

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

How to Stay Safe if You Encounter a Coyote



Illustration from a photo by Ken Lund from Reno, Nevada, USA · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

A recent coyote attack that injured two children is prompting a coordinated response by the County and partner agencies to ensure public safety.

The incident took place Nov. 25, 2025, near the UTC mall. While coyote attacks like this are rare, they highlight the importance of preventing coyotes from becoming comfortable around people and knowing how to respond if you encounter one.

County Animal Services shares the following tips to help residents safely coexist with coyotes and reduce the risk of aggressive behavior.

How to Stay Safe if You Encounter a Coyote

If you encounter a coyote, one effective technique is called “coyote hazing.” Hazing helps reinforce a natural fear of humans and discourages coyotes from returning to populated areas.

Make yourself look big by waving your arms above your head.

Continue until the coyote leaves the area and is out of sight. If it does not move away, take a few steps forward, stop and repeat the behavior.

If you or someone you know is bitten by a coyote, seek emergency medical care immediately. Rabies post-exposure treatment is not typically available at regular medical offices.

Coyotes often roam into neighborhoods because of things that attract them. This can include leaving pet food or water outside,

unsecured trash cans or fallen fruit from trees. Removing these food sources can significantly reduce visits from wildlife.

You can also make your yard less accessible. A “coyote roller” is a humane option that installs on top of a fence. When a coyote tries to climb over, the tube spins and prevents it from gaining traction.

When Should I Call County Animal Services?

The department serves unincorporated areas of San Diego County and provides 24-hour response when animals pose a public safety risk. Residents who live within an incorporated city should contact their local animal services provider for assistance.

A wild animal poses an immediate threat to people or other animals

The animal is sick, injured, too young to survive on its own or trapped

A rabies vector species — such as coyotes, raccoons, skunks, bats or foxes — has bitten or attacked a person or pet

While rabies is rare, it is a serious and preventable disease spread through bites, which is why it is important to avoid contact and report aggressive behavior.

The County does not respond to reports of wildlife that are simply roaming or creating general nuisances, such as skunks under a porch or opossums accessing pet food.

Protect Pets and Enjoy Public Spaces Safely

When visiting parks or preserves, always keep dogs on a leash and close to you. If you see a coyote and have a small dog, pick it up immediately. Leaving it on the ground can trigger a chase response. Cats should be kept indoors whenever possible.

According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem by helping control rodent populations. Learning how to safely coexist is key.

For more information about wildlife safety, visit www.sddac.com or call (619) 767-2675.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 3, 2025



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COUNTY

Foster Youth Program Leads to Educational Success

Foster youth are more likely to struggle academically and underperform in school than students outside of the foster system. The average high school student in San Diego County has a graduation rate of 87 percent, compared to 48 percent for foster youth.

To help change those outcomes, the Fostering Academic Success in Education (FASE) program was developed in partnership with County Child

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Foster Youth Program Leads to Educational Success

and Family Well Being, the Health and Human Services Agency and the San Diego County Office of Education.

Foster youth in the FASE program are provided with the support they need to achieve educational success in high school, college and beyond. The students are paired with an Educational Social Worker who learns their scholastic needs and can provide tutoring, technology support and even financial aid guidance.

For one local high school student in the foster system, this hands-on educational support helped him secure the career path he’s always dreamed about.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 2, 2025

COUNTY

County Releases Annual Report Highlighting Work With Community

The County released its Annual Report Wednesday, highlighting its work with the community and other local government agencies and organizations toward a vision of a just, sustainable and resilient future for all.

The theme of the online 2024-25 Annual Report is “Opportunities for All; Strength for Tomorrow.” It shares accomplishments in the key areas of behavioral health; environmental sustainability; equity; healthy and safe communities; homelessness and affordable housing; and public safety and justice reform.

Working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct two South County health surveys — the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response and the Assessment of Chemical Exposures — to help look for solutions to the Tijuana River Border Sewage Crisis.

Opening the new state-of-the-art San Diego County Public Health Laboratory , expanding capacity to test for infectious diseases, food and water safety and dangerous pathogens.

Addressing homelessness and affordable housing by helping complete seven affordable housing developments with another 15 projects underway.

New behavioral health resources, including construction of the County’s first East County Crisis Stabilization Unit to help people experiencing mental health crises; opening a one-stop resource center in Ramona ; and creating new beds for substance use treatment and recuperative care.

The County’s Annual Report provides a snapshot of work done during the fiscal year, which stretches from July 1 to June 30. It also gives a glimpse into the County’s priorities and goals.

The County, with an \$8.63 billion budget, provides services and programs that touch the lives of nearly all county residents.

In the unincorporated areas, County government is responsible for the day-to-day things a city government would do, from law enforcement and fire protection to roads, libraries and parks. It also provides services that support the entire county, things like social services assistance, safety net and health programs, food and restaurant inspections, elections, foster care and more.

Some other Highlights from the Annual Report include:

In January the County’s rapidly growing Mobile Crisis Response Team Program marked four years of helping people who face behavioral health crises. The teams send trained behavioral health experts rather than law enforcement, when appropriate, into non-violent situations to de-escalate and help people who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

The program answered 131 calls in its first year. As of August 2025, it has answered more than 24,000.

The County adopted a new Climate Action Plan , its blueprint for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the unincorporated areas and at County facilities, with the goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2045. The plan includes 70 actions designed to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions.

The County’s Parks and Recreation Department and its community partners planted 4,657 trees to naturally remove carbon dioxide from the air and lower temperatures. Some of those trees were planted in communities deemed by the California Healthy Places Index to be in need of increased shade from healthy trees.

The County continued its Equity Impact Grants program, naming 10 local, small nonprofit organizations to win the County’s second batch of \$100,000 grants and a year’s worth of custom coaching to help them further their missions and advance equity and belonging throughout the region.

The County and community members broke ground on a project to revitalize the Mira Mesa Epicentre as a County-operated community center and recreation center for teens. Designed with community input, the new center will include a multifunctional pickleball and basketball court, community garden, open lawn area, rentable community space, music room, game room, practice kitchen, and flexible study and work areas. The project will make the area safer and promote health and well-being through programs that will include mentoring, career counseling, performing and visual art, gardening, cooking and recreational classes.

The County also broke ground on the new Casa de Oro Library that will double the size of the existing library to meet the needs of the growing Spring Valley community.

The County worked with cities, developers and communities to help open new affordable housing in Carlsbad , Clairemont , the College Area, Encanto, Ocean Beach, San Marcos and Vista . Those projects will help people experiencing homelessness, people with low incomes, seniors, veterans and others.

The County continued to use surplus County property to create affordable housing .

The County made \$11.5 million available to local developers to create affordable

housing to help people with low incomes and veterans experiencing homelessness.

San Diego County Fire and County Emergency Medical Services started a new paid-training program in July 2025 for 18-to-26-year-olds affected by the juvenile justice or child welfare programs. The program gives young people who have faced challenges in life a path toward possible careers at paramedics or emergency medical technicians. Those who are selected are paid a monthly stipend to take part in a five-month, hands-on training program. The program combines classroom instruction, hands-on skills training and regular ride-alongs with local ambulance providers.

The County District Attorney’s Victim Assistance Program served more than 15,000 people.

The County’s Alternatives to Detention Program continued, with 96% of young people completing the program without any new sustained law violations.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 3, 2025

COUNTY

Remember All You Santa Clauses, Don’t Pack a Pest

It’s the Holiday Season, so don’t pack a pest!

The Holiday Season is one of the busiest shipping times of the year, with gifts riding and flying all over the country, including into and out of San Diego County.

If you’re one of the many who will be sending shipments or bringing home gifts from travels, just remember, do not accidentally include dangerous hitchhikers — do not pack a pest!

It can happen. The gifts you send or receive could be carrying unseen pests or plant diseases that could potentially damage our own local environment and the County’s \$1.67 billion agricultural industry.

For example, that homemade wreath you’re bringing home from your visit to grandma could be carrying spongy moth eggs. Those yummy oranges you picked off the tree in your backyard could be carrying “citrus

greening” — huanglongbing — a devastating plant disease that kills citrus plants of all kinds. Even the beautiful fruit basket you and the kids made from scratch to send to a friend could be hiding mealybugs.

And those things can be harmful locally. The state Department of Food and Agriculture has declared ongoing citrus greening quarantine areas in Fallbrook, Oceanside, Rancho Bernardo and Valley Center.

Every year San Diego County’s Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures inspectors — human and detector dogs — work hard to stop the spread of invasive pests into the county. From exotic fruit flies to the emerald ash borer, glassy-winged sharpshooter and South American palm weevil.

And you can help, especially in shipping season. Just follow these simple guidelines:

If you’re traveling — whether it’s out of state or out of the country — leave what you find behind. Don’t bring home a keepsake clipping from your grandmother’s holiday wreath, or those bulbs you found in Florida. And don’t bring home or avocado leaves from Mexico, or any citrus branches, leaves or stems from anywhere.

Don’t transport any fresh, raw, uncooked and untreated foodstuff. That goes for seeds, beans, nuts, rice, dried fruit, decorative greenery, untreated wood items, animal products or soil from almost any foreign country.

If you are traveling and think you may have accidentally packed some plant or animal item away? Declare them when an agricultural inspector asks you if you have anything in your luggage.

For more information about harmful insects, plant diseases, Agriculture, Weights and Measures and everybody’s role in protecting our local environment and agriculture, visit the department’s Insect and Plant Disease Information webpage .

County of San Diego news release · Dec 1, 2025

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BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight –
Episcopal Community
Services

Alice is known for her kindness and generosity, but mental illness has created challenging obstacles along her path.

Alice enjoys tending to the garden at UTSH. August 2025.

After a particularly bad breakdown, Alice returned to her family’s house only to learn that her brother-in-law, in an effort to keep Alice and her breakdowns at bay, had obtained a restraining order against Alice. She violated the restraining order in a state of psychosis and promptly turned herself in.

After five months in jail, Alice was released and placed in an independent living facility (ILF) where she began psychiatric therapy. However, after a few months, Alice no longer qualified to live there. Just as she felt hope dissipating again, she learned about an opportunity to move to transitional housing at UTSH.

Life changed for Alice after moving to UTSH. She continued therapy and participated in support groups. The staff offered her continuous support and kindness. “There are people who are good, there are people who understand, there are people who work with you to make it better for you. And that’s what I found here,” she said.

A few months ago, Alice went before a judge to address the charges on her record from violating the restraining order. Thanks to a letter written by Raul, UTSH’s

Program Manager, her record was expunged. “Her positive energy, reliability, and eagerness to grow makes her a valuable member of both our program and the broader community,” Raul wrote.

UTSH helped Alice suppress her fears, regain her confidence, and prepare for independent living. August 2025.

Through counseling and community activities, Alice has prepared herself for independent living. Just a few weeks ago, Alice moved into her own apartment.

Because of her mental illness, Alice used to live in constant fear. “But with the support that I have, especially from Uptown Safe Haven, it’s really different,” Alice said. “To actually be in an environment where you learn to live in your own place makes it so that you have a better outcome when you do get there.”

Uptown Safe Haven is a transitional housing program that provides supportive services to chronically homeless single adults with moderate to severe mental health issues. To learn more about the incredible work of UTSH, visit <https://www.ecscalifornia.org/uptown-safe-haven-1>.

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

BUSINESS
IPA in CDMX

Earlier this month, Chamber staff joined PROBAJA’s trade and investment delegation to Mexico City. The initiative consists of the State of Baja’s Secretariat of Economic Development and the Tijuana, Ensenada, Mexicali, and Tecate EDC in a joint effort to promote investment across the state. This marks the fifth year in a row that the Chamber joins this trade delegation to promote the

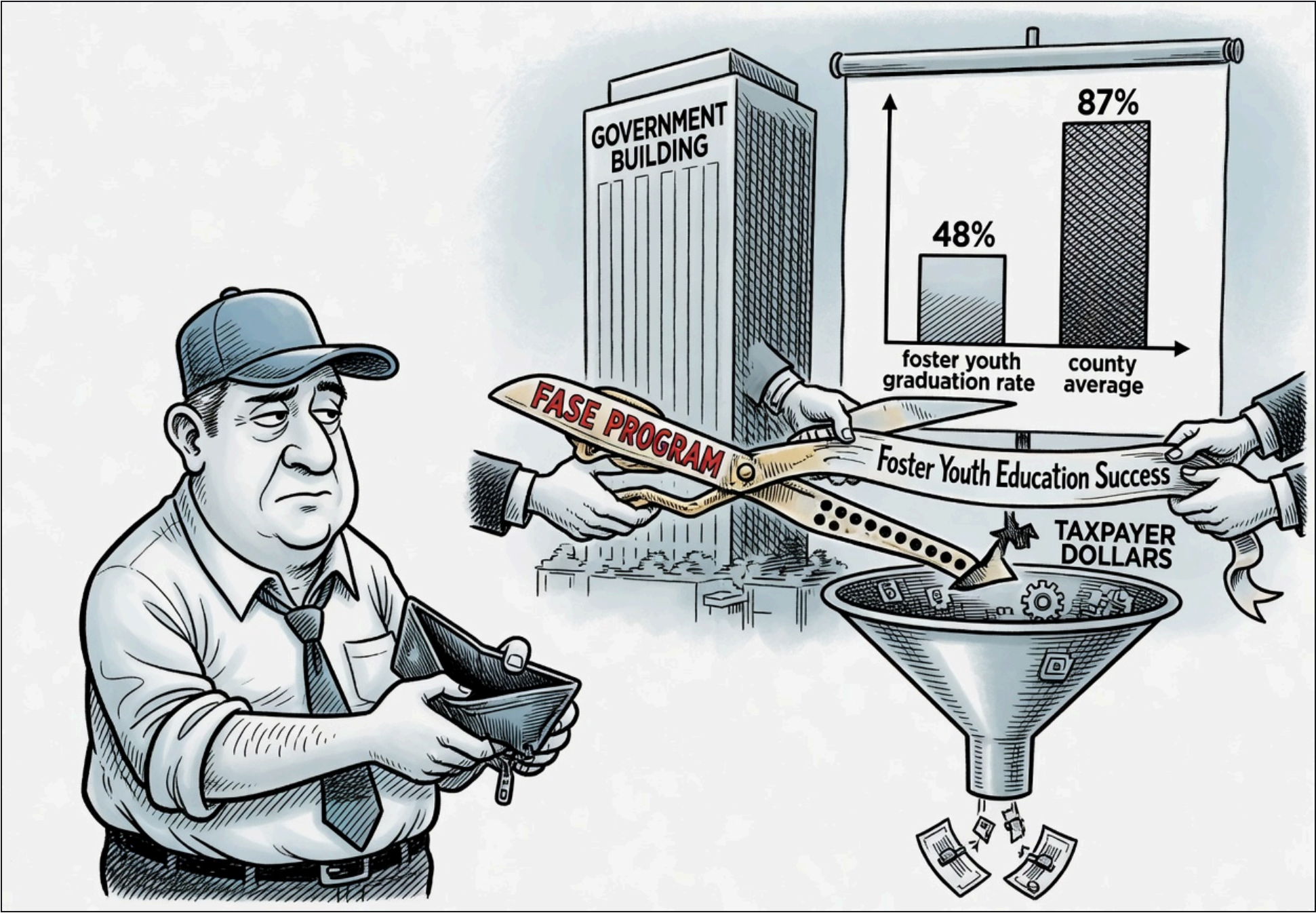
CaliBaja region, visiting embassies, trade offices, and multinational businesses in Mexico City in order to promote investment opportunities, regional resources such as our local talent, and emerging sectors to together boost our economic and global competitiveness.

The agenda included conversations and presentations with the embassies of Switzerland, Canada, and the UK, and industries such as BIMBO, Bosch, and JLL. Top topic of interests included opportunities for talent growth, key sectors such as semiconductors, cleantech, agroindustry, and future investments coming to our region with the construction of the Punta Colonet Port south of Ensenada. In addition, the upcoming revision of the USMCA agreement and tariffs continues to be a priority.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Nov 21, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

California’s Crusade Against Oil Does More Environmental Harm Than Good, Argues Policy Center

The California Policy Center contends that blocking offshore oil development while embracing massive floating wind farms defies logic, wastes energy potential and increases global environmental damage.

California sits atop an enormous untapped energy resource, yet its political leaders remain determined to eliminate oil production both onshore and offshore.

In December 2023, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management estimated that up to 10 billion barrels of recoverable crude oil lie off the West Coast, with the vast majority located off Southern California. Billions of barrels have already been extracted from offshore rigs in the state.

Despite this potential, the California legislature and local officials continue to target the industry. Last month, the Santa Barbara County Board

of Supervisors voted to ban new drilling and phase out existing operations, a decision that particularly hurts Sable Offshore Corp., a Texas-based firm attempting to access reserves in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Facing relentless opposition through bans, lawsuits and regulatory hostility, Sable is pursuing an alternative strategy. Because its platforms sit five to nine miles offshore in federal waters, the company plans to load oil directly onto ocean-going tankers if California refuses to allow pipelines to onshore facilities, thereby bypassing state regulators entirely.

This direct-transfer method is common worldwide, including in the North Sea, Persian Gulf, off West Africa and in the Gulf of Mexico. If it works in the rough North Sea, it can certainly succeed off California’s coast.

The Trump administration’s plan to lease new federal waters for offshore drilling may hinge on whether Sable’s approach succeeds.

What truly defies logic is

California’s unified political opposition to offshore oil while enthusiastically backing up to 20 gigawatts of floating offshore wind turbines. Achieving that capacity would require 2,000 turbines rated at 10 megawatts each, structures nearly 700 feet tall from waterline to blade tip, anchored with massive pontoons, counterweights and cables extending nearly a mile to the seafloor.

Each turbine would also need high-voltage undersea cables running 20 miles to shore. How can the California Energy Commission and a supermajority of politicians view such an enormous industrial project as less environmentally damaging than a handful of oil rigs?

The energy comparison is even more revealing. Even assuming a completed 20-gigawatt wind farm operating at a 40 percent capacity factor over 20 years, it would generate only five exajoules of energy. By contrast, 10 billion barrels of crude oil contain 61 exajoules—twelve times as much. Even partial extraction of the oil reserve would far

surpass the wind turbines’ lifetime output.

Moreover, oil development would create jobs and tax revenue rather than rely on massive taxpayer subsidies to produce expensive electricity.

California still depends on oil for nearly 50 percent of its total energy use and natural gas for another 30 percent. The state’s transportation sector runs on gasoline and diesel for 94 percent of its fuel. Yet it imports more than 75 percent of its oil despite abundant local reserves.

Instead of producing oil domestically under strict environmental rules, California imports from the Amazon and Persian Gulf, regions with “appalling environmental stewardship and almost nonexistent protections for labor.”

The greatest irony is that oil extraction in California actually benefits the environment. A UC Berkeley study found that methane leaks from oil operations are negligible compared with natural seepage caused by the state’s earthquake faults. The only effective way to reduce these

natural seeps is to extract the oil.

Shutting down wells or spending billions to cap them will not solve the problem, because the underground reserves are continually forced to the surface by seismic activity.

California’s policymakers seem incapable of grasping this “common-sense, counter-intuitive but absolutely accurate conclusion.” Meanwhile, the state’s need for petroleum products remains unchanged.

Edward Ring is the Director of Water and Energy Policy at the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Dec 3, 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

Probation Youth and Families Shared Early Thanksgiving

San Diego County Probation knows it can be difficult when youth and their families can’t be together on special holidays. So, earlier this week, along with the San Diego County Office of Education, they served a special traditional Thanksgiving meal to families so they could share a table and celebrate together.

Nearly 200 family members and supporters of youth at both the East Mesa Youth Detention Facility and the Youth Transition Campus (YTC) were invited to spend time together and share a meal, said Deputy Chief Probation Officer Matthew Strickland.

“Probation offers home-like opportunities to youth, like a Thanksgiving meal with their families, to help them heal and restore their lives,” said Chief Probation Officer Tamika Nelson. “This means a lot to them, and we know that youth do better when they are supported by and are connected to their families.”

The officers and teachers decorated the dining room and set out the meal buffet-style. The teen participants said the food was great, especially the pies.

Each family had their own table. Officers held the meals over 3 different days to keep the events smaller so families could share private conversations.

“Every kid has the opportunity to participate at the Youth Transition Campus,” said Probation Division Chief Mike Whatley. “It doesn’t have to be a parent that comes, it can be a Probation caseworker, a coach, a peer mentor or just someone who is part of the youth’s positive support system.”

One YTC youth, 16, celebrated the day with his brother and sister.

“It was special. I got to spend time with my family for Thanksgiving. It would have felt weird if we hadn’t. It was nice they could be with us even when we’re here,” he said.

A 17-year-old at YTC, had his mother and her husband as guests.

He said, “I was happy to see them come visit me. Every chance I get to see them, it’s better. I feel like it was a special moment.”

Another YTC youth, 18, had both his parents for dinner. He said “It was nice that they had a little gathering and I got to eat with our family. We also took pictures with our family. It felt kind of like home because we live here.

And we were at our house.”

County Probation works to help youth grow, heal and build better futures, and that starts with safety, fairness, and trust for everyone involved.

County of San Diego news release · Nov 27, 2025

COUNTY

County Issues Second Reminder to Discard Baby Formula in National Recall

County health officials are issuing a second reminder about a nationwide outbreak of infant botulism linked to ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula.

Parents and retailers are urged to dispose of all ByHeart formula products including all lots, can size and single-serve “anywhere” sticks.

The outbreak has caused 37 cases across 17 states including California. No cases have been reported in San Diego County.

“It is really important that parents and caregivers check their baby’s formula and stop using any ByHeart formula products immediately,” said Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. “The FDA has received reports that some products could have remained on the shelves in

multiple states so now is the time to double-check and discard any formula from this brand.”

There have been no reports of ByHeart formula continuing to be sold in San Diego County.

The County’s Department of Environmental Health and Quality has been working with retailers since the recall was announced in mid-November to ensure the product is no longer on the shelves. They continued doing outreach to local businesses this week.

ByHeart, the maker of the formula, issued a voluntary product recall on Nov. 8 on certain lots. It was expanded on Nov. 11 to all ByHeart formula.

If you have any unopened ByHeart formula at home, please discard it and do not use it.

If your infant has already taken some of this formula and you still have the open container, the FDA recommends to photograph or record the information on the package including brand and lot number, seal it, label it “do not use” and store for 30 days in case there is a need for health officials to test the formula.

Parents or caregivers with an infant experiencing symptoms after being fed ByHeart

formula, should seek medical attention immediately.

Infant botulism is a rare but serious illness that is a medical emergency. It primarily affects babies younger than 6 months and is caused by a toxin that attacks the body’s nerves and causes difficulty breathing, muscle paralysis and even death.

Signs and symptoms can show up as early as three days after exposure but usually take 10 to 30 days. They include constipation and neurologic symptoms such as poor feeding, weak crying, loss of head control and difficulty swallowing.

To more fully alert the local medical community, County Public Health officials issued a California Health Alert Network for San Diego County on Nov. 12. Along with publishing the alert, public health officials are continuing to work with healthcare providers regionally to be on alert for clinical signs of infant botulism and report any suspected cases to the California Department of Public Health and the County’s epidemiology unit.

People with any health concerns connected to this health alert should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 3, 2025