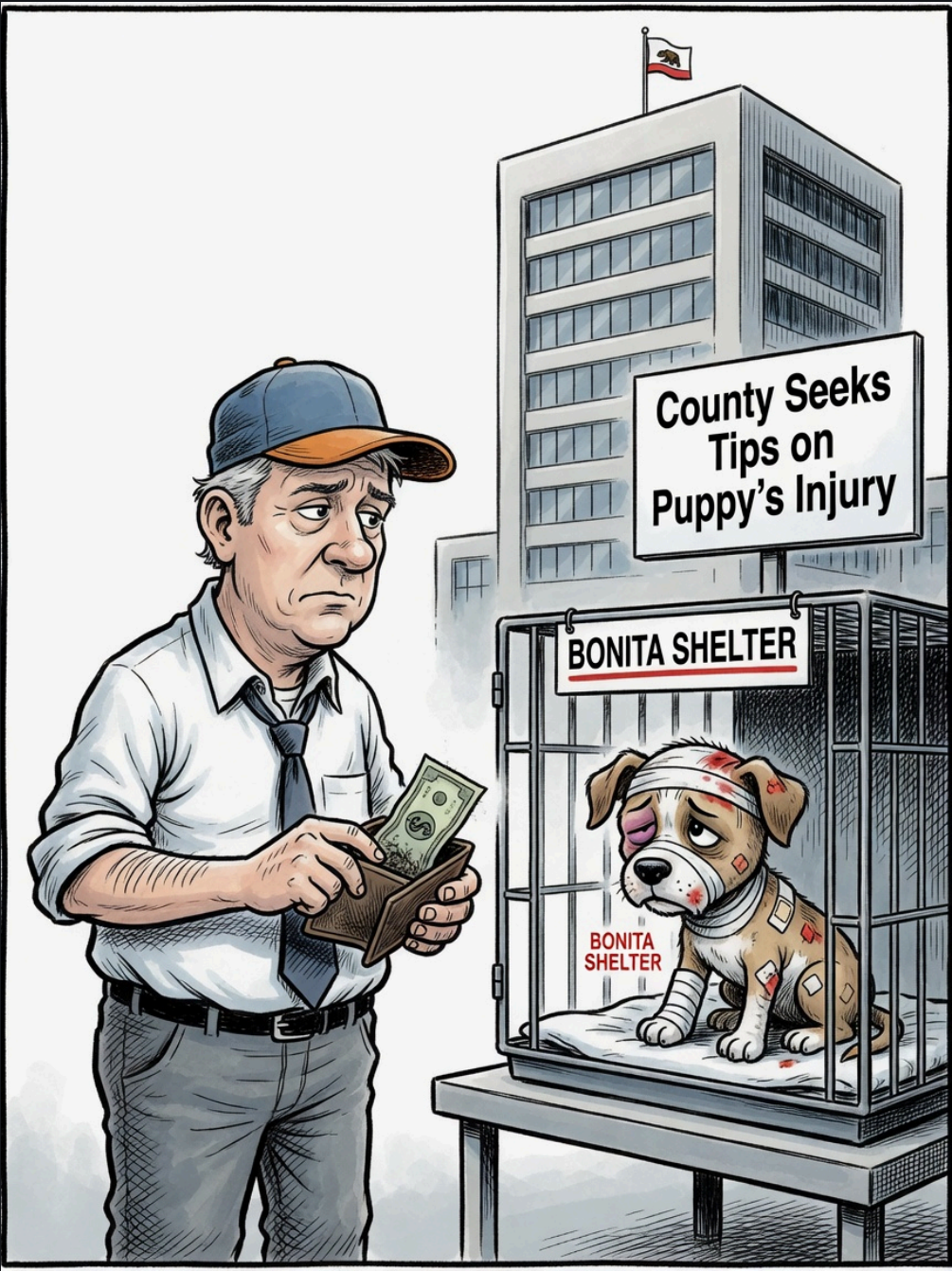
Some of our clients include industry giants Google TV, Lockheed, Delta, Panasonic, Nissan, Honda, BrinksHome, Ripple, Ultra Maritime, Modern Treasury, and GlobalJet, but 3D Expo Solutions is just as passionate about working with small businesses helping them create a unique and memorable presence. Reach out to Dennis 858-349-0630 for your exhibit needs.

Let the professionals take it from here. With 3D Expo Solutions, your next exhibit isn’t just built – it’s unforgettable.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Oct 7, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



County seeks public's help on embedded-collar puppy.

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Hospital Strikes Reveal Why Healthcare Cannot Be Considered a Right, Argues Policy Analyst

Marc Joffe contends that union walkouts at facilities like Kaiser Permanente expose the fundamental contradiction in claims that healthcare is an individual right.

As the federal government grappled with a shutdown this month, Sen. Bernie Sanders reiterated the progressive slogan that "healthcare is a right," according to Marc Joffe, a visiting fellow at the California Policy Center.

Joffe writes that while the phrase may effectively quiet debate, it fails under scrutiny. He points to a recent five-day strike by unionized workers at Kaiser Permanente, California's largest healthcare

provider, as evidence that labor rights championed by progressives often override any supposed patient entitlement to medical services.

The analyst notes that Sanders has led Democratic opposition to a Republican continuing resolution that would have funded government operations past the Sept. 30 budget deadline. Among their conditions for agreement were continuation of Biden-era enhanced Obamacare subsidies and a rollback of Medicaid cost savings measures from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Joffe argues that, contrary to claims from Sanders' supporters, restoring the Medicaid funding would result in more federal money supporting healthcare for illegal immigrants. In California, he says, state leaders appear driven by the belief that anyone able to cross

the state or international border should get free healthcare.

But delivering on that promise requires sufficient staffing at hospitals and clinics willing to treat all who arrive. The Kaiser Permanente strike, motivated by demands for higher pay and lighter appointment schedules — which Joffe translates as "more money to serve fewer patients per day" — forced the postponement of non-emergency procedures.

That action, the author asserts, directly denied patients what progressives call their right to healthcare. He adds that the Kaiser dispute is far from isolated. In 2025 alone, unionized healthcare employees have struck at University of California healthcare facilities, Santa Clara Medical Center and West Anaheim Medical Center.

Unions frequently blame staffing shortages for their job actions, Joffe observes, yet the strikes themselves further limit patient access during the walkouts. If state officials genuinely viewed healthcare as a right, he reasons, they would prohibit nurses, aides and orderlies from striking.

By allowing such disruptions, the government deprives patients of timely care. Borrowing a phrase from another field, Joffe writes, "healthcare delayed is healthcare denied."

The combination of frequent healthcare worker strikes and the state's reluctance to ban them demonstrates the incoherence of the "healthcare as a right" idea, according to the California Policy Center fellow.

Joffe explains that a genuine individual right can be exercised without imposing

affirmative obligations on others. Government need only refrain from interfering with free speech or religious practice. In contrast, he concludes, the claimed right to healthcare exists only "in Sanders' imagination."

Marc Joffe is a visiting fellow at the California Policy Center and president of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Oct 21, 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

DOWNTOWN

Waterfront Park Celebrates 11th Annual Pumpkin Patch Party

Children had a chance to dress up and celebrate Halloween early at the Waterfront Park's 11th Annual Pumpkin Patch party on Sunday.

The big draw, of course, was a chance to take home a free pumpkin. And there were quite a few. So many, in fact, little ones had their pick of nearly 1,000 pumpkins!

Children customized their personal pumpkins with the decorating supplies on hand before taking them home.

But not before enjoying the party. The Halloween celebration featured inflatable slides, jumps and an obstacle course, carnival games, a photo booth, face painting and a DJ to pump up the party atmosphere. Food trucks were on hand for anyone who wanted to buy a snack.

Kids, and even some parents, dressed up in their Halloween costumes and showed them off in a costume contest in hopes of winning prizes for the funniest, most original or family costume.

About 3,500 people turned out for the pumpkin patch party.

County Parks and Recreation organized the free community event, the San Diego County Parks Society helped sponsor the festivities and First 5 San Diego provided the pumpkins.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 20, 2025

COUNTY

County Ball Field to Take on Padres Name

An accessible ballfield at San Dieguito County Park will sport new turf and a new name early next year – Padres Park.

The County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution allowing the name change during its Board meeting on Wednesday.

Miracle Field will be called Padres Park for a period of 15 years as part of a naming rights agreement. The San Diego Padres logo will also be a prominent feature at the ball field.

The baseball field was specifically built for people with disabilities. The Miracle League of San Diego regularly uses the field. The league is part of a nationally based organization that gives children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to play baseball.

The field's original surfacing dates to 2007 and now needs to be replaced. To meet ADA standards for accessibility and safety, the surface must be smooth, seamless and non-slip to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility aids. In addition, it must reduce the risk of falls, withstand heavy use and remain cool underfoot.

The estimated cost for the new ADA-compliant

surfacing came to \$850,000.

County Parks and Recreation worked with the Miracle League to raise funds. The Miracle League raised \$600,000 from several sources: \$310,000 from contributions, \$250,000 through a sponsorship with the San Diego Padres Foundation and \$40,000 from Board Chair Terra Lawson-Remer's office through the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program .

The total, along with \$250,000 in County Parks and Recreation's budget, raised the \$850,000 necessary for the project.

As a bonus, the new surfacing material at the ball field will feature the San Diego Padres logo and it will also be incorporated into signage at the site.

The replacement of the field's surfacing is expected to begin in December with a grand reopening planned for February 2026.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 22, 2025

COUNTY

McClellan-Palomar to Conduct Disaster Drill Thursday Morning

County officials are letting the public know not to be concerned if they see emergency vehicles and lots of activity at McClellan-Palomar Airport in Carlsbad on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 23.

That is because County airport staff, numerous public and private agencies, and

volunteers will be conducting a realistic disaster drill.

While preparations will begin as early as 6:30 a.m., the actual exercise will occur from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the West Tie-down Area, 2198 Palomar Airport Road.

This is a required safety drill that occurs every three years to ensure teams are ready to respond to a real emergency.

The realistic training exercise brings agencies and volunteer participants together to practice joint responsibilities under an incident command structure in the event of an emergency at McClellan-Palomar Airport.

As the owner and operator of Palomar Airport, the County ensures the safe and efficient operations of aircraft operations on the ground which includes the runway, taxiways, ramps, passenger terminal space, and the operational areas that best fit the operations of airline service. The FAA exclusively governs all air traffic.

For more information on County airports, visit https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/airports.html

County of San Diego news release · Oct 22, 2025

COUNTY

County of San Diego Supports Disabled Veterans with Resource Fair

Several County departments

will be on-hand to help connect veterans to services at a veterans resource fair tomorrow, Wednesday , Oct. 22.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at the County Operations Center in Kearny Mesa. The fair is in the courtyard at 5520 Overland Avenue San Diego, 92123 and parking is available for free in the structure beside the courtyard. Click here to register for the event .

County departments that will be present include:

California Department of Veterans Affairs

Educational Opportunities: National University

Employment / Volunteer Opportunities: County of San Diego, the Sherriff, USS Midway Museum and more...

There will also be support for VA disability claims, military records requests, help managing VA benefits, a property tax saving workshop, getting copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates and continuing education resources with local universities.

This event serves as part of the County's commitment to supporting veterans, including encouraging landlords to make their properties available veterans with housing vouchers. enabling them to thrive in San Diego. Landlords can submit an interest form online .

County of San Diego news release · Oct 21, 2025

Name change? Probate? Summons? newfbn.com · (951) 262-7611