

# THE SPOTLight

News From Councilmember Sherri Lightner  
City of San Diego, District One

May 20, 2013

Representing the communities of:

- Carmel Valley
- Del Mar Mesa
- La Jolla
- Pacific Highlands Ranch
- Torrey Hills
- Torrey Pines
- University City



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## City Council Approves New Graywater Rules

On April 30, the City Council unanimously approved critical changes to the city's graywater policies to encourage San Diegans to install graywater systems, which can help homeowners conserve water and save cash.

Graywater systems, widely used in other cities, allow untreated wastewater from a home's washing machine, bathtubs, showers and sinks to be recycled on-site for outdoor irrigation uses. In a pilot project, the City of Los Angeles found that graywater reuse has the potential to reduce a household's water use by as much as 50 percent.

For years, the City of San Diego has had unclear and contradictory rules regarding graywater, which has inhibited the use of these water-

saving systems.

Sherri, a long-time champion of increasing graywater use, first recommended changes to the city's policies last fall. The new rules, which were vetted by the city's Water Policy Implementation Task Force, will:

- Expand the "no permit" requirement to systems used for landscape irrigation that discharge less than 250 gallons a day.
- Streamline the permitting process for "simple" and "complex" systems that take discharge water from other elements in a residence such as bathtubs and showers.
- Develop a public outreach and education program to promote graywater usage.



"Graywater is a simple and effective way to conserve water, and it needs to be part of the city's overarching strategy to create a local and sustainable water supply," Sherri said.

Going forward, Sherri said she wants the city to establish a rebate program for those who install graywater systems as well as explore incentives for developers to include "graywater-ready" plumbing for all new residential construction so that using a graywater system could be as easy as turning on a spigot.

## City Urges Proper Cleanup of Qualcomm Fuel Spill

Sherri joined the City Attorney and three of her Council colleagues on May 9 to announce that the city has filed suit against the Regional Water Quality Control Board, asking them to ensure that the cleanup of a decades-old fuel spill at the Qualcomm Stadium property is done properly.

Currently, Kinder Morgan, the company responsible for the cleanup, is pumping poten-

tially contaminated water into Murphy Canyon Creek while sucking dry the aquifer beneath the property and depleting a potential source of local water -- one that could provide enough water for as many as 6,000 homes.

According to the City Attorney's office, the current "pumping and dumping of this groundwater has had a negative impact on a precious natu-

ral resource and made it impossible to ascertain the status of the cleanup because it keeps the groundwater table low and hides the pollution level."

Sherri hopes the lawsuit will compel the Regional Water Quality Control Board to take a good, hard look at the facts and act accordingly to protect the public, the taxpayers and our local water supply.

## Dredging Begins at Los Peñasquitos Lagoon



*Emergency dredging has helped flush water from the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon out to the ocean. A more comprehensive clearing will occur in the next few weeks.*

On May 13, emergency dredging started at the mouth of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, helping flush fresh water out to sea and abate a growing mosquito problem in the area.

Sherri shared the frustrations of local residents about the delays to clearing the lagoon channel.

While it is the state's responsibility to dredge the area, the City of San Diego offered to clear the channel because of

lack of funding at the state level.

The city worked diligently to expedite the process, but the state unfortunately put up time-consuming roadblocks along the way.

The good news is that the emergency clearing is now completed. In addition, the City Council approved the contract for a comprehensive maintenance strategy. This more thor-

ough cleaning will begin shortly and should prevent any more blockages for the rest of the year.

In the meantime, the County of San Diego continues to spray the area to deal with the mosquitoes.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Sherri's office at (619) 236-6611 or [sherrilightner@sandiego.gov](mailto:sherrilightner@sandiego.gov).

*"With funds from just these two Council offices, the city's libraries could purchase close to 600 new books."*

## Purchasing More Library Books

Because libraries play such an important role in our communities, Sherri has joined with Councilmember Lorie Zapf to donate money from their office budgets to the San Diego Public Library to help purchase new books for the city's libraries.

Specifically, the money will be used to purchase much-needed library materials, including children's books and books for re-

luctant readers as well as materials on job hunting and careers, test preparation guides, legal guides and travel guides.

The national benchmark for library spending on materials is \$5.22 per capita, but the City of San Diego's 2012 funding level was just \$2.48. While the donations cannot eliminate the funding gap entirely, the use of the Council office

funds will have a tangible impact on our libraries and our communities.

The Friends of the San Diego Public Library estimates it takes \$25 to put a book on the shelf. With the funds from just these two council offices, the city's libraries could purchase close to 600 new books.

## The Trolley is on its way to University City and UC San Diego



*Construction on the trolley extension is anticipated to begin in 2015, with service starting in 2018.*

The plan to extend trolley service from Santa Fe Depot in downtown San Diego to University City and UC San Diego is moving forward, and now is your chance to weigh in on the project.

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is holding a series of public meetings on the issue throughout the month of June. The first one is scheduled for June 4 from 4 p.m.

to 7 p.m. at Cadman Elementary School at 4370 Kamloop Ave. The complete list of public meeting, two of which are in District 1, can be found [here](#).

The proposed 11-mile extension will add eight stations at such locations as Tecolote Road, Clairemont Drive, Balboa Avenue, Nobel Drive, Pepper Canyon (serving UCSD west campus), Voigt Drive (serving UCSD east campus), Executive Drive

and ending at Westfield UTC. The project is being funded by SANDAG and the Federal Transit Administration. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2015, with service starting in 2018.

The upcoming meetings will allow the public to learn more about the project and provide feedback on proposed routes as well as the recently released environmental document, which can be found [here](#).

## Sherri Around Town



*On May 9, Sherri joined City Attorney Jan Goldsmith and her Council colleagues to announce the city was suing the Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure proper cleanup of a decades-old fuel spill at the Qualcomm Stadium.*



*Sherri joined Mayor Filner and the community to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the University Community Branch Library on April 20.*



*Sherri joined Diane Powers at the grand opening of her new restaurant Casa Sol y Mar in the Del Mar Highlands shopping center on May 16.*



*Sherri joined with Mayor Filner and her Council colleagues on May 14 to recognize the winners of the 13th Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. Great kids, great art work and a great message.*

## More Progress on the Gonzales Canyon Neighborhood Park

Gonzales Canyon Neighborhood Park recently took one more step to becoming a reality.

On May 14, the Carmel Valley Recreation Council unanimously approved the Gonzales Canyon Neighborhood Park General Development Plan.

This is a major milestone in the process to bring a walkable, sus-

tainable park to the residents of Pacific Highlands Ranch.

The park design will include play areas for children, picnic areas for families and field space for all to enjoy.

The next major step in the process is a hearing before the City of San Diego's Park and Recreation Board on June 20 at 2 p.m. at the

City Council Committee Room on the 12th floor.

Sherri wants to thank all those in the community for their hard work and input on the park's design.

The park is scheduled to open to the public in December of 2014.

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## Calling All Businesses: CONNECT2Careers Needs You

The CONNECT2Careers program needs local businesses to step up and hire a young adult this summer.

The program aims to help address San Diego's ongoing skills gap by providing meaningful summer work experiences that prepare young adults for in-demand jobs in the region. For our local economy to prosper,

San Diego needs to have a skilled workforce. This vibrant summer employment program is a critical component to achieving that goal.

More than 250 qualified individuals, ages 16-21 years of age, have applied for this summer job experience and are ready to work. Interns offer businesses a fresh perspective, serve as brand

ambassadors and provide lasting results.

Help build our future workforce and join the C2C initiative by hiring an intern this summer.

Visit [www.c2csd.org](http://www.c2csd.org) to get started today. For more information, call 619.228.2996 or email [C2CSD@workforce.org](mailto:C2CSD@workforce.org).



*CONNECT2Careers needs local businesses to help train our emerging workforce by hiring a young adult this summer.*

## Working for You in the Community



Need assistance in getting a pothole fixed? Call Sherri's office at (619) 236-6611. We are here to help.

Helping constituents get potholes filled, streetlights fixed and other neighborhood repairs completed is one of Sherri's top priorities. Here is a sampling of projects her office worked on this past month:

### Potholes

- Pothole patched at La Jolla Village Drive and Towne Center Drive intersection

### Cleanups and Repair

- Replaced water meter box lids at: 5715, 5720, 5741, and 5775 Chelsea St.
- Replaced water meter box lid at 5905 Camino De La Costa
- Repaired water meter box lid at 5765 Chelsea St.
- Clean up of debris at Lebon Drive and La Jolla Village Drive intersection
- Reinstalled street cleaning sign on El Paseo Grande

- Removed bushes on Governor Drive and Erlanger Street to improve visibility
- Repaired lifted concrete near La Jolla Shores Drive and El Paseo Grande intersection
- Restriped curb on Midway Street

### Streetlights and Traffic Signals

- Repaired fallen sharp-turn traffic sign on Via Casa Alta

Sherri is on the Web at

[sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/](http://sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/)

### Follow Sherri:



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SherriLightner](http://www.facebook.com/SherriLightner)



Twitter: [www.twitter.com/#!/SherriLightner](http://www.twitter.com/#!/SherriLightner)



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### Your Community Representatives

If you have a concern or question about an issue in your neighborhood, please contact our constituent services representative, Laena Shakarian, or your community representative. We're here to help!

#### Constituent Services (street repairs, water leaks, traffic issues, etc.)

Laena Shakarian      [lshakarian@sandiego.gov](mailto:lshakarian@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### La Jolla

Erin Demorest      [edemorest@sandiego.gov](mailto:edemorest@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### Torrey Pines/Torrey Hills

Mo Kantner      [mkantner@sandiego.gov](mailto:mkantner@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### University City / UCSD

Jesse Mays      [jmays@sandiego.gov](mailto:jmays@sandiego.gov)      (619) 236-6611

#### Carmel Valley / Pacific Highlands Ranch / Del Mar Mesa

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#### Scheduler/Office Manager

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