



YEAR OF IMPACT REPORT



2022

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TO OUR COMMUNITY,

When I took office nearly two years ago, I vowed to work hard to make sure that government works for all and not just some. As I wrap up this second year of service as your Supervisor, I reflect on the amazing progress we have made together to improve the lives of the residents in San Diego County.

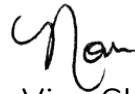
I want to thank you for working with me over the past year and collaborating in unison so that our communities are on the road to recovery. We are living in unique and challenging times, yet together we have found ways of moving our community forward. From addressing long-standing impacts on the environment, to making key investments in infrastructure, and advocating fiercely around social issues affecting our residents -- I could not be more proud.

We have intentionally invested in communities that have been disproportionately impacted and under-resourced for far too long. We've created policies through an equity lens and prioritized solutions that remove barriers and expand access to mental health, literacy, housing, transportation, youth opportunities, and more.

I am grateful for my dedicated team, whom you know as the District 1 Equity Squad, and who show up every day with a strong commitment to meeting the needs of our district and the community. I also appreciate the work our amazing county staff does to ensure residents across our county have the resources and services they need to thrive, not just survive.

I am proud to share the 2022 Year of Impact Report, which includes many of our accomplishments and advancements in District 1 and beyond. Many of these have been made possible thanks to the great partnerships we've built. Thank you for helping me build healthier and stronger communities.

In Service,



Vice Chair Nora Vargas
San Diego County Supervisor, District 1



Creating A Climate Justice Roadmap For San Diego County

As the Governor's appointee to the California Air Resources Board and as Chair of the Air Pollution Control District, I continue to lead the fight for environmental and climate justice locally and statewide, with a unique, binational lens. From much-needed investments to bringing national attention to the issues impacting our region, we have met and exceeded the bold climate goals we set for 2022.



Investments Secured to Improve our Environment

\$890,000

Awarded to 3 San Diego agencies to advance clean air projects in our region

\$2.7 million

APCD grant to the Port of San Diego to support infrastructure for an All-Electric Crane

\$300,000

Transformative Climate Communities Program grant to help address public and environmental health issues in Spring Valley.

Accomplishments

- Launched Portside Air Quality Improvement and Relief Program (PAIR), providing more than 500 households with a new air purifier and indoor air monitor to improve air quality in their homes.
- Led effort to have San Diego County divest from fossil fuels.
- Elevated board actions to promote green jobs training as a key component to tackling the climate crisis as part of our Decarbonization Framework.
- Hosted historic Clean Air Day Chat, convening state and regional leaders to discuss the work being done to ensure that clean air is possible in frontline communities.
- Launched state-of-the-art beach water testing technology to detect pollution at county beaches and protect the health of residents and visitors.
- Uplifted the Tijuana River Valley at NACo (National Association of Counties) resulting in the passage of a resolution for NACo to include in its legislative advocacy efforts.
- Welcomed former CAL EPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld to tour the Tijuana River Valley area to advocate for additional monies to address infrastructure needs.
- Joined EPA, USIBWC, and government leaders from Mexico for the Minute 328 signing - a framework to address the flows of transborder pollution with a \$330 million investment from the U.S. government and \$144 million investment from the Mexican government.

Championing Housing For All

As the safety net for our communities, the County has a key role in keeping our unhoused neighbors safe and ensure that residents and families in our region are protected and are able to stay in their homes. This year we have taken an innovative, public health approach to Housing and Homelessness - from protecting tenants, prevention, preservation and production - all from an equity lens.



On October 3rd, 2022, my colleagues on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and I joined City of San Diego elected leaders for a historic joint County-City Housing Summit to address the housing crisis impacting our communities.

Investing in Preventing Homelessness and Keeping our Neighbors Housed

\$243.8 million

Rental relief for 23,415 households

\$4 million

Security deposit assistance for renters

\$3 million

To support unsheltered seniors

\$10 million

For cities to assist with creation of shelters

\$890,000

Assistance for small landlords distributed specifically in District 1.

\$1.6 million

Eviction Prevention: tenant support, landlord mediation, conflict resolution

\$5 million

Support for LGBTQ+ individuals experiencing homelessness

Accomplishments

- Declared Homelessness a Public Health Crisis in San Diego County to allocate more resources and provide urgent relief for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- Championed CARE Court which will provide vital care and support for unsheltered residents that are experiencing mental health crises and help place them into permanent housing and receive the healthcare they need. San Diego County will be among the first in the State to receive \$5.6 million in funding to start implementing this initiative.
- During a historic housing summit, approved a resolution together with the City of San Diego to expand the affordable housing supply by 10,000 homes using government land by 2030.
- Passed a policy to compensate county staff participating in the Point in Time Count initiative to assess unsheltered resident numbers.
- Secured \$1.5 million to support innovative community land trust models to expand ownership opportunities.
- Co-sponsored policy to invest in housing opportunities for our middle-income workforce.
- Passed policy to purchase sleeping cabins/sprung shelters for use by partner organizations to shelter our region's homeless population.
- Supported shallow subsidies of \$500 for seniors 55 and older and at risk of homelessness.

Creating A Path To Economic Prosperity

With the adoption of a \$7.35 billion budget for FY 22/23, we continue to place equity at the forefront so that everyone, especially those most impacted are able to thrive, and not just survive. We are at a moment in time, where the County of San Diego is creating a community-centered approach to build a pathway of opportunities, that will allow us to keep advancing policies that uplift our families, our small businesses, and all our communities.



In partnership with CA Housing Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramirez, I hosted a salon discussion to analyze the current state of housing and promote solutions that help remove barriers for Latinas to financially thrive and establish generational wealth.

Building Homes, Building Wealth



California Housing Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramirez and I welcomed visionary leaders for a salon discussion, where expert panelists discussed challenges around the housing shortage, affordability, and obstacles to owning a home. Together, we identified potential policies to break down barriers to building homes.



Childcare is Key to Economic Recovery



The first childcare conference hosted by the County of San Diego brought together members from the community, nonprofit organizations, and experts to provide testimony on the state of childcare. With that feedback, we are developing and prioritizing a Blueprint for childcare, where we can innovate and invest in childcare infrastructure and workforce as the foundation to rebuild our economy.

Breaking Down Barriers To Greater Health Equity

As a longtime healthcare advocate, the health and well-being of our residents are among my top priorities. To create greater access to healthcare for our community, I strongly advocated for resources and continued removing barriers so that our community had access to vaccines, services, and information necessary to keep our residents healthy and thriving.



Highlights

Community Engagement Snapshot

284 Community Meetings & Events

411 Constituent Cases Assisted

16 Town Halls

10 Appointments to Boards & Commissions

1176 Certificates & Proclamations

Youth Mental Health

\$30 million

Secured in funding to support the Screening to Care Initiative to address mental health treatment needs for middle school students. The initiative will implement a universal screening tool for middle school children to help create connections to care, prior to high school.

Promotoras in the Community

12

Community Health Worker positions were added to 1) provide support for public health education and health promotion programs, 2) facilitate access to services, and 3) improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery within the community.

Medi-CAL expansion for undocumented seniors 55+

3,064

People have enrolled in Medi-CAL since I introduced a Board Letter calling for additional outreach to ensure our communities had access to enrollment, As of October 2022, there was a total of 13,265 undocumented seniors enrolled in Medi-CAL.

Fight For Reproductive Justice

In the face of unprecedented attacks on reproductive freedoms across the country, I was proud to lead efforts in San Diego County to be the first jurisdiction in the nation to declare itself a Champion for Reproductive Freedom. With that intentionality, our county moved forward to strengthen access to reproductive healthcare and supported state and federal efforts to protect reproductive rights.



Welcomed two of California's leading reproductive justice advocates, Jodi Hicks & Darrah Johnson, and inspirational spoken word poet, organizer, and activist Julie Corrales for a reproductive justice symposium that brought together critical community networks to learn, share, inform and mobilize.



Accomplishments

- Successfully passed policy to strengthen access to reproductive health care in San Diego County.
- Led regional support for SCA 10, with 36 local elected officials signing on to a support letter calling on the California Legislature to enshrine abortion in the state constitution.
- Together with California Attorney General Rob Bonta, we issued a consumer alert regarding the dangers of Crisis Pregnancy Centers in SD.
- Proudly hosted Roe V. Wade-What Happens Next Symposium, bringing together critical networks - youth, binational partners, family members, activists & supporters to learn, share, inform & mobilize, proving everyone has a place in the reproductive justice movement.
- Jointly passed a resolution in support of the My Body, My Data Act, introduced in Congress by Congresswoman Sara Jacobs, to ensure people's reproductive health data is protected.

Elevating Our Binational Power

The binational region continues to be a vibrant and promising catalyst for economic prosperity, locally and nationally. Through strong advocacy and collaboration, we have strengthened our partnerships with our counterparts across the border and advanced environmental and infrastructure projects that will improve the collective lives of hundreds of thousands of residents in the binational region.



Breaking ground on the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry was a huge step forward for our county, our binational region, the State of California and our country. The project is a great example of our binational collaboration and proof that great things can happen when we work together. The opening to this new gateway to the Golden State is anticipated for late 2024.



Accomplishments

- Adopted a resolution via SANDAG for a toll revenue agreement between the USA & Mexico, to bring an equitable split in revenue between the two countries to help advance the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry. Additionally, I was proud to join SANDAG in Mexico City for the official signing of the revenue-sharing agreement.
- Convened regional elected and government officials from both sides of the border, industry leaders, community and business advocates, as well as representatives from the California Air Resources Board for the first-ever binational roundtable discussion to address concerns regarding the transition to zero-emission fleets.
- **Broke ground on the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, which will reduce border wait times by 50%, advance cross-border commerce, enhance regional mobility, and facilitate job growth. I look forward to 2024 to open this new gateway to the Golden State.**
- Elevated our binational region's priorities at the 2022 NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, including significant investments to Otay Mesa East Port of Entry, Tijuana River Valley, and environmental justice.

Safer, Stronger, and Resilient Communities

As policymakers, it is our responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of the families and children in our communities. Through partnerships with public safety groups, we have advanced efforts to mitigate some of the most pressing safety issues affecting our residents today. We have invested in initiatives that prevent crime, provide support to victims, and strengthen our community.



It was my pleasure to welcome residents of La Presa, one of the newest communities in District 1, for a town hall meeting which provided the opportunity to share my priorities and listen to some of the concerns and issues impacting the residents of this community. Thanks to everyone that joined and expressed their concerns.

Combating Human Trafficking



To ensure survivors and their families have access to resources, services, and the support they need, we successfully introduced a resolution to strengthen our county's education efforts, including a peer support navigator program, to prevent human trafficking. We will continue to work with community partners and providers to ensure we put an end to human trafficking in our region once and for all.



Declaration of Illicit Fentanyl as a Public Health Crisis



With the public health crisis declaration, we further our commitment to working with parents, our schools, community organizations, and others to ensure people know the dangers of illicit fentanyl and I'll continue to work with the DA's office to address this crisis.

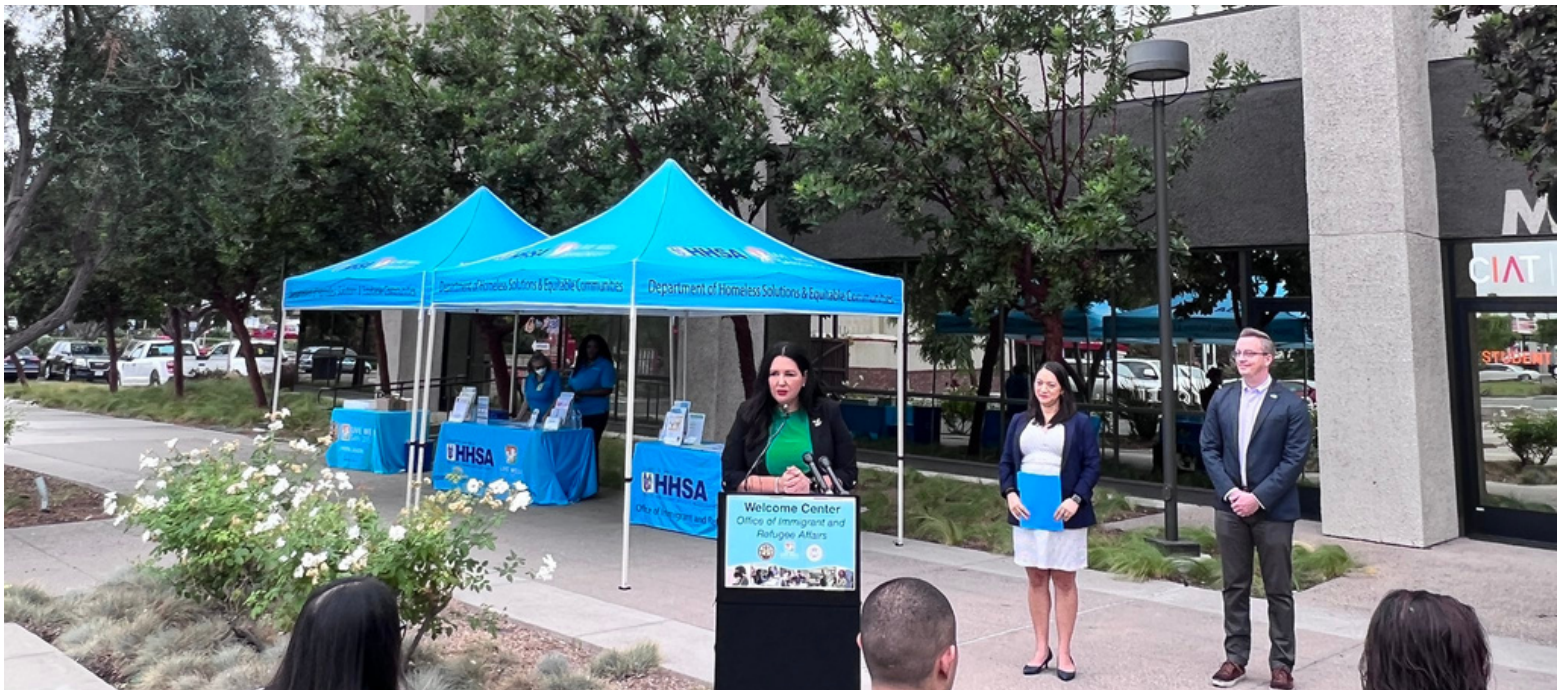
A Welcoming County

Throughout history, San Diego has proven to be a welcoming community and as a County, we are committed to making sure that every resident, no matter their background or country of origin, has the services, resources, and information to fully integrate and contribute to the community.

I have led this effort by advocating for the establishment of a first-of-its-kind central hub for our immigrant and refugee community in San Diego County, as well as supporting programs that ensure quality legal representation is available to immigrants facing removal.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and I were joined by community partners for a powerful roundtable to uplift issues impacting our binational region, including mental health, immigration, access to health, housing & nutrition.



Accomplishments

- Welcomed Lucero Chavez Basilio to lead the County Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, an initiative that I proudly brought forth and was approved last year.
- Opened the first-of-its-kind “Welcome Center”, a dedicated one-stop shop/resource hub to help remove barriers and uplift our immigrant and refugee communities.
- Welcomed United States Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra to San Diego County for a tour of our new Welcome Center for Immigrants and Refugees. Following the tour, community partners joined for a powerful roundtable to uplift issues impacting our region including mental health, immigration & nutrition.

District Highlights

From my days on the campaign trail to now, I continue to hear our community members loud and clear about some of the most pressing needs around the district and county. I am committed to addressing issues of safety, infrastructure, accessible transportation for youth and more, to advance our community's resilience.



Rolling Up Our Sleeves

Together with Bonita residents and members of the Sweetwater Civic Association and Sweetwater Planning Group, we held an installation ceremony of a 4-way stop sign at Jonel Way/Bonita Meadows/Proctor Valley Road, a concern they've advocated for years.

Bayshore Bikeway Advances

Broke ground on the Barrio Logan segment of the Bayshore Bikeway, This project brings mobility options, opportunities to meet our climate goals, as well as tremendous health benefits to a community that has been historically under-resourced.



District Highlights



Green Spaces For Our Families Are Our Priority

This year we opened Idica Park to expand access to recreational activities in the community of Spring Valley. The new half-acre park includes shaded picnic and play areas, exercise equipment, a community garden, and parking. This is the 13th park built in the County within the last 3 years. With this recent opening, we have invested a total of \$33 million in capital improvements this year, and I remain committed to expanding access to green spaces and opportunities for recreation.

Committed To Supporting Our First Responders

Broke ground on Fire Station 38 in East Otay Mesa. The station will ensure we meet the needs of a growing region and will be the 1st Zero Net Energy Fire Station in the county - helping us meet our climate goals while protecting our families and community. Construction is anticipated to be completed within one year.



Increasing Access To Literacy

As part of our Little Free Libraries Initiative, this year I was proud to bring community together at Smythe Elementary to unveil the 1st of 10 “Little Free Libraries” through the San Ysidro School District. These Little Free Libraries expand access to literacy for children and families in each community. With the recent installation in San Ysidro, the county has now installed 40 little libraries with about 13,000 books in the entire region.

Countywide Accomplishments



Arts & Culture

After 30 years, I was proud to champion San Diego County's first Arts & Culture Commission. We will now have an entity that can manage funding and support arts and culture activities in the region.

Free Transit For Youth 18 And Under

After advocating and successfully allocating \$1.5 million in County resources to support SANDAG's Youth Opportunity Pass Pilot Program, I joined community members to kick off the program in April 2022. The program provides free transit for youth 18 & under in SD County. Since its launch, there has been a 92 percent increase in overall youth ridership.



Operation Dress Code

For the second consecutive year, I was proud to support Operation Dress Code and their efforts to empower women veterans by providing them with the professional attire they need to successfully transition to civilian careers. **This year thanks to donations, the Operation Dress Code pop-up boutique was able to assist 500 service women.**

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

\$1.16 million

Through the Community Enhancement Program we funded cultural activities, museums, visitor and convention bureaus, economic development councils, and other similar institutions/organizations, including programs and projects, which promote and generate tourism and/or economic development within San Diego County.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT GRANTS

\$2.25 million

Through the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program, we provided grant funds for one-time community, social, environmental, educational, cultural or recreational needs. Our office ensures that the values of our district - building healthier and stronger communities - are reflective in the allocation of grant funding.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

\$1.6 million

Awarded for a total of 78 grants to provide much needed support to small businesses in District 1. The grant funding provides economic assistance to help businesses and nonprofit entities impacted by COVID-19

AWARDS BY CITY & INDUSTRY

City:

- Bonita- \$110,000
- Chula Vista- \$ 622,130
- Imperial Beach- \$73,952
- National City- \$ 224,500
- San Diego- \$ 518,237
- San Ysidro- \$15,700
- Spring Valley- \$24,471

Top Industry:

- Health & Wellness
- Childcare
- Leisure & Hospitality

A LOOK AHEAD TO EQUITY IN ACTION AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

CLOSING THE GAP IN HEALTH EQUITY INDICATORS

- Greater services for Women, Seniors, Youth, and Children
 - Food sovereignty/healthy choices
 - Expand Live Well Initiatives

HOMELESSNESS

- Produce Housing for All & Preserve Housing for Vulnerable Populations
- Expand access to mental health services for those experiencing homelessness
 - Prevent Displacement & Protect Tenants
 - Promote Equity, Inclusion and Sustainability

HOUSING SOLUTIONS

- Rental and Inflation Protection to protect working families
- Invest in the creation of affordable housing and middle-income housing
 - Innovative Housing Solutions - Community Land Trust Support
- Expand Generational Wealth Opportunities through Home Ownership

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Expand Youth Opportunity passes to 24 years of age and younger
- Advocate for Funding for our Environmental Justice Communities
- Expand Parks and Green Spaces: TJRV Sports Complex, Regional Park Investments
 - Advance the completion of the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry
 - Tijuana River Valley Infrastructure Projects

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- Workforce Development: Career Readiness, Green Jobs, Youth Talent Pipeline
 - Border Economic Zones
- Childcare for All, Support for Childcare Providers
 - Expand Microbusinesses
 - Diversity in Procurement

A COUNTY FOR THE FUTURE

- Invest in our County workforce: Training, Compensation
- Make our county more efficient by reducing red tape
 - Improve the County's technology

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Completion of East Otay Mesa Fire Station
- Expansion of South Bay Family Justice Center
- Gun Violence Prevention and the Creation of a Gun Safety Committee
 - Community Paramedicine
 - Fire Camp for Youth

WE GOT YOU! THE D1 EQUITY SQUAD





Address:

County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335
San Diego, CA, 92101

Office:

619.531.5511

To meet with Supervisor Vargas, email:
District1scheduling@sdcounty.ca.gov

To request support with an issue, email:
District1community@sdcounty.ca.gov

Website:

www.SupervisorNoraVargas.com