

From: "Councilmember Joe LaCava" <cd1news@sandiego.gov>  
Subject: LaCava's Column: June's Got Us Blooming

# LACAVA'S COLUMN

Your District 1 News Update



**Friends,**

We are moving forward. Last month, I talked about change. This month, it's all about progress. California officially "reopened," businesses have thrown open their doors, communities are living outside, and there's a distinct buzz in the air.

But COVID isn't the only thing we're moving forward from, on July 1 we formally say goodbye to Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21), and start FY22 at the City of San Diego.

Passing a balanced budget is one of City Council's most important responsibilities, and this year's budget was no easy feat. Thank you to all the San Diegans and organizations who made their voices heard in town halls, hearings, and briefings, as well as to Mayor Gloria and his team for their fiscal prudence and focus on communities.

Together we assembled a budget that protected core services, advanced equity, and advocated for the needs of our residents. I am proud of this budget and what it affords San Diegans. It is responsive, inclusive, and forward-thinking. It's not all-encompassing, we have a ways to go until we are fiscally recovered from COVID, but it paves the road forward.

**Yours truly,**



**Councilmember Joe LaCava**  
[joelacava@sandiego.gov](mailto:joelacava@sandiego.gov)

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# COVID-19 Updates

## *California is (Re)Open!*

On June 15, California officially “reopened,” lifting several COVID-19 restrictions including capacity limits, distancing requirements, and the color tier system as well as mask mandates for fully vaccinated individuals. That being said, if you are not yet vaccinated please continue to mask-up. We all must remember to show compassion, respect and kindness for those not ready or able to indulge quite yet.

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# News from City Hall

## *Council Supports My Recommendations and Approves Fiscal Year 2022 Budget*

For the past six months, the City has been working to a balance create and responsible budget. My budget priorities included protecting core services and leading from our values. The budget approved unanimously by City Council on June 14, does both. It does not fund all our needs, it never does. Nor can it. There is more need than resource. Yet, this budget pivots from past practices and moves our city forward in a holistic, equitable, and financially prudent manner. This budget is not a milestone, it is a steppingstone, and we have more work to do.

In response to the Mayor’s “May Revise” draft of the budget, <http://bit.ly/FY22MayRevise>, I worked with my colleagues on the City Council to make changes to meet the needs of our District 1 communities with the follow amendments:

<b>Table 1 - Recommended Expenditure Modifications to the FY 2022 Budget</b>		
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b><i>Ongoing Items</i></b>		
Increased Support for Arts		\$ 2,000,000
Tree Trimming		900,000
Additional City Attorney Positions	3.00	504,303
Office of Child and Youth Success	1.00	350,000
Fire-Rescue Helicopter Maintenance		350,000
Weed Abatement/Brush Management		328,000
Additional Graffiti Abatement		150,000
Restore City Auditor Funding		91,251
<b><i>Subtotal Ongoing</i></b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,673,554</b>
<b><i>One-Time Items</i></b>		
<b><i>One-Time Operating Budget Items</i></b>		
Streets Condition Assessment		\$ 700,000
Public Power Feasibility Study		500,000
<b><i>One-Time Capital Items (General Fund)</i></b>		
New Streetlights		\$ 500,000
Kelly Street Park GDP		400,000
Unimproved Street - S. Bancroft at Greely		250,000
Barrio Logan Traffic Calming		100,000
<b><i>One-Time Capital Items (Climate Equity Fund)</i></b>		
Emerald Hills Park Design		\$ 1,000,000
Boston Avenue Linear Park GDP		400,000
Berardini Field GDP		400,000
Streetlights in Communities of Concern		200,000
<b><i>Subtotal One-Time</i></b>		<b>\$ 4,450,000</b>
<b>Total Additional Expenditures</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,123,554</b>

Budget items like tree trimming, weed abatement, fire helicopter maintenance are all in recognition of the heightened risk of fire in our District and city-wide with our abundance of natural open space. Further, I was able to ensure funding for 2 park rangers, previously cut from the budget and funding for the Public Power Feasibility Study.

While we did see some victories, my budget memo priority to add lifeguards was not funded. Given the high-demand of their jobs and federal implications with ocean-going smugglers, I pledge to continue working to identify federal resources to ensure sufficient staffing when our guards are called upon to conduct water rescues.

When I was sworn in last December, we were facing an inherited deficit amplified by COVID-19. Since then, San Diego has received federal and state funding and began recouping some lost revenue from eased restrictions.

Our city has many challenges until a full economic recovery and fully funding our city's needs, yet we preserved the core services for our residents and businesses and laid the foundation to build back better.

## **[Future of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Project \(Phase 1\) Murky no More](#)**

On Tuesday, the City Council unanimously voted to approve Phase I of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Project. Comprehensive in nature, this upcoming design and construction will deliver several solutions to regional issues including:

- Wetland function restoration;
- Ecological preservation;
- Increased regional climate resiliency;
- Water quality mitigation;
- Improved management of vector-borne illnesses transmission; and
- Vital flood relief to businesses in the Sorrento Valley area.

Additionally, the City also received notice that the State Water Control Board recognized this project's impact for our region and state wetlands and has advanced it on the state revolving fund list, further aiding the restoration efforts. Construction is anticipated to start in late 2022.

## **City Council Adopts My Resolution Supporting Pay Equity**

On June 8, City Council unanimously supported my Resolution to Support the Principles of Pay Equity in the City's Workforce and Requesting Information and Support from the Mayor.

This resolution followed two important audit previously presented at council. In 2019, the City Auditor's office released a performance audit of City Employee Pay Equity. This report uncovered that, compared to men, women earn 17.6 percent less and, compared to White employees, people of color earn 20.8% less for the same work. Then in January 2021, the City's Performance and Analytics Department (PandA) and Analytica Consulting released the City's first Pay Equity Study, which analyzed pay equity issues in the City's workforce and identified sources of apparent pay gaps among City employees. While the study uncovered no direct evidence of deliberate gender or racial bias in the City, it recommended the City take targeted, cost-efficient, simple actions to mitigate any pay gap.

Employees deserve fair compensation regardless of their gender identity, race, equity, ethnicities, or parenthood.

Created in collaboration with City staff, as well as several advocacy and non-profit organizations, the Resolution Supporting Principles of Pay Equity in the City of San Diego's Workforce calls for several policy priorities targeting pay equity. These policy priorities include:

- Creating open and transparent compensation policies and culture;
- Including intentional, gender-neutral descriptive language in vacancy postings;
- Providing diversity outreach and training programs for high-paying positions;
- Standardizing the City's overtime pay award system;
- Expanding future studies to include a more robust collection of employee data;
- Reducing and eliminating the "Parenthood Penalty;" and,
- Completing a cost assessment and implementation plan to determine employee benefits directly targeting the work-life balance needs of mothers and parents of color.

As this council looks to act through an equity lens on a variety of issues, there is no better place to start than with our own human capital. Our employees represent the City, our goals, and our values. We must provide them equal access and opportunity and I look forward to seeing that come to fruition.

Thank you to my staff, especially Moriah Gaynor, and several local community based organizations that helped draft the resolution.

## **Contractors with City of San Diego Owed \$1 Million in Unclaimed Monies – Could this be you?**

More than \$1 million is waiting to be claimed by people and companies that have done business with the City, including at least 193 checks in District 1 alone!

See if the City owes you money at [sandiego.gov/finance/unclaimed](https://sandiego.gov/finance/unclaimed)

## District 1 Happenings

### ***Six District 1 Residents Serving on the City's International Affairs Board***

On June 15, Council confirmed the Mayor's appointments and reappointments to the International Affairs Board including six individuals from District 1. Congratulations Mary Abad, Melissa Floca, Hilda Mwangi, Chandler Martin, Gustavo de la Fuente, and Dennis Michael-Brussard. We appreciate you dedicating your time to promoting San Diego's global identity, encouraging cultural connections, fostering international economic competitiveness, and advising the Mayor and City Council.

### ***El Camino Real to Via De La Valle Road and Bridge Project Inches Forward***

Representative Mike Levin successfully added the El Camino Real to Via De La Valle road improvements to the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 (STRA-21) currently being considered by the House. Inclusion in this bill is an important step toward securing funding for this project. Thank you Rep. Levin and team!

## Staff News

This week my office proudly welcomed Jane Abrams and Gurman Dhaliwal, our new interns, to the District 1 team! My staff and I look forward to working with them to grow their experience with local government, and contribute to the next generation of movers, shakers, and policy makers.

# Gurman Dhaliwal



Gurman Dhaliwal is a Political Science Major at UC San Diego.

At UCSD, she is involved in the Triton Consulting Group, Adwave (competitive student-run marketing group), and is a research assistant at the Center for Peace and Security Studies. Previously she was a communications intern for a congressional campaign, a marketing intern for LCG Brands Consulting, and a UC Advocacy Network Ambassador.

In her free time, Gurman enjoys spending time with her friends and family, trying new foods, and going on hikes.



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619-236-6611

# Jane Abrams



Jane is currently an undergraduate student at the University of California, San Diego pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Political Science: Data Analytics with a minor in Climate Change Studies.

Prior to working in City Council, Jane worked as a Research Assistant at the U.S. Immigration Policy Center where she researched voters' opinions on border patrol policies.

In her free time, Jane enjoys jigsaw puzzles, fantasy novels, and going to the beach.



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# Community Representative Office Hours

If you haven't had a chance to say hello yet, stop by your community representative's Zoom "office hours" happening each week!

- Brian Elliott ([belliott@san Diego.gov](mailto:belliott@san Diego.gov)) will be hosting **Del Mar Heights office hours** from **10 – 11 a.m. on Wednesdays** ([link here](#))
- Kaitlyn Willoughby ([kwilloughby@san Diego.gov](mailto:kwilloughby@san Diego.gov)) will be hosting **University City office hours** from **10 - 11 a.m. on Fridays** ([link here](#))
- Ricky Flahive ([rflahive@san Diego.gov](mailto:rflahive@san Diego.gov)) will be hosting **Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, and Torrey Hills office hours** from **11 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Wednesdays** ([link here](#))
- Steve Hadley ([srhadley@san Diego.gov](mailto:srhadley@san Diego.gov)) will be hosting **La Jolla office hours** from **1 – 2 p.m. on Mondays** ([link here](#))

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## Stay Connected with District 1

To stay up to date on all district news and updates, make sure to follow me on Twitter, ([@JoeLaCavaD1](#)) Facebook, ([@JoeLaCavaD1](#)) and Instagram ([@joelacava\\_d1](#)) and invite your neighbors to sign up [here](#) to receive email updates like this one!

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