



LOCAL NEWS...

Border Fence Evades Radar

Huge project will decimate environment but do little to stop immigration.

by Raymond Lutz

Heard about the border fence project? Sure, we've heard about the dreams of Duncan Hunter and racial vigilantes like the Minutemen to have such a fence, but we didn't think it was right around the corner. In fact, they will probably start construction on the fence within months.

Their plans are to extend the existing fence at the border 4.4 miles east from where it ends in Otay and extend it west 0.8 miles from the western end of

the fence in Tecate. They plan to put the fence right on the border with a 60 ft. buffer zone and a patrol road that stays as close as it can. The road needs to wind around in places to navigate the steep terrain.

You can review the project at this site: www.borderfencenepa.com, click on "San Diego Sector."

The problem with this plan is that it will probably do little to stop undocumented workers from making the trek to find work from the multitude of employers who wish to hire underprivileged workers for a song. First of all, there is a ten-mile gap in the fence. Immigrants will simply walk a bit farther to the new end of the fence, bring a ladder, or dig a tunnel.

The ten-mile gap is unfortunately placed in some of the most sensitive areas of Marron Valley (pronounced

Ma-ROAN), an area that is an important watershed and development mitigation area. After millions of dollars are spent on the fence, any immigrants will not only walk around the end of the fence, but now they will be walking through Marron valley and up and along sacred Mt. Kuchaama.

Unpaved Marron Valley Road runs south from SR-94 about 1 mile east of Dulzura and continues about 5 miles south, precariously cut into the side of nearly vertical cliffs and winding above a rocky canyon. Finally, it comes to Marron Valley, a valley with few signs of civilization except for run-down, unused cattle corrals. Winding through the valley is the Tijuana River outfitted with "contaminated water" signs warning against human contact.

The border is actually right along the river in this area, making it nearly impossible to construct any sort of impenetrable fence. If you construct the fence along the border, it will run roughly along and in the river, with the

See Local News on page 2.

East County Democratic Club

Serving El Cajon, Rancho San Diego, Jamul, Lakeside, and outlying San Diego County since 1965

OFFICERS:

President *Kristy Mundt*
1st Vice President *Tom Lamb (Tent.)*
2nd Vice President *Karen Marie Otter*
Treasurer *Raymond Lutz*
Secretary *Tina Rynberg*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Membership *Tina Rynberg (Tent.)*
Outreach *Tom & Kathy Lamb*
Refreshments *Bonnie Rawson*
Book Club *Jon Scanlon*
Newsletter *Madeline McDowell*
Calendar *Gloria Martes*

CONTACT:

Telephone *619-933-1526*
Email info@ecdcweb.org
Mailing Address: *PO Box 252
El Cajon, CA 92022*

MEETING LOCATION:

*Rancho San Diego Library
11555 Via Rancho San Diego
El Cajon, CA 92019
(Unless otherwise noted!)*

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
IN PROGRESS!**

ENDORSEMENTS!

The ECDC has important endorsement events coming up.

Our endorsement schedule has been moved up! Our next meeting on March 9th will promise to be a rip-roaring event, with candidates for the 52nd Congressional District debating the issues and demonstrating their acumen on the issues at the federal level.

At the February 10th meeting, the club processed the questionnaire, so we now have a set of questions that can be used to separate the candidate based on their answers to these questions.

We will be inviting all the candidates of the 52nd Congressional District, including:

VICKIE BUTCHER
CONNIE FRANKOWIAK
JAMES HESTER
MICHAEL LUMPKIN

Who will you support with your vote? Please come to the meeting and help us decide if (1) we will be endorsing a candidate, and (2) who that candidate will be.

You must be a member in good standing for the last 30 days (or a renewed member) to vote. No last-minute ballot box stuffing!!



SCHEDULE

24 Feb 2008 (Sun) 2pm

Current Events Theater presents

UNCOUNTED

Social networking and snacks at 1:30;
Discussion after the film.

09 Mar 2008 (Sun) (1:30 pm)

East Region Caucus, consider endorsement on county seats for June.

ECDC General Meeting (2pm)

52nd Congressional District debate and endorsement for the June primary election. You must be a member for at least 30 days to vote.

20 Mar 2008

ECDC Board Meeting,
Lutz Residence (7pm)

28-30 Mar 2008

California Democratic Party Convention, San Jose

30 Mar 2008 (NOTE CHANGE)

Current Events Theater (2pm)

LOCAL NEWS (Cont.)

water winding back and forth across the border.

Robin Brailsford, an award-winning public artist and Marron Valley Road resident, noticed additional truck traffic in front of her artistically-designed home. Just south of her home, a newly established construction debris reprocessing yard started to take shape, a development on an old landing strip that had no review by local residents. She heard rumors that Marron Valley Road would soon be widened to 60 feet to allow for truck traffic to service the fence and possibly to another border crossing.

After contacting planning groups, the county, and other legislators, everyone said this was just a rumor. I even asked Jerry VanDeweghe (Asst. to State Senator Hollingsworth, CA-36) directly about it at the January Potrero CPG meeting and he said he knew nothing about it, and then showed me a map of the proposed improvements to SR-94.

Only after the fact did we learn that there was a public meeting at the San Diego Convention Center on January 17 to review the project. I imagine they had it at that large venue in case they had a massive turnout. Only about a dozen citizens showed up. If they want to fly under the radar, they know how to do it, that's for sure.

The deadline for comments on the environmental impact statement (EIS) was Feb. 5th. A great day if you want to be unnoticed as the media was covering the election instead.

I submitted a set of questions and comments via their website prior to the deadline.

This isn't over yet. It only is more proof that you have to really have to have your ear to the ground to find this stuff out. Developers are well practiced at obfuscation and evading oversight by the public.

SoS Edict Hard for RoV

By Raymond Lutz

Thank you, Debra Bowen! Actually, I'm surprised she was able to get into her seat as Secretary of State (SoS), given that the position controls what machines are used and we had proof that Diebold touch-screen voting machines were hackable and that the 2000 and 2004



Initial inspection after being delivered to RoV.

elections were stolen. My theory is that the little paper tape was enough of a paper trail to force the elections to be honest enough so Bowen could take the seat.

After reviewing election systems statewide, Bowen decertified the touch-screen machines (known as DREs, "Direct Recording Equipment") meaning that San Diego County Registrar of Voters (RoV) would return to paper ballots and Diebold scanners.

Shudder. Indeed, the scanners are not that much more reliable than the DRE machines, especially if they are distributed to 1800 precincts and enjoy "sleepovers" at precinct-worker's homes.

To improve the situation, Bowen ruled that the scanning would have to be done at the RoV's office using firmware checked and certified by the SoS. It sounds better, until you find out that the firmware EPROMS that were tested by the SoS were compromised enroute by a mysterious mishandling episode. But further, she ruled that a 10% hand recount would be required for any race that was within half of 1%. You may have heard that the County sued the SoS over this issue.

On Sept. 5th, I went to the RoV office to observe what process they used to count the ballots. What a mess.

The first step in the process is done at the precinct. (I did not witness this procedure.) The precinct workers remove the ballots from the drop box, look them over, count them up, and fill out a form. They also provide the memory card from the single DRE machine still required to be at polling places. I asked a few poll workers if anyone had used these, and they all said no. We'll have to see how popular those machines are when they have the final numbers.

Then, the precinct workers put the ballots into brown boxes and deliver them to collection centers. Vans then transport those boxes to the RoV's office. They are checked in using a bar



Mating with memory card

code reader, and then inspected by a receiving inspection group.

After they are given a cursory inspection, the boxes are grouped by precinct and delivered to a group of people who find the memory card for that precinct. Once mated with the memory card, the boxes of ballots are delivered to one of about 100 people who would then install the memory card in a scanner (the same kind we used to see at the polling places - Diebold) produce a zero tape, and then hand-feed the ballots into the scanner.



Manual scanning using precinct scanners

When the scanning is completed, the tape is printed and kept with the ballots, and the boxes of ballots placed in a storage area.

The memory cards are then brought to the tabulation room where a separate set of workers would insert them into another set of scanners that are directly connected to the tabulator computer using serial port connections. Those scanners were used simply as card readers to dump the data into the central tabulator.



Central Tabulator

Watching the mass of humanity attempt to keep all this from getting out of hand was quite instructive.

Later, I understand that the Vote-by-Mail ballots were scanned using the directly-connected scanners, and no tapes

were created. They explained that this is because the VBM ballots can be from any precinct and it does not make sense to maintain that paper trail.

Local Candidate Focus

Over the next few issues of East County Progressive, we will be allowing outstanding local candidates to make their case to our readers.

Vickie Butcher

“A New Direction for America”

By Vickie Butcher (provided by Miriam Rastrey)

Our nation and our community need strong, experienced leadership to restore peace, prosperity, and opportunities for all Americans. I have the qualifications and integrity to represent the people in our district—not the special interests.



I am a lifelong Democrat. As a teen, I fought for civil rights and voting rights, successfully challenging segregation. I've stood up for what's right ever since. That's why I'm endorsed by Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Chair of the House ethics committee.

I've lived in East County for 27 years, along with my husband, Dr. Richard Butcher, a retired Naval officer. We raised our five children here. I taught deaf students, civics and political science in East County high schools and community colleges. I support strong public education.

After obtaining my law degree, I worked in our court system and served as Chair of the El Cajon Planning Commission. I've served on area water quality and hospital boards and Granite Hills Athletic Council, and was President of Rotary and World Affairs Council.

I will be a strong voice for affordable, universal healthcare for all Americans.

I've served on FDA medical panels and as President of National Medical Association Auxiliary, brought healthcare to people in need.

I grew up in my family's grocery business and support rights of working people. We need strong labor and environmental agreements in trade pacts to stop

outsourcing jobs. A former delegate to national sustainability conferences, I also support training in green collar jobs in sustainable energy.

We must stop spending nearly \$10 billion a month on the Iraq War. Even top generals agree it's time to bring our troops home and turn control of Iraq over to the Iraqi people. There are better ways to protect our national security and strengthen our defenses here in America.

The worst wildfires in California history started in East County. I will provide strong federal leadership to improve fire prevention and rapid, early response to stop future fires from devastating our communities.

I am running to win. I have a national campaign manager who worked on the Kerry-Edwards campaign. We have a large volunteer base and a campaign office in La Mesa. I'm endorsed by leaders in education, labor, business, and healthcare reform. Our district is more diverse than in the past. Minorities are now 39% of El Cajon's population and 36% of the unincorporated rural areas. My campaign is outreaching to Latinos, African-Americans, Muslims, Asians, Native Americans, and we have many white supporters, too.

Barack Obama's message of hope and inspiration is fueling record Democratic turnout and attracting legions of new voters, even in conservative, mostly white rural areas. By offering hope to those whose voices have not been represented, like Obama, I offer the strongest opportunity for Democrats to win in East County.

Obama's pollster found that what voters in the 52nd Congressional district want most is a candidate with honor and integrity, who also understands struggles of the middle class. The majority of primary and general election voters polled said they will choose Vickie Butcher.

We have an open seat for the first time in 25 years, coupled with a likely Democratic landslide. I ask for your endorsement and support. Together, we can take back our seat in Congress—and create a bold new direction for America.

Please send any comments to

newsletter@ecdcweb.org.



President's Message



I joined ECDC in January, 2007 to be involved with what was going on in my own backyard. Within a few months I was Membership Chair and helping out where ever I could. I joined COPs and have been attending the El Cajon City Council meetings ever since.

I hope that I can continue with the same success that Raymond Lutz has done with his time as President. I believe with all of our members working together we can continue to build this club and turn the East County Blue! I am glad to let you know that Raymond will be working with me to teach me all I need to know about being the President of this club. Also, he will be there to answer any questions I might have. I want all of you to give me your suggestions of what you would like to see the club do and become.

I was inspired by John F. Kennedy when I was only 8 years old. I was also inspired by Robert F. Kennedy when I was 16 and he was running for President. After his assassination I dropped out. Sure, I voted in all elections. I just never put myself out there. Until I saw John Edwards in 2003 in Iowa. A week after seeing him for the first time, I was walking the picket line for the UFCW. All the time I was on the line I read about John Edwards and what he believed. He was the best candidate for President in 2004. Well, we all know what happened then. After 5 months on the picket line I had to go back to work and make up for lost pay, so I didn't have time to get involved. Then in August of 2004 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. It took me two years to get my life back after the cancer. I made it my new years resolution in 2007 to get involved again.

I believe so much in Democratic values. I also believe that change does not happen from the top down, it has to start from the bottom up. If all of us could just get involved a few hours each month, we could change everything!

Kristy Mundt, President. ✌

ECDC
PO Box 252
El Cajon, CA 92022
www.ECDCweb.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ECDC MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Don't miss any future issues!)

- | | Single | Dual/Couple |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Student/Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 |
| General | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |
| Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| Sponsoring | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 |
| Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$750 |
| Newsletter Only | <input type="checkbox"/> \$12 (free otherwise). | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a Democrat | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a Democrat but wish to join as a non-voting Associate | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send newsletter as email (PDF). | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My name and address as shown on the label is incorrect, see corrections ---> | | |
| Occupation: | | |

(Req'd for FPPC Reports)

MORE TID BITS

Weather hits Potrero CPG

By Raymond Lutz

Potrero CPG was hoping to put the brakes on the Blackwater West project, or at least to revisit the issue and change the earlier approval to reflect the 70% landslide victory of the Stop Blackwater recall vote.

So far, the December meeting had an old agenda established by the outgoing pro-Blackwater board, and the January meeting tried to "reconsider" the vote but was stopped by a technicality. The meeting on Feb. 14th was postponed due to the sudden storm that hit the east county with a scattering of snow.

At least the group has moved the meeting from the Community Center which includes all the trappings of the Kiwanis Club--the alter ego of pro-Blackwater groupies--to the elementary school multipurpose room. Things are starting to look better all the time, and Carl Meyer will probably run a meeting

without the multiple threats from conservative locals who say I'm a terrorist operative of some kind. Progress, slow but sure.

Lutz runs for 77th AD

After seeing no other viable candidates step to the challenge, ex-ECDC President Raymond Lutz pulled papers to be on the ballot as the Democratic candidate for the 77th State Assembly District.

Our current representative, a Republican (of course) is Joel Anderson, the ultimate in partisan player, friend to developers and any special interest group that will have him.

The district has 423,000 plus residents--more than the population of Wyoming--and includes all, or portions of El Cajon, La Mesa, Santee, Ramona, Lakeside, Jamul, and the City of San Diego. Except for an arm that extends down as the 66th AD including Julian, it essentially includes the territory of "East County." Perhaps more importantly for

Lutz is that the district also includes Potrero and the Blackwater West proposed site.

"There may be a way to stop the project by working at the state level," Lutz commented. "I'm sure that the 70% of the voters in Potrero that voted against the Blackwater West project will probably give me their vote. Anderson has been a no-show at every meeting, and given his pro-developer credentials, he'll probably wind up supporting Blackwater."

But the race won't be easy. In the Feb. 5, 2008 election, there were 94,683 Republicans (45.8%), 61,845 Democrats, (29.9%) and 40,162 (19.44%) Decline-to-States in 206,555 voters. Registering new voters as Democrats may be our best strategy.

If we register only 15% of the unregistered voters to be Democrats, we would become even with the Republicans, and they've been losing voters, down over 5,000 voters from 2006.

Contact raylutz@ecdcweb.org if you can help with his campaign.