

President's Message



Get ready to wish Solana Beach a Happy (and healthy) 35th Birthday!

Nearly 35 years ago, the City of Solana Beach was officially “born.” After an almost three-year and sometimes rancorous campaign, the third effort brought the City some independence from the County of San Diego, which seemed endlessly willing to permit development. An ongoing scheme to build a hotel on what is now Harbaugh Seaside Trails was one of many development plans that were catalysts for Citizens Intending to Incorporate, the group advocating independence.

The City’s inaugural event was scheduled for 7 p.m., July 1, 1986. But after learning that San Diego County still legally had control of Solana Beach until the first council was sworn in, newly elected council members advanced the swearing-in ceremony by 12 hours to prevent the County from issuing building permits throughout the day.

At 7 a.m. on July 1, 1986 members of Solana Beach’s first City Council took their oaths of office,



On July 1, 1986 the City of Solana Beach will come into being. Please join with your fellow citizens for the inauguration of the First City Council for Solana Beach. This historic event will take place at Solana Vista School 780 Santa Victoria. Ceremonies begin at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.



sworn in by then San Diego Supervisor Susan Golding. (L-R in this photo) First Mayor Margaret Schlesinger, Deputy Mayor Jack Moore and Council members Richard Hendlin, Marion Dodson and Celine Olson then promptly voted to nudge the County out of City affairs. In its second independent act, the council approved a 45-day moratorium on new building permits. At the time, more

than two dozen building permits were pending. “You are represented much better as a community in this County when you become a city,” notes first-Council member Marion Dodson, who later served as Solana Beach Mayor three times during her tenure of 14 years on City Council. She also represented the city in the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) for eight years.

About a year ago, as we were learning about a frightening illness called Covid-19, our newsletter/website editor sat down with Marion to reflect on those inaugural years. Asked what she thought would be more difficult — leading a community into cityhood or leading our community through the pandemic, Marion didn’t hesitate to answer: “Starting a City. Because we had to invent *everything*.”

Continued on following page

Happy Birthday Solana Beach, continued

There was no revenue, nor budget, nor staff, nor an office (nor email, nor internet, nor cell phones) from which to navigate. The first Council went to work fast to rent offices, hire a City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney, plus staff — and to develop the policies by which it would govern. “To get all of the rules and regulations set up for a city — we worked so hard as council members. I can’t tell you how many hours we put in,” Marion remembers. “We worked our asses off.”

In the few weeks between the successful June 3 vote to incorporate and the July 1 inauguration, the new Council drew up 21 ordinances and regulations, all of which also were adopted at the first morning session. Among them: allow the city to collect its share of taxes that previously had gone to the county and state; establish Council as the official planning agency; and set Council member salaries at \$300 per month (since raised to \$860).

For its first birthday, the City celebrated around a “founding stone” in La Colonia Park. Local artist Tom Emery was commissioned to chip into a 10.5-ton boulder of pink granite to depict early and ongoing residents of Solana Beach. In 1989, to celebrate its third birthday, the City published a review of its early accomplishments and a preview of future plans in the Fall issue of Solana Beach Shorelines. [Click here](#) to read a copy.

On July 8, 1994, the City marked its eighth anniversary with a Grand Opening celebration at its new, 14,000 square-foot City Hall on Highway 101. Perhaps ironically, the gleaming structure with its backlit 8-foot stained glass replica of the City Seal had previously housed Diego’s, a bar and disco that generated years of neighborhood complaints about overflow parking on residential streets, noise, vandalism and drug-dealing before the club was almost destroyed by fire and closed in the early 1900s. Its owners and managers had more than once been hauled before Council in what the San Diego Union Tribune described in 1986 as a “sizzling feud.” Marion recalls how much “We enjoyed telling folks that we turned a nightclub into City Hall.”

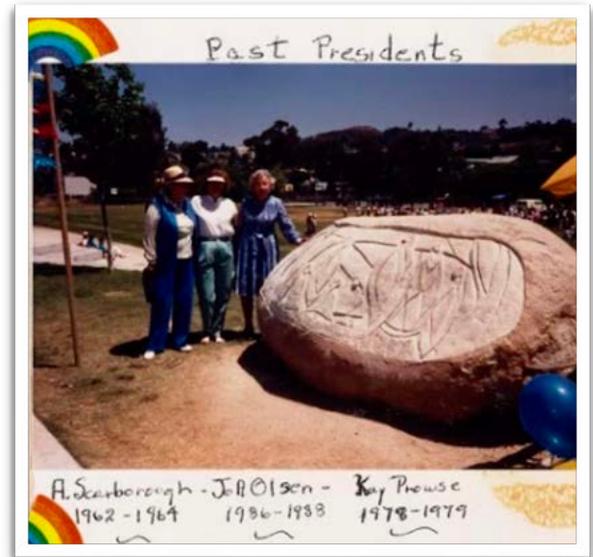


Photo from SBC&HS Archives

Solana Beach continues to be a sizzling presence in San Diego County, scoring many significant firsts and still fighting to retain our beachside community vibe. Most recently, the City has partnered with Coronado, Imperial Beach and Lemon Grove to challenge the number of new housing units each is required to add over the next decade as part of the state’s Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Among all cities in San Diego County, we were:

- First to lower Amtrak tracks and complete our section of the Coastal Rail Trail in the 1990s
- First to ban smoking on public beaches in 2003
- First to ban single-use plastic bags, in 2012
- First to ban disposable plastic food containers, in 2016
- First to adopt Community Choice Aggregation, in 2018, enacting local control over of procurement of gas and electric power
- Second to adopt a safe gun storage ordinance, in 2019.

Happy 35th Birthday Solana Beach! And happy 20th birthday to our Library, too! Michele Stribling

Unless otherwise indicated, photos compliments of Marion Dodson)



20 Years Open, After 21 Years of “Epic” Planning

After a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 22, 2001, our new joint-use library opened to the public on July 5, culminating in a \$3.4 million venture that the San Diego Union Tribune described as “an effort of epic proportions and planning. . . Twenty-one years of planning, to be exact.”

The idea for a siting a County library branch on the campus of Earl Warren Junior High School germinated in 1979, when Bill Berrier, then Superintendent of the San Dieguito Union High School District (SDUSD), suggested it in a letter to his colleagues. At the time, the Solana Beach branch tended to be transitory, regularly outgrowing its leased spaces as the City’s population and its collection expanded. Friends of the Solana Beach Library formed in March 1983 and, by October, had moved the branch to a 3,800-square-foot home in the Lomas Santa Fe Shopping Center. Within about decade, the branch was again cramped for space.

In 1995, according to a history by advocate Richard A. Schwartzlose, the Solana Beach City Council appointed Joe Kellejian and Marion Dodson to a sub-committee to work toward a new home for the library. Schwartzlose, along with fellow Society historian Jim Nelson and many others took up the challenge of creating a permanent, joint-use facility — and wrangling all of the agreements required to fund it.

An “epic” undertaking, indeed. It required dogged determination by the Friends team, along with

tireless negotiations with the City of Solana Beach, SDUSD, the County of San Diego, and even, eventually, the State of California. Finally, according to reporting at the time, the entities committed their investments:

- SDUSD: 1.3 acres of land \$540,000
- City: \$820,000
- County: \$100,000
- Statewide School Construction Bonds: \$960,000
- Friends of the Solana Beach Library: \$780,000 in private donations — including a very sizable anonymous gift — raised in only eight months

It was a masterful assemblage of agreements, but still shy of the total needed to complete construction. The shortfall was exacerbated by delays when, according to the North County Times, workers hit an aquifer during grading.

Budgets were tweaked; landscape plans edited; contractors encouraged to redouble their efforts. Earl Warren students’ families and the City of Solana Beach pitched in to close the funding gap. Friends of the Library, alone, raised an additional \$56,000 for furnishings.

Remarkably, the library was dedicated almost a year-to-the-day after groundbreaking.

“It’s a case of the community *really* wanting the library,” commented Bob Gottfredson, then president of Friends of the Solana Beach Library.

Join us for one or both of two upcoming — in person! — June events

Covid-19 restrictions are easing and we are ready to safely gather again! Both June events will be outdoors, with plenty of room to move and breathe. Masks are preferred until State guidelines are updated.

Celebrate Flag Day at the Gateway

Noon Monday, June 14



Business Center



You are invited as the Frolander Family raises the flag to celebrate renovations at the Gateway Business Center, Lomas Santa Fe at Solana Hills. Artist Kevin Anderson will be on hand to talk about his murals.

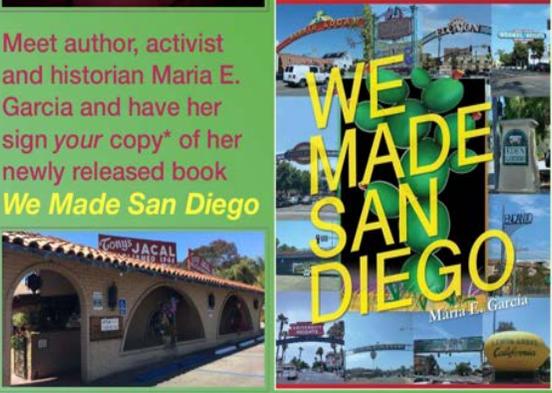
RSVP required by June 10. [Click here to email](#)

Book signing!



**Wednesday, June 16
2 - 4 pm
Tony's Jacal Restaurant***
621 Valley Ave. Solana Beach

Meet author, activist and historian Maria E. Garcia and have her sign your copy* of her newly released book **We Made San Diego**



*Copies available for sale at \$50. Pay with cash or check

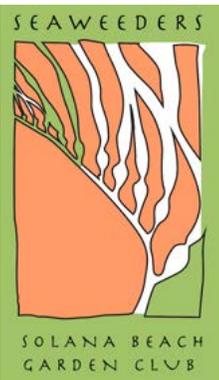
*Restaurant closed during event



Welcome new members:
Caroline DeMar, Rena Monge, Stephanie Wilde

Time to renew for fiscal 2021-22!
[Click here to renew your membership](#) for our coming fiscal year.
Or send a check to
SBC&HS
P. O. Box 504
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Membership levels:
\$25 individual
\$30 family
\$100 business
\$500 lifetime



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Historian, Museum Curator.....Lisa Montes
Newsletter.....Kathleen Drummond
Nominations.....JoJo Dodson Bogard
Parliamentarian.....Carol Childs
Programs.....Carol Childs
Scrapbooks.....Nancy Gottfredson
SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond
Website.....Lenore Dale, Kathleen Drummond

Civic Action Section — Get savvy about pending legislation

Proposed State Bills Would Allow Additional Units in Single Family Zones, Return Housing Oversight to Coastal Commission

[Excerpts from the City of Solana Beach's recent eBlast]

Among the many bills currently being considered this year by the California State Legislature . . . are several focused on creating more housing statewide while streamlining the review process and limiting local discretionary authority for approval. Two are authored by local elected lawmakers:

SB 9 – The California Housing Opportunity & More Efficiency Act, authored by Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore and Representative of Senate District 39 (which includes Solana Beach)

If passed, SB 9 would allow, through approval of a ministerial permit, single-family zoned lots to be subdivided into two lots, each of which could have at least two units. SB 9 is intended to streamline the process to create a duplex or two units on a single-family residential lot and also to allow the subdivision of single-family residential lots into two separate lots, each of which would allow two units. As such, SB 9 would allow at least 4 dwelling units on a single-family residentially-zoned lot; as currently drafted, it could also allow an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) and a junior accessory dwelling unit (JADU) for each of the primary units (up to six units total). The bill also would allow side and rear yard setbacks to be reduced to no more than four feet. The streamlining provisions of SB 9 would allow permits for both the residential units and the subdivision to be approved by the City ministerially, without discretionary review or a public hearing (i.e., “by right”). Additionally, no parking would be required for such development if it is located within ½ mile walking distance of a high-quality transit corridor or a major transit stop.

Proponents of SB 9 believe the bill will increase the supply of housing in California, expand revenue for homeowners and increase housing access to those who might otherwise be priced out of renting or owning a house. Opponents of SB 9 believe it will not contribute to affordable or even moderately-priced housing, particularly in communities with high land values and housing costs, that it will destabilize single-family residential neighborhoods by increasing density and decreasing available on-street parking, that local discretion over community character and/or view impairment would be lost and that the bill could be abused by profit-seeking developers.

Sen. Atkins has proposed several other bills which can be found at [this link](#). To provide comment, click [here](#) or call (619) 645-3133 or (916) 651-4039.



Federal Legislation Addresses Monarch Butterfly Concerns

Two proposed federal bills could help monarchs locally and across the United States.

- **The Monarch Action, Recovery, and Conservation of Habitat Act of 2021 or the “Monarch Act of 2021”** would provide funding for habitat restoration, specifically for the Western monarch.
- **The Monarch and Pollinator Highways Act**, would establish a program to provide grants to carry out activities on roadsides and highway rights-of-way to benefit monarchs and other pollinators.

To comment on federal legislation, contact Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Alex Padilla, and/or Congressman Mike Levin. Contact information is on the following page.

Cindi Clemons, Civic Affairs Chair

Civic Affairs Section, continued***AB 500 – ADU & Supportive Housing Development in the Coastal Zone, authored by Chris Ward, Assembly member of the 78th District (which includes Solana Beach)***

If passed, AB 500 would return housing program and policy authority to the Coastal Commission. AB 500 would require local cities lying entirely or partially within the coastal zone to amend their Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) or certified Land Use Plans (LUPs) by January 1, 2024, to specify streamlined permit procedures for the approval of ADUs, JADUs and supportive housing projects (affordable housing with on-site support “wrap-around” services). Per existing state ADU law, all cities including Solana Beach must already streamline approval of ADUs and JADUs. Under AB 500, coastal cities would also have to include provisions in their required LCP Amendments to allow for coastal development permit waivers or exemptions for ADUs, JADUs and supportive housing projects. Currently, existing state law provides that a certified LCP is not required to include housing policies and programs. AB 500 would repeal that provision of state law and return statutory authority over housing policies and programs to the Coastal Commission.

Proponents of AB 500 argue that California must remove unnecessary barriers for ADUs and supportive housing projects along the coast and that ADUs and JADUs provide lower cost housing opportunities in coastal communities. Opponents believe that returning authority for housing policy and programs to the Coastal Commission shifts their priority away from coastal-dependent uses, will unnecessarily duplicate the role of local government and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) which already provides oversight for both ADUs and affordable housing through the Housing Element process, will not provide for affordable housing and/or ADUs in many coastal areas and will replicate the State’s ... existing ADU permit streamlining provisions

Assembly member Ward has proposed other legislation which can be found at [this link](#). If you would like to comment on AB 500 or any of his other proposed legislation, click [here](#) or call (619) 645-3090 or (916) 319-2078.

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