SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT #1



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Jeffries Journal

Volume 4, Issue I

January 2016

Kevin's Corner

Do you wish to be taxed per mile or taxed per gallon? Do you or a family member commute an extended distance to work? Are you a contractor or business person who spends a significant amount of time on the road? If you are like the hundreds of thousands of fellow Riverside County residents who drive out of county (or across our county) every business day – then you need to be paying very close attention to a State proposal to look at switching California to a vehicle per mile tax instead of the current per gallon tax.

California motorists already pay the 2nd highest fuel taxes in the nation (on some of the most expensive gasoline in the nation), yet our road conditions are some of the worst in the nation. Unfortunately, our homeowner/property taxes generally do not fund roads, federal transportation money has significantly been cut back, and state contributions to our local roads have trickled down to almost nothing—barely enough for some basic maintenance and small safety improvements. If Riverside were not a "self-funding county," with Measure A and TUMF, we would likely not be able to make any improvements to our roads at all!

So as our vehicles continue to become even more fuel efficient – the state revenues used to fund our roads are falling even further behind. This has led to an ongoing statewide discussion about possibly switching California motorists over to a per mile tax. Now for the sake of full disclosure, I have not been a supporter of the per mile tax concept, because of the significant financial impact I believe it will have on Riverside County residents who commute to Los Angeles, Orange, or San Diego Counties for work. I'm also concerned that such a system will either be overly intrusive (by tracking our miles automatically) or overly burdensome (by requiring us to regularly come in for odometer readings). Unfortunately, I have not been able to come up with a better idea.

We should support statewide reforms that could significantly reduce the cost to build or repair roads – but that would require overhauling CAL-TRANS and implementing cost saving reforms to environmental and labor regulations, something that a majority of voters in California have been reluctant to vote for. For the past 10 to 15 years, the majority of the State Legislature has also been very reluctant to re-direct general fund tax dollars back into transportation projects, and even the money they put into transportation has increasingly been diverted away from roads—so we need some sort of guarantee that these revenues go where they are supposed to. But that puts us all back to square one – how do we fund our roads going forward, as people switch to electric and natural gas and (someday) even hydrogen vehicles?

If you want to know more details about this issue (per mile road charge) and a future pilot project involving 5000 drivers, you can log onto: <u>www.CaliforniaRoadChargePilot.com</u>

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Kevin's Corner continued...

SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments) is also holding a briefing Wednesday, January 13th at 11am, at the Riverside County Administrative Center, updating elected officials and the public on their Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainability Strategy, where they will discuss all modes of transportation—roads, trucks, trains, transit, and airports. For more information: <u>http://scagrtpscs.net/</u>

P.S. There is also a similar workshop Thursday January 14th from 4-6 at the County Building. Information on the meeting is on page 7.

Respectfully, Kevin Jeffries



Riverside Water Agencies Continue to Ask Customers to Conserve, Be Prepared for El Nino

Riverside, Calif. – While the city's water providers, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) and Western Municipal Water District (Western), continue to ask customers to conserve water and eliminate water waste, they are also urging customers to prepare for the strong storms that are predicted to come with the El Nino weather event this fall and winter.

"All signs are pointing to Riverside getting some very wet weather," said RPU General Manager Girish Balachandran. "So it is important that all residents take the time to prepare and be ready now, should an event occur later that disrupts water or energy delivery services."

As of Nov. 1, Riverside's RPU water customers will be required to reduce their outdoor watering schedules from three days a week to just two. Customers of Western are still required to reduce outdoor water use by 50 percent; no specific watering days are in effect. But, if the predictions are correct for the El Nino forecast, customers may be able to just turn off all of their outdoor irrigation this winter, as rainfall from the weather event can be enough to let California native, drought tolerant plants thrive for many months.

El Nino can bring with it heavy downpours and high winds that can flood streets and yards, topple trees, power poles and create power outages when tree limbs or debris get tossed in to power lines.

Preparations residents can take include having a supply of sandbags ready to re-direct heavy rainfall or flooding from the property; cleaning out rain gutters and downspouts; checking for and fixing leaks on the roof, near windows and any other cracks that may cause unseen water damage and dry rot; and having an emergency plan, making sure each family member knows the plan, where to meet and how to contact each other.

Additional information on creating an emergency plan, and what to do when outages or emergencies occur, can be found online at ReadyRiverside.com

For additional information about all current water conservation mandates and water saving rebate programs offered by RPU and Western, visit BlueRiverside.com

For information specific to Western customers, visit www.wmwd.com

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Supervisor Success Stories



Each month this column will highlight recent successes in Supervisor Jeffries' Office, whether it is assistance for a single citizen dealing with the county bureaucracy, a change in county policy to improve our community, or a promise kept by the Supervisor.

El Nińo is HERE! Don't Forget Your Sand Bags....

On January 6th a local business in Lakeland Village was being impacted by some minor flooding associated with our series of El Nińo storms...although they had reached out for sandbags from the local fire station they were in need of many more. After contacting our office, firefighters from Station 11 were on scene with an additional 100 sandbags for the business to put to use. Many thanks to our local firefighters who responded quickly.

If you are in need of sand bags or sand, please visit your local fire station or community center before the next storm! Get prepared now!



City of Wildomar Gets Early Christmas Present!

Correcting some administrative errors at the county level, in December the City of Wildomar was successfully issued a check in the amount of \$62,358.00 in relation to an overpayment made on the Clinton Keith bridge project.

After several emails, calls, and research, TLMA, Executive Office and District 1 staff, were able to figure out why the City of Wildomar was not able to obtain their refund earlier in the year even though they had tried repeatedly over the past few months.

City Manager Gary Nordquist was ecstatic to know the City would be receiving the much needed refund, and was very appreciative of everyone who made this possible for the residents of Wildomar.



Christmas events in our communities of District #1....



Breakfast with Santa was packed at the Moses-Schaffer Community Center in Good Hope. Over 600 attended and enjoyed breakfast, games and Santa Claus too!

(Left) Supervisor Jeffries and Willie Moses enjoy the community event.





(Above) Robin Reid and staff from Smooth Transitions Culinary School serve breakfast to some of the over 1600+ who showed up to the Mead Valley Breakfast with Santa event.



(Above) The line to see Santa Claus was a long one after breakfast and games. A great event staffed by over 40+ community volunteers and District #1 staff.



(Above) Some of the local youth who stopped by to see Santa Claus and take part in the Annual Cookies with Santa at the Lakeland Village Elementary School.



(Above) Kids ran from game to game and even the local firefighters took part in assisting the kids with their games at the Cookies with Santa event in Lakeland Village.

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The 17th Annual "Nuestra Navidad Breakfast" was another great event to help benefit the Centro De Niños in Riverside. As usual, if you did not get your tickets early your were left standing!

There was plenty of frijoles, arroz, menudo and agua fresca y horchata for everyone who attended. Some of those who were in attendance included, Councilman Andy Melendrez, Police Chief Sergio Diaz, Mayor Rusty Baily, Councilman Paul Davis, and even Sheriff Stan Sniff.

The live and silent auction had plenty of great items as well. If you wish to attend the Nuestra Navidad Breakfast in 2016 be sure to get on the list quick!!

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with this event and especially to the Latino Network Board of Directors for your tireless community dedication.

Nos Vemos en Navidad 2016!!



The Charles G. Meigs Community Center is officially open!

Our Community Breakfast with Santa in December doubled as the official naming of the community center to the Charles G. Meigs Community Center. On hand for the ribbon cutting were several members of the Meigs Family, Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, Center manager Elizabeth Musial, Yolanda and Gilbert Williams as well as MAC Board members Paz Trevino (Chair), Charles Romero, and Rogelio Rawlins.

Mr. Charles G. Meigs was responsible for donating the land on which the community center was eventually built.





More Christmas Events in District #1....

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries-District #1 Website- www.SupervisorJeffries.org Enail - district1@rcbos.org 4080 Lemon St, 5th Floor Riverside, CA 92501 (951) 955-1010 * 31569 Canyon Estates Drive, Suite 113, Lake Elsinore, CA 92532 (951) 471-4500

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Non Profit Spotlight Santa Rosa Plateau Education Foundation



Santa Rosa Plateau Education Foundation is a place-based, outdoor and nature education provider located at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve in Southwest Riverside County. The Foundation's "No Child Left Inside" environmental education programs offer students in grades 3-12 an opportunity to reconnect with nature through both classroom and on-site learning projects. All programs are offered free of charge to students.

The vision of the Foundation is to encourage children and youth in our communities to become the new generation of environmental stewards with an active understanding and love for the natural world in which they live. Their unique program of funding and developing hands-on environmental programs is designed to encourage innovative projects that inspire, educate and empower children and youth to appreciate, preserve and protect nature.

For more information, contact the Foundation at 800-369-4620 or visit their website at http://www.srpf.org/.



First District Profile



Kevin Jeffries was elected in November 2012 to represent the residents of the 1st Supervisorial District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. This district covers the cities of Riverside, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and Wildomar, and unincorporated communities including Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, Mead Valley, Temescal Valley, Good Hope, Lakeland Village, El Cariso, Meadowbrook, La Cresta, Tenaja, and DeLuz

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Exhibits, media interviews and networking: 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Presentations and discussion: 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SANBAG



ADULTS ONLY EVENT ADVANCE TICKETS **\$20 General** Group rates available SPONSORS Perris Valley Chamber of Commer Smooth Transition, Inc. BENEFITING **Smooth Transition Senior** Congregate Meal Program

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THE FUN STARTS NOU February 12 - 21, 2016 WWW.DATEFEST.DRG 800.811. Fair f **TRACE ADKINS** RIVERSIDE Sunday, February 14 Saturday, Februari at 7:30pm at 7pm & National Date Festival Presented by day, February 20 uaru 19 0pm SUPER FIESTA Sunday, February 21 at 3pm Riverside County Waste Management Dep pepsi

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