

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 Shares Financial Update, Invites Residents to Help Shape 2026-27 Budget



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The County of San Diego’s Board of Supervisors received a financial update on their current budget Tuesday as the County works on building a new 2026-27 budget for approval in June.

At the same time, the Board voted to spend \$8.8 million in unlocked reserves to improve conditions in South Bay regarding the ongoing Tijuana River Valley sewer crisis; and \$47.7 million for time-critical funds for housing, vulnerable populations, environmental habitat, and to maintain critical facilities and upgrade technology.

The full Board supported spending the \$8.8 million portion, with one no vote from Supervisor Jim Desmond for a \$2.5 million allocation for two new health studies for South Bay residents. The Board split, voting 3-2, on the larger funding, with Chair Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe and Chair Pro Tem Paloma Aguirre voting in favor, and Supervisors Joel Anderson and Desmond voting no.

The Board also reviewed the County’s five-year Capital Improvement Needs Assessment plan. The plan is not a budget document, but a strategic assessment of existing and future needs based on community priorities, operational requirements and available financial resources.

The current plan includes 28 projects, from the nearly \$1 billion planning and construction of a modern Vista Detention Facility to

projects supporting the Multiple Species Conservation Program, a new Behavioral Health Wellness Campus and a Ramona Sheriff’s station.

Nine of the 28 projects in the plan are estimated to require roughly \$81.5 million from the County’s current 2026-27 budget.

Tuesday’s update follows actions taken to increase transparency and encourage the public participation in the budget process.

At the Board’s Jan. 27 meeting, County financial experts outlined how the County budget process works, reviewed hundreds of services and programs supported by the current \$8.63 billion budget and the Board heard from members of the public about their budget priorities.

And last week, the County launched an online survey and a budget Priority tool on the County’s Engage San Diego Budget page . The survey asks residents what they want to know and how they’d like to receive updates. The Priority tool lets people rank six County budget spending categories.

The County of San Diego provides programs and service that touch the lives of nearly all of the county’s 3.3 million residents, in the unincorporated areas, and in the 18 incorporated cities and 18 federally recognized tribes.

In the unincorporated area, County provides services similar to

city government, including law enforcement, roads, building permits, animal services, parks and libraries. Some cities also contract with the County to provide these types of services.

County government also works to deliver many services that support the entire region. These include emergency preparedness; criminal prosecution and detention facilities; delivery of federal and state social service assistance within the region like access to food and financial support for vulnerable people; health programs including behavioral health services; food and restaurant inspections; elections and beach water monitoring.

Where the County Budget’s Money Comes From

County of San Diego news release · Mar 3, 2026

COUNTY

Postcards Sent to Registered Voters for June Gubernatorial Primary

The San Diego County Registrar of Voters office has mailed more than two million postcards to the County’s registered voters, outlining voting options for the June 2 Gubernatorial Primary Election .

Every active registered voter will receive a ballot by mail and can return it in one of three ways:

At an official Registrar’s ballot drop box (starting May 5 through Election Day, June 2)

Ballots will begin arriving the week of May 4, giving voters nearly a month to mark and return them by the final

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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Postcards Sent to Registered Voters for June Gubernatorial Primary

day of voting on June 2. In person voting starts Monday, May 4, at the Registrar of Voters office in Kearny Mesa (5600 Overland Ave., San Diego). Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you want to vote in person at a location near you, vote centers open on May 23 through June 2. Take advantage of early voting to avoid long lines.

May 23 : Select vote centers open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 30 : All vote centers open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

June 2 (Election Day): All vote centers, official ballot drop boxes and the Registrar's office open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

County of San Diego news release · Feb 26, 2026

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp Padres Specials 2026

Looking for the best Gaslamp Padres specials ? Discover top game day food and drink deals in the Gaslamp Quarter, just steps from Petco Park. From pre-game happy hours to post-game celebrations, this is your guide to the best Padres specials in downtown San Diego.

Kick off the season with exclusive Gaslamp Padres specials at barleymash, just steps from Petco Park. Celebrate Opening Day 2026 with early access, giveaways, and all-day drink deals in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter.

Thursday, March 26, 2026 Opening at 11AM 600 Fifth Ave, Gaslamp Quarter

Live DJ starting at the 7th inning stretch

High-energy pregame and postgame atmosphere

Whether you're heading to the game or watching from downtown, barleymash is your go-to spot for Padres Opening Day in the Gaslamp.

Kick off the Padres Home Opener with the ultimate pre-game and post-game party at Garage Kitchen + Bar , just a short walk from Petco Park.

Celebrate Opening Day in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter with game-day food specials, drink deals, and a lively sports bar atmosphere surrounded by fellow Padres fans.

Thursday, March 26, 2026 Opening at 11AM 655 4th Ave, Gaslamp Quarter

\$6 Crazy Bob's Burger with Fries (11AM-12PM & 3PM-4PM) \$20 Bottomless Mimosas (11AM-3PM)

Happy Hour: 51% Off All Drinks + \$3 Off Apps (4PM-6PM)

\$12 Flat-Rate Parking for 3 Hours at Horton Plaza Garage with validation

High-energy pregame and postgame atmosphere with TVs and full bar

Whether you're heading to the game or watching from downtown, Garage Kitchen + Bar is one of the top spots in the Gaslamp Quarter to pre-game before the Padres Home Opener and celebrate after the final inning.

Show your Padres game ticket before or after the game to score a special game-day deal.

Celebrate the Padres Home Opener with a lively rooftop party at 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar , located at the Margaritaville Hotel in the Gaslamp Quarter, just steps from Petco Park. Enjoy skyline views, island vibes, and an energetic game-day atmosphere before and after the first pitch.

Thursday, March 26, 2026 Rooftop DJ from 3PM - 7PM 435 6th Avenue, Gaslamp Quarter

Live rooftop DJ set by DJ Chino of 93.3 (3PM-7PM)

Padres merch giveaways from The Finnish Long Drink (while supplies last)

Interactive photo moments and rooftop games including mini golf, cornhole, and lawn games.

Game Day menu featuring Philly fries, shrimp tostadas, and smash burgers

Signature cocktails including The Double Play, Ballpark Paloma, and Butter Up

Whether you're celebrating a win or keeping the energy going after the final inning, 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar at

Margaritaville Hotel San Diego Gaslamp Quarter is a rooftop destination to continue the Padres Opening Day celebration in downtown San Diego.

MORE INFO Rustic Root Opening Day in the Gaslamp!

Celebrate Padres Opening Day in the Gaslamp Quarter at Rustic Root , a favorite downtown restaurant just steps from Petco Park. Kick off the baseball season with a lively game-day atmosphere, food specials, and the perfect place to gather with fellow Padres fans before and after the game.

Thursday, March 26, 2026 Opening at 11AM 535 Fifth Ave, San Diego | Gaslamp Quarter

Opening early for Padres Opening Day at 11AM

Energetic downtown atmosphere for Padres fans

Great location for pre-game dining or post-game celebrations near Petco Park

Whether you're heading to the stadium or celebrating downtown, Rustic Root is a great Gaslamp spot to root for the Padres and enjoy Opening Day with friends.

Celebrate Padres Opening Day in the Gaslamp Quarter at Swing Social , the perfect place to grab a drink before or after the game. Located just a short walk from Petco Park, Swing Social is welcoming baseball fans with special Opening Day drink deals and a lively downtown atmosphere.

Thursday, March 26, 2026 Game Day Specials 527 Fifth Ave, Gaslamp Quarter

Casual and energetic bar atmosphere in the Gaslamp Quarter

Great stop for pre-game drinks before heading to Petco Park

Easy post-game hangout spot in downtown San Diego

Whether you're heading to the stadium or celebrating after the final inning, Swing Social is a fun Gaslamp destination to enjoy Padres Opening Day with cold beers and fellow fans.

Celebrate Padres Opening Day in style at Huntress , one of the Gaslamp Quarter's premier dining destinations just

minutes from Petco Park. Baseball fans are invited to enjoy an all-night happy hour featuring specials on beer, wine, appetizers, and signature dishes in a sleek downtown atmosphere.

Thursday, March 26, 2026 All-Night Happy Hour 376 Fifth Ave, Gaslamp Quarter

All-night happy hour specials for baseball fans

Discounts on beer, wine, appetizers, and signature dishes

Upscale steakhouse atmosphere in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter

Perfect spot for pre-game drinks or post-game celebrations near Petco Park

Whether you're heading to the game or celebrating afterward, Huntress is a stylish Gaslamp destination to enjoy Padres Opening Day with great food, drinks, and downtown energy.

Padres season hits different at Werewolf. In the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter, this is where you roll in before the game, stay during, and celebrate after.

All Season Long During Padres Games 627 Fourth Ave, Gaslamp Quarter

Buckets of domestic beer — buy a bucket and get a free bottle Mr. Tease shots for anyone wearing Padres gear \$6 Alesmith .394 draft or \$10 for a large pour Top off champs running throughout the day \$2 Power Hour — if the Padres win (home or away), enjoy \$2 drafts for one hour after the game

Padres season hits different at 207, located inside the Hard Rock Hotel in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter. This is where you roll in before the game, stay during, and celebrate after.

Raffles and live music keep the energy going throughout the day!

Opening Weekend Celebration 207 Fifth Ave, San Diego, CA 92101

Buckets of domestic beer — buy a bucket and get a free bottle Mr. Tease shots for anyone wearing Padres gear \$5 draft beers (Pacifico, 805, .394 Alesmith, Stella, Hazy Weekend IPA, Sculpin IPA) \$17 Padres specialty cocktails (La Play 23, Pacific Merrill,

Slam Diego, Mannychaleda) Top off champs running throughout the day

\$12 Nachos \$19 Street Tacos (choose 3: carne asada, pollo asado, adobada, or fried fish) \$20 Wings (10 pcs: buffalo, dry rub, BBQ, or garlic parmesan) \$21 Classic Burger \$21 Grilled Chicken Sandwich \$22 Buffalo Burger \$12 Basket of Fries \$14 Cali Fries

Pre-game, post-game, or all game long — 207 keeps the Padres energy going with drinks, bites, and a packed game day atmosphere.

Kick off Padres Opening Weekend at The Smoking Gun with three days of game day energy, drink specials, and all-day action just steps from Petco Park.

March 26 – March 28, 2026 Opening at 10:00 AM (March 26) 555 Market St, Gaslamp Quarter

Happy Hour, kids eat free, and \$1 hot dogs from 10AM-1PM All-you-can-eat wings and nuggets from 3PM-9:30PM \$3.94 beer specials Bases Loaded Buckets featuring XX, Miller High Life, Coronitas, or Modelo Oro Padres-themed cocktails including City Connect, Padres Paloma, and Homerun Deck \$1 Slam Diego Dogs

From early games to late-night celebrations, The Smoking Gun brings nonstop Opening Weekend energy in the heart of the Gaslamp.

Celebrate Padres Opening Day at Hasta Mañana Cantina with bold drinks, high-energy vibes, and a lineup of game day cocktails in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter.

Opening Day 310 Fifth Ave, Gaslamp Quarter

Grand Slam Margarita with Patron Reposado and fresh citrus Machado Margarita with fresh lime and agave Padre Passion Cooler with Grey Goose and passionfruit Frozen Friar vodka slushie Short King & A Shooter combo \$7 draft beers including Pacifico, .394 Pale Ale, and Michelob Ultra

Whether it's pregame drinks or postgame celebrations, Hasta Mañana Cantina brings the Padres energy all day long.

Gaslamp Quarter Association news release · Feb 26, 2026

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BUSINESS

Member Spotlight – Episcopal Community Services

Evening on the Bay: An ECS Fundraising Reception

Episcopal Community Services invites you to Evening on the Bay, a purpose-driven fundraising reception designed for meaningful connection and real community impact. With a breathtaking setting at San

Diego’s stunning new waterfront venue and a streamlined program, the focus stays where it belongs, on people and purpose. Your participation directly supports ECS programs in early childhood education, behavioral health, homelessness services, and substance use disorder treatment across San Diego.

The event will feature heavy hors d’oeuvres, hosted bar, and local impact.

Evening on the Bay will take place on Wednesday, May 13 at 5:30 pm at Eve, located at 975 Waterfront Place San Diego, CA 92101.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY and transform communities with ECS.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Feb 26, 2026

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight – Elegant Lightings

Illuminate Your World with

Elegant Lightings! ☑

At Elegant Lightings , we specialize in crafting high-quality LED screens for both indoor and outdoor use. Based in sunny San Diego, we are a proud family-owned business dedicated to enhancing the visual experiences of our community.

LED Screens for Every Need: Whether you’re a restaurant looking to create an inviting ambiance or a retail store aiming to attract customers, we provide LED screens in all sizes and shapes tailored to your needs.

Rentals for Events: Planning an expo, concert, or special event? We offer rental options for our state-of-the-art LED screens, Desks, sphere, cylinder, posters transparent and more ensuring your event is unforgettable.

Affordable Solutions: Our pricing is competitive,

making it easy for businesses of all sizes to access cutting-edge technology.

Our products are not just about stunning visuals; they represent the future of sustainability! By choosing our LED screens, you can:

Save Electricity: Our energy-efficient technology reduces power consumption, helping you lower your utility bills.

Replace Plastic and Paper: Move toward a greener future by minimizing reliance on traditional signage, promoting a more sustainable environment.

At Elegant Lightings, we believe in giving back. We actively participate in local events and support community initiatives, helping to bring people together through the power of light and technology.

New Product Launch: We’re excited to introduce our latest

line of ultra-slim LED screens, designed for maximum impact with minimal space! Perfect for any business looking to make a statement.

February Promotion: Join our Generous Referral Fees Program this month! Refer a business to us, and you’ll receive a rewarding fee for every successful rental or sale.

We invite businesses and event organizers to reach out and discover how Elegant Lightings can enhance your space or event. Together, let’s illuminate our community and build a greener future!

Contact Us: Bernard Sfeir ☑ Phone:619 729 0898 ☑ Email: info@elegantlightings.com ☑ Website: elegantlightings.com

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Feb 25, 2026

AROUND CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA

Supreme Court Allows Lower Court Ruling to Take Effect, Blocking California Law on Parental Notification of Student Gender Issues

The 6-3 decision sided with parents and teachers who argued on religious grounds that the policy violated their constitutional rights under the First Amendment.

The U.S. Supreme Court halted enforcement of a California statute that barred public schools from telling parents when their children identified as transgender or sought to transition.

The 6-3 decision along ideological lines lets stand an earlier federal district court ruling that found the policy likely infringed on parents’ constitutional rights.

California lawmakers passed Assembly Bill 1955 in 2024 under the title Support Academic Futures and Educators for Today’s Youth Act. The measure, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in July 2024, prohibits schools from notifying parents if their child is gender confused or transitioning to the opposite sex.

Districts across the state adopted related rules following guidance from the California Department of Education. These rules required teachers to affirm students’ preferred names and pronouns at school while concealing this information from parents unless the child consented. Educators who refused to comply faced possible discipline or dismissal.

Two Christian teachers from the Escondido Union School District, Elizabeth

Mirabelli and Lori Ann West, joined anonymous parents in challenging the rules. Some of those families reported learning of their children’s secret social transitions only after a suicide attempt.

U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez previously ruled in favor of the parents, who objected on religious grounds. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had paused his order pending further litigation.

The Supreme Court’s action allows Benitez’s injunction to remain in force while the case proceeds. The justices focused on claims that the policy violated the free exercise clause of the First Amendment by interfering with parents’ ability to guide their children’s religious upbringing.

According to the Globe, Benitez declared that parental rights are “deeply

rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition.” He affirmed that “being involved in potentially serious medical or psychological decision-making for their school student is a parent’s constitutional right. It is.”

Benitez also stated, per the Globe, that “Disagreement is not abuse, and the court so finds.”

Benitez cited expert evidence, as reported by the Globe, that family involvement improves outcomes for youth experiencing gender dysphoria while secrecy heightens risks of suicide and family alienation.

Assemblyman Chris Ward, a San Diego Democrat, sponsored the bill. The source reported that his rationale was so trans kids would not be “outed” by teachers at school.

State officials including

Attorney General Rob Bonta and Superintendent Tony Thurmond supported the measure.

Justice Elena Kagan criticized the court for issuing its order without oral arguments. A per curiam opinion accompanying the ruling explained the majority’s reasoning and noted that the choice to issue it with an opinion rather than without was perhaps the source of the dissent’s concern that the disposition would be taken as a conclusive merits judgment.

Legal observers expect the underlying case to return to the appellate courts for full review. For now, schools must follow the district court’s order allowing parental notification in the affected districts.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Mar 2, 2026

SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

The news, every day.

Downtown, City Hall, the County, the courts and the regional economy — updated daily, with every past print edition in our archive.

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THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Your input welcome. More spending guaranteed.

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY

California High-Speed Rail's 2026 Plan Remains Ambitious, Costly and Legally Flawed, Policy Analyst Says

Marc Joffe argues that the latest business plan sidesteps voter-approved requirements on travel times and operating subsidies while excluding key costs from headline figures and relying on optimistic projections.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority's newly released 2026 Draft Business Plan paints an ambitious picture of the project's future but leaves critical questions about ballooning expenses, ridership projections that don't add up and legal compliance unanswered, according to Marc Joffe of the California Policy Center.

Released on Feb. 28, the plan arrives in a much different political and fiscal environment than its predecessor from two years earlier. Joffe writes that the document raises serious concerns about ever-increasing costs, ridership numbers that do not appear realistic, legal requirements the plan quietly sidesteps and the deliberate

exclusion of a key track segment from its headline cost figures and buried in a footnote.

Those worries are reinforced by analyses prepared for a March 2 legislative oversight hearing by the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Office of Inspector General, Joffe notes.

The headline figure for finishing the Merced-to-Bakersfield segment now stands at \$34.76 billion in cumulative spending, a net reduction of about \$2 billion from the previous update that the authority attributes to a "bottom-up cost review," according to the plan. The target for beginning service is listed as 2033, though the authority acknowledges that hitting a 2032 construction finish would require "additional time for optimization and pending policy changes."

Costs for extending the system rise sharply beyond the Central Valley. The plan outlines three scenarios at a P65 contingency level: San Francisco to Bakersfield at \$60.34 billion total, San Francisco to Palmdale at \$96.73 billion and the full Phase 1 from San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim at \$126.20 billion, Joffe reports.

Even using the authority's own figures and assuming \$1 billion in annual Cap-and-Invest funding, the loss of \$4 billion in federal grants creates a funding shortfall, the Legislative Analyst's Office concluded in materials for the Assembly Transportation Committee hearing. The LAO calculated a \$2 billion gap for the Merced-Bakersfield segment alone after accounting for borrowing costs, assuming all proposed statutory changes pass and projected savings appear — conditions the office called uncertain "particularly given the history of the project," Joffe writes.

The analyst's office also highlighted the authority's consideration of moving the Merced station four miles south of downtown to cut costs, a move that could violate SB 198, which requires a downtown station.

Joffe points to the plan's ridership forecast for the full Phase 1 system of 23.6 million to 30.6 million passengers annually as overly optimistic. The plan specifies service of only "two trains per hour" in each direction, far below the frequency of comparable European routes such as Madrid-Barcelona, which

runs roughly 3 to 4 trains per hour, or Milan-Rome-Salerno with 6 to 7, according to the document.

Lower frequency means reduced capacity and fewer available seats, which undercuts the high ridership claims, Joffe argues. The plan also assumes maximum speeds of 220 mph on the dedicated central section but only 110 mph on blended track segments in the Bay Area and Los Angeles Basin, resulting in longer overall travel times than originally promised.

Those longer times would make the system less competitive with air and auto travel, particularly for discretionary travelers who form the core of high ridership projections, he writes. The plan's own figures for the Merced-Bakersfield segment show annual ridership of just 1.4 million to 1.9 million and recovery of only 35 to 49 percent of operating and maintenance costs, requiring an operating subsidy that appears to violate Proposition 1A's mandate against needing "a local, state, or federal operating subsidy," Joffe states.

The authority offers no legal analysis to reconcile these projected losses with the

statutory requirement, he adds.

To accelerate construction, the plan proposes borrowing against future Cap-and-Invest revenue, which would require new legislative authority including "non-impairment language" to protect bondholders. The Legislative Analyst's Office expressed skepticism, noting that the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is "poorly suited for conventional borrowing" because the Air Resources Board could alter the program and because auction revenues have proven volatile, Joffe reports.

In a footnote, the plan excludes the Tamien-to-Gilroy segment from its San Francisco-to-Bakersfield cost estimate, assigning a placeholder of \$2 billion to \$5 billion. The Legislative Analyst's Office cited a prior range of \$3 billion to \$6 billion. Joffe writes that this roughly 30-mile stretch, owned by Union Pacific Railroad, is single-tracked, unelectrified and used for limited freight and passenger service. Bringing high-speed rail online would require acquiring access rights, double-tracking, electrification, grade-crossing

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COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)

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California High-Speed Rail’s 2026 Plan Remains Ambitious, Costly and Legally Flawed, Policy Analyst Says

improvements and other upgrades that could easily push costs to \$5 billion to \$6 billion or higher, he argues.

The exclusion of these costs from headline figures

amounts to “at best, an accounting convenience and, at worst, a significant misrepresentation,” according to Joffe.

The timing of CEO Ian Choudri’s leave of absence, following an arrest on suspicion of misdemeanor domestic battery on Feb. 4, 2026 (charges were not filed), further complicates the authority’s position as it seeks new legislative powers,

Joffe writes. Choudri is unavailable to testify at the critical March 2 oversight hearing.

Joffe concludes that the project’s core problems are legal rather than managerial. The 2026 plan still fails to meet voter-approved requirements on travel times and operating subsidies embedded in state law. Despite progress in the Central Valley, the

authority cannot deliver Phase 1 within the original budget, timeline or legal constraints, he writes.

The right path forward, Joffe argues, is to return to the ballot with full disclosure of costs and constraints so voters can decide on updated terms.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Mar 1, 2026

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

Senior Volunteers Harvest Goodness and Turn Surplus into Service

The County is dedicated to helping older adults stay independent, safe, healthy and engaged.

For the past three decades, a local group of senior volunteers has found a sweet way to do that – while providing fresh produce to their community.

The Senior Gleaners, a team of about 200 older adults, visits local homes to pick ripe, excess fruit. They deliver the harvest to local nonprofits, where it is shared with residents in need.

Those donations are vital in communities like National City, where access to fresh, organic fruits and vegetables is limited. According to the San Diego Food Alliance , one in four people in San Diego County experience food insecurity.

The partnership between the Senior Gleaners, nonprofits and homeowners is a win-win: Residents reduce food waste, families receive healthy produce, and seniors stay active outdoors with friends.

Learn more about Senior Gleaners and how you can volunteer and donate a crop.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 4, 2026

COUNTY

New County Affordable Housing Developments Open Waitlists for Low Income Households

Low income households will soon have new rental options. Waitlists for two newly

developed affordable housing communities in Fallbrook and San Marcos will open this week.

Applicants can submit applications from March 9 at 7:30 a.m. through March 20 at 11:59 p.m. for the Mirasol Meadows and Villa Serena waitlists.

A lottery will determine placements, applying early does not increase the chance of being selected.

Mirasol Meadows, located at 528 E. Alvarado Street in Fallbrook, offers 47 one- and two-bedroom units for seniors ages 62 and older who meet income and program requirements.

Villa Serena, at 339 Marcos Street in San Marcos, includes two residential buildings with one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments. Ten units are supported by project-based vouchers and will be filled through the newly opened waitlist.

Applications may be submitted online, by phone, or in person. Selected applicants must meet federal eligibility requirements and will undergo property management screening before approval.

Go to sdhcd.org and select “Rental Assistance” for step-by-step instructions.

Visit 3989 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

Project based vouchers are tied to the unit, not households. Each new County project-based development will have its own separate waitlist.

The County’s Housing and Community Development Services (HCDS) works to expand affordable housing opportunities by using County

excess land, project-based vouchers, land acquisition, new construction, permanent supportive housing units and partnerships with cities and developers. Each year, HCDS helps more than 20,000 people access safe affordable housing and supports an additional 25,000 people through Housing Authority programs.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 4, 2026

COUNTY

State Declares Citrus Quarantine in Ramona

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) declared a new citrus quarantine in Ramona, CA on March 2 after two citrus trees in a residential area tested positive for Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening. The detections were made during routine inspections.

HLB is one of the most destructive citrus diseases in the world. The bacterial disease causes bitter, misshapen fruit unsuitable for sale or eating and eventually kills infected trees. Symptoms can include mottled yellow leaves that often appear in asymmetrical patterns.

Citrus is one of San Diego County’s most valuable crops, worth nearly \$140 million according to the 2024 Crop Report . More than 100 businesses may be affected by the new quarantine, including growers with approximately 10 acres of commercial citrus, two commercial nurseries and a farmer’s market in downtown Ramona.

This is the first HLB quarantine in the Ramona area and adds to the existing HLB quarantines in Oceanside,

Rancho Bernardo, Valley Center, and Fallbrook. Quarantine maps are available online .

The quarantine protects the region’s food supply, agricultural economy and environmental sustainability. It restricts the movement of citrus plants, plant parts and fruit outside the quarantine boundaries. The only exception is for agricultural businesses that must follow strict requirements for treatment, cleaning and packing before transporting fruit.

County Agriculture, Weights and Measures officials are urging residents and growers to help stop the spread of the deadly citrus disease.

“Valuable lessons from Florida’s devastating HLB experience have shaped the way CA regulates and responds to citrus threats,” said Agricultural Commissioner Ha Dang. “So far, this has helped limit the HLB destruction of CA’s citrus industry,” she added.

There is no cure for HLB. The disease is not harmful to people or animals, but infected trees will die. Agriculture experts say the most effective way to slow the disease is to remove infected trees and treat nearby trees for Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), the insect that spreads HLB. This process uses products like common home-and-garden products or flea treatments for dogs and cats.

Following the detections, CDFA will work with residents to coordinate treatment and the removal of infected trees, if needed. Licensed applicators contracted by CFDA apply all treatments to ensure

safety and prevent any environmental impacts. Property owners are notified at multiple stages of citrus sampling and quarantine activities.

Official surveying will increase in the coming weeks. County officials are also proactively notifying local citrus growers, plant nurseries and other related businesses.

Residents can help protect their citrus trees by taking the following actions:

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

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

Dry or double-bag plant clippings prior to disposal.

Cooperate with agricultural officials who inspect, sample or treat trees.

If you choose not to maintain a citrus tree, consider professional tree removal service to prevent it from hosting the pest and disease.

Only buy citrus trees from reputable local nurseries.

Report sick-looking or declining citrus trees, especially those that appear well-watered and maintained, by contacting CDFA’s toll-free Pest Hotline at (800) 491-1899 or visit cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp .

Learn more and find out if you live in or near a quarantine zone via the County’s Citrus Quarantine Program at sandiegocounty.gov/AWM/CQ P , or by contacting (858) 614-7770 or sdcawm@sdcounty.ca.gov .

County of San Diego news release · Mar 3, 2026

LEGAL NOTICES

Name change? Probate? Summons?

newfbn.com · (951) 262-7611

MORE NEWS

COUNTY

County Probation Unites Partners to Strengthen Youth Reentry Services

County Probation brought together more than 70 community and healthcare partners at the Youth Transition Campus on Feb. 26 to strengthen coordination for youth reentering the community under the statewide California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Justice Involved (JI) Initiative.

Staff from Probation’s Integrated Healthcare Services unit (IHSU), Probation Institutional Services and contracted healthcare services provider Correctional Healthcare Partners met with representatives from the County’s Behavioral Health Services Next Move program, local Managed Care Plans including Molina Healthcare and Blue Shield Promise as well as Enhanced Care Management (ECM) services providers including Family Health Center of San Diego, the Neighborhood House Association, La Maestra Community and the San Diego Center for Children.

The goal is to improve coordination and build stronger working relationships so youth receive medical, behavioral health and other services immediately after leaving custody. A similar meeting was held at the East Mesa Detention Facility the previous week.

CalAIM requires counties to provide structured pre-release services, Medi-Cal enrollment support, Enhanced Care Management and behavioral health linkages.

To meet those standards, County Probation created the Integrated Healthcare Services Unit to implement CalAIM requirements and strengthen healthcare governance for youth. The department redesigned internal processes, developed its own healthcare infrastructure and assumed the Medi-Cal eligibility screening and application support duties previously carried out by the County’s Health and Human Services Agency Self-Sufficiency Services. This shift allows Probation to guide youth and families

through the full enrollment process, ensuring benefits are active at the time of release.

County Probation has long offered many of the services required under CalAIM’s 90-day pre-release requirements. Beginning October 2025, the department will be reimbursed for these services at the Youth Transition Campus and East Mesa Detention Facility, making San Diego one of the earliest probation departments in California to go-live under the new model.

Re-entry officers, mental health clinicians, enhanced care managers and pre-release care managers work together in a wraparound approach to support youth. “Beyond court requirements, a youth might say what’s really important to them is housing, getting a job,

going back to school or getting a phone,” said Betty Lemos-Arellano, a Behavioral Health Program Manager with the Integrated Healthcare Services Unit.

“We are excited about the program and are anticipating meaningful outcomes for the youth when they return to their communities,” Lemos-Arellano said. “We are hoping that the youth will have so much pre-release support and planning that when we let them go to fly, they will be far less likely, and have less reason, to come back to the facility. We want them to be successful.”

Since June 1, 2023, 1,425 youth have been screened for Medi-Cal eligibility. By embedding screening and application assistance into daily operations, Probation has made healthcare access a routine part of intake and release. The department’s model aligns physical health, behavioral health and substance use disorder services under dedicated clinical leadership. It also relies on shared data systems and strategic funding to support long-term sustainability.

Historically, youth in custody have faced barriers accessing healthcare, particularly during transitions back to the community. Before CalAIM, Medi-Cal applications were processed externally, leading to gaps in treatment and inconsistent connections to community

providers.

By embedding this work directly within Probation, the department strengthened continuity of care and advanced a public-health-centered approach to youth re-entry, positioning San Diego County as a statewide example of justice-health integration.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 2, 2026

COUNTY

Sexually Transmitted Infections Continue to Fall in San Diego County

For the second consecutive year, San Diego County has reported a decline in sexually transmitted infections (STIs), a trend mirrored across California, according to newly released 2024 data from the California Department of Public Health.

STIs are spread through sexual contact involving genitals or bodily fluids, and some can be spread from a pregnant person to a fetus. They can be caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi or parasites.

Anyone who is sexually active can contract an STI, and some can be life-threatening if left untreated. While congenital syphilis cases fell slightly, health officials recorded three fetal deaths (stillbirths) due to the disease in 2024.

Some of the most commonly reported STIs in San Diego County are chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

Here are the sexually transmitted infection numbers for 2023–2024, as recorded by the County’s HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch of Public Health Services:

Chlamydia: Down 7.4%, from 17,720 cases in 2023 to 16,414 in 2024. Women ages 20–24 have the highest infection rates.

Gonorrhea: Decreased 9.5%, from 6,651 cases in 2023 to 6,021 in 2024. Men ages 25–29 show the highest rates.

Syphilis (Primary & Secondary): Dropped 35.8%, from 481 cases in 2023 to 309 in 2024. Infection rates are highest among men ages 25–34.

Syphilis (Congenital): Dropped 9.5%, from 36 cases

in 2023 to 31 cases in 2024. Three stillbirths or neonatal deaths occurred in 2024 (highest since 2019).

County health experts attribute the decreases to many factors, including increased state investment in STI prevention and control at the local level, improved access to routine screening and improvements in diagnostic testing, including rapid or point-of-care tests.

Another likely contributor is the increased use of an antibiotic within 72 hours of condomless sex with a partner determined to be infected. Research has shown that quick use of an antibiotic can significantly reduce syphilis and chlamydia and prevent some gonorrhea infections among certain populations.

“These numbers are encouraging but there is still work to be done,” said Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “We need to focus on decreasing cases of maternal syphilis, and babies born with congenital syphilis.”

Sexually transmitted infections are common and, in most cases, easily treated. Left untreated, they can lead to serious health issues and continued transmission.

County public health officials recommend that anyone who is sexually active establish a sexual health routine that includes screening, testing, vaccination and regular visits with your health care provider.

The County operates three walk-in sexual health clinics which offer testing, diagnosis, and treatment for STIs. Find more information on the County STD webpage or call (619) 293-4700.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 2, 2026

COUNTY

County’s CLEAR Ordinance Takes Effect to Safeguard Civil Liberties in Public Facilities

San Diego County’s CLEAR ordinance took effect today, Friday, Feb. 27, reinforcing the County’s commitment to maintaining safe, welcoming public spaces while protecting civil liberties and maintaining public trust.

The Civil Liberties Enforcement and Accountability Rules (CLEAR), along with San Diego County Board of Supervisors Policy L-2 , require federal immigration agents to present a judicial warrant before entering non-public areas of County facilities.

The policy protects due process and helps ensure that people can access essential services without fear or disruption. The ordinance is designed to create safe spaces for both the public accessing programs and County employees.

Under the ordinance, employees must follow CLEAR procedures. If approached by federal law enforcement, staff should request a judicial warrant or court order.

Multilingual signage will be displayed in County buildings and in facilities where the County contracts for services. The ordinance does not interfere with emergency operations or lawful cooperation on criminal matters. It applies specifically to immigration enforcement in non-public spaces.

To support transparency, the County will document any interactions with federal law enforcement and publish an annual report. County contractors and vendors are also required to comply.

Federal actions can create uncertainty, but the County of San Diego is here to support our communities every step of the way. The County’s Federal Impacts Assistance Hub helps residents navigate changes in federal policies by connecting them with clear, reliable information and supportive services.

The County of San Diego works to support the wellbeing of every resident by providing services that promote health, safety and opportunity. County programs help families access food and health care, connect older adults and people with disabilities to support, offer behavioral health services, expand housing and homelessness resources and create safe, thriving communities across the region.

County of San Diego news release · Feb 27, 2026

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