



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# PERMIT PRESS

Development Services Department

Fall 2005

## News Briefs

### Wanted: Your Vote for the 2005 Customer Service Awards

Quality customer service is our top priority at Development Services. To encourage, promote and recognize service excellence, we hold an annual Customer Service Awards ceremony to give proper credit and applause to the stars of the department. The balloting period for 2005 will be held from November 29 through December 20. Ballots will be available in our permitting centers and online. Check our web page for details at [www.sandiego.gov/development-services](http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services) under the Customer Service heading. The awards for 2005 will be presented at a ceremony held January 20, 2006, in the Balboa Park Club Ballroom. Thank you for taking the time to vote for those staff members who have best assisted you throughout the year. 🏡

### Self-Certification for Completeness Review Now Available

A new program will be piloted for condominium conversions and creations through a Map Waiver or Tentative Map process. By attending a class, this program will allow "pre-qualified" Engineers and Land Surveyors to choose to submit their development projects for distribution without first submitting one set to be reviewed for completeness by Submittal staff. The first class was held August 30, 2005. If you are interested in attending a future class, please contact Kevin Cook at (619) 446-5236. See Information Bulletin 518 on our website at [www.sandiego.gov/development-services](http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services) under Forms & Guidelines for additional information. 🏡

### Holiday Office Closures

The Development Services downtown permit center and Ridgehaven field office will both be closed on Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving. The downtown permit center will be closed Dec. 26-Jan. 2. The Ridgehaven field office will be open Dec. 27-30, (closed Monday, Dec. 26 & Jan. 2) with limited staff. Inspections will be offered, but limited staffing can affect next-day availability during that week. 🏡

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## Balanced Solution Designed for Speeding Problem

Development Services Traffic Engineer Crystal Cliamé completes a test drive over the speed lumps she designed for Del Mar Mesa Road.

Photo by Lynda Pfeifer



Development Services Traffic Engineer Crystal Cliamé was presented with a big challenge: come up with a solution to alleviate a speeding problem along Del Mar Mesa Road in the Carmel Valley community, without impeding emergency response times.

Cliamé succeeded by gaining the cooperation and support of multiple interest groups and creating a hybrid solution that made residents and the Fire-Rescue Department happy – and safer. "Crystal was fantastic to work with all the way through the process," said Del Mar Mesa developer Paul Metcalf. "From development to Fire Department buy-in to construction and community coordination, she made a real difference to the Mesa. There were many concerns initially expressed by the community's residents, but after all is said and done the lumps are a valuable traffic calming tool that benefits Del Mar Mesa."

It all started in 2003 with serious concerns from Del Mar Mesa residents about speeding problems in their neighborhood. In response to residents' ongoing complaints, the Del Mar Mesa Planning Board originally supported the installation of speed humps. However, the Fire-Rescue Department did not approve them because Del Mar Mesa Road was the only route to homes in the area - as well as the canyon and open space - and average emergency response times were already beyond the required six minutes for the area.

After reviewing various traffic calming devices, Cliamé recommended "speed lumps." Although they are new to San Diego, the concept has been around for more than 10 years, mostly in European countries. What are "speed lumps," and what are the differences between speed humps, speed bumps, and speed lumps? A "speed hump" is a parabolic-shaped raised

area placed across the road, 12 feet long in the direction of travel and 3 to 4 inches high. A "speed bump" is a more abrupt and irritating version of the speed hump and typically used in parking lots on private property. A "speed lump" (also referred to as a "speed cushion") is similar to a speed hump, except that it is divided into three sections with a tire pathway between each lump. The tire pathways of a speed lump are set apart at the axle length of fire apparatuses, which allows emergency vehicles to pass through essentially unimpeded, whereas regular cars with narrower wheel bases have to go over the lumps, thus reducing their speeds.

San Diego Fire-Rescue staff and City traffic engineers were skeptical about the speed lumps at first. San Diego Fire Chief Rod Ballard suggested that the speed lumps be tested at the Regional Public Safety Training Facility prior to approving them for Del Mar Mesa Road. After researching and reviewing the use of speed

lumps in other cities such as Sacramento, Glendale, and Mobile, Alabama, Cliamé proposed a design appropriate for San Diego fire apparatuses. The design of speed lumps was approved by all of the

City departments involved.

The next challenge was the complete lack of City funds for the testing at the Regional Public Safety Training Facility. Cliamé was undeterred and asked Paul Metcalf, the developer of Del Mar Mesa, for help. Metcalf was pleased to oblige and enlisted the assistance of Mark Farrington, the engineer who prepared the Del

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*"Crystal was fantastic to work with all the way through the process. From development to Fire Department buy-in to construction and community coordination, she made a real difference to the Mesa." - Paul Metcalf, developer of Del Mar Mesa*



The City of San Diego

**PERMIT PRESS  
Fall 2005  
Development Services Department**



**Gary Halbert, Director**  
(619) 446-5039

Assistant: Lysanda Bostic



**Building and Safety**

Isam Hasenin, P.E., C.B.O.,  
Chief Building Official, Chief Deputy Director,  
(619) 446-5406

Plan review and inspection for building, mechanical, plumbing, electrical and fire permits and approvals, construction inspections, enforcement of Municipal and model codes.



**Land Development Review**  
Kelly Broughton, Chief Deputy Director  
(619) 557-7983

Engineering review, landscape review, planning review, and environmental review.

**VACANT**

**Customer Support and Information**  
(619) 557-7998

Project management, plan processing, project submittal, records, MIS, miscellaneous permit issuance, zoning and sign information, budget, cashier services, and customer accounts.

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# Customer Service on the Rise at Development Services

*Independent customer survey gives department high marks for improvement*

An independent customer survey conducted by True North Research from June through July 2005 gave Development Services high marks for improving services. Two-thirds of customers felt the department had improved over the past 12 months.

With a survey participation rate of 40 percent, factors identified as being key drivers of customer satisfaction were communication, consistency, accessibility, responsiveness, staff competency and sufficiency, attitude/culture, accountability, and timeliness.

True North Research President Timothy McLarney, Ph.D., pointed out that Development Services has made marked improvements since their first survey analysis, which began in November 2004. "Moreover, when you consider that the Development Services Department is a regulatory agency – meaning that they are charged with making sure their customers adhere to proper building codes – the results are that much more impressive. It's far easier to achieve high levels of satisfaction when you are providing recreation services, for example, than when your role is enforcing building codes."

The information provided in the statistically valid survey is echoed by additional measures. "In the short year that I have been here, I have seen steady improvements in customer "drop-in" surveys," said Customer Ombudsperson Lynda Pfeifer, who manages the review of the



*Engineers Henry Pio and Aida Gurmu review plans for a commercial project. Photo by Lynda Pfeifer*

in-house customer surveys. "Customer service is alive and well at Development Services and the community is beginning to notice positive changes and improvement in services."

The Development Services Department provides all services related to land and building development and construction from concept to completion. The department serves more than 1,000 customers daily, performs more than 3,200 inspections weekly and issues more than 35,000 permits annually. Improvement efforts are driven by specific "performance measures" which track service goals throughout the department.

"I am pleased to have this scientific analysis to utilize in our ongoing efforts," said Development Services Director Gary Halbert. "I was especially pleased with the approval ratings for customer service attitudes, and am committed to working with all staff to continue to improve our services to the community across the board." 🏢



*Photo by Lynda Pfeifer*

## City Honors Quality Customer Service Delivery

The City of San Diego is committed to providing quality customer service to the community, and Development Services emphasizes this effort. Over 80 employees, citywide, were recently acknowledged for their outstanding customer service during Fiscal Year 2005.

Pictured with Director Gary Halbert (above, top right), Development Services

staff members honored were (from front to back): Civil Engineer Hao Vu, Analyst Alfonso Gastelum, Plan Reviewer Dolores Gonzalez, Planner Kelley Saunders and Mechanical Engineer Henry Pio. 🏢

### Customer Service Statement

**"We value and respect our customers. We are dedicated to providing you professional, caring, and timely service."**

## Unreinforced Masonry Ordinance Compliance Required by January 1, 2006

By Mehdi Shadyab, P.E.

Attention all Unreinforced Masonry (URM) building owners: January 1, 2006, is the deadline for complying with the mandatory provisions of the City of San Diego URM Regulations. Additional seismic strengthening may be required based upon triggering mechanisms associated with remodeling, renovation or change of occupancy.

The Development Services Department has established an expedite program for the plan review, permit issuance and inspection of seismic retrofit projects, in order to assist the URM building owners with meeting the deadline for compliance with the URM Ordinance. The goal of this safety ordinance is to assure that buildings can better withstand the shaking of an earthquake.

URM program assistance is available to property owners through the Business

Improvement District Council (BID). The BID Council will provide a list of qualified registered structural engineers and contractors experienced with retrofitting URM structures, a loan program, the City's financial incentives, as well as an economic impact report. URM building owners interested in this assistance should contact Dean Brown at (619) 239-2437 or by email at Dean@Bidcouncil.org.

Additional information such as News and Announcements, Sample URM Building Date of Service Notification Letter, List of Noticed URM Buildings by Assessors Parcel Number and by Street Address, URM Ordinance of City of San Diego Municipal Code, and Technical Policies and Guidelines, may be

An example of URM roof parapet braces for a URM building - steel diagonal braces secure roof parapets constructed of unreinforced masonry block, brick or hollow-clay tile which are aesthetically desirable, but at risk of breaking off and falling during an earthquake.



Photo by Mehdi Shadyab, P.E.

found under the Development Services Department home page, under 'Forms & Guidelines, at 'Unreinforced Masonry Program.' To find this information or to get answers to your specific questions regarding URM program please visit the City's web site at [www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/urm.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/urm.shtml) or contact Mehdi Shadyab, P.E, the department URM Program Coordinator at (858) 573-1233. 🏠

## MECHANICAL/ ELECTRICAL CODE CORNER

By Henry R. Pio, PE

### New Electrical Code Version in Effect

A new version of the electrical code went into effect August 1, 2005. Permit applications will now be reviewed and inspected for compliance with the California Electrical Code 2004 (CEC 2004), which supercedes CEC 2001.

The CEC 2004 is based on the National Electrical Code 2002 (NEC 2002) with updated State of California amendments. In order to design and/or install an electrical system in compliance with the applicable codes and regulations, additional documents need to be used in a conjunction with the CEC 2004. Among these documents are the City of San Diego Municipal Code's electrical regulations; the San Diego Area Electrical Newsletter, published by the San Diego Chapter of the International Code Council in a collaborative effort with

San Diego Gas and Electric Company; and City of San Diego policies, bulletins, and code interpretations. In addition to the local codes, the State of California Building Efficiency Standards regulate lighting, as well as the energy efficient appliances standards. The main purpose of the City's outdoor lighting regulations is to limit glare, and they also help save energy. The California Energy Efficiency Standards main purpose is to save energy, and they contribute to reducing glare.

### California Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24 Energy Standards)

The 2005 State of California Energy Efficiency Standards (also known as Title 24 Energy Standards) went into effect October 1. These regulate outdoor lighting design throughout the state. The new standards recognize the importance of inspection, and have prescribed procedures and documentation requirements on acceptance and verification. This means the field portion is now as significant as the plan check process. For more information on

the Title 24 Energy Standards, visit [www.energy.ca.gov/title24/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/)

### Photovoltaic (PV) Systems

The City's PV permit bulletin has just been updated and is available on the DSD web page under Forms and Guidelines – Info Bulletins. A special procedure has been adopted to encourage builders and owners to use this alternative energy source that is available generously in our area. A single point of start and finish for the PV permit process has been set - you start at the Tenant Improvement Counter and you receive your permit at the same counter.

Your Photovoltaic (or other renewable energy) project may qualify for financial incentives (rebates). Following are the contacts for rebate information:

- 1) SDG&E: 1-800-411-7343;
- 2) San Diego Regional Energy Office: 1-877-284-5373
- 3) California Energy Commission: 1-800-555-7794
- 4) [www.consumerenergycenter.org/erprebate/index.html](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/erprebate/index.html)
- 5) [www.fypower.org](http://www.fypower.org) 🏠

*Balanced Solution continued from Page 1*

Mar Mesa striping and signing plans, for work on the CAD drawings of the proposed speed lump design.

A few months after the installation of speed lumps at the Regional Public Safety Training Facility, Cliamé conducted a survey of 400 emergency response personnel, who had personal experience driving through the speed lumps. Of the survey respondents, 83 percent preferred speed lumps over speed humps. Most of the survey comments indicated that the fire engines were able to drive through speed lumps very comfortably. Some of them even went through at a speed greater than 45 mph, whereas fire engines have to slow to about 5 mph to "roll" over speed humps, according to the Fire-Rescue Department.

Finally, two sets of speed lumps were installed on Del Mar Mesa Road in August 2003. However, based on the field observation, Cliamé concluded that several adjustments needed to be made. These modifications included a change to the shape of the speed lumps from parabolic to flat tabletop; reduction of the cutouts from 24 inches to 18 inches; raising the height of speed lumps from 3 inches to 3.25 inches; and striping and pavement marking changes to make the speed lumps more visible.

These changes to the design then required more testing with the fire trucks at the Regional Public Safety Training Facility, and the additional testing on Del Mar Mesa Road. Cliamé herself rode on a fire engine during the field test.

"I hardly felt any jarring at all," said Cliamé. "I was so happy the test was successful, after all the effort that went into this project."

City Transportation Engineers conducted a speed survey, which showed a 5 mph reduction in 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed from 37 mph to 32 mph. This means 85 percent of drivers are driving at or below 32 mph. The speed lumps succeeded in solving the Del Mar Mesa speeding problem, and the residents there were quite satisfied.

Jan Hudson, a resident of Del Mar Mesa, said that "the improved speed lumps closest to my driveway are working very well - definitely having an impact. My neighbors who live along there have noticed a significant difference. I think the dimensions are perfect - - not too pointy, but pointy enough to just slow folks as much as needed."

The Fire-Rescue Department also supports speed lumps and recommended that they be one of the traffic calming options included in the City's Street Design Manual.

"The Fire-Rescue Department looked for a way that would calm traffic, but not significantly impact emergency response times," said San Diego Fire Chief Rod Ballard. "The speed lump is that win-win for all of us." 🏠

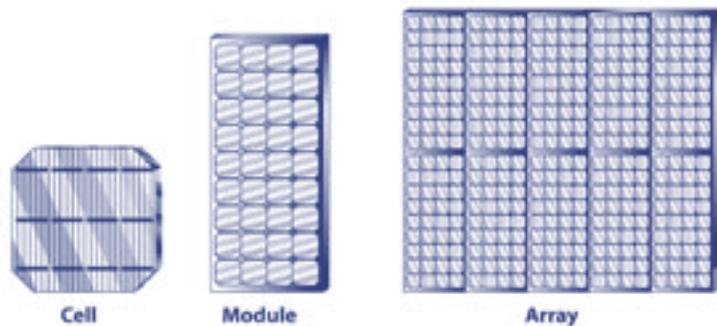
# Solar Photovoltaic Systems

*By Henry R. Pio, PE*

The building development industry and existing buildings consume nearly half of the total energy used in the United States. The City of San Diego's commitment to becoming increasingly efficient with energy resources associated with construction projects is demonstrated at the Development Services Department. Because solar energy is earth friendly and can provide long term savings, more people are looking at including solar features in building design. Development Services is now giving renewable energy projects, especially Photovoltaic (PV Systems), a priority in plan check and permit processing. Additionally, fees have been significantly reduced to attract more customers to use this type of clean, renewable energy.

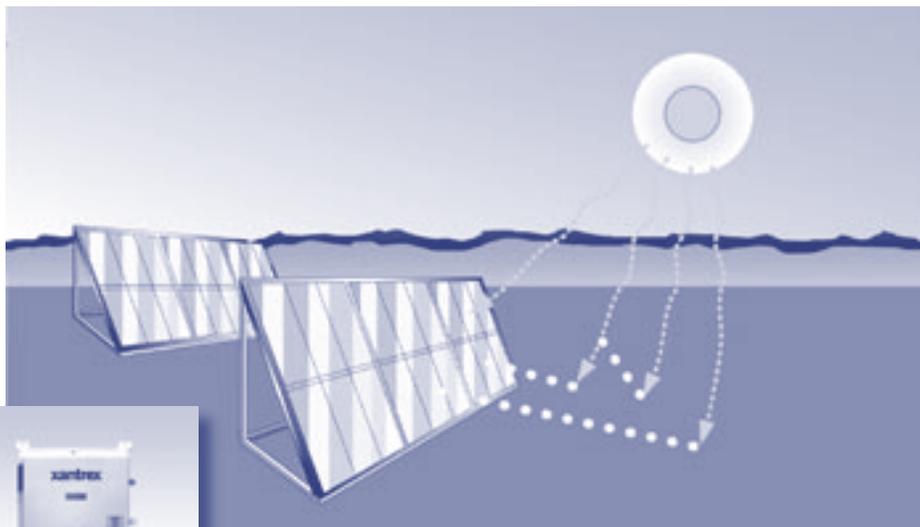
The sun is the primary source for most forms of energy found on Earth. Photovoltaic (PV) or solar electric system uses semiconductor materials that converts sunlight directly to electricity. The term could be translated as "Light-Electricity." A PV system consists of devices that form a complete system which collects the sunlight, converts it to direct current power and then conditions the form of power to an alternating current with the voltage that we use in our homes, offices, etc.

A photovoltaic (PV) or solar cell is the basic building block of a PV (or solar electric) system. Made up of semiconductor materials, an individual PV cell is usually quite small, typically producing about 1 or 2 watts of power. A cell is the initial component that collects the sunlight and converts it to electricity.



Cells are connected to form modules which are then connected to form arrays which can be interconnected to produce more power.

In the typical residential PV system that we see at the City of San Diego, the arrays are placed over the roof of a house. Since the cells are made of lightweight semi-conductor materials, the arrays are relatively light. As you can see above, their shape is flat and the weight is evenly distributed.



However, there are exceptions when the building design

is unusually shaped or the arrays are placed on separate structures.

The arrays are wired into an inverter which converts the DC electricity to AC electricity. A meter is then installed which runs in reverse when the system generates more power than the building uses. A portion of the output is used for the building consumption and the surplus goes to utility usage. Monitors are installed to display what's being produced and the portion that is used. The system includes other safety devices such as fuses, disconnects, and junction boxes as required by the California Electrical Code 2004 (CEC 2004).

A permit is required to check the PV system design and installation to ensure compliance with codes (typically, the electrical and structural code). Article 690 of the CEC 2004 (or NEC2002) titled "Solar Photovoltaic Systems" regulates the electrical requirements of PV systems. There are cases when a system consists of arrays that can be placed on separate structures, at which time the project will be routed to a structural plan reviewer to check the design for the integrity of the connections and the structure that carries the arrays.

PV permits are handled by the Tenant Improvement staff who will issue electrical permits for single-dwelling residential projects. Residential or

multi-family dwellings that require more than just an electrical review will be issued a combination permit. Commercial projects will be issued a building permit and will also be required to be routed for review by other disciplines. In all cases, the electrical system will be reviewed by the Electrical/Mechanical Plan Review Section.

As an energy-conscious consumer, using energy efficiently will add clean, renewable energy to your life. Consider the many benefits of using a reliable, abundant and environmentally smart source of energy – the sun.

For specific plan check and permit information, please visit Development Services' web site at [www.sandiego.gov/development-services](http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services) and see Information Bulletin 301 (IB301). Questions about Solar Photovoltaic Systems can be directed to Henry Pio, Development Services Senior Engineer, MEP Section, at (619) 557-7984 or [hpio@sandiego.gov](mailto:hpio@sandiego.gov). Information for this article was gathered from the US Department of Energy at [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov).

Your Solar Photovoltaic System projects may qualify for financial incentives. You may contact the following for rebate information:  
SDG&E: 1-800-411-7343  
San Diego Regional Energy Office:  
1-877-284-5373. 🏠

*Illustrations and photo provided by National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a U. S. DOE National Laboratory.*

## VENDORS: FILL OUT ONE FORM, SELL TO FIVE AGENCIES

By Ron Halbritter,  
DSD Small Business Liaison

Every year, millions of dollars are spent on goods and services by public agencies. To ensure that small and emerging businesses are able to participate in the procurement process as well, the Diverse Emerging Vendor Outreach Program (DEVO) was established by the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SDCHCC) and the City of San Diego.

The program's focus is to increase participation levels of qualified local, small, and emerging businesses in bidding opportunities with the City of San Diego and participating agencies. Between June 1, 2001, and February 2003, over 400 DEVO certified vendors received purchase orders totaling over 37 million dollars. Membership with the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is not required to participate. Having a current San Diego Business Tax Certificate is required. In addition to providing networking and educational opportunities to vendors, the program has a self-certification component. Certification in the DEVO program is valid for three years, at which time vendors are asked to renew the certification.

Currently, five public agencies which have \$400 million in annual purchasing power use DEVO- certified businesses. With just one form, businesses have the opportunity to procure with the City of San Diego Purchasing Division, San Diego Convention Center, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Unified Port Authority and the San Diego County Water Authority.

*For more information, visit the City of San Diego's website at [www.sandiego.gov/purchasing/vendor/diverse.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/purchasing/vendor/diverse.shtml) or contact a DEVO program Specialist at (619) 702-0790. You can also visit the San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce website at [www.sdchcc.com](http://www.sdchcc.com).*

*Excerpted from the City Heights Business Association Bulletin.*

## City of San Diego Adopts Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Ordinance

The San Diego City Council passed a Construction and Demolition Debris Diversion Deposit Ordinance (C&D Ordinance) on October 10, 2005, that is designed to extend the life of the Miramar Landfill and to help the city meet state recycling mandates. The ordinance is expected to take effect in summer 2006.

“C&D debris comprises about one-third of the trash buried in the Miramar Landfill - or about 400,000 tons yearly. With the Miramar Landfill scheduled to close in only seven years, the C&D recycling ordinance is extremely important to extend the life of the only city-run landfill in San Diego,” said Elmer L. Heap Jr., director of the City’s Environmental Services Department.

Much of the 400,000 tons of C&D material buried each year in the Miramar landfill is recyclable. This debris typically includes asphalt, concrete, brick, dirt, cabinets, doors, fixtures, windows, carpet and carpet padding, cardboard, drywall, landscape debris, unpainted wood and pallets, roofing materials, and scrap metal. Many private-sector facilities currently exist in the San Diego area to recycle these materials, if delivered separated from other waste.

In addition to facilities that accept already-sorted material, the City of San Diego is working with a contractor to build a mixed-waste transfer station at the Miramar Landfill, which will accept mixed loads of waste to be sorted and marketed at the facility. Additional mixed-waste facilities are pending in the region.

The C&D Ordinance will require applicants for building and demolition permits to pay a deposit based on the type and square footage of their project. The C&D diversion deposit will be refunded in whole or in part after documentation is submitted to the City showing that certain recycling requirements are met. The ordinance will take effect 45 days after a mixed C&D recycling facility is certified

in the City of San Diego as having achieved a 50 percent recycling rate.

At that time applicants will need to document 50 percent diversion for a full refund. The diversion requirement will increase to 75 percent 30 days



Before the ordinance takes effect, the city and the building and demolition community will become partners to provide a strong education campaign. This outreach campaign, along with the growing C&D recycling infrastructure in the City of San Diego, will help extend the life of the Miramar Landfill beyond its projected closure date of 2012.

Since the passage of the state’s “Integrated Waste Management Act” in 1989, the City has been unsuccessful in meeting the law through a voluntary recycling policy. The Act, also known as AB939, requires local municipalities to divert 50 percent of their waste from landfilling by 2000 or risk potential fines of \$10,000 a day.

Currently the City of San Diego diverts only 45 percent of its waste from the Miramar Landfill and has an extension to December 31, 2005, to meet the mandated diversion requirement. City officials view the C&D ordinance as a necessary step in complying with this state law.

For information regarding the benefits of recycling C&D material, tips to recycle C&D debris at the job site, locations of recycling facilities, text of the ordinance and other facts on C&D recycling, visit [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/green.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/green.shtml).

The City of San Diego’s Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection disposal, recycling and environmentally sound management to meet the city’s long-term disposal needs. For facts on the importance of recycling in San Diego, go to [www.RecycleOrElse.com](http://www.RecycleOrElse.com). For more information about the Environmental Services Department, [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/). 🏠

after a mixed C&D recycling facility in the city is certified as being able to divert 75 percent of the material being processed. Refunds will be prorated for partial compliance.

Full refunds will be made for projects that properly document the required diversion.

For customer convenience, the C&D diversion deposit will be paid along with permitting fees at the City’s Development Services Department. The downtown permitting center, 1222 First Ave., features an educational display explaining the benefits of the program.

“We are committed to working together to prolong the life the Miramar Landfill,” said Development Services Director Gary Halbert.

Projects exempt from the deposit requirement include pools, fences and retaining walls; projects that only require a plumbing, electrical or mechanical permit; projects generating only hazardous wastes, and projects with a calculated deposit less than \$100.

# "Ask the Inspector"

Segment on City TV 24 provides advice to homeowners.

Chief Combination Inspector William Barrañón gives advice to homeowners, as Cityscape Producer Rick Bollinger rolls the tape. Photo by Lynda Pfeiffer



The City of San Diego has launched "Cityscape," a new program aimed at informing our citizens on City services. "Cityscape" is a half hour show which airs every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on channel 24. There will also be periodic broadcasts on the weekends. To find those, please check the website: [www.sandiego.gov/citytv](http://www.sandiego.gov/citytv).

One of the programs will feature a recurring segment entitled "Ask the Inspector." That segment is directed at homeowners who want to make improvements to their residence. The show features several Development Services Department building inspectors, including Chief Combination Inspector William Barrañón, Supervisor Greg Mulvey and Inspector James Wiatrak.

The City of San Diego will be airing a new "Cityscape" every month. CityTV 24 will continue to produce informative programming that contributes to the City's goal of providing quality service. Viewers will see that at the City of San Diego, it's always been about service. 🏡

## Hurricane Katrina Assistance

Along with the rest of the City of San Diego, the Development Services Department staff extends their heartfelt sympathy to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Ten DSD engineers and building inspectors participated in search and rescue and damage assessment efforts. Working with the Federal Emergency Management Association, structural engineer Rouin Oskoui went to New Orleans, Louisiana, from Aug. 31 through Sept. 19, and structural engineer Larry Lewis went to Liberty, Texas, from Sept. 22 through Sept. 27. With the first California Building Officials (CALBO) call-out for relief assistance, structural engineers Gary Lau and Matt Papuga, and inspectors Tonia Rodin and Julia Rosaler went to Jackson, Mississippi, from Sept. 30 through Oct. 16. For the second CALBO call-out, structural engineers Syed Aleem and Geoffrey Chan and inspectors Dennis Couture and Jim Reynolds went to New Orleans from Oct. 6 through Oct. 21. DSD is proud of their hard work and dedication to helping our fellow Americans in need. Look for a detailed story of their assistance efforts in the next issue of Permit Press. 🏡

### News Briefs Continued

#### New Website Features

Forms Index: In our continuing effort to make Development Services' website even more user-friendly, the online forms are now organized by number and subject. This index has been immensely helpful and makes it very easy to find forms and information bulletins -whether you know the subject or the form number. This information is found under Forms & Guidelines on the DSD web page at [www.sandiego.gov/development-services](http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services). Code Updates: New code and regulation information is also available in the Forms & Guidelines section under "Codes & Regulations." The updates include the 2005 Energy Efficiency Standards California Energy Commission New Duct Sealing Requirements (effective Oct. 1, 2005); Accessibility Requirements for Townhouses (effective Oct. 17, 2005), and the Accessibility Guide for Small Businesses; Helpful Links, including Department of Housing and Community Development accessibility developed regulations and frequently asked questions on accessibility; and New Building and Brush Management Regulatory Revisions to the Building Regulations for Buildings in Fire Hazard Areas (effective Oct. 17, 2005).

Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA): This new section of the website provides information about LEA, which enforces federal and state laws and regulations for the safe and proper handling of solid waste. Solid waste includes household trash and garbage, construction debris, commercial refuse, sludge, ash, discarded appliances and vehicles, manure, landscape clippings, and other discarded wastes. The website gives customers quick access to basic information about LEA and its programs, environmental concerns associated with solid waste, frequently asked questions and local contact information. 🏡

#### Water Department Fee Increase

The City of San Diego Water Department is proposing increases in its billing and collection fees so that it can recover the costs of doing work related to a wide range of responsibilities. The vast majority of Water Department customers would not be impacted by these fee changes as they are mostly related to development fees for new water services and meters. The service fees were last increased in June 2000. If accepted by the Mayor and City Council, the new fees would be effective January 1, 2006. 🏡

### Good Luck...

#### to a Star! Escobar-Eck moves on to Carlsbad



The staff at Development Services Department would like to extend their best wishes to Marcela Escobar-Eck, who served the City for the past 18 years. In September, she accepted an exciting opportunity to become the Planning Director for the City of Carlsbad.

In her new role, she will guide the planned physical development of the City of Carlsbad and ensure that all new planning programs and development projects comply with Carlsbad's General Plan and the performance standards of their Growth Management Plan.

Escobar-Eck was the Chief Deputy Director of DSD's Customer Support and Information (CSI) division for the past year. She was previously the Deputy Director of the Project Management division, which was incorporated into CSI. She was best known for her role representing the department on the City's Planning Commission, her leadership of the Naval Training Center redevelopment into Liberty Station, and for advancing the role of project managers to streamline the discretionary development process.

Escobar-Eck earned her degree in landscape architecture from the University of California at Davis, with an emphasis in Urban and Regional Planning. She is also a trained mediator. She started at the City as a junior planner, working her way up to a strong leadership and mentoring role. Her expertise, personality and fine footwear will be missed, but we know that she will continue to play an important role in development for the San Diego region. 🏡



The City of San Diego

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## HOW TO CONTACT US

### DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL INFORMATION AND SERVICES

#### General Information.

Technical Assistance	446-5000
Appointment Scheduling	446-5300

During high-volume periods, your call may be answered by an automated service. This service will tell you how long the wait is and give you the option of leaving your phone number, to be called back in the order your call was received.

For projects currently in the permitting process, please call the contact phone number listed on your invoice.

We encourage you to make an appointment for services by calling 446-5300. You can "walk in" and wait for many services, but please be advised that appointments take priority. The following services require appointments: permits for single-family room additions, master plans and plan re-checks (call your reviewer directly, as listed on your correction sheet).

#### Information Numbers for Specific Services

Addressing Coordinator	(619) 446-5411
Bond Release	(619) 446-5333
Building Code Review	(619) 446-5134
Certificate of Occupancy	(858) 492-5070
Disabled Access Regulations	(619) 446-5134
Engineering Permit Issuance	(619) 446-5460
Engineering Project Close-Out	(619) 446-5333
Engineering Project Status	(619) 236-6840
Fire Access/Subdivision Review	(619) 446-5440
Fire Prevention New Construction	(619) 446-5440

#### Plan Check

Hazardous Materials Plan Check	(619) 446-5440
Homeowners Saturday Service	(619) 446-5000

#### Inspections

To schedule an appointment for:

New Construction, Relocation, Removal, Demolition	(858) 581-7111
Inspection Information	(858) 492-5070
Engineering Field Inspections	(619) 627-3200
Land Development Review	(619) 446-5460
Master Plans	(619) 446-5184
Right-of-Way Permits	(619) 446-5460
Seismic/Geologic Hazards	(619) 446-5400
Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency	(619) 533-3688

Structural Plan Review	(619) 446-5134
Plan Pick-Up	(619) 446-5179
Publications	(619) 446-5200
Records Information	(619)446-5200
Time Extension for Engineering Permits and Subdivision Improvements	(619) 446-5333
Traffic Control Plan Check	(619) 446-5150

#### Useful Numbers in Other City of San Diego Departments

Business Tax/License	(619) 615-1500
City Directory Information	(619) 236-5555
City Information "Just Call"	(619) 615-6111
Code Enforcement	(619) 236-5500
Facilities Financing	(619) 533-3670
Long Range Planning	(619) 236-6479

#### Small Business Early Assistance

The City of San Diego Development Services Department wants your small business to succeed and recognizes the challenges you face as an entrepreneur. Before you sign a lease, purchase property or expand your business, contact Small Business Liaison Ron Halbritter at (619) 446-5211. Ron has extensive experience with the permitting process and will help get you off to the right start. Give Ron a call before your proceed!