



County of San Diego Planning & Development Services

June eBLAST

Learn one of the many ways County employees are working to help people recover from last month's devastating fires. See the [County News Center](#) for more information.

Planning & Development Services and County Fire Authority Collaborate on Cocos Fire Damage Assessments

Planning & Development Services (PDS) contribution to the County's Cocos Fire response included building inspectors teaming with County Fire Authority and Department of Environmental Health Hazmat Division personnel to perform damage assessment of fire-affected sites. The damage assessment teams first identified hazards – such as downed power lines, damaged gas lines or asbestos – present on each site, then determined the number, type, and size of damaged structures and the extent of damage to each structure. Fire victims can use this information collected by the County to become eligible for aid or receive insurance payouts. The data enables PDS to better assist homeowners seeking to rebuild.

The teams also documented the topography, clearing around structures, firefighter access, available water supply, and construction methods to better understand why structures were damaged or escaped damage. Such information can be used to develop wildfire-resistive construction requirements in building codes. For more information on the County services available to those affected by the wildfires, please visit the [San Diego County Recovery Site](#).

PDS Recognized for a New Idea To Help Our Customers

PDS staff was presented with the Best Practices Award of Merit from the San Diego Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) on May 14 for its recently adopted Community Design Review Checklist procedure. The Awards Ceremony was held at the San Diego Central Public Library. The award was received by PDS staff Joe Farace and Marcus Lubich, along with former staff member Dixie Switzer and Dan Weary from RBF Consulting. Adopted by the Board in October 2013, the Design Review Checklist procedure allows more projects located in village areas to qualify for a ministerial exemption to the discretionary "B" Designator Community Design Review Site Plan Permit Process when compliance with clear, objective design standards detailed in a design review checklist is demonstrated. This new checklist will speed up and simplify the Site Plan process for a number of our customers.

Code Compliance Helps Neighborhood

PDS Code Compliance was contacted by neighbors about a nearby owner of a property who was dumping debris, building materials and dead vegetation onto his undeveloped site. The property condition easily posed a fire hazard.

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The neighbors became even more concerned when the owner began burning the dried vegetation during hot, dry, windy days.

Staff quickly responded by directing the property owner to clean the lot and calling the local Fire District, which issued the owner a notice to stop building fires and remove dead and dying vegetation. The owner cleaned the property eliminating a potential fire hazard that threatened the neighborhood.

PDS Staff Are Simply Amazing!



PDS staff is not only committed to excellent customer service, they are also committed to physical fitness. Team "E=MR2" led by Captain Everett Hauser (Land Development) with Michael Johnson and Rob Hingtgen (Project Planning) and Randy Yakos (GIS) recently won the toughest division of a County-wide competition called the Amazing Race. Approximately 150 four-person teams participated in the event at the County Operation Center Campus. Participants had to run upstairs carrying 20 pound bags of sand, complete various other exercises (pushups, sit-ups, jumping jacks, tire obstacles) and answer a health related quiz - all while navigating a roughly three-mile long course around the campus.

The Amazing Race was put on by the Human Resources Department Employee Wellness group and is part of the County's strategy on wellness called Live Well San Diego. This long-term plan is to help all County residents become healthy, safe and thriving. Learn more about [Live Well San Diego](#), and its three components "Healthy," "Safe," and "Thriving."

Welcome aboard!

Noah Alvey, Land Use/Environmental Planner III, Advance Planning

Noah joins the County as a Land Use/Environmental Planner in our Advance Planning Division (AP). He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies and Planning with a minor in Sociology. He comes to the County after working at the City of El Cajon in the Planning Division of the Community Development Department for over 13 years. Noah brings vast knowledge and skills with planning matters including general plan amendments, parcel and subdivision maps, conditional use permits, etc. Noah's experience makes him an outstanding addition to our AP team.

Lindsay Palmer, Administrative Analyst III, Executive Office

Did you know?
Spring Valley is named for St. George's Spring. In 1863 Judge Augustus S. Ensworth of San Diego filed a claim for a 160 acre ranch that included this natural spring. The ranch and small adobe house he built there were sold to Rufus King Porter and later to historian Hubert Howe Bancroft. The Hubert H. Bancroft Ranch House is now a museum located in [Bancroft County Park](#) where you can find artifacts of Spring Valley History.

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.



Lindsay has been employed at the County since January 2013. She joins PDS as an Administrative Analyst assigned to assist our Executive Team with managing various projects focused on our organizational excellence initiatives. Her degrees in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and Business Management, will be beneficial in her new position.

Peter Kang, Administrative Analyst II, Support Services

Peter has been with the County since January 2008 and transferred to PDS from the Office of Financial Planning. He will be working in our Support Services section and be responsible for a broad variety of Accela and fiscal functions. Welcome to the PDS Team!

Gina Hargrove, Land Use Aide, Building Division

Gina joins PDS as a permanent employee after having been a Student Worker since February 2013. Gina is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in City Planning. Gina is already a valued member of our Building Division and we are anxious to see what her future holds.

Chelsea Oakes, Land Use Aide, Building Division

Chelsea joins PDS as a permanent employee after having been a student worker since February 2013. Last month, Chelsea received her Master's Degree in Environmental Health. Chelsea has already proven herself to be a valuable asset to our Building Division and we look forward to watching her career grow.

Linda Vo, Land Use Aide, Building Division

Linda joins PDS after serving in the U.S. Army National Guard since 2008. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies and Planning with a minor in Health Care/Social Issues. We are happy to welcome Linda to our PDS team and look forward to seeing her serving our customers on the front line.

Mike Viglione, Land Use Aide, Building Division

We would like to welcome Mike to the County as a Land Use Aide. Mike earned his Master's Degree in City Planning and brings valuable experience from his time at the City of Lemon Grove in their Development Services Department. Mike is sure to be a valued asset to the PDS team and our customers.

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