

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

Summer Heat on the Way, Here are Tips to Stay Safe in Extreme Heat

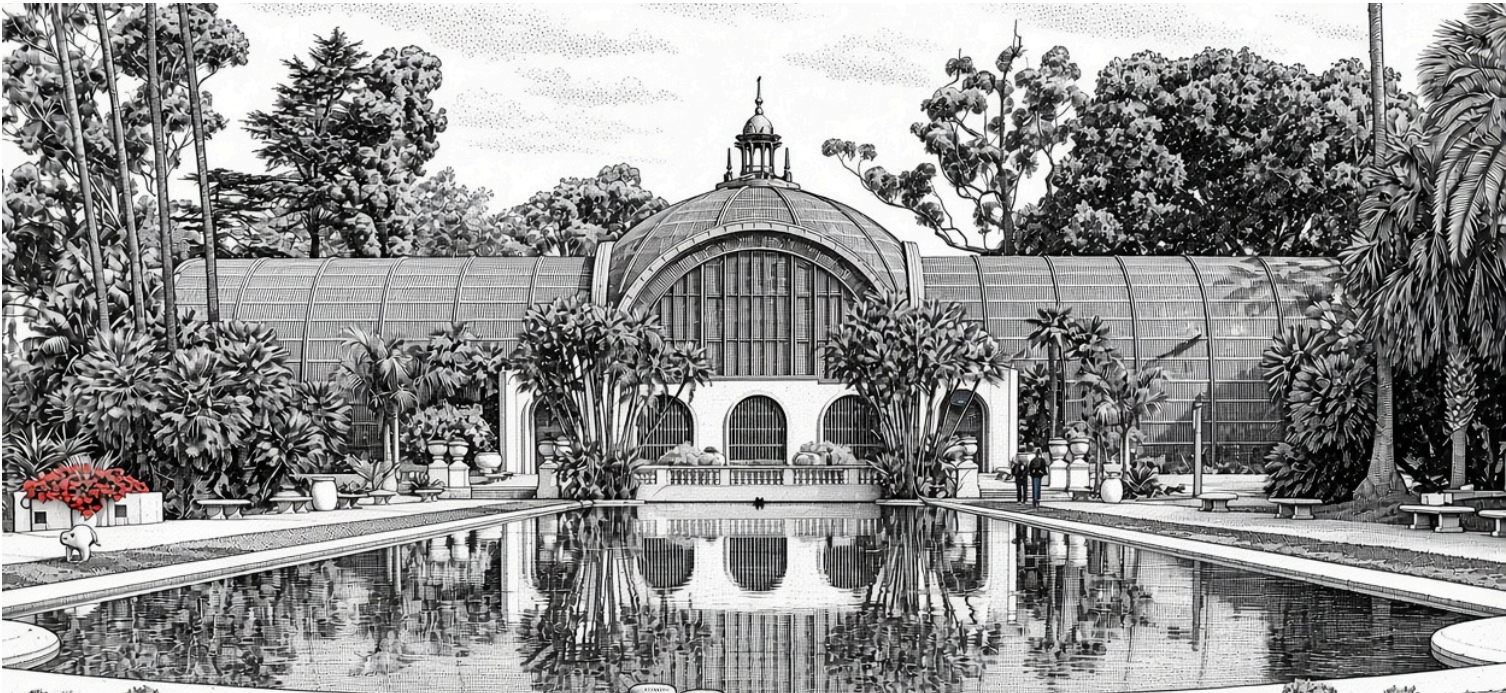


Illustration from a photo by Bernard Gagnon · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

And when the heat is extreme — which can happen in the summer and even fall months in San Diego County — it can be dangerous for people and pets.

Here are some tips to help you, your friends and loved ones stay safe when the temperatures spike.

Remember, extreme heat can cause body temperatures to soar. And that can cause heatstroke, exhaustion, dizziness, nausea, confusion, headache and even death. People who are particularly at risk are children, older adults, people with chronic medical conditions, someone who is pregnant, and outdoor workers.

Cool Zones and Indoor Relief — Places to Stay Cool

The County’s Cool Zones, including the County’s 33 branch libraries , community centers and other locations, offer people safe, air-conditioned sanctuaries from the heat. Here is a complete list of County Cool Zone sites , their hours and locations.

You can also use the County’s interactive link that lets you search for Cool Zone sites by location, ZIP code, organization and by what animals are allowed.

What to DO if Someone Shows Signs of Heatstroke

Call 9-1-1 immediately. Signs of heatstroke include dizziness, nausea, confusion and headache.

Begin cooling the person right away. Move them into the shade; spray them with cool water and fan them.

If they are alert, place them in a

cool shower and monitor their body temperatures.

DO NOT give them fluids; a person with heatstroke may not be able to swallow safely.

What to DO if Someone Shows Signs of Heat Exhaustion

Signs include being faint or dizzy, excessive sweating, cool/pale/clammy skin, nausea/vomiting, rapid/weak pulse and muscle cramps.

Get the person to a cooler, air-conditioned place.

Have the person drink water if fully conscious.

Place them in a cool shower or use cold compresses.

Tips to Help People Avoid Heat-Related Problems

Stay in an air-conditioned space during the hottest hours of the day.

Don’t rely on electric fans alone when temperatures exceed 90 degrees.

Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol and sugary drinks.

Never leave a child, elderly person, or pet unattended in a car — even briefly.

Limit outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day.

Wear sunscreen and a wide-brim hat if you must be in the sun.

Avoid using the oven to keep indoor temps lower.

Tips to Keep Your pets cool in hot weather

Keep your pets indoors if it is cooler inside.

Exercise pets in early morning

hours or early evening only.

Keep your pets’ water supply in a tip-proof container, always topped off, and be sure it stays cool (pets will not drink water that is too hot).

Consider a misting system to keep the outdoor areas cooler.

Be sure your pet has shade ALL DAY, if they are outside. Remember, the sun’s position changes during the day.

Avoid car trips; vehicles heat up dangerously fast. On an 85-degree day, a car can reach 102 degrees in 10 minutes and soar upward even with the windows down an inch or two.

Check pavement temperatures; if it is too hot for your bare feet, it’s too hot for paws.

Offer a shallow wading pool or misting area.

Watch for signs of heat stress: heavy panting, drooling, vomiting, lethargy, or stumbling. Seek veterinary help immediately if you notice these.

The sun is beautiful, but dangerous in extreme heat. So, stay cool, check on vulnerable neighbors and keep pets safe!

County of San Diego news release · Jul 6, 2026

DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety



COUNTY
Preparedness Starts with You—And Your Pets

Wildfires continue to spark across San Diego County, making this the perfect moment to review your family’s emergency plan . And remember every family member counts — including your pets. They rely on us for their safety and should never be left behind during an evacuation.

“Pets can become trapped if a wildfire moves in, or damaged homes can allow them to escape or be harmed by predators,” said County Animal Services Director Dr. Briana Sarvis.

When wildfires occur, emergency crews may block access to neighborhoods for hours or even days. If your pets are left at home, you may not be able to return to them. A little preparation now goes a long way.

Make sure they always wear a collar and ID tag with a contact number.

Microchip them — it’s one of the fastest ways to reunite pets with owners if they become separated. Most vets and shelters can scan microchips quickly.

Check your Pet Emergency Kit. It should include:

Animal Services may offer emergency shelter for pets during evacuations, but it’s smart to keep a list of pet-friendly hotels and boarding facilities as backup options.

Microchipping is available by appointment at both County Animal Services locations in Bonita and Carlsbad. To schedule, call 619-767-2675.

Livestock owners should also have an evacuation plan. Animal Services offers a Disaster Preparedness for Livestock Guide with helpful information to get you started.

Preparedness saves lives. County Emergency Services and Animal Services are here to help you plan ahead, stay informed, and keep every member of your household — two-legged and four-legged — safe during an emergency.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 2, 2026

COUNTY
County Health Officials Report First Locally Acquired Chagas Case

County health officials have confirmed the region’s first locally acquired case of Chagas disease, identified during routine blood donation screening in a donor without symptoms.

Chagas is much more common in rural areas of Latin America, where the insect that spreads the infection, the kissing bug, hides in homes made of mud and straw. The bug species found in San Diego County typically lives in rodent nests, making camping and outdoor exposure potential risk factors.

“Identifying a locally acquired Chagas case reminds us that this disease is not limited to Latin America,” said Dr. Sayone Thihalilopavan, County Public Health Officer. “Our priority is making sure residents, and healthcare providers have the information they need to stay protected.”

Early Chagas infection most often has no or only mild symptoms, consisting of a flulike illness with fever, headache, cough, abdominal pain or swelling at the bite site. People who have lived in endemic countries may have been infected years ago. If untreated, the disease can also be spread to infants during pregnancy.

Approximately, 30 to 40 percent of infected people will go on to develop serious heart and gastrointestinal complications years to decades later.

The County made Chagas disease locally reportable in 2024 to raise awareness of this important disease. Since then, the County has already received 22 reports, four of which were confirmed. This fourth confirmed case marks the first to be locally acquired.

County Public Health continues to work closely with healthcare providers to investigate cases, monitor transmission and provide clinical resources.

Health officials recommend travelers to areas where Chagas is endemic wear protective clothing and insect repellent, use insecticide-treated bed nets, sleep indoors, and avoid eating unpeeled or uncooked fruits and vegetables. People who have lived in Latin American should also consider being screened, especially pregnant women.

Anyone experiencing symptoms that may be related to Chagas disease should contact a healthcare provider. More information is available the County’s Chagas

and kissing bugs webpages .

County of San Diego news release · Jul 6, 2026

COUNTY
Behavioral Health Art Show Celebrates Creativity and Personal Growth

County Behavioral Health Services brought creativity and community together on June 12 at the Southeastern Live Well Center for its annual Strengths Based Case Management Art Show .

The event welcomed participants, families and supporters to celebrate paintings, drawings and sculptures created by clients receiving case management services as part of their behavioral healthcare.

More than a showcase, the art show highlights how creativity can open doors to healing and give participants a chance to be seen for their talent, not their challenges.

Art therapy is often used in behavioral health treatment because it can reduce anxiety, build self-esteem and help people express emotions that are hard to put into words. For many artists in the show, preparing their pieces becomes a meaningful part of recovery —an opportunity to share their story, connect with others and be recognized by family, peers and the community.

The program earned national recognition last year and has become something participants look forward to annually with excitement and pride. It’s a beautiful reminder that every artist has a story worth sharing, and that creativity can be a powerful step toward wellness.

Strengths Based Case Management services help people with ongoing mental health needs by coordinating care, connecting them to essential resources and assisting with daily living, from housing and medication management to life skills and basic necessities like food, clothing and medical care.

County Behavioral Health Services (BHS) supports people and families by providing mental health and substance use care across the region. In partnership with community providers, BHS works to offers safe, effective and culturally informed services—from prevention and early intervention to crisis response, treatment and long-term recovery so residents can stay healthy and connected.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 6, 2026

COUNTY
Mosquitoes Near San Carlos Test Positive for West Nile Virus, County Urges Prevention

Mosquitoes collected during routine monitoring near San Carlos have tested positive for West Nile virus, the first detection of the virus in San Diego County mosquitoes this year.

For those spending time outdoors during the upcoming holiday, make sure to protect yourself against mosquito bites by following the County’s “Prevent, Protect, Report” guidelines.

Preventing mosquito bites is essential year-round in San Diego County.

Dump or remove items that hold water from rain or sprinklers, including plant saucers, buckets, garbage cans, toys, old tires and wheelbarrows.

Request free mosquito-eating fish for backyard water features—such as unmaintained, green swimming pools, ponds, and fountains — by contacting the Vector Control Program.

Wear long sleeves and pants or use insect repellent before going outdoors.

Choose repellents containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, 2-undecanone or IR3535.

Check window and door screens to ensure they are intact and secure to keep insects out.

Report increased mosquito activity, unmaintained green swimming pools and other mosquito-breeding sources.

Report dead crows, ravens, jays, hawks and owls to the County Vector Control Program by calling (858) 694-2888 or emailing vector@sdcounty.ca.gov .

To reduce mosquito activity in the San Carlos area, the County’s Vector Control Program is inspecting and treating sites and conducting follow-up trapping. The County continues to provide mosquito inspections to residents and ongoing monitoring countywide.

West Nile virus spreads when certain mosquito species bite infected birds and then bite people. Some people who are infected may experience mild symptoms including headache, fever, nausea, fatigue, skin rash, or swollen glands. In rare cases, the virus can lead to severe illness or death.

Visit the County’s “ Fight the Bite ” website for more information on preventing West Nile virus.

The County’s Vector

Control team works year-round, collaborating with Public Health Services, to protect residents from vector-borne diseases. The program monitors mosquito activity, provides community education, offers residential inspections, and treats breeding sites to reduce risks from mosquitoes, and other vectors.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 2, 2026

COUNTY
County Outlines Steps to Protect People, Animals from New World Screwworm

County public health officials are issuing new guidance to help protect people and animals from the New World screwworm after recent animal cases were confirmed in Texas and New Mexico. No cases have been detected in California or San Diego County.

The New World screwworm, eradicated in the United States in 1966, is a parasitic fly that lays its eggs on open wounds. After hatching, the larvae feed on living tissue, causing severe pain, infection, and sometimes death.

“While the screwworm has not been detected in our region and the current risk is low, it’s reappearance in the United States is a reminder to take steps to protect ourselves and the animals in our care,” said Dr. Sayone Thihalilopavan, County public health officer.

County officials urge residents, animal owners and health care providers to stay alert and routinely check pets, livestock and wildlife for wounds or unusual behavior, such as headshaking or irritation. Animals with open wounds or signs of infestation should be taken to a veterinarian immediately.

People may be at higher risk if they have open sores or recent surgical wounds, weakened immune systems, or reduced ability to notice or care for wounds. Others at increased risk include those who sleep outdoors (especially during the day when the parasitic flies are most active) and those who live or work near livestock or other warm-blooded animals.

Symptoms in people can include painful or unexplained wounds, bleeding or drainage, a noticeable odor or seeing or feeling maggots in a wound.

People can reduce their risk by keeping wounds clean and covered, wearing long sleeves and pants in areas where the pest may be present, using insect

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Courts · Transit · Public safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
County Outlines Steps to Protect People, Animals from New World Screwworm
repellent, and sleeping

indoors or in screened areas when traveling in regions where New World screwworm is found, including Mexico, Central and South America, or the Caribbean.

For more information and updates, visit the County’s New World Screwworm webpage.
County Public Health Services and the Vector

Control Program work year-round to protect the community from vector borne diseases and other public health threats. The programs conduct surveillance, provide

community education, perform inspections, and respond rapidly to reduce risks to people and animals.
County of San Diego news release · Jul 2, 2026

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



BUSINESS
Member Spotlight: San Diego Hydro-Jet
From Drips to Drains – San Diego Hydro-Jet Keeps It Flowing

When a plumbing problem is too complex for the usual fix, San Diego Hydro-Jet & Rooter Service, Inc. is who the professionals call. For more than 32 years, San Diego Hydro-Jet has been the go-to resource for contractors, facility managers, and property management teams who need reliable expertise and advanced equipment – not guesswork.

San Diego Hydro-Jet specializes in high-end commercial and industrial plumbing work that demands more than a standard approach. Their fully trained

technicians handle the kinds of challenges others walk away from: severely blocked sewer lines, grease-laden commercial drains, aging pipe infrastructure, and time-sensitive emergencies where a business simply cannot afford to wait. San Diego Hydro-Jet is available around the clock, every day of the year – because plumbing problems don’t follow a schedule.

When others can’t fix it, San Diego Hydro-Jet can.

For facility and property managers especially, having a trusted partner who responds quickly and works cleanly in occupied or operational spaces makes all the difference. San Diego Hydro-Jet core services include:

As part of the West Coast Hydro-Jet & Plumbing family – serving communities across Southern California – San Diego Hydro-Jet operates as a dedicated local San Diego brand . Clients always work with technicians who know this area and are invested in

the community they serve. San Diego Hydro-Jet is proud to join the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to connecting with fellow members.

If your facility or property has a plumbing challenge that hasn’t been solved yet, reach out to San Diego Hydro-Jet.

Phone: 833-694-0603.
Online: https://www.westcoasthydrojet.com/San_Diego_Hydrojet

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jul 6, 2026

BUSINESS
TJRV Update & Survey

The Chamber continues to elevate transboundary pollution as a regional priority on both sides of the border.

Earlier this month, Vice President of International and Public Affairs Kenia Zamarripa presented an overview of the Chamber’s recently released report and proposed framework , commissioned by the Prebys Foundation, to the TJRV

Congressional Working Group led by Representatives Scott Peters and Juan Vargas.

The following week, Kenia also shared the report’s findings and recommendations with SANDAG and regional stakeholders as part of ongoing efforts to build alignment around long-term solutions. The Chamber is also partnering with the SD World Affairs Council on July 10 for Poisoned Waters: The Tijuana River Crisis and the Future of Cross-Border Cooperation , a discussion featuring Kenia alongside regional leaders from WILDCOAST, USD, and Tijuana Verde. The conversation will explore the impacts of transboundary pollution, current response efforts, and next steps.

In addition, the County of San Diego’s Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs continues to advance an economic impact study on the Tijuana River Valley transboundary pollution crisis. The Chamber is supporting outreach by

distributing surveys to businesses, tourism stakeholders, community organizations, and other partners to capture data on how this issue has hindered economic growth and investment.

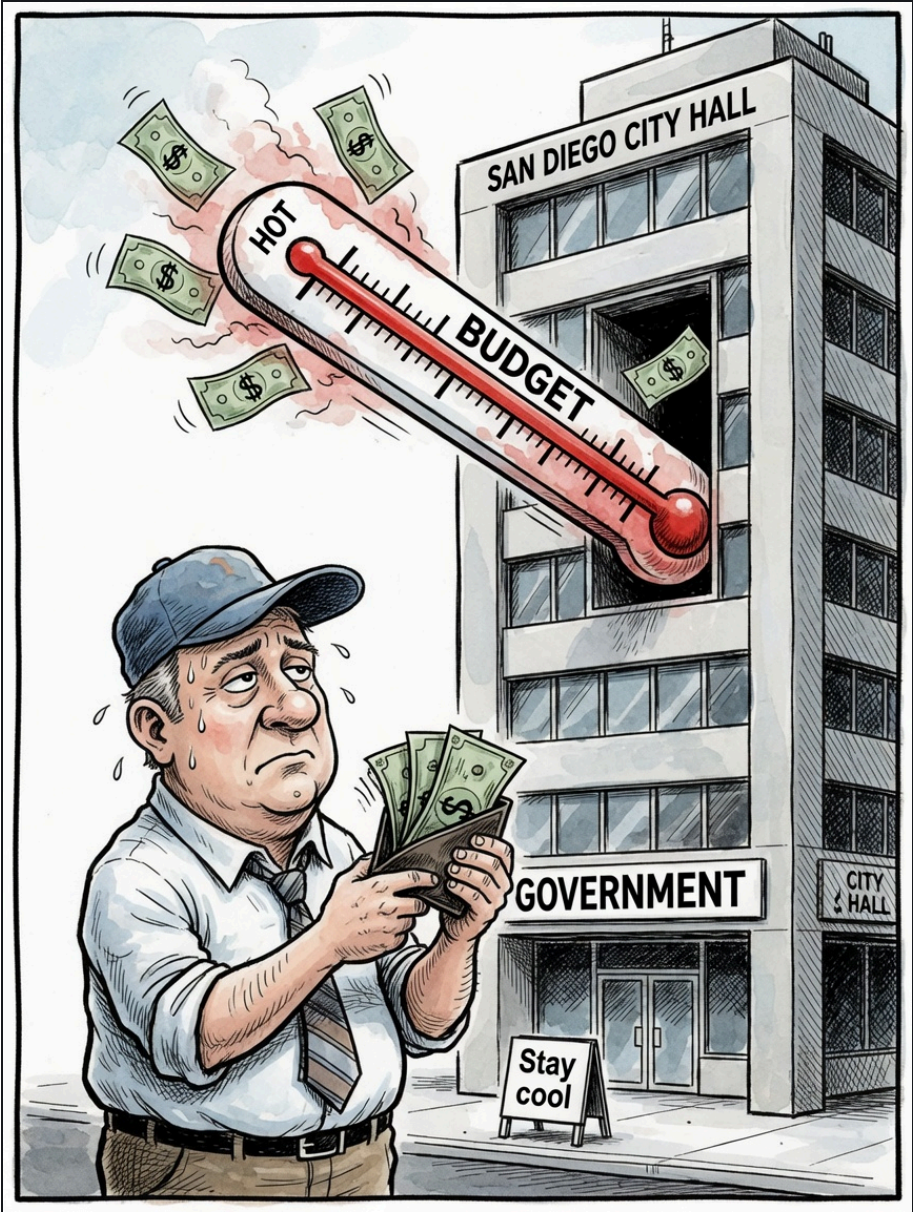
The survey should take between 5-20 minutes to complete depending on the track (business, resident, visitor, or organization). You will be asked questions about how the sewage crisis may have affected you, your household, your business, or your community. Your responses are critical to inform and advance policy and actions to mitigate transboundary pollution, and will be added to other research, data, and community input. The survey will remain open for about 4 weeks, so please take time to provide your input soon.

This study is expected to be finalized and presented to the Board of Supervisors in October.

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

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Government's favorite way to beat the heat

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY

California Policy Center Blasts Floating Offshore Wind as Economically Unviable

Edward Ring argues that the state's push for massive floating offshore wind farms would burden ratepayers with exorbitant electricity costs while delivering poor value compared to existing assets or simpler renewables.

Evaluating the true economic viability of major energy projects requires looking beyond promotional claims or complex financial models that rely heavily on government incentives, according to Edward Ring of the California Policy Center.

Ring writes that the most revealing approach is to examine the actual physical costs of building and operating the assets themselves. If subsidies and tax breaks are reduced or eliminated, he asks whether the projects could still generate a profit.

That question is especially relevant now in Morro Bay, where two of the three offshore wind developers have

terminated their leases. Ring suggests this may be because, absent massive public incentives, the projects could not make a profit.

In an updated analysis based solely on official construction cost figures, Ring reports that procuring and installing 25 gigawatts of floating offshore wind capacity would cost \$184 billion. Upgrading port infrastructure would add another \$12 billion, while transmission upgrades for offshore wind integration would require \$36 billion.

The total comes to \$232 billion. Financing that amount over 25 years at 4 percent interest, based on current commercial bond market terms, would mean annual payments of nearly \$15 billion.

California's Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan, updated in June 2024, targets exactly 25 gigawatts. At a 40 percent capacity factor and 90 percent uptime, this would produce roughly 78,840 gigawatt-hours per year, equal to 28 percent of the state's total electricity consumption of 278,338 gigawatt-hours in

2024.

Dividing the annual financing cost by that output yields an estimated \$0.19 per kilowatt-hour. That figure, Ring notes, is based on cost projections rather than final costs for a completed project and does not include operating and maintenance expenses.

Maintaining 2,083 floating towers, each rising approximately 800 feet from the waterline to the blade tip with 12-megawatt turbines mounted on massive pontoons anchored in waters up to 4,000 feet deep and connected by high-voltage undersea cables, would be extraordinarily expensive, he argues.

By comparison, solar photovoltaic installations, which also require storage backup, come in far cheaper. At \$1 million per megawatt of capacity and a 25 percent yield under the same financing terms, solar's financing cost is only \$0.03 per kilowatt-hour — seven times less expensive than floating offshore wind.

Solar can also be built on

private land and rooftops, greatly reducing the need for expensive grid upgrades, according to Ring.

Ring further contends that floating offshore wind must be measured against California's existing fleet of fully paid-for power plants that still have decades of useful life. He questions whether the offshore turbines would even last the full 25-year financing term.

Emerging alternatives such as new nuclear technologies and enhanced geothermal systems may soon offer more competitive paths to large-scale generation, he writes.

While proponents claim floating offshore wind supports economic growth, Ring argues it would instead force statewide electricity ratepayers to subsidize developers who could not compete in an unsubsidized market.

He suggests that real economic growth in places like Humboldt Bay could come from responsible logging at the scale attained forty years ago with added safeguards, creating jobs, lowering

wildfire risk and improving forest ecosystems. A less restrictive Coastal Commission could also unlock productive coastal investment.

Ring compares the entire concept to a meticulously researched but absurd business school hypothetical about fitting chickens with contact lenses to make them more docile and productive — a hoax meant to underscore the importance of common sense.

Floating offshore wind, he concludes, is equally preposterous and must be canceled before any more public money is wasted.

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

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

County Animal Services Releases Operational Assessment, Highlights Progress Under New Leadership

County Animal Services has released the results of an independent operational assessment commissioned to strengthen services for people and animals across the region.

The department requested the review in October 2025, when Dr. Brie Sarvis — then the County's new Chief Veterinarian and now Director of Animal Services — asked national consulting

firm Team Shelter USA to evaluate shelter operations, staffing, animal care practices and overall service delivery.

The goal was to get a clear look at what the department does well and where targeted improvements could have the most impact.

“This report gives us a strategic roadmap,” Sarvis said. “We’re not just identifying improvements — we’re acting on them to deliver safer shelters, stronger field services and better outcomes for people and pets.”

The assessment highlights several areas where County Animal Services is

performing strongly:

Dedicated, experienced and caring staff and volunteers.

High-quality medical and surgical care, including expanded treatment options.

A strong live-release rate that meets or exceeds the 90% industry benchmark.

Successful programs such as Dog Day Out, foster initiatives, and new adoption partnerships with PetSmart.

Improved field services with increased enforcement and enhanced safety measures.

The review also outlines opportunities to strengthen efficiency, animal care and

community services, including:

Boosting return-to-owner rates through neighborhood-based outreach.

Reducing length of stay for dogs by expanding exercise, enrichment and socialization

Improving sanitation workflows at the Bonita shelter with new kennel cleaning methods

Strengthening communications, dispatch efficiency and overall customer service.

Filling key staffing roles and continuing officer safety training.

The assessment provides a clear direction as the

department prepares to open the new Santee shelter and continues systemwide improvements. Findings will guide planning, staffing and facility updates in the months ahead.

“We’re grateful for the dedication of our staff, volunteers and partners,” Sarvis said. “This assessment shows the strong foundation we already have and helps us focus on thoughtful improvements that benefit both animals and the community.”

The full report is available on the County Animal Services website .

County of San Diego news release · Jul 7, 2026

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