

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

You Should Meet in the CBO Suite

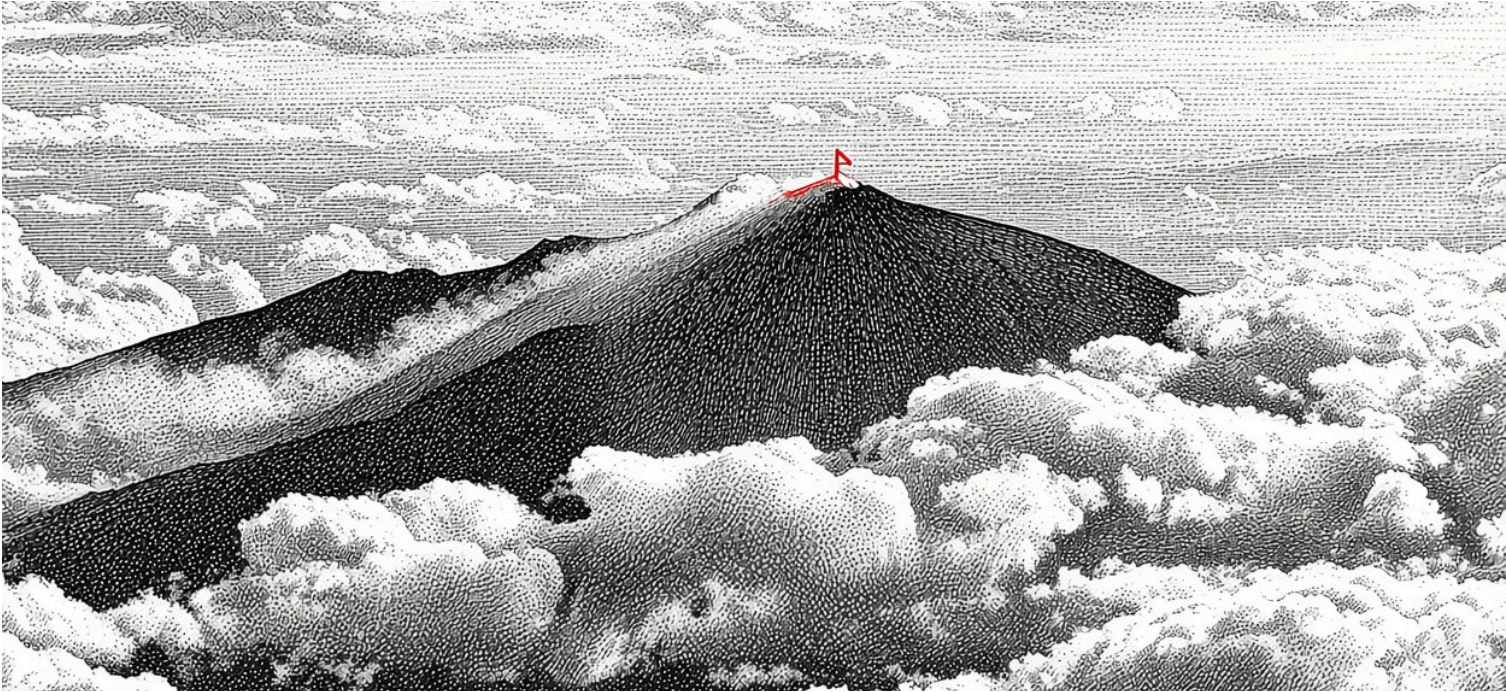


Illustration from a photo by gnuckx · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0

The Southeastern Live Well Center is home to a wide range of county services all under one roof.

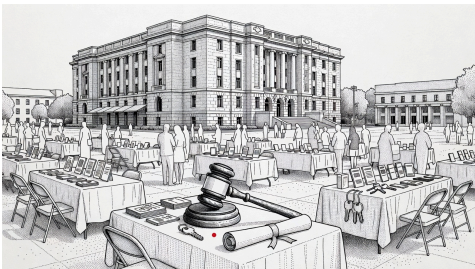
It is also a place for community, collaboration and engagement.

On the first floor of the building, next to the Family Resource Center, a Community Based Organizations (CBO) Suite is available to local groups who serve the community.

The workspace is free to use and an ideal location for organizations that don't have a budget for a permanent office.

Visit the Southeastern Live Well Center CBO webpage for information on making a reservation.

County of San Diego news release · Feb 25, 2025



Illustration

COUNTY

County Holds First North County Community Resource Fair

Hundreds of people moved from booth-to-booth in the parking lot of the North County Superior Court in Vista Thursday, seeking some welcoming help as they work to successfully reenter and rejoin their neighborhoods and communities.

They had come to the first North County Community Resource Fair, organized by the San Diego County Probation Department and the state Division of Adult Parole Operations.

The free event that featured roughly 90 organizations was designed to provide the help those people were

looking for, all in one spot. Support to find housing, jobs, healthcare, food, access to CalFresh, clothing, documents, mental health support, and substance use disorder services. There were even free showers and haircuts.

The event was primarily to help people on probation or parole. But it was also open to the public, with support for anyone needing help.

One of those attending the event was a young man named Jason. He said he once attended similar events in the past to seek help, but that he was there Wednesday to offer help instead, as he now works for a mental health provider in Oceanside.

Jason said he remembered just how helpful events like resource fair had been to him. He said he was able to immediately get access to services such as ID vouchers, help with birth certificates, food stamps, general relief, and referrals for employment and education.

Eddie Head, division chief for the reentry and pretrial services with the County of San Diego Probation Department, said it took a full year to put Wednesday's event together. He said it was modeled on a successful resource fair the Probation Department hosted at the East County Courthouse in April 2024 .

“Our department ensures client accountability,” Head said, “but our mission also includes providing the highest quality of services. We aim to help our clients and connect them to appropriate resources. We achieve this by offering opportunities like this fair to link them to the services they need.”

Some of the groups, agencies and organizations that were at Wednesday's event included: the County's Live Well on Wheels bus, the San Diego Access and Crisis Line, the Vista Community Clinic, the Women's Resource Center, the Center for Community Solutions, One Safe Place, the San Diego Rescue Mission, Alcoholics Anonymous of San Diego, the Center for Employment Opportunities, Goodwill Industries, and

Home Start.

John, a probationer, came to the event and said he hoped to find a job.

He said events like the resource fair were not only important for the tangible help they provide, but also for the hope they give to the people who come to them.

“Seeing these (community) fairs are important,” he said. “You know, because sometimes you feel alone. You see the community that's really cheering for you, it's beneficial for all of us—to heal.”

County of San Diego news release · Feb 21, 2025

COUNTY

County Investigating First Bird Flu Case in Cat

County Public Health officials are investigating a suspected case of bird flu (H5N1) in a house cat from East County.

Preliminary test results show t he cat , which got sick and died in mid-January 2025 , was positive for bird flu . The indoor cat ate a raw pet food that is suspected to be the source of the infection .

This is the first case of bird flu in a cat in San Diego County. Several other unconnected cases have happened in cats throughout the state, and all are suspected to be the result of eating raw food or raw milk .

Bird flu or H5N1 is a highly contagious virus that can sicken or kill birds and other animals. In 2024, there were six cases of bird flu in wild gulls in San Diego County. No wildlife cases have been confirmed so far in 2025. No local cases in humans have been reported.

While rare, it can be spread to people when the virus gets in someone's eyes, nose or mouth, or when it is inhaled. No local cases in humans have been reported and the risk to people remains low.

“Bird Flu has been devastating for wildlife populations around the globe,

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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County Investigating First Bird Flu Case in Cat

poultry and dairy cattle in our country and has infrequently affected people and cats,” said Dr. Seema Shah, Medical Director of County Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch. “The County is actively monitoring wild birds and expanding testing, along with keeping tabs on people exposed to those animals in case they exhibit symptoms. We are also working with veterinarians, healthcare providers, farmers and wildlife groups

to provide guidance and resources.”

While cases of bird flu in people and cats are rare, there are steps you can take to lower the risk of bird flu for yourself, family and pets.

Avoid consuming raw milk or dairy products or feeding them to your pets because raw milk is not pasteurized. Pasteurization is a heating process that kills harmful pathogens like bird flu or bacteria like salmonella, toxin producing E. coli. and listeria

Avoid feeding raw pet food products to pets and talk to your pet’s veterinarian about safe and healthy diets

Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water when handling raw foods like meats and poultry and cook them to recommended temperature before serving

Avoid touching sick or dead birds or animals and report them to animal control

Don’t let your pets eat or touch sick or dead bird or animals

Keep your cats indoors and supervise pets outdoors

Get the seasonal flu vaccine. While it does not protect against bird flu, it can protect you from getting both the season flu and bird flu at the same time.

On the West Coast, house cats have died from bird flu caused by consuming raw milk or food products including in Santa Barbara County, San Mateo, Los Angeles, Washington and Oregon.

Signs of bird flu in cats include neurologic issues like lack of coordination, tremors, seizures or blindness, loss of appetite, discharge from the eyes and nose and other respiratory issues like breathing fast, sneezing or coughing. Pet owners should tell their veterinarian if their pet is sick and has eaten a raw food diet, has interacted with poultry or dairy cattle,

or hunts wild birds or other wild animals.

Those most at risk for bird flu are farmworkers, people with backyard flocks, wildlife workers and those who work around animals. Those that work with ill animals can use personal protective equipment to reduce their likelihood of exposure to the virus.

More information about bird flu is posted on the County’s website including guidance for healthcare professionals, employers and veterinarians.

County of San Diego news release · Feb 26, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



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BUSINESS

Prop. 36 Update

The Chamber was a strong supporter and advocate for the passage of Prop 36 on last year’s state ballot. Voters overwhelmingly approved the measure, signaling broad support for stronger public safety reforms and regulations. Since the passage of the measure, the Chamber has continued to be engaged in conversations focused on its implementation with local and state leaders and law enforcement officers to ensure San Diego’s business community has a voice at the table.

Prop 36 took effect on December 18 th , 2024, and is already making an impact here in the San Diego region. Proposition 36 institutes tougher penalties for the sale of drugs like fentanyl, allows prosecutors to stack multiple smaller thefts that total more than \$950 and charge offenders with felonies and even creates court-ordered treatment programs for people convicted of drug offenses. In just under two months, 436 bookings related to Prop 36 have been made Countywide, and about 175 of them were made by SDPD. These arrests would not have been possible prior to December, as Prop 36 restored accountability measures for repeat offenders who engage in retail theft and the sale of fentanyl.

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

BUSINESS

Foreign Delegations Visit San Diego

In partnership with Swiss Business Hub USA, SwissCham Mexico, Tijuana EDC, and World Trade Center San Diego, the Chamber welcomed a medical device trade mission to our region. Companies headquartered in Switzerland with operations in, or plans to expand to our region, visited to explore investment opportunities and develop a deeper understanding of regional medical device manufacturing supply chains. The visit was the result of previous binational trade delegations and meetings with U.S. embassies in Mexico City, which the Chamber continues to join in partnership with Baja’s Secretariat of Economy and Innovation and Baja California’s local EDCs.

As part of the Department of State’s (DOS) International Visitor Leadership Program, policy and international affairs professionals from a variety of European and Asian countries visited San Diego to develop a deeper understanding of the binational region and cross-border collaboration. International Business Affairs Coordinator Myriam Mendoza provided an overview of San Diego’s business landscape, bilateral trade, binational policy items, and Chamber advocacy efforts. DOS continues to be a key ally in advancing our binational priorities, and these leadership delegations are part of ongoing efforts to enhance San Diego’s global identity and competitiveness.

Finally, and following last year’s Trade Delegation to Singapore, Consul General of Singapore in San Francisco Craig Lim visited San Diego this month to meet with

Mayor Todd Gloria, World Trade Center San Diego, and the Chamber. The conversation explored potential collaborations to further elevate the region as a business and investment destination. Consul General Lim expressed concerns from potential investors who are not familiar with the region and the additional challenge that tariffs, or threats of tariffs, would represent. This includes existing businesses that may consider relocating elsewhere. Having participated in last year’s trade delegation and witnessed advanced infrastructure and technology at Singaporean land ports of entry, and regional interest in best practices to facilitate trade and travel, we look forward to further collaboration to promote investment and innovation improvements to our CaliBaja region.

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

BUSINESS

Recap: 2025 Leadership Delegation to Sacramento

Save the date for the 2026 Leadership Delegation to Sacramento! February 3 – 4, 2026

A group of nearly 90 business and civic leaders from the Cali-Baja region traveled to the state capital last week to advocate for legislation that will benefit businesses and help advance regional priorities during the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce’s annual Leadership Delegation to Sacramento. This group marked the largest delegation in Chamber history to the state capital.

“The Chamber is committed to making sure San Diego’s voice is heard and that our region remains central to the key issues

being addressed by state leaders,” said Jessica Anderson, San Diego Regional Chamber Interim President & CEO. “This trip proved our collective voice is not only at the table but is instrumental in key decision-making. Our delegation, representing a diverse range of industries, plays a vital role in helping California’s elected officials understand the real impact of their decisions on our businesses and community.”

Attendees included several local elected officials from both sides of the aisle and border, including County Supervisors Joel Anderson and Monica Montgomery Steppe, Tijuana City Councilmember Pablo Yanez, San Diego City Councilmembers Stephen Whitburn and Marni von Wilpert, and Solana Beach Mayor Lisa Heebner.

“The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce’s annual Sacramento trip is a great opportunity to advocate for our region’s priorities and collaborate with state leaders on our most pressing issues,” said San Diego City Councilmember Marni von Wilpert. “I welcome every opportunity to join our business and civic leaders in working toward a more prosperous future for San Diego.”

The two-day agenda covered a range of priorities important to business and job growth in the San Diego region, such as artificial intelligence, housing, healthcare, retail theft & public safety, small business support, and transportation.

“It was an honor to join the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce in Sacramento to advocate for policies and critical funding that support our region’s businesses, neighborhoods and economic growth,” said San Diego City

Council Councilmember Stephen Whitburn. “I was especially proud to preside over an important panel on business development in California, where we discussed key opportunities to foster innovation, and strengthen our local economy. San Diego’s business community is a driving force behind our city’s success, and I remain committed to ensuring they have the resources and support needed to thrive.”

Key takeaways from the trip include: Artificial Intelligence – AI is set to transform industries such as agriculture, healthcare, and entertainment, playing a critical role in innovation and economic growth. However, overregulating AI could cost California an estimated \$3B, making it a key policy issue as state leaders consider potential regulations. With San Diego emerging as an up-and-coming AI hub and a leader in the tech and innovation sector, the region is well-positioned to shape the conversation on AI’s future.

PAGA Reform Implementation– A major victory from last year’s PAGA deal is projected savings of \$7-8B for businesses across California. This long-awaited reform remains a key Chamber priority, ensuring a fairer system for both employers and workers.

Healthcare – The state of healthcare remains a significant concern, with Assemblymember Weber Pierson prioritizing increased access, medical reimbursement rates, and implementing Prop 35. However, funding remains a challenge, as a potential reduction in federal “Obamacare” support could result in a \$17B budget hit for California.

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BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

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Recap: 2025 Leadership Delegation to Sacramento

Housing – With renters in the legislature doubling from five to ten members, housing remains a major priority. Assemblymember Boerner’s AB 87 will address short-term rentals and the density bonus, while Assemblymember Ward is leading efforts on building standards, mandatory city plan checks, fire-resistant yet affordable housing models,

and senior housing support. Last year, 90 housing bills were processed in the legislature, highlighting the urgency of the issue. Transportation and Electrification – The transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) and the regulation of autonomous vehicles remain key transportation priorities. Since 2015, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) has invested \$11B in ZEV initiatives, with continued funding for freight programs that support the

transition to cleaner transportation. The LOSSAN corridor remains a critical investment priority, with \$550M allocated since 2022, though further funding is needed to secure long-term sustainability. The Chamber continues to partner with CalSTA as this is the second delegation trip in a row that they have joined. Delegates met with legislators, agency officials, and policy influencers who are at the forefront of the Chamber’s most watched issues, including: •

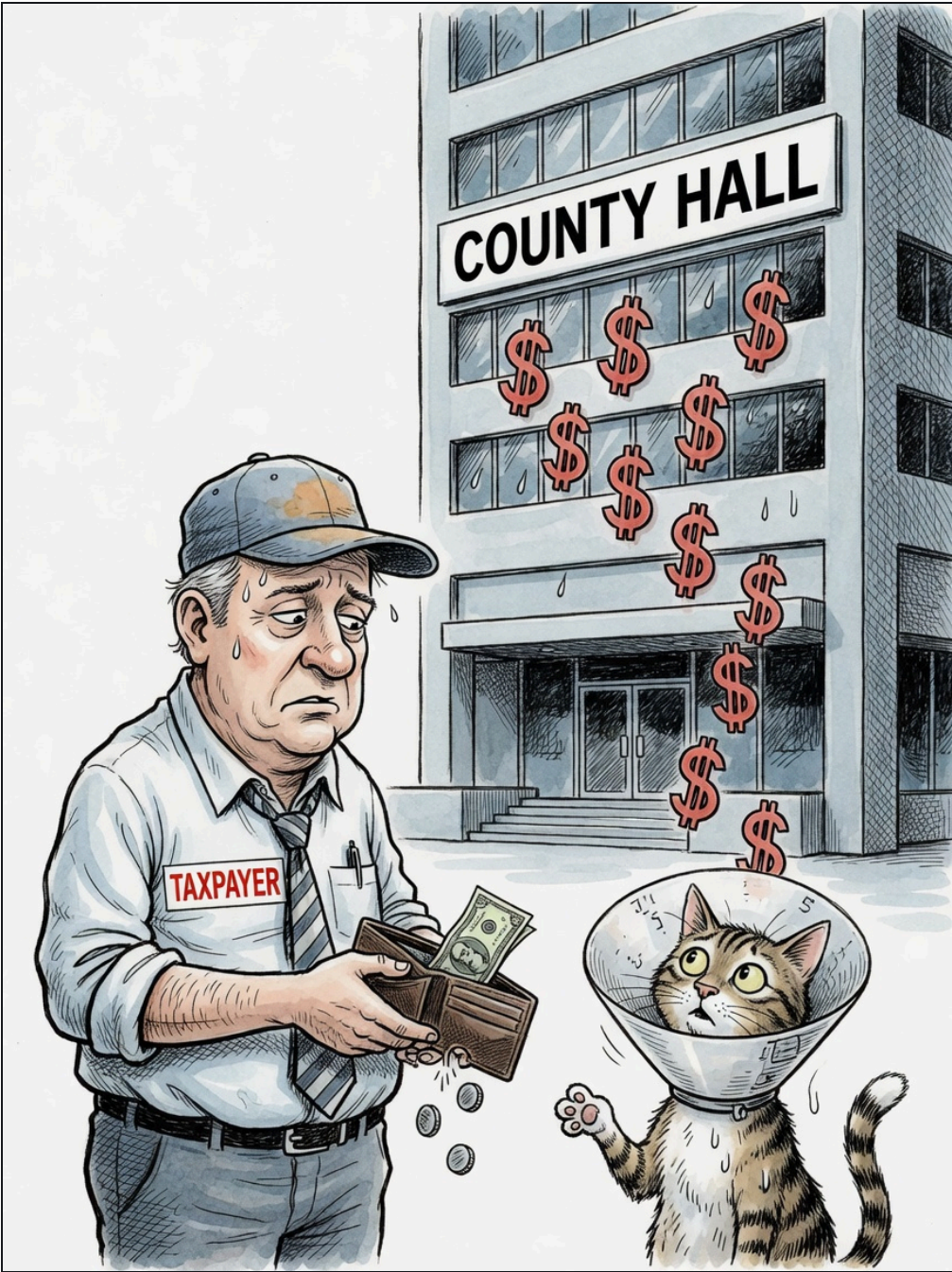
Assemblymembers David Alvarez, Tasha Boerner, Laurie Davis, Darshana Patel, Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, David Tangipa, and Chris Ward • Senators Catherine Blakespear and Brian Jones • Secretary Toks Omishakin, California State of Transportation Agency • Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, State of California • Daniel Conway, Vice President, Government Relations, California Grocers’ Association • Jonathan Raven, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, California District

Attorneys Association • Dustin Corcoran, Chief Executive Officer, California Medical Association • Skyler Wonnacott, Senior Director of Government Affairs, California Business Properties Association • Nate Haderlie, Senior Account Executive, Kabateck Strategies, Representing the “Alliance to Preserve California’s Technology & Innovation Economy”

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Feb 20, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Tax dollars for this?
THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

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 sandiegonewslne.com.

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