



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria
City of San Diego ▪ District Three

Friends,

As part of my commitment to a strong dialogue with the community, I am writing today about several items of importance and upcoming events. I am a better Councilmember because of your suggestions and questions, and welcome your input on these and any other City-related matters.

As I have stated since before I was sworn in and as has been well-covered by the media, the City of San Diego's finances are not in the best position. To deal with our immediate deficit, City employees just agreed to huge reductions to their compensation, many fees the City charges for service were finally adjusted to be fully cost-recoverable, and some reserve funds will be used. While I am relieved that no recreation centers or libraries are slated to be closed due to budget shortfalls, I cannot be content with our ongoing structural budget deficit.

In recognition of the sacrifices accepted by City employees and of the financial position of the City of San Diego, I will take a 6% pay cut in Fiscal Year 2010.

I fully recognize the sacrifices we asked of our hard-working employees, and took action to ensure my office budget reflected a similar forfeit and was made as efficient as possible. We were given the same directive as City departments to cut 6% in labor costs from our already-tight budgets, and I am proud to say that we have reduced salaries overall by approximately 8% and reduced fringe benefits expenditures by close to 4% in FY 2010. Since entering office, I have also declined to accept the auto allowance, saving the City an additional \$9,600 per fiscal year.

In addition, because informational technology services were decentralized citywide, our office budget was also forced to absorb a 114% increase in non-discretionary contracts, from \$26,600 in FY 09 to \$56,999 in FY 10. Even with this significant jump, I am proud that my office's bottom-line budget is still lower than in previous fiscal years.

Careful budgeting with lower staff salaries and tightening of plans for supplies and services should allow for us to accumulate savings by the end of the year which will be used for neighborhood services, to be determined depending on community priorities and available funds.

These cuts were not easy. Like employees throughout the City, my staff works incredibly hard to help me serve the public. I am proud we are doing our part to address the City's budget shortfalls, and look forward to working with my colleagues, our employees and all San Diegans to provide a permanent fix to our structural budget deficit.

Can Balboa Park be Greener?

Today I joined Mayor Jerry Sanders in Balboa Park to announce a proposal to dedicate \$5 million of federal energy efficiency and conservation stimulus dollars to Balboa Park. This exciting plan will connect the \$5 million of federal funds to a \$25 million investment by SunEdison to install and maintain three megawatts of solar power at Balboa Park for 20 years, making the park more efficient, reducing greenhouse gases, getting us closer to energy independence, and adding needed quality jobs for San Diegans. The entire \$12.5 million energy efficiency and conservation stimulus spending plan will be reviewed at public hearings in the upcoming month, and your participation is encouraged.

Coffee with your Councilmember

The community coffees I hold throughout District Three continue to be wonderful forums to exchange information and opinions. I encourage neighbors to join me at one of my upcoming coffees. Thank you to all who have attended previous gatherings and many thanks to our gracious hosting businesses as well.

Saturday, May 9

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Lestat's Coffee

3343 Adams Avenue, 92116

Saturday, May 16

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Baja Betty's

1421 University Avenue, 92103

Water Update: Level 2 Drought Alert Outreach Session

On Tuesday, my City Council colleagues and I adopted moving to a Level 2 Drought Alert Condition as described in the City's Emergency Water Regulations. The mandatory water-saving changes discussed in my last email newsletter will go into effect on June 1. If you would like to learn more about what the Drought Alert means and how you may need to modify your water use, I encourage you to attend an upcoming public education session.

Water Restrictions Public Outreach Session

Tuesday, May 12

6:00 p.m.
War Memorial Building in Balboa Park

Honoring Harvey Milk

Harvey Milk was a civil rights leader who helped pave the way for me and countless others to pursue careers in public service. His significance as a voice for all under-represented people should be recognized, and I look forward to honoring him this month through City Council action and at the inaugural Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast, which has sold out.

At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 19, I will ask my colleagues to join me in proclaiming it "Harvey Milk Day" in the City of San Diego. The meeting is open to the public and your support is appreciated.

San Diego City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 19
10:00 a.m.
202 C Street, 12th Floor Council Chambers

I hope to see you at one of these events or hear from you soon. Thank you for your continued active involvement in the community, and thank you for the opportunity to serve you and District Three.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd

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<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3>.