



In the Headlines

PDS Customers Can Now Pay Online!

Planning and Development Services ([PDS](#)) adds the convenience of online payments and trust account deposits. Our customers now have the ability to make online record payments and online deposits into their trust accounts. The new service is available via the [County's Citizen Access](#) page along with "how to" guides for both [payments](#) and [deposits](#). The transactions can be made by electronic check (eCheck) for a fee of \$2.25. This past year, customers have made approximately 12,500 payments and deposits. The new online service adds convenience to the land development process and greatly reduces the number of customers' trips to the County Permit Center.

PDS Online Permit Services Now Include Residential Roof-Mounted Solar PV Projects

PDS customers with residential roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) projects not requiring a meter upgrade can now [process their permits online](#) as part of a broadened service allowing more applicants to obtain permits without trips to PDS offices. The roof-mounted solar PV projects represent the first PDS online permit type to include electronic plan review. The [online application process](#) requires attachment of PV system plans in PDF file format. After participating in the customer pilot program, Omar Baha, with Solar West Electric, Inc., said "The system is extremely easy...and saves me a huge amount of time. Absolute joy to use." Roof-mounted PV systems join five other types of minor residential project types eligible for [online processing through PDS](#):



- Electric heat pump/AC repair or replacement
- Gas line repair
- Glazing (window) replacement with no net area change
- Water heater replacement
- Water sprinklers

Boot Camp for Project Managers

Board of Supervisors

GREG COX
First District

DIANNE JACOB
Second District

DAVE ROBERTS
Third District

RON ROBERTS
Fourth District

BILL HORN
Fifth District

Planning & Development Services

MARK WARDLAW
Director

DARREN GRETHER
Assistant Director

Important Dates

**Board of Supervisors
Calendar and Agendas**

**Planning Commission
Calendars and Agendas**



When PDS staff listed project management as a high priority for career development training, little did they know they would soon be enlisted in a project management boot camp. In June and July, 25 PDS employees, including planners, engineers, environmental specialists, and

managers completed the first 32-hours of a 40-hour program through the [University of California San Diego \(UCSD\) Extended Studies](#) program. Topics included Project Team Development, Problem Solving & Decision Making, and Project Execution.

Participants described the classes as challenging, invigorating and rewarding. The entire PDS team looks forward to seeing this extra investment in training result in improved customer service for customers and stakeholders alike. Additional boot camps will be provided to train more staff in the near future.

Design Review Checklist, POD 11-005

PDS has worked with the communities of Alpine, Bonsall, Fallbrook, Lakeside, Ramona, Spring Valley, Sweetwater, Valley Center and the I-15 Design Corridor on a new Design Review Checklist procedure that would apply to commercial, industrial, and multifamily development on parcels zoned with "B" Community Design Review Area Designators. The new Design Review Checklist procedure would also introduce an additional waiver to the "B" Designator Site Plan Permit process. Projects that comply with a Design Review Checklist would receive a waiver to the Site Plan Permit Process and could immediately begin the building permit process. The proposed [Zoning Ordinance Amendment and Design Review Checklists](#) will be presented to the Planning Commission for a recommendation on August 16, 2013 and are expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration this fall. For questions about the Design Review Checklist procedure, please contact Marcus Lubich at (858) 694-8847 or by e-mail at Marcus.Lubich@sdcounty.ca.gov.



Quick Response Has Great Results

When the PDS Code Compliance Division was contacted by the Sheriff's Department regarding a nuisance property in Ramona, staff found an old drug and alcohol rehab center abandoned, unsecured and in complete disrepair. There was a large amount of waste, graffiti everywhere and an unfenced swimming pool with green water.



Did you know?

The town of Julian was created during a gold rush in the 1860s.

Online Services

[Citizen Access Portal](#)

Research property information and permits. Apply for some permits online.

[GIS Maps](#)

Determine the zoning and characteristics of properties with our web-based mapping tool.





Staff immediately engaged the absentee property owner which resulted in the property being cleaned and secured in short order. This is another example of a prompt response by Code Compliance that resulted in the swift removal of a potential hazard and neighborhood eyesore.

County Fire Authority & PDS Collaborate on Chariot Fire Damage Assessments

The County of San Diego's response to the destructive Chariot Fire included damage assessments by teams of County Fire Authority and PDS personnel inspecting fire-exposed properties. For more on how the assessments ensure public safety and assist in recovery efforts, watch the story on the [County News Center](#).



PDS Staff Spotlight - Chris Kotitsa



Chris has always been an important member of the Land Development Division. Lately, the division has seen a marked increase in discretionary permits as well as improvement and grading plan submittals. In this fast paced environment Chris has shown his ability to respond quickly on a variety of inquiries. Chris is the ultimate team player due to his institutional knowledge, and years of experience. He is versatile and can prepare conditions for projects, research hard to find information, and knows the intricacies of many County software systems. Through Chris' hard work, the PDS Land Development Division (PDS LD)

is able to provide an increased level of customer service.

Chris has been with the County for 23 years and made the transition to PDS LD from Department of Public Works Land Development in the fall of 2012 during the formation of PDS. He continues to take on new roles (web-publishing) and challenges for PDS LD. Chris' co-workers always look forward to the snacks he brings for staff celebrations, and the holiday decorations he provides for the office. He enjoys dining at various international restaurants, and in his spare time he enjoys attending cultural festivals and events.

Welcome Aboard!



Kathy Piggott joined the Building Division as an *Office Assistant* in May 2013. She is highly regarded for her customer service skills, extensive knowledge and ability to thrive in a hectic office environment. We are happy to welcome Kathy to our PDS team and look forward to her serving our customers on the front line.

Elyce Shorb has returned as a *Land Use/Environmental Planner* on the Performance Improvement Team (PIT). She has prior experience in Project Planning with the former Department of Planning and Land Use. Elyce's knowledge, positive attitude and project management skills are a valuable addition to the PDS team. She will be working on performance improvement projects which will further enhance customer service.



On The Move...



Mindy Fogg was recently selected as a *Planning Manager* for the Project Planning Division.

Employed by the County for the last 12 years, Mindy has had the opportunity to perform a wide range of duties in both the Project Planning and Advance Planning divisions serving as a biology specialist, project manager, EIR coordinator, and MSCP implementation specialist, just to name a few. In her extracurricular time, Mindy serves as the Development Manager for the City of San Diego's Crisis Intervention Program and the Vice President of Memberships for the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP). Through her

various roles, Mindy has demonstrated her passion for carrying out the department's mission, dedication to providing the best overall service to all our customers, and devotion to improving the department. We are proud and excited to have Mindy's experience, strong work ethic, integrity and "can-do" attitude as part of the PDS management team.

[Back to Top](#)

August 2013 Edition

County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services
5510 OVERLAND AVE, SUITES 110 & 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
WWW.SDCPDS.ORG

