



2021-2022
**LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS
& ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

JOEL ANDERSON
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2



Letter from Joel



Dear Friends,

I am here to make government work for you. This has been my mission since I was first elected to represent you in the Assembly, and it is still my mission more than a decade later.

As County Supervisor for the Second District, I am proud of my team and the work we do on your behalf. While we strive for transparency and consistent communication with you, there may be successes we have had on your behalf that you are not yet aware of.

That's why I asked my staff to put together a list of our legislative actions and accomplishments—many of which were ideas proposed by my constituents.

Together, we were successful and with your continued engagement and support, I am eager to continue serving our community.

This report is meant to serve as a snapshot of the work we have accomplished since I assumed office in January of 2021. While these highlights may not capture everything, I hope it gives you an idea of how laser-focused my team and I are on helping you flourish.

I hope that you find this helpful, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. If there's anyway I can be of assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out by email Joel.Anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov, or by calling (619) 219-2470.

It's an honor to serve you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joel Anderson
Supervisor, District 2

Keeping the Public Safe

Highlights

- Initiated a \$2.5 million increase in the Sheriff's Department budget and simplified the enforcement process which resulted in shutting down nearly 100 illegal drug operations in the unincorporated communities of San Diego County.
- Increased the required distance legal marijuana dispensaries must be from parks, churches, and daycare centers.
- Helped to stop the placement of 3 Sexually Violent Predators (SVPs) in District 2 and changed policies to increase community notification efforts.
- Directed County staff to work with the Sheriff to develop strategies to address an anticipated shortage in public safety officers in the San Diego region.



Mental Health & Homelessness

Highlights

- Initiated process to identify locations and develop concepts for emergency homeless shelters in East County and to establish a flexible funding source to assist with outreach and improved data coordination.
- Led the effort to establish a **safe parking** lot for persons experiencing homelessness who own operating vehicles, providing them a secure place to sleep and resources to transition them to permanent housing solutions.
- Expanded the County's RHAP Program (hotel/motel vouchers) and local rental subsidy program from 250 to 350 vouchers.
- Initiated a program to provide "shallow rent" assistance to protect older adults at risk of experiencing homelessness and keep them in their homes.
- Co-authored an initiative to partner with places of worship and community organizations to deploy cabins and sprung shelters as temporary housing and engage private companies involved in developing new and innovative solutions to address homelessness.



See pages 6-7 for more information on the County's Safe Parking program at Magnolia Ave

Photo Courtesy of Dreams for Change

- Expanded the Mobile Crisis Response Team and social service outreach in East County to treat behavioral and mental health emergencies.
- Initiated adding a Crisis Stabilization Unit for East County to provide those experiencing behavioral health crises the ability to get stabilized, obtain medical and mental health services, and be connected to resources.
- Worked with the Sheriff, County staff, East County cities and community partners to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to work together as a united front to solve homelessness.
- Initiated a Memorandum of Understanding among local agencies to address homelessness in the San Diego Riverbed.



County launches its first “Safe Parking” program at former site of Magnolia homeless encampment

The County of San Diego launched their first “Safe Parking” program at the site of the former Magnolia homeless encampment on August 10, 2022. The program in El Cajon breaks ground as the first County-operated emergency shelter in the unincorporated area and will provide individuals and families experiencing homelessness a safe place to park and stay overnight. Since August, **30% of program participants have moved into permanent housing.**



“This safe parking lot is an incredibly important step in the right direction towards us solving this homelessness crisis—and creating a safer community.” —Joel Anderson



“Back in April, I shared that we need to stop kicking people down the street and, instead, help them get off the street. That’s exactly what this program is going to do,” Supervisor Anderson shared. He added, “This safe parking lot is an incredibly important step in the right direction towards us solving this homelessness crisis – and creating a safer community.”

The Magnolia Safe Parking program opens nightly at 5:30 PM and must be empty the following morning by 7 AM. The lot is monitored by security 24/7 and has case managers onsite to connect participants with resources for more permanent housing solutions. Those enrolled in the program will have access to two hot meals per day, restrooms and hygiene facilities, and a YMCA membership allowing them to utilize their facilities during the day.

The lot offers 17 spaces, and cars must be operable to participate in the program. RVs and tents are not allowed. Drugs and alcohol are prohibited onsite.

East County has the largest number of people experiencing homelessness in San Diego County outside of the City of San Diego, according to the Point-in-Time Count held last spring. The new safe parking program is a direct result of Anderson's "Compassionate Emergency Solutions" board

letter, unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors last fall, which aims to address East County's homelessness crisis.



Supervisor Joel Anderson and County staff lead press conference announcing the launch of the Magnolia Safe Parking program.

The County's Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC) has contracted with Dreams for Change, a well-established homeless service provider in San Diego County, to operate the program. The Magnolia Safe Parking program is by referral only through HSEC outreach teams and facilitated by Dreams for Change.

If you come in contact with someone who is living out of their car and in need of a referral, please contact the Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities at 619-980-4168 or HSEC-OHS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.



Early photo of Magnolia Safe Parking program site in unincorporated El Cajon.

Fire & Emergency Safety



Highlights

- Funded a plan to clear over-grown vegetation alongside roads in high fire threat areas.
- Directed County staff to mitigate community impacts of Public Safety Power Shutoffs.
- Streamlined emergency ambulance services in the greater East County.
- Co-authored an “**Ag Pass**” program, allowing commercial farmers and livestock owners to quickly return to their property following wildfires and other emergencies.
- Approved \$16 million in funding to purchase a firefighting helicopter capable of nighttime flights.
- Waived permit fees for those looking to rebuild or replace documents lost in the Border 32 Fire.



Natural Disaster Agricultural Passes for Ranchers

Wildfires and natural disasters requiring evacuations have always presented the backcountry's farmers and ranchers with a particularly heartbreaking dilemma: leave behind their animals and put their livestock and equine at risk or ignore evacuation orders and put their own lives at risk.

At the August 30th Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board unanimously supported establishing an "Ag Pass" program in unincorporated San Diego County, at the request of Supervisors Anderson and Desmond.

These agricultural passes (or "Ag Passes") allow vetted ranchers and farmers limited access to their property, when deemed safe, during a wildfire or other emergencies to care for their livestock or crops. Ag Pass cards are an opportunity for these owners of ranches to be identified to firefighting personnel, CHP officers, Sheriff deputies, other law enforcement officers, and emergency personnel during such emergencies.

"This Ag Pass program is crucial for San Diego County rural communities whose dedicated ranchers and farmers have experienced the hardships of safeguarding their property during devastating wildfires," Supervisor Anderson shared. He added, "I am thankful for the County staff's hard work in creating the framework for this program and hope to see it save many lives."



The Ag Pass program began accepting applications for commercial cattle and equine operations this past fall, with a plan for full implementation in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 for all other commercial livestock, as well as agricultural operations. For more program implementation and application information, visit bit.ly/ag-pass-sd.

County hosts Local Assistance Center for Border 32 Fire Victims

By Michael England, Legislative Intern

On Monday, September 12, the County hosted a Local Assistance Center (LAC) to support the victims of the Border 32 Fire. The LAC was hosted at the Potrero County Library. More than 60 families attended the LAC to access its recovery resources. Over a dozen County departments were represented that day along with more than 80 staff members.

In addition to County resources, non-governmental organizations also joined the effort to help disaster victims, including the Tzu Chi USA Foundation who handed out gift cards and the National Crisis Response Canines who volunteered their time to provide emotional support.

Supervisor Joel Anderson also attended the LAC and acknowledged the great work that the organizations were doing. "I want to thank the County Office of Emergency Services for working with County staff and CAL FIRE to bring so many recovery resources for victims of the Border 32 fire who are going through such a difficult time after losing their homes," said the Supervisor.

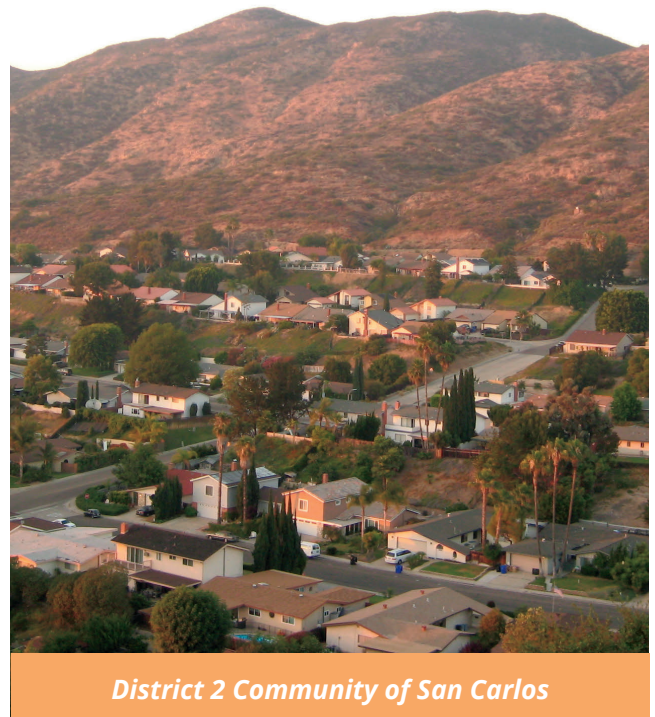
"I would also like to thank all the state agencies and non-governmental organizations for volunteering their time to help this community recover from the Border 32 Fire. To anyone impacted by the fire, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office and we will do whatever we can to assist you."



Attainable Housing

Highlights

- Increased funding by \$25 million for the Innovative Housing Trust Fund program which provides additional resources to help fund the construction of affordable housing for seniors, disabled individuals and veterans.
- Began update of building codes to make it easier to build senior and assisted living housing and allow use of innovative and cost-saving housing types.
- Co-authored initiative to develop a workforce housing program and expand first-time homebuyer assistance to increase middle-income workforce housing opportunities.
- Co-authored an initiative to remove funding barriers and provide more community housing options to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



District 2 Community of San Carlos

Economic Development

Highlights

- Helped local businesses recover financially from the pandemic through a \$30 million small business grant program and a \$4 million microbusiness grant program.
- Started County program to allow home chefs to prepare, sell, and serve meals from their licensed and inspected **home kitchens**.
- Provided rental assistance money to small landlords whose tenants cannot pay them due to COVID-19 financial hardships.



- Included innovative renewable energy resources like wave technology and geothermal in the County's plan to reduce carbon emissions.
- Advocated for expanding and enhancing broadband service for rural communities and tribal nations through microtrenching project and notification about discounted service available through the Affordable Connectivity Program.
- Co-authored the repeal of an outdated ordinance to allow small businesses in the unincorporated area with **amusement devices** to expand their customer base and workforce.



Diana Tapiz advocates for MEHKOs at Supervisor Anderson's press conference. (See page 14 for more)

Small business owner advocates to make amusement devices legal in the unincorporated San Diego County

Gian Paolo and his family were thrilled to open the doors to their brand new game room at Mediterraneo Bistro in Alpine— until they received a letter from the County stating that offering arcade games and alcohol under the same roof was prohibited in the unincorporated area. In this special #MakingGovtWork4U video, watch how County Supervisor Anderson was able to change an outdated County policy to help Gian's family's restaurant and create a new opportunity for businesses throughout unincorporated San Diego County.



Game room at Mediterraneo Bistro in Alpine, CA (Courtesy of Mediterraneo Bistro)

Permitting Home Kitchens in San Diego County

In 2022, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance that gave chefs a legal way to sell prepared meals from their home kitchens. This initiative was led by Supervisors Joel Anderson and Nora Vargas.



Microenterprise home kitchen operations, or “MEHKOs,” will give stay-at-home parents or caretakers for those with disabilities an opportunity to earn a supplemental income source, or give aspiring restaurateurs a chance to put their food to the test before investing in a costly brick-and-mortar storefront.

These home kitchens, like commercial kitchens, are regulated under the County and must be permitted to operate. There are also limitations on MEHKOs, such as the food needing to be sold on the same day it was prepared, and a cap of \$50,000 being earned by a single home kitchen per year. A single MEHKO can only sell 60 prepared meals a week—so these businesses are not in competition with local restaurants.

Home Kitchen: Tres Fuegos Cocina

Diana Tapiz is the owner and chef of Tres Fuegos Cocina, a home kitchen that emerged out of her love and passion for sharing savory foods through her cooking.

Tres Fuegos Cocina was one of the first authorized MEHKOs in San Diego County, following the passing of the ordinance, which might not have happened without Diana's outspoken support and advocacy of MEHKOs.

“I can continue to share my food and culture while having the flexibility to take care of my kids. I will be able to earn supplemental income for my family and continue to learn the ropes of the food industry,” Diana shared.



Supervisor Anderson with Diana Tapiz & the Tres Fuegos Cocina family

Public Land and Recreation

Highlights

- Secured \$6 million for park improvements at **El Monte River Valley** property in Lakeside.
- Passed Board action to offer partnerships to local agencies to protect recreational access to **East County lakes and reservoirs**.
- Secured grant to create an **off-highway motorvehicle** park in San Diego County.



Taxpayer Protection

Prioritizing Responsible Stewardship

In December 2022, the Transparency Foundation released a report detailing their findings that the County of San Diego's funds may have been used by non-profit organizations to engage in lobbying, issue advocacy, and political activities.

As soon as this was brought to Supervisor Anderson's attention, he wrote [an internal memo](#) to the Chief Administrative Officer, asking County staff to investigate these claims.

"I believe any allegations regarding the potential misuse of taxpayer funds and resources must be taken very seriously if we are to continue to ensure the public we serve that the County of San Diego prioritizes our role as responsible stewards of all County assets," Anderson shared.



Highlights

- Repeatedly opposed San Diego Association of Governments attempts to impose a per mile "Road User Charge" for motorists.
- Authored an initiative to prevent County Dept. of Environmental Health and Quality fee increases for restaurant owners and other businesses.
- Co-authored initiative to lower gas prices by advocating for a one-year suspension of the \$0.51 per gallon state gas tax.
- Co-authored action directing County staff to enhance public access to County meetings and public records and improve collaboration with stakeholders.
- Initiated action to protect free speech by waiving fees for the installation of campaign signage in the County road right-of-way for a limited time preceding and following elections.

Senior Assistance

Highlight

- Co-authored initiative to establish pilot programs with community organizations to create a "one-stop shop" to connect seniors to resources necessary to maintain healthy independent lifestyles.



Serving Seniors

Supervisor Anderson joined Serving Seniors for their breakfast service shortly before the approval of his joint proposal with Supervisor Lawson-Remer to help keep seniors at risk of homelessness off the streets and in their homes.

There, Supervisor Anderson met Cunya Wu (bottom), who walks to Serving Seniors every single day for breakfast and lunch. Cunya just celebrated his 102nd birthday this past year!



Other Notable Achievements



Healthcare

- Co-authored an Opioid Settlement Framework outlining a plan to use the County’s anticipated opioid settlement funds on evidence-based strategies to advance solutions in the sectors of healthcare integration, harm reduction, and social supports and services.



Veterans

- Co-authored initiative to establish a new East County Center for Military and Veteran Reintegration to provide a “one-stop shop” for veterans seeking a variety of support and resource opportunities, including a housing component.



Refugee Assistance

- Directed County to prepare for Afghan refugees and requested Congress use “frozen” Afghanistan government assets to cover resettlement costs.
- Requested federal resources to cover County expenses related to Ukrainian refugees entering San Diego County and to use frozen Russian assets as a funding source.

Community Coffee Town Halls

In 2022, Supervisor Anderson hosted five Community Coffee Town Halls in Lakeside, Julian, Alpine, El Cajon, and Ramona. These community meetings serve as an opportunity for constituents to discuss the issues that are most important to them and their families directly with Supervisor Anderson and his staff. Nearly 1,000 people packed these meetings, with another 2,200 tuning into the live stream. For more information on the town halls planned for 2023, please check out supervisorjoelanderson.com/coffee.



County Grant Allocations

\$6,598,578

Awarded in grants to businesses and organizations located in the Second District.

Visit Supervisor Anderson's website for more information about the County's Community Enhancement and Neighborhood Reinvestment Programs

Highlights



Julian Town Hall Renovation

Julian Town Hall, the mountain community's beloved and historic central meeting place since 1914, has been in need of structural repairs and improvements for years. The Julian Chamber of Commerce began a fundraising campaign to bring the town hall back to its original glory.

In Spring 2021, Supervisor Anderson surprised the chamber with a \$75,000 grant to the Julian Chamber of Commerce to go towards their renovation efforts. "For over 100 years, every major event consequential in determining the future of Julian has occurred within the walls of Julian Town Hall and everybody has a fond memory or milestone associated with the iconic East County landmark. I am eager to restore Julian Town Hall, ensuring future generations may make memories with their own children, friends, and neighbors," Anderson said.

Seven Oaks Ranch in Jamul

Seven Oaks Ranch, located in Deerhorn Valley, was awarded a \$5,000 Small Business Stimulus Grant from Supervisor Joel Anderson. The ten-acre ranch produces premium wool yarn for local vendors and educates the County's youth on animals and ranching.



Gio Bradshaw, owner of Seven Oaks Ranch, explained the hardships her business faced throughout the pandemic: "It impacted every single area of our business." The ranch began to accumulate bills as costs rose and profit opportunities became little to nonexistent.

By helping the business achieve a "clean slate," the grant helped Seven Oaks Ranch return to serving the community as they did before the pandemic.

Noah Homes Enchanted Village

Noah Homes provides exceptional residential care to adults with developmental disabilities at their beautiful community in Spring Valley. Their programs promote resident's self-esteem, independent growth, and the development of new skills through enriching experiences.

Inspired by their work, Supervisor Anderson awarded a \$20,000 grant for Noah Homes' 2022 Enchanted Village event, their biggest fundraiser of the year. These funds will allow Noah Homes to continue their fantastic work by providing housing and support to local adults with developmental disabilities. Noah Homes shared, "Thank you, Supervisor Anderson, for your support throughout the years! You and your team rock. We are so grateful for you."





Supervisor Joel Anderson

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