

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

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DOWNTOWN

107 Ash (Formerly 101 Ash) - Affordable Housing



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On Sept. 15, 2026, during its 2 p.m. session, the San Diego City Council will consider a proposed First Amendment to the Ground Lease Disposition Agreement with 101 Ash Venture LP, a California Limited Partnership, for the long-term lease and redevelopment of the City-owned property located at 107 Ash Street (formerly 101 Ash Street) into a mixed-use project, including 249 units of income-restricted affordable housing.

First Amendment to Ground Lease Disposition Agreement

Ground Lease Disposition Agreement (Aug. 18, 2025)

On July 29, 2025, during its 2 p.m. session, the San Diego City Council approved entering into a Ground Lease Disposition Agreement with 101 Ash Venture, LP, a California Limited Partnership, to redevelop the City-owned 101 Ash St. property into a mixed-use project, including 247 units of income-restricted affordable housing.

July 2, 2025 Land Use & Housing Committee Agenda – Item No. 13

July 29, 2025 City Council Agenda – Item No. 332

Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) Report 25-25 – July 24, 2025

City of San Diego news release · Aug 28, 2026



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

COUNTY

County Launches Grant to Help East County Small Businesses

The Board of Supervisors has approved a new \$300,000 one-time County grant to boost East County small businesses through the East County Economic Development Council's Empower East County Business Fund Revolving Loan Fund.

The fund was created to close financing gaps for small businesses that do not yet qualify for traditional lending but show business viability, repayment potential, and a commitment to strengthening their local communities.

Along with the County's grant, the East County Economic Development Council is eligible for an additional \$400,000 in matching funds from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, with opportunities for additional federal funding in the future.

These investments will expand access to capital, strengthen local job creation and support long-term economic growth throughout East County.

Throughout the program, small businesses can access revolving loans ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to purchase equipment, inventory, capital, and business expansion needs.

District 4 County Supervisor Vice Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe and District 2 County Supervisor Joel Anderson proposed the grant to the

East County Economic Development Council to help launch the Empower East County Business Revolving Loan Fund. The County's Office of Economic Development & Government Affairs will administer the funding.

“This fund will be very helpful to small businesses in East County and will allow them to grow and stabilize their operations and create local jobs,” said County of San Diego's Office of Economic Development & Government Affairs Deputy Director Steve Lockett. He noted that the repaid loans are returned to the fund for future borrowers.

This investment supports the County's ongoing commitment to strengthen small businesses through the Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs' Business Engagement and Strategic Training (BEST) Initiative. BEST helps small businesses navigate procurement, improve labor law compliance, and access essential administrative support. With about 98% of the region's businesses classified as small, these efforts play an important role in sustaining long-term economic resilience across the region.

The County's Office of Economic Development & Government Affairs (EDGA) supports the region's economic vitality by helping businesses start, grow and thrive. EDGA provides resources that strengthen small businesses, promote workforce development and expand local job opportunities. In addition to BEST, EDGA also manages key economic development investments and partnerships that advance long-term economic resilience across San Diego County.

County of San Diego news release · Sep 2, 2026

CITY

Forecast of Projects to be Awarded in Fiscal Year 2027 (Adopted Budget)

To create the print version set the

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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Forecast of Projects to be Awarded in Fiscal Year 2027 (Adopted Budget)

font-size:0.5em on both tables. Save as PDF in Chrome; More Settings - Margins:None and Scale:85. Also change link on https://www.sandiego.gov/cip/reports to match the year if starting with quarter 1.

This page contains all Capital Improvements Program (CIP) projects anticipated to be advertised and awarded for construction in the current fiscal year listed initially in the City's Adopted CIP budget . This page is updated throughout the year with the current cost estimates and new projects to list. It also identifies which projects were already awarded to a construction contractor. In addition, some projects from the original list may roll-over to the first quarter of next fiscal year and possibly beyond due to unforeseen conditions. See Construction Contract Types for more information about delivery methods. Also, visit Bid and Contract Opportunities for projects currently in the bid and award phase For more information about this report, call (619) 533-4207 or email engineering@sandiego.gov .

DOWNLOAD - Forecast of Projects to be Awarded in Fiscal Year 2027 (Adopted Budget)

A summary by asset-managing departments is listed at the bottom of this page.

* To sort on a column, click on its heading. To sort on multiple columns, hold the Shift key while clicking.

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Forecast of Projects to be Awarded in Fiscal Year 2027 (Adopted Budget)

Forecast of Projects to be Awarded in Fiscal Year 2026

Forecast of Projects to be Awarded in Fiscal Year 2026 (Third Quarter Update)

Forecast of Projects to be Awarded in Fiscal Year 2026 (Mid-Year Update)

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Forecast of Projects to be Awarded in Fiscal Year 2015 as of 04/1/2015

City of San Diego news release · Sep 2, 2026

COUNTY Road Projects Improving Safety Near Schools The County is committed to

high-quality roads that are safe for all. With students back to school across the region, the streets around them are busier with foot, bicycle and motor traffic. Several County road safety projects are helping to keep students and families safe, including one in El Cajon recently completed in August.

At Vista Grande Elementary School on Vista Grande Road our teams just completed a new crosswalk with markings, signs, pedestrian ramps, and a rapid flashing beacon at the main entrance of the school. Once the button is pressed, the beacon flashes like a strobe light, alerting cars to yield to crossing pedestrians.

Three additional school safety projects also were completed within the last two years in the communities of El Cajon, Fallbrook and Ramona.

At Hillsdale Middle School on Brabham Street, the County installed a special type of traffic signal that is pedestrian focused called a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB), as well as a new crosswalk, signs, and pedestrian ramps. Altogether this provides safer pedestrian crossings and a reduced traffic delay.

Reche Road improvements At James Potter Intermediate School on Reche Road, we installed a new crosswalk with markings, signs, and a rapid flashing beacon at the main entrance of the school.

Rapid flashing beacon on Hanson Lane Students at Olive Pierce Middle School on Hanson Lane also received a new crosswalk with markings, signs, pedestrian ramp, and rapid flashing beacon in between two schools.

County Public Works was recognized earlier this year for its Best Pavement Management Practices by the California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities and County Engineers Association of California.

County of San Diego news release · Sep 2, 2026

COUNTY County Gathers Broad Feedback to Reimagine San Pasqual Academy The County completed a new round of youth, alumni and community engagement to help determine the future of San Pasqual Academy (SPA), a 238-acre residential educational campus for foster youth. Recent outreach meetings in July and August 2026 brought together current

foster youth, SPA alumni, service providers and community members to share their priorities, concerns and hopes for the campus.

The County is developing a fiscally sustainable, community-centered plan that reflects local needs and supports long-term success for vulnerable youth.

County Child and Family Well-Being staff gathered feedback through multiple formats:

One - on - one discussions with 39 current SPA youth

Small group youth sessions with CASA volunteers participating

A hybrid meeting with alumni and former foster youth

Five large community meetings, both in-person and virtual, with 246 participants

Additional written and on-line comments submitted through the Engage San Diego County website

Youth asked for transparency in decision-making, improved safety, transportation, expanded mental health support, stronger academics, and more activities. Alumni emphasized the value of stable schooling, therapeutic care and workforce preparation, while also raising concerns about safety and gaps in life skills development. Community members suggested future uses ranging from transitional housing and kinship support programs to mental health services, agriculture training and programs for justice involved youth.

Feedback from all groups showed strong interest in keeping SPA open with an expanded, trauma-informed model that could serve foster youth and additional vulnerable populations. Participants called for flexible campus use, individualized care long-term stability and partnerships that boost education, wellness, housing and workforce development.

Up-to-date information on planning the property's future is available on the SPA Engage San Diego webpage. County staff will release a Request for Information next week to identify potential program partners and resources. Responses are due back in early fall with a report presented to the Board of Supervisors by the end of the year. The County will continue transparent engagement throughout the process and prioritize the wellbeing of foster youth.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 31, 2026



Illustration

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Autism Society San Diego

For 60 years, Autism Society San Diego has been a trusted source of connection, support, and community for autistic individuals and their families across the region. What began in 1966 as a small, determined group of parents has grown into one of San Diego’s most active and impactful autism-serving organizations — offering year-round programs, monthly services, and a welcoming community built on inclusion, dignity, and belonging.

This summer, Autism Society San Diego proudly celebrated the 25th anniversary of their Surf Camp program, a beloved San Diego

tradition that has introduced thousands of autistic youth to surfing, adaptive aquatics, and drowning-prevention skills. Surf Camp is more than a week at the beach — it’s confidence-building, independence-boosting, and life-changing for participants and their families. Parents often share that watching their child ride a wave for the first time is a moment they will never forget.

Beyond Surf Camp, Autism Society San Diego provides monthly support groups, family meet-ups, adult social gatherings, aquatics programs, and community education designed to meet families where they are. These services ensure that individuals of all ages have access to safe spaces, peer connection, and resources that strengthen the autism community year-round.

As they celebrate their Diamond Anniversary, Autism Society San Diego invites the San Diego

community to join them for their 60th Anniversary Diamond Gala on October 3, 2026 . This milestone event will honor six decades of service, recognize the families and community partners who have shaped their journey, and raise critical support to expand programs for the next generation.

Their work is possible because of the unwavering support of the San Diego region — its families, businesses, volunteers, and partners who believe in creating a more inclusive future.

Learn more at: www.autismsocietysandiego.org

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Aug 30, 2026

BUSINESS

The Business Case for Immigration Reform

Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President Jessica Anderson participated in a panel discussion titled

“The Business of Immigration: Ethics, Economics, and the Future of our Region,” hosted by the San Diego World Affairs Council and OneSD. As part of the Engage San Diego: Tough Topics, Real Discussion series, the panel explored how immigration influences San Diego’s economy, policies, and long-term success of the CaliBaja region.

Jessica shared highlights on the Chamber’s advocacy efforts to advance comprehensive immigration reform and oppose aggressive enforcement practices that create fear and disrupt our communities. Efforts include support for H.R. 7961 by Representative Lawler, which exempts physicians and essential health workers from \$100K H1-B visas, and support for H.R. 5973 by Representative Peters, which aims to reduce reliance on unpredictable enforcement approaches which

undermine stability for employers and workers.

Additional advocacy efforts include coalition letters on requirements for temporary protected status, asylum seekers, and DACA recipients, as well as advancing visas for international students. For decades, the Chamber has advocated for comprehensive immigration reform . Providing a standardized, legal, and safe pathway to citizenship is crucial to workforce availability and providing businesses with the talent they need to grow and compete. Recognizing that 1 out of 3 members of our workforce in San Diego and across California is an immigrant, and the immigrant community contributes to nearly one-third of our region’s GDP, the Chamber will remain a steady voice for immigration reforms that strengthen our binational region.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Aug 21, 2026

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More amendments, still no affordable housing.

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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Public Safety and Construction Unions Could Rescue California, Argues Edward Ring

Edward Ring argues that unions representing police, firefighters and heavy construction workers should use their influence to back practical policies instead of costly ideological projects.

California’s public-sector unions wield unmatched power, according to Edward Ring. While private-sector unions remain limited, government unions dominate nearly every state agency, city, county, school district and special district. They exert near-total control over the legislature, Ring writes.

Edward Ring, director of water and energy policy at the California Policy Center, explains that public-sector unions differ fundamentally from their private-sector counterparts. Their salaries and benefits come from tax revenue rather than market competition, removing any natural restraint on demands. Union members also elect the officials who supervise them.

These unions collect and spend roughly \$1 billion annually, directing a large share toward political campaigns,

lobbying, voter registration and “non-political” activities, Ring notes. Public employees further influence permitting, legislation and regulatory enforcement, giving them leverage no other interest group can match.

Ring argues that the natural incentive for government unions is to expand the size of government and raise taxes to grow their membership. This creates an inherent conflict with private citizens, because “a failed government program is a de facto success for government bureaucracies,” he writes. The result is perpetual calls for more spending and higher taxes.

Many of the most influential unions are also guided by leftist ideology, Ring contends. Teachers’ unions, which automatically receive 40 percent of the state’s general fund despite declining enrollment, have ruined the public schools, producing “a generation of semi-literate and innumerate graduates who are indoctrinated to become communist agitators,” according to him.

The Service Employees International Union is responsible for placing a wealth tax on the November 2026 ballot, Ring writes. The mere prospect of the measure has already prompted dozens of

wealthy Californians to leave the state, taking their businesses, future tax revenue and jobs with them.

Yet two major sectors—public safety and heavy construction—offer hope, Ring argues. Unlike most government unions, these groups “do not embrace leftist ideology,” he writes. Public safety workers face genuine danger daily and tend to hold conservative views, according to Ring. Construction workers deal with tangible infrastructure that keeps civilization functioning.

Despite performing heroic work, these unions are currently letting Californians down, Ring states. Public safety unions are backing legislation to increase already generous pension benefits. In Costa Mesa, 44 of the top 50 highest-paid positions belong to public safety employees; similar patterns appear in San Jose and San Diego.

The average pension for retired public safety employees exceeds \$80,000 per year, while retired California Highway Patrol officers average more than \$114,000 annually, Ring reports. He recalls that similar benefit expansions in 1999 during a market bubble led to hundreds of billions in unfunded liabilities after the crash. Modest

reforms in 2012 under Gov. Jerry Brown have still left governments struggling to pay.

Instead of seeking higher pensions that will crush government budgets tomorrow, public safety unions should pressure lawmakers to fully implement Proposition 36, the 2024 crime measure approved by 68 percent of voters, Ring urges. Firefighting unions should challenge environmental restrictions that block timber harvesting, prescribed burns, mechanical thinning and grazing.

Heavy construction unions, representing nearly half a million workers, currently prioritize funding for high-speed rail and floating offshore wind projects, each projected to cost taxpayers more than \$100 billion, according to Ring. He contends these megaprojects will saddle the state with decades of debt and permanently higher electricity rates—Californians already pay twice the national average.

Ring recommends that these unions instead champion projects offering lasting economic dividends: upgrading existing railroads and freeways, constructing a new nuclear power plant, building large-scale desalination facilities, creating the Sites

Reservoir to store 1.5 million acre-feet of water annually, restoring aqueducts and dredging decades of silt from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta channels.

Ring concludes that public safety and heavy construction unions “know better” than to accept the current political status quo. By confronting leftist and extreme environmental policies, they could shift the balance of power in Sacramento. The resulting good policies and projects would lower the cost of living, create jobs, and “make the state great again for everyone, including members of these unions,” he writes.

That is the opportunity—and the gift—these unions can give all Californians.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Aug 28, 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

County Marks Overdose Awareness Day with Hundreds of Purple Flags

Hundreds of purple flags lined the lawn at Waterfront Park today to mark the 25 th International Overdose Awareness Day.

The 840 flags each represent a San Diego County resident who died from an overdose in 2025 and serve as a reminder that more work is needed to save more lives.

There is good news. San Diego County overdose deaths continue a steady decline. Fatalities dropped 11 percent from last year’s 945 and are down 36 percent from the 2021 peak of 1,309.

County leaders released the new data at a press conference at the County Administration Center. Public safety leaders, behavioral health experts, and public health professionals joined families who lost loved ones to raise awareness and reinforce that overdose deaths are preventable.

Fentanyl-related deaths are falling, and methamphetamine deaths have also decreased. However, methamphetamine now accounts for

68 percent of all overdose deaths, surpassing fentanyl’s 47 percent.

This year’s data also shows continued racial disparities. Overdose deaths among Black and African American residents dropped significantly — down 48% from 2023 to 2025, decreasing from 159 deaths to 85. Still, the community’s age-adjusted death rate of 54.8 deaths per 100,000 people remains nearly double the rate for white residents at 28.6.

American Indian and Alaska Native residents now face the highest overdose risk, with 73.7 deaths per 100,000. Deaths among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander residents have more than doubled since 2021.

County officials say collaboration is driving progress. Public health teams, law enforcement, and community organizations are working together on prevention, real-time surveillance, expanded naloxone distribution, and targeted outreach in communities most affected by overdoses.

They said the downward trend is encouraging, but more prevention, treatment and crisis response efforts are still needed.

Naloxone, an opioid

overdose reversal medicine, and fentanyl test strips are available to anyone through the County’s Harm Reduction Strategy . Residents can find distribution sites using the interactive Substance Use and Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) and Naloxone Resource map . They can also locate safe medication disposal sites through the interactive Prescription Drug Drop-Off Locator Map .

Substance use treatment resources and support services are available 24/7 by calling the County’s Access and Crisis Line at 888-724-7240 or the national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988, with support in over 150 languages.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 31, 2026

COUNTY

Make Back-to-School Mental Health a Priority

The back-to-school season brings a familiar mix of excitement—and stress. New classrooms, teachers and routines can feel overwhelming for children, teens and the adults supporting them. Academic pressure, changing friendships and the push to

adapt can be especially challenging for students who already experience anxiety or other mental health concerns.

Children often take emotional cues from the adults around them. When parents remain calm and acknowledge that first-day nerves are normal, kids are better able to manage their own feelings.

Predictable and consistent morning and bedtime routines.

Low-pressure daily check-ins. Asking, “How was lunch?” often opens the door more than, “How was school?”

Early conversations with teachers to understand how a child is doing socially and academically.

A simple homework plan with a clear workspace and time for questions.

College brings independence – and new pressures. Balancing coursework, schedules and social change can be overwhelming.

Sleep, steady routines and breaking large tasks into smaller steps remain effective at any age. Students also benefit from an outlet, whether it’s talking with a friend, journaling or taking a

Downtown, City & County

walk. Parents can support from a distance by keeping communication open and asking a few honest questions instead of offering lengthy advice.

Limited screen time one to two hours before bed

An organized study space that makes it easier to work

Visit the County Behavioral Health Services Student Wellness Resources page and the SchooLink San Diego page for more information and support.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers free, confidential help 24/7.

It’s Up to Us San Diego provides local mental health resources.

The Soluna app offers behavioral health support for ages 13 to 25.

Starting the school year strong doesn’t mean eliminating stress—some stress is normal. What matters is children and young adults have routines, relationships and support to help them navigate challenges. Those habits build resilience for the first weeks of school and the entire year ahead.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 27, 2026