



County of San Diego Planning & Development Services

July eBLAST

In the Headlines

Quick Business Counter



PDS Building Services Division introduced a Quick Business Counter that aims to reduce wait times for customers processing minor

permits. Customers applying for permits such as minor electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits associated with residential construction will be directed to the Building Services Division Quick Business Counter. Customers applying for permits that take longer than 15 minutes to process, such as those to construct single-family homes or commercial projects, will continue to be directed to the Building Services Division's regular counters.

Read more about this new service at the [San Diego County News Center](#)

We're Changing Code Enforcement's Name!

July marks a change for the Code Enforcement Division. Our new name will be Code Compliance which will better represent the mission of PDS and the Division's emphasis on providing great service to our customers through education about County codes and ordinances, and assisting them to navigate the permit processes.

PDS Expedites Building Permits for Our Troops

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

PDS expedited plan review of two projects sponsored by [Homes for Our Troops](#), a nonprofit organization that builds



specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans free of charge. PDS partnered with Youngren Construction, the builder for the nonprofit organization, and streamlined the permit process. PDS reviewed both plans in less than three days, reducing the normal plan check time by 85 percent! The permits have already been issued and the two homes are now under construction in unincorporated El Cajon.

County Performing Plan Reviews for Rural Fire Protection District

Streamlined plan reviews and reduced trips to the fire district are among the benefits of a new cooperative agreement between the County of San Diego and



San Diego Rural Fire Protection District (RFPD). Previously applicants had to shuttle plans between the County and the fire district to obtain the necessary approvals and stamp transfers. Now, the San Diego County Fire Authority performs fire code plan reviews of building and discretionary projects located within San Diego RFPD, which allows submittal of plan reviews at a single time and location. Applicants previously would shuttle plans themselves between the County and fire district to obtain the necessary approvals and stamp transfers.

RFPD joins Lakeside and Borrego Springs on the growing list of fire districts that have similar cooperative agreements with the County, and more are anticipated in the near future. In addition to time and travel savings for applicants, this consolidation of plan review responsibilities will promote a consistent application of the fire code to projects throughout unincorporated San Diego County.

Code Compliance & Property Owner Team Up!



PDS Code Compliance Division received a complaint on a property in the Harbison Canyon area of the unincorporated County regarding a mobile home and trailer coach illegally occupied by squatters, and illegal storage of trailer coaches and waste. Code Compliance staff provided the absentee owner information regarding permitting the mobile home and removing the squatters.

Did you know?

San Diego is the second most heavily populated county in California just behind the County of Los Angeles.

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 offered assistance with free removal of inoperative vehicles on the property through the County's Abandoned Vehicle Abatement program. When the owner decided not to permit the mobile home, staff provided the



owner with the name of a company so he could arrange to have it demolished and the scrap removed for free. All this hard work resulted in another blight being removed from a neighborhood. The property owner praised staff members for their willingness to work with him and find solutions to get the job done!

Ramona and Alpine Form Based Codes



PDS Advance Planning staff is in the process of finalizing Form Based Codes (FBC) for the communities of Ramona and Alpine. The new codes introduce new zoning/design criteria that will encourage and promote the village character within these communities while revitalizing their economic capabilities. Unlike traditional zoning which separates land uses and regulates individual uses on a property, a FBC deemphasizes uses and puts greater emphasis on regulating building appearances within given neighborhoods. FBC also take into account the buildings' relationships to one another, the public streets and the streetscape.

As part of PDS's ongoing outreach efforts, drafts of the FBC for Ramona and Alpine will be available for a 30-day public review this summer. For more information about the Ramona FBC please contact Joe Farace at (858) 694-3690 or by e-mail at Joseph.Farace@sdcounty.ca.gov. Questions about the Alpine FBC should be addressed to Bob Citrano at (858) 694-3229 or by email at Robert.Citrano@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Tiered Equine Ordinance



On June 14 the Planning Commission heard the Equine Policy and Ordinance Development (POD) and recommended approval of the [Tiered Equine Ordinance](#) to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The ordinance was developed through extensive

work with stakeholders in the equine community to investigate ordinance options that would protect and promote equine operations. The project proposes to update the County of San Diego's Zoning Ordinance with a tiered system of permitting that eliminates the need for a discretionary permit for some horse stables depending on the numbers of horses and the size of usable acreage for a stable. It is expected that this project will be presented to the BOS for consideration later this year. For questions about this project, please contact Carl Stiehl at (858) 694-2216 or by email at Carl.Stiehl@sdcounty.ca.gov.

New Webpage for the Performance Review Committee

The PDS web site now has a new page where you can find important information on agendas, materials and upcoming meetings for the new [Performance Review Committee](#). All committee members were sworn in by Assistant Clerk of the Board David Hall at their first meeting on June 20. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 18 from 10 a.m. to 12p.m. at the [County Operations Center](#). Please contact Megan Jones at Megan.Jones@sdconty.ca.gov if you would like to join the distributions list.



Congratulations to Matt Olson!



Matt was recently promoted to Senior Civil Engineer for the PDS Building Division. Matt joined the PDS team as a civil engineer in 2004. He holds engineering degrees from Northwestern University and the University of Minnesota. As a civil engineer, Matt has been involved in many high-profile projects as well as providing ongoing support to the Building Division management team. He embodies our "customer-first" attitude and has repeatedly demonstrated an ability to work

collaboratively and be a problem solver. Matt always has a positive attitude and is willing to help. He has strong leadership skills and will continue to be a valued asset to our organization.

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