



Media Relations Recap – March-May 2020

Media Hits:

March 2020

- Channel 12 Televisa, “SCEDC ofrece préstamos de \$5000 dolares sin intereses a restaurantes del sur de San Diego que se han visto afectados por el COVID-19” March 20, 2020
- The Daily Transcript, “South County EDC providing loans to hard hit restaurants” March 20, 2020
- San Diego Business Journal, “COVID-19” March 23, 2020
- San Diego Union Tribune, “More than 60 percent of San Diego County restaurants have completely closed” March 23, 2020
- PB Monthly, “Coronavirus Consequences: More than half of San Diego County restaurants have completely closed, industry leaders say” March 23, 2020
- Voice of San Diego, “Morning Report: Which Governments Are Ready” March 24, 2020
- Times of San Diego, “San Diego County Coronavirus Developments on Tuesday, March 24” March 24, 2020
- CBS8/KFMB “News 8 at 11 PM” March 24, 2020
- CBS8, “Feeding love to San Diego County restaurants” March 25, 2020
- SD Metro, “Daily Business Report- March 25, 2020” March 25, 2020
- Coronado News, “South County EDC Announces \$5K Loans At 0% Interest Rate to Restaurants” March 25, 2020
- San Diego Business Journal, “Message from EDC President and CEO Mark Cafferty” March 29, 2020
- San Diego Business Journal, “Organizations Offer Businesses Time, Money” March 29, 2020
- Coronado Times, “City of Coronado Projects Millions in Lost Tax Revenue” March 31, 2020

April 2020

- San Diego Union Tribune, “South County/East County COVID information, April 2” April 2, 2020
- Nav, “State and Local COVID-19 Resources” April 2, 2020

- Coronado Eagle & Journal, “Relief Options Available For Coronado Small Businesses” April 6, 2020

May 2020

- San Diego Business Journal “South County EDC Names New CEO President” May 6, 2020
- San Diego Metro “James O’Callaghan takes helm of South County Economic Development Council” May 6, 2020
- The Star News “City Sets 90-Day Plan” May 8, 2020
- Filipino Press, “SCEDC Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President.” May 9, 2020
- Newswire, “South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President” May 11, 2020
- Economy Watch, “South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President” May 11, 2020
- San Diego Union Tribune Market Watch, “South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President” May 11, 2020
- KUSI, “South County Economic Development Council names new CEO, Jim O’Callaghan” May 12, 2020
- The Daily Transcript, “South County EDC Gets New Leadership” May 12, 2020
- News Break, “South County Economic Development Council names new CEO, Jim O’Callaghan” May 12, 2020
- San Diego Union Tribune, “South County Economic Development Council selects new CEO in 15 years” May 13, 2020
- The Star News, “Working Together Brings Success” May 22, 2020
- The Star News, “Young volunteers rise to the challenge of helping community” May 29, 2020
- KUSI, “South County Economic Development Council names new CEO, Jim O’Callaghan” May 27, 2020

Upcoming:

- San Diego Business Journal interview – June
- Channel 12 Televisa interview – June

Channel 12 Televisa, "SCEDC ofrece préstamos de \$5000 dolares sin intereses a restaurantes del sur de San Diego que se han visto afectados por el covid-19" March 20, 2020



**SCEDC OFRECE PRÉSTAMOS DE \$5000 DOLARES
SIN INTERESES A RESTAURANTES DEL SUR DE SAN
DIEGO QUE SE HAN VISTO AFECTADOS POR EL
COVID-19**

<http://xewt12.com/scedc-ofrece-prestamos-5000-dolares-sin-intereses-a-restaurantes-se-han-visto-afectados-covid-19/>

San Diego, 20 de marzo, 2020. – South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) anunció que proveerá un préstamo de \$5000 dlls sin pagos mensuales y 0% de intereses a restaurantes elegibles del Sur del Condado de San Diego como medida de alivio económico en medio de la pandemia COVID-19. El total del pago del préstamo tendrá que ser cubierto hasta el 1ero de Abril, 2021. Se anticipa que solo se daran 50 préstamos.

Esta pequeña infusión de fondos intenta apoyar a los restaurantes pequeños del Sur del Condado para que puedan mantenerse abiertos y seguir proveyendo comida durante esta emergencia nacional. SCEDC quiere invertir en los restaurantes pequeños e independientes que son una gran parte de nuestra economía en la región con un presupuesto proyectado de \$250,000 dlls en préstamos.

Los préstamos no tendrán cuota por aplicar o penalidad de pre-pagos. Además, en lineamiento con el gobierno y la guía oficial de salud (para que no se tenga interacción cara a cara) el proceso de aplicación será conducido únicamente por medio de la página de internet de SCEDC. Las aplicaciones están disponibles para descarga y poder enviarse en línea, los cheques serán enviados por correo a los negocios aprobados para limitar el contacto personal y siguiendo las recomendaciones de "distancia social".

"Como organización de desarrollo económico, SCEDC siempre prioriza la salud económica y el bienestar de los negocios del Sur del Condado y sus comunidades", dice Cindy Gompper-Graves, CEO y Presidente de SCEDC. "En un esfuerzo por apoyar negocios a través de esta desafiante situación, SCEDC espera proveer algún alivio económico para restaurantes que esperan interrupciones. Estamos aquí para invertir en los pequeños negocios que representan la fábrica de nuestra economía."

Para descargar la aplicación y ver la lista de requisitos y criteria para elegibilidad de prestamo, visite www.SouthCountyEDC.com y haga click en la pestaña de Coronavirus en el homepage.

###

The Daily Transcript, "South County EDC providing loans to hard hit restaurants" March 20, 2020

<https://www.sdtranscript.com/subscriber/sdtstory.cfm?sdtid=984584> (only accessible to The Daily Transcript online subscribers)

The Daily Transcript

www.sdtranscript.com

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AND COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2652 Fourth Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Diego, CA 92103 • (619)232-3486 • notices@sdtranscript.com • Vol. 135, No. 55 • Since 1882 • \$3 • Friday, March 20, 2020

Faulconer outlines \$4M in economic relief

Daily Transcript Staff Report

San Diego city officials unveiled a \$4 million economic relief package Wednesday that reduces fees, provides certainty and offers support to local employers affected by the global pandemic known as COVID-19.

"Businesses are following public health orders, and we recognize this has an impact," Mayor Kevin Faulconer said in a statement. "This relief effort is about restoring some balance to the current situation."

"San Diego businesses are making a necessary sacrifice while bearing a tremendous burden as they comply with these orders. We're taking aggressive action today to help them stay afloat and continue to pay as many employees as possible."

The new programs include a tax certificate deferral program and an extension of all business permits. The relief package also calls for a suspension of water filling fees for business owners, and a removal of penalties for late payments, ensuring there are no commercial

account shutoffs.

"As chair of the city's economic development committee and a former small business owner, I feel that it is imperative we, as a city, take a holistic approach to ensure there is minimal impact to our regional economy," City Councilman Chris Cate said. "This economic relief package is without-a-doubt, a step in the right direction. It will protect both employees and employers not only today, but tomorrow, and days to come."

The commercial utility program mirrors previous relief efforts provided to San Diego families struggling to make payments.

The tax certificate deferral program will prevent business owners from being penalized for late renewal submissions for up to 120 days. It will include a one-year forgiveness period for business tax certificate penalties and surcharges when reestablishing delinquent accounts.

The proposed extension of all business permits will last for 180 days and can be stretched

See Page 6 — RELIEF

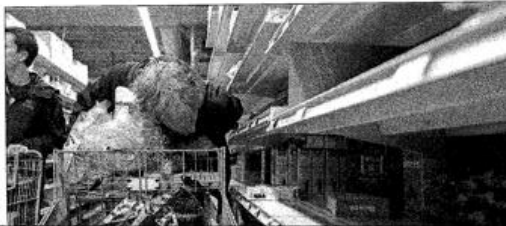
Proposals aim to help struggling workers stay afloat amid pandemic

By Jackie Botts
CalMatters

Donna Insalaco had to lay off 40 of the 45 employees at Pizzaiolo, her gourmet pizzeria in downtown Oakland, after sales fell through a "black hole."

"A lot of tears," Insalaco said, "All of us here live check-to-check."

Responding to a statewide call for restaurants to close their doors to dine-in customers, Pizzaiolo is now only offering pickup and delivery.



South County EDC providing loans to hard hit restaurants

Daily Transcript Staff Report

The South County Economic Development Council announced Wednesday it will provide a one-time \$5,000 loan with no monthly payments and zero percent interest to eligible restaurants in South County

See Page 6 — LOANS

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

THE COMMUNITY OF BUSINESS

MA 120

www.sdbj.com

San Diego Business Journal 9



COVID-19:

Result page 7

"We're calling as many as we can as quickly as we can. We want to know what they need so we can advocate for them," Sanders said.

Schools, Businesses Close

Over the past week, school districts across San Diego County have closed their doors in an effort to slow the virus's spread, and many businesses and organizations have shut down their offices, directing their employees to work from home when feasible. Sporting events have been cancelled, and gatherings of 50 or more people have been prohibited.

At the beginning of the week, county health officials announced a sweeping set of measures, including the closure of all bars, breweries and tasting rooms; an order that restaurants must close their dining rooms and only serve food for takeout or delivery; and a prohibition on visiting patients in hospitals or long-term care facilities. In addition, hospitals must postpone all elective surgeries. Those measures took effect on Tuesday, March 17, and will run through March 31.

As the crisis intensified over the past week, businesses in the tourism and hospitality industry were among the most immediate casualties, with some restaurants reporting their business down by 70 percent, and hotels in downtown San Diego with occupancy rates at 10 percent, officials said. Closures of such tourism stalwarts as SeaWorld, LEGOLAND California and the San Diego Zoo created ripple effects through the local economy.

Restaurants Among Hardest-Hit

Jeff Rossman, owner of two San Diego restaurants, Terra American Bistro near SDSU, and Bunz Burger Joint in Hotel Circle, said he's had to cut his staff by 60 percent due to the county's closure order and the drop in business as residents practice "social distancing."

Rossman, a chef and president of the San Diego chapter of the California Restaurant Association, said he was revamping his menu to eliminate items that require a lot of prep time, as well as items that don't travel well. He is also setting up an online ordering portal for customers and creating a family style menu in which entrees and sides are priced by the pound. He's also thinking of creating do-it-yourself pizza making kits and pre-packaged cookie dough that parents and children can make together.

Customers will have the choice of curbside pickup, coming inside to the bar area to get their orders, or delivery



Jeff Rossman

through services such as Grub Hub and Door Dash, Rossman said.

"We're doing it just to see if it works. If not, our next alternative is to close completely," Rossman said, noting that it's a two-way street — his restaurants can feed people who may have limited access to food during the crisis, and residents can support local businesses such as his. "We're trying to be socially responsible and stay in business."

The local chapter of the restaurant association on Tuesday sent out an email survey to its 1,000 San Diego members to find out if they are remaining open and if so, what services they are offering, Rossman said. The group plans to compile the information and put out a neighborhood guide to restaurants for the benefit of customers.

Rossman acknowledged the stress he's under as he works to keep the lights on at his businesses, which he has been operating for 27 years.

Getting the Job Done

"You put blood, sweat and tears into your business. And something comes along out of the control of everybody, it comes from out of nowhere and stuns the economy," he said.

Peter Zien, owner of AleSmith Brewing Co. near Miramar Road, said his revenue has been cut by at least 35 percent as restaurants and bars that serve his beer close. But he is still operating a drive-through service and selling packaged product to retailers, and has so far avoided staff layoffs.

"We're trying to keep staff motivated and jamming, people still need their beer," he said, during a teleconference hosted by the North San Diego Business Chamber on March 17.

"Right now is an opportunity for us to shine. It could turn out to be our finest hour so we are trying to stay motivated and strong," Zien said.

Organizations Rally in Support

As businesses do their part, a number of agencies and organizations are working together to disseminate information and help both businesses and workers cope with the coronavirus fallout.



Peter Zien

Among them is the San Diego Workforce Partnership, which has set up a hotline — at 619-228-2982 — that will be open during business hours Monday through Friday to answer questions from business owners and workers, said Andrew Picard, chief programs officer. The agency has also updated its website to include resources for businesses and workers.



Andrew Picard

“Right now we are trying to make sure people are aware of these resources and are taking advantage of them before taking drastic steps to reduce their workforce.”

ANDREW PICARD

One key resource, he said, is the Work Sharing Program, run by the state Employment Development Department. The program is aimed at helping businesses retain their workers, allowing them to cut their hours by up to 60 percent, with the employees able to receive unemployment benefits to make up for at least part of their lost wages. State disability and paid family leave benefits are also available to help workers, Picard said.

The Workforce Partnership can help businesses enroll in the Work Sharing Program, Picard said. Gov. Gavin Newsom has waived the normal one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits, and businesses can also request a 60-day extension for filing payroll taxes, Picard said.

"Right now we are trying to make sure people are aware of these resources and are taking advantage of them before taking drastic steps to reduce their workforce," Picard said.

Government agencies at all levels must do what they can to support businesses and workers during this crisis, Picard said. "We have every indication this is going to have profound impacts on our economy."

Another agency offering support to local companies is the U.S. Small Business Administration, which has an office in downtown San Diego.

The SBA offers disaster loans to businesses that have suffered economic injury as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, said Mike Sovacool, deputy district director of the agency's

San Diego office. The money can be used by businesses to cover operating costs until economic conditions improve.

Nationwide, the agency has \$50 billion to fund the loans, which can be made up to \$2 million, for a repayment term of up to 30 years. Interest rates range from 3.75% for businesses to 2.75% for non-profits, Sovacool said.

Businesses can apply for the loans online, or by calling a special hotline at 800-659-2955, Sovacool said. Applications take two to three weeks to process, and once all loan documents are signed, funds can be disbursed in 7 to 10 days.

Phone calls to the agency from business owners have spiked during the crisis, said Sovacool, with most of the callers calm but concerned in the face of the pandemic. But he said the SBA is staffed up and ready to handle the onslaught, as it has during past disasters, from hurricanes and floods to wildfires and mud slides.

"Providing disaster relief is something the SBA has done for a long, long time," Sovacool said. "The programs and process and expertise are in place."

Coalition Launches Response Fund

Also this week, a coalition of public agencies, nonprofits and companies announced a COVID-19 Community Response Fund, which had reached \$4 million by March 19, including a \$1 million donation from San Diego Gas & Electric. The San Diego Foundation will make grants to local nonprofits, which will in turn use the money for food assistance, rent and utility payments and gap funding for lost wages for San Diego County residents. Grants will also be made to struggling nonprofits.

SDG&E has announced it will not disconnect service for nonpayment, and will waive late fees for businesses, as well as set up flexible payment plans for customers struggling to pay their bills.

Cox Communications has announced similar measures, waiving data usage overage charges until May 15 as customers work and study from home, not terminating residential or small business customers for being unable to pay their bills during the crisis and waiving late fees.

On Wednesday, the South County Economic Development Council announced it will offer one-time \$5,000 loans with no monthly payments and zero percent interest to assist eligible restaurants in South County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Repayment will be due April 1, 2021, and a total of 50 loans will be provided. ■



Mike Sovacool



Gavin Newsom

The San Diego Union-Tribune

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/story/2020-03-23/industry-leaders-estimate-more-than-60-percent-of-county-restaurants-have-completely-closed>

60 PERCENT OF COUNTY'S RESTAURANTS COMPLETELY CLOSED, ASSOCIATION SAYS

Aid programs begun for owners, workers; donations requested

BY DAVID GARRICK

An estimated 60 percent of restaurants in San Diego County have chosen to close completely during the COVID-19 crisis, instead of continuing operations focused on takeout and deliveries, the California Restaurant Association said Monday.

To help affected employees of local eateries, the restaurant association has launched a "Restaurants Care" program that is accepting donations, including an initial \$100,000 from the owners of Skrewball Whiskey in Ocean Beach.

Meanwhile restaurants in South County are eligible for 50 loans of \$5,000 each under a new program announced Monday by the South County Economic Development Council.

Also county officials announced they have approved a six-month deferral of envi-

ronmental regulations. One positive has been loosened state regulations allowing restaurants to deliver beer, wine and cocktails during the pandemic to boost their revenue, he said.

Many restaurants also have had to increase their sanitizing efforts and implement new safety procedures to recognize social distancing.

"We're an extremely safe environment," Rossman said. "We are going to come out of this, but please, please help out your restaurants."

A list of restaurants offering takeout and delivery options during the crisis is available at sandiegorestaurantweek.com.

The association also has launched Restaurants Care, a program that aims to provide one-time support grants to restaurant employees facing hardships with gas, utilities, rent or other basic living needs.

"Please donate so we can say 'yes chef!' to all the deserving foodservice workers in dire need of help," says the new program's website, restfoundation.org/donate, today. For details, visit that

The \$5,000 loans from the South County Economic Development Council come with no monthly payments and no interest fees, and full repayment isn't required until April 1, 2021.

The small infusion of funds is intended to assist South County small restaurants to remain open and continue to provide meals, the council said in a news release.

The loans also have no application fees and no pre-payment penalties. Applications can be submitted online at SouthCountyEDC.com.

PB Monthly “Coronavirus Consequences: More than half of San Diego County restaurants have completely closed, industry leaders say” March 23, 2020



<https://www.pbmonthly.net/news/story/2020-03-23/san-diego-restaurants-closed>

Multiple aid programs are being launched for restaurants, their employees, other businesses

By DAVID GARRICK

MARCH 23, 2020 | 7:06 PM

SAN DIEGO — An estimated 60 percent of restaurants in San Diego County have chosen to close completely during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, instead of continuing operations focused on take-out and deliveries, the California Restaurant Association said March 23, 2020; ever since recent County and City regulations have banned restaurants from offering dine-in.

To help affected employees of local eateries, the restaurant association has launched a “Restaurants Care” program that is accepting donations, including an initial \$100,000 from the owners of Skrewball Whiskey in Ocean Beach.

Meanwhile restaurants in South County are eligible for 50 loans of \$5,000 each under a new program announced Monday by the South County Economic Development Council.

Also county officials announced they have approved a six-month deferral of environmental health permit fees for restaurants. The annual fees range from \$753 to \$1,930 depending on the size of the restaurant.

County officials have also asked their staff to explore ways to clear any barriers to re-opening that some restaurants might face once that becomes possible.

The Restaurant Association efforts and the new county initiatives were announced at a joint downtown news conference that also featured leaders from several other local organizations.

The San Diego Food Bank announced it is stepping up its deliveries and drop-offs to those who can't afford restaurants or groceries. The Food Bank also is seeking more volunteers and donations during the pandemic.

City of San Diego officials said they are continuing to implement a \$4 million economic relief package that will include small business loans, fee deferrals and extensions of building permits.

And the North San Diego Business Chamber is providing daily updates at sdbusinesschamber.com with helpful resources, including links to the United Way and disaster loan programs from the Small Business Administration.

Restaurant closures and the impact on their employees were the primary focus of the 30-minute news conference, which was held March 23 at the County Administration Center on Pacific Highway.

"We are estimating that about 60 percent of all of our restaurants have closed," said Jeff Rossman, president of the local chapter of the California Restaurant Association. "You can imagine how many thousands and thousands of employees have been affected."

Rossman said many restaurants have had to transform themselves overnight into businesses focused on takeout and deliveries, instead of serving customers who eat in. Some have added new menu items, such as bake-at-home pizza, he said.

One positive has been loosened state regulations allowing restaurants to deliver beer, wine and cocktails during the pandemic to boost their revenue, he said.

Many restaurants also have had to increase their sanitizing efforts and implement new safety procedures to recognize social distancing.

"We're an extremely safe environment," Rossman said. "We are going to come out of this, but please, please help out your restaurants."

The website sandiegorestaurantweek.com has a list of restaurants offering take-out and delivery options during the crisis.

The association also has launched a "restaurants care" program that aims to provide one-time support grants to restaurant employees facing hardships with gas, utilities,

“Please donate so we can say ‘yes chef!’ to all the deserving foodservice workers in dire need of help,” says the new program’s website calrestfoundation.org/donate-today and for details, visit that site or text “restaurant” to 91999.

The \$5,000 loans from the South County Economic Development Council come with no monthly payments and no interest fees, and full repayment isn’t required until April 1, 2021.

The small infusion of funds is intended to assist South County small restaurants to remain open and continue to provide meals, the council said in a news release.

The loans also have no application fees and no pre-payment penalties. Applications can be submitted online at southcountyedc.com

Meanwhile, San Diego Food Bank president Jim Floros said his organization is ramping up its efforts.

“Our programs will continue during this crisis — there’s enough food,” he said. “The infrastructure is there; the distribution model is there; the supply chain is there.”

The bank has delivered 400,000 pounds of food to its 500 nonprofit partners during the last four days, Floros said. There have been 275 distributions since the March 12 state of emergency declaration in California, he said, and another 100 distributions are planned for this week. For details, visit sdfoodbank.org or call (800) 350-3663.

Phil Pace, owner of Phil’s BBQ, said at the March 23 news conference that many restaurants are focused on remaining prepared to re-open when that becomes possible.

“Being in the restaurant business, you have to have answers all the time, and they’ve got to be quick,” Pace said.

County Supervisor Jim Desmond offered similar sentiments. “When this health order is lifted, we must quickly get people back to work, our businesses open and our economy back to thriving,” Desmond said. “While we’re still in the midst of this coronavirus storm, we must plan for the best out of a bad experience.”

VOICE of SAN DIEGO

<https://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/news/morning-report-which-governments-are-ready/>

Morning Report: Which Governments Are Ready



Voice of San Diego
March 24, 2020



Mayor Kevin Faulconer announced the city's plan to turn Golden Hall into a temporary homeless shelter with more than 240 beds in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus. / Photo by Adriana Heldiz

We're in the midst of two simultaneous crises: a public health crisis, and an economic one.

In a new analysis, VOSD's Ashly McGlone reviewed several local governments' and agencies' budgets to determine [which ones are better positioned to weather the financial storm ahead](#).

"Governments heavily reliant on tax revenues that ebb and flow with consumers are especially vulnerable this year to losses following mass shelter-at-home quarantine orders," McGlone writes. "Stop the consumers and tourists, and you will see wild drops in cash flow."

Some school districts, like Sweetwater Union High School District and San Diego Unified, for instance, were facing budget distress even before the pandemic hit.

STAY UP TO DATE



Our daily roundup of San Diego's most important stories (Monday-Friday)

HELP US RAISE \$150K!

Support local journalism today

\$ 15

Monthly

DONATE



VOICE of SAN DIEGO
UNVEILING THE UNSEEN SINCE 2005

34 %

Help us
raise \$150K
for crisis
coverage



The city of San Diego announced Monday that one of the economic engines it's always touted, the San Diego Convention Center, [will soon open its doors to homeless residents](#). Golden Hall will add 240 beds or more as well as officials work to protect vulnerable San Diegans from the spread of the coronavirus.

- More than 60 percent of [restaurants in the county have shuttered](#), the California Restaurant Association said Monday, as it asked for donations to a new "Restaurant Cares" fund to help local restaurant industry employees. The South County Economic Development Council, meanwhile has 50 loans of \$5,000 each available for struggling restaurants there. (Union-Tribune)
- Businesses that lease space from the Port of San Diego — mostly waterfront restaurants and hotels — are [asking the public agency to waive their rent for 90 days](#) due to the economic effects of the pandemic. But the agency itself is already looking at a \$30 million shortfall from its anticipated \$214 million in revenue for the year even before it considers waiving any rent. (Union-Tribune)
- Assemblyman Todd Gloria said that, normally, the state receives 2,000 unemployment claims per day. It is now getting 107,000 claims per day, he said during a conference call town hall the mayor put on with other local elected leaders.

So ... What Can You Do Outdoors Now?

Mayor Kevin Faulconer also [announced further measures to crack down on outdoor gatherings](#), including closures of public beaches and parks. A spokesman later confirmed that means no surfing.

That's what it's come to: The mayor of San Diego just banned surfing.

We have yet to see how intensely this will be enforced. Police told Jesse Marx in that story they would give people some time to adjust.

Behind the New Border Restrictions

For a region that has long preached the importance of keeping the border as open and efficient as possible, the new travel restrictions put in place to stem the spread of the coronavirus are a tough pill to swallow.

Behind the New Border Restrictions

For a region that has long preached the importance of keeping the border as open and efficient as possible, the new travel restrictions put in place to stem the spread of the coronavirus are a tough pill to swallow.

“Our whole mission has been to promote cross-border activity, keep the border open at all costs because that is critical to our well-being, our lifeblood,” the Chamber of Commerce’s Paola Avila told VOSD’s Maya Srikrishnan. “This is unprecedented, the situation that we’re in — none of us could have predicted the severity of it. We’re at a point now where we have to take drastic measures, like these restrictions, for the greater good.”

[The latest Border Report breaks down the details of those restrictions](#): “Commercial goods arriving via rail and truck are exempt, as are “essential” personnel, lawful permanent residents and those with legal work permits. Essential travel includes people in need of medical care, or who are attending school or engaged in a trade, like truck drivers, according to a [regulation notice set to be published](#) Tuesday.”

In Other News

What other news??? Not a single issue in San Diego public affairs the economy or cultural life is not inflamed and adjusted by the coronavirus.

Scott Lewis has been doing an (almost) daily Instagram live video at 1:30 p.m. You can watch Monday’s on Facebook [here](#).

The Morning Report was written by Sara Libby and edited by Scott Lewis. (I mean, let’s be honest, Sara writes perfectly and Scott probably screwed something up adding things here and there.)



<https://timesofsandiego.com/life/2020/03/24/san-diego-county-coronavirus-developments-on-tuesday-march-24/>

San Diego County Coronavirus Developments on Tuesday, March 24

POSTED BY CHRIS JENNEWWEIN ON MARCH 24, 2020 IN LIFE | 6904 VIEWS | 3 COMMENTS | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Share This Article:



A lifeguard closes the Ocean Beach Pier on Monday afternoon. Courtesy San Diego Fire-Rescue

Here is a list of the major developments in the coronavirus epidemic facing San Diego County, updated at 7:50 p.m. on Tuesday.

Support Times of San Diego's growth with a small monthly contribution

[Become a supporter](#)

- There have been 226 cases of coronavirus disease among San Diego County residents as of late Monday afternoon. Additionally, there have been 16 cases involving non-residents, primarily military personnel. So far, there have been two deaths.

- Across California there have been 2,102 cases and 40 deaths as of 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.
- Health officials reported a [second death from coronavirus disease](#) involving a San Diego resident, and said two new cases involve infants.
- An estimated 350,000 jobs in San Diego County are [at risk for layoffs](#) in coming weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic, the [San Diego Workforce Partnership](#) reported.
- Sheriff Bill Gore said it remains an open question whether gun stores [can continue to operate](#) as usual in San Diego County in light of California's newly enacted restrictions on business operations during the coronavirus crisis.
- California was ranked Tuesday as the [most aggressive state](#) in efforts to limit its residents' exposure to the deadly coronavirus.



Book Printing \$2.59/Book ▶ ×

Ad No Royalties & No Contracts.
Putting More Money In Your Pocket

DiggyPOD.com/BookPrinting

[Learn more](#)

- [Beaches, parks and trails](#) are closed in Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas and San Diego, and more cities may follow suit after crowds gathered over the weekend in defiance of social distancing orders.
- Mesa Biotech, a San Diego molecular diagnostic company, has received fast-track emergency approval from the Food and Drug Administration for its [COVID-19 diagnostic test](#), which the company says can provide results within 30 minutes.
- Researchers at four University of California Health medical centers — including UC San Diego Health — have begun [recruiting participants for a clinical trial](#) to investigate the safety and efficacy of treating adult COVID-19 patients with an antiviral drug that has shown some success against other viruses. The drug remdesivir is made by Gilead Sciences in the Bay Area.
- Raoul Lowery Contreras writes that President Trump's nuanced closure of the Mexican border shows he's [finally learned](#) the importance of trade with our southern neighbor.
- UC San Diego Health and other hospital systems are [seeking donations](#) of personal protective

- UC San Diego Health and other hospital systems are [seeking donations](#) of personal protective equipment amid limited supplies.
- As California and the rest of the country have all but shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic, nonprofits have been [hit particularly hard](#), according to a University of San Diego survey.

FEATURED VIDEOS

Powered by [\[primis\]](#)



Coronavirus tests long-term climate change vows [Watch Video](#)



Cooped up at home - Hong Kong life under virus scare [Watch Video](#)



Resurgent Biden challenges front-runner Sanders [Watch](#)

- The San Diego Humane Society will be distributing more than 70,000 pounds of pet food and supplies across San Diego County to [pet families who need extra help](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center's Jacobs Family Campus recently announced the launch of various [online programs](#) as San Diegans are ordered to stay at home following the increased spread of the virus, COVID-19.
- The [South County Economic Development Council](#) will be provide \$5,000 loans at 0% interest to takeout and delivery restaurants in South County during the pandemic.
- The San Diego Symphony extended the cancelation of all concerts and events through May 2. Music Director Rafael Payare and his family have returned from Berlin to their home in San Diego, where they have been self-quarantining.

CBS 8 "News 8 at 11 PM" March 24, 2020



Me dia
Type
Icon

KFMB-CBS Television Market: San Diego, CA (29)
NEWS 8 AT11 PM

Mar 24 2020 11:00PM PT

[11:13:52 PM] [2:50] We'll talk about a delicious a win win as most people eat dinner at home tonight. A lot of them are still able to support San Diego **RESTAURANTS**. It's all part of the great American takeout. It's a campaign to support **RESTAURANTS** being hit hard right now. Corona virus pandemic news eats at the alford was out the south better night and she's got a look at how customers are feeding some love to their favorite eateries run third avenue in chula vista and normally you would see it be a bustling new business district. But now with the corona virus it's much slower. That's why this great American take out is critical to help our small businesses drive down third avenue in chula vista and the revitalized business district with shops, brew pubs and **RESTAURANTS** are closed. Only a few remain open on this course and go back to the balance. LaBelle is pizza garden has been open since 1950. The owner Tony russo says it's had to cut its workforce in half and compared to a usual Saturday. Business was down nearly 15000 dollars. The real impact has been in our dining rooms were closed. Stories like la bellies and thousands of other small **RESTAURANTS** are struggling during the corona virus shut down. Times like these we got support these small businesses. So the National movement called the great American takeout started on Tuesday to encourage people to order takeout delivery or pickup and maintain social distance. Health officials say risk of transfer the virus is very low risk. I grew up in the imperial beach. I've been coming to lavalas all my life down the street at the nutrition place held the option remains open for pickup. I may be sure that we're still able to stay healthy so we come out on the other side of this that we're still active and feeling great. The California **RESTAURANT** association says around 60 percent of **RESTAURANTS** in San Diego county have closed down during the corona virus. Thousands of jobs have been lost. LaBelle is driver says right now the dough is in deliveries. Anybody looking for a job there? They're out there but it's gonna be probably delivery. It's unclear how long. The governor stayed home. Order will last an impact our **RESTAURANTS** think for a couple more weeks I hope. But it could be even longer. And anything to help out this small business is appreciated. We're just super grateful for anyone that comes by and walking by the **SOUTH COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL** is offering **50 LOANS** at **FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS** each to help **RESTAURANTS**. During this time in chula vista, I'm abbie alford for new newday. Well a lot of us aren't filing much variety in our daily routine right now with this self pointing under way, mother nature is providing us with a lot of variety.

Nielsen Audience: 35,883

Calc Publicity Value: \$20,400



<https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/feeding-love-to-san-diego-county-restaurants/509-7ebdb41-dbb9-4f49-bd71-37a30441d981>

Feeding love to San Diego County restaurants

"In times like these we have to support these small businesses," said a South Bay customer.

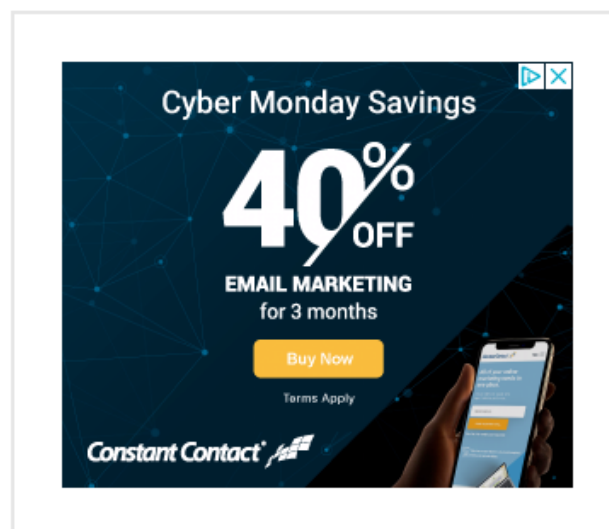
Author: Abbie Alford (Reporter)

Published: 5:37 AM PDT March 25, 2020

Updated: 5:37 AM PDT March 25, 2020

SAN DIEGO — Drive down Third Avenue in Chula Vista and the revitalized business districts with shops, brew pubs and restaurants are closed, only a few restaurants remain open.

[La Bella's Pizza Garden](#) opened in 1950, the owner says since the dine-in ban, he had to cut half his workforce and comparing an average Saturday to this past Saturday, business was down nearly \$15,000.



"The real impact is that our dining room is closed, and half our staff has been set off into a waiting period," said Tony Raso, La Bella's owner.

Stories like La Bella's and thousands of other small restaurants are struggling during the coronavirus shutdown.

"In times like these we have to support these small businesses. I grew up in Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, I've been coming to La Bella's all my life," said customer, Chris Manning.

RELATED: [San Diegans participate in 'The Great American Takeout' campaign](#)

The national movement called the Great American Takeout started on Tuesday to encourage people to order takeout, delivery or pickup while still maintaining social distance. Health officials say the risk of transferring the virus by takeout is very low risk.

RELATED: [Answering your coronavirus questions](#)

"It's national support the small business day," said Manning.

Down the street at [The Nutrition Place](#), a health option remains open for pickup.

"We all enjoy our food and reward meals as we call them but making sure that we stay healthy, so we come out on the other side of this and remain active and feeling great," said Mario Olmos, The Nutrition Place club operator.

[The California Restaurant Association](#) says around 60% of restaurants in San Diego County have closed during the coronavirus. Thousands of jobs have been lost. La Bella's driver says the dough is in the deliveries.

"If anyone is looking for a job they are out there probably deliveries," said Steve Shaw.

It's unclear how long the governor's stay at home order will last and how it will impact the restaurant industry, "I think for a couple more weeks, I hope," said Raso.

But it could even be longer and anything to help out the small business is appreciated.

"We are super grateful for anyone that comes by or walks by," said Olmos.

The South County Economic Development Council is offering a no-interest loan to eating establishments in South County in order to provide some economic relief during these difficult times. This small infusion of funds is intended to assist South County small restaurants to remain open and continue to provide meals during this national emergency. South County EDC will provide a one-time \$5,000 no-interest loan with repayment due on April 1, 2021. At that time the entire loan amount will be due. It is anticipated that a total of 50 loans will be provided. To apply click [here](#)

SD Metro “Daily Business Report- March 25, 2020” March 25, 2020



<http://www.sandiegometro.com/2020/03/daily-business-report-march-25-2020/>

Daily Business Report-March 25, 2020

Written by SD Metro Magazine in Daily Business Report



The Academy of Our Lady of Peace. (Photo courtesy of OLP)

Academy of Our Lady of Peace

launches whole school virtual

learning – a model for others

The Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP), the only all-girls' and oldest high school in San Diego, successfully launched virtual learning for the entire school this week.

Because of early planning and preparation during this COVID-19 situation, the school was able to seamlessly transition all 750 students and 80-plus faculty and staff members to virtual learning and work.

"Providing stability and continuity of learning for our students are our main priorities during this difficult time," said Dr. Lauren Lek, Head of School at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace. "Once we made the decision to close campus for the safety of our community, we immediately were ready to launch our online learning platform, which has been a tremendous success. Beyond just the delivery of instruction, we have intentionally woven into each day opportunities for community building with all 850 of us! I never thought it would be possible virtually until we were forced to do it. We are one giant virtual Brady Bunch."

Using their learning management system, Blackbaud, and video conferencing tools like Google Meet and Zoom Pro, classes have continued and learning has been uninterrupted. The school has even been able to host virtual all-school assemblies with more than 900 participants at once. The school was able to make this transition easily because of early planning by their Technology Department, which moved the school to fully cloud- and web-based tools years ago.

"We've received incredible feedback from parents, students and even the greater community who have heard how successful this has been," said Dr. Lek.

In addition to maintaining online learning, parent-teacher conferences will be hosted virtually and the school continues to offer counseling services on a regular basis as well.

COVID-19 taking major toll on San Diego nonprofits

Nonprofit organizations working on the front lines to meet critical needs across the San Diego region are facing unprecedented disruptions of their efforts due to the unfolding COVID-19 crisis.

According to survey findings released Tuesday by The Nonprofit Institute at the University of San Diego, many local charities are experiencing increased demands for food, shelter and other basic necessities, yet nonprofits have been hindered or completely cut off from responding due to issues of cash flow, managing volunteers, and technological barriers.

"Nonprofit organizations are our community safety net, touching millions of lives every day," said Dr. Emily Young, The Nonprofit Institute's executive director. "Yet, the unfolding public health and economic crisis is taking a major toll on the capacity of these organizations to help others. They need immediate economic assistance from government, philanthropy, and the community at large. We encourage everyone to do their part in donating to the organizations they hold dear."

Nonprofit leaders at 428 organizations reported they face immediate, critical challenges. More than three-quarters (80 percent) of respondents reported a reduction of normal services or programs related to school closures, stay at home orders, and social distancing.

Twenty percent of respondents reported they were unable to offer any programs at this time. If conditions do not improve, more than half report they are “very unlikely” or “somewhat unlikely” to be able to provide ongoing services eight weeks from now.

In an effort to continue offering services, many nonprofits are considering moving programs to online formats. However, technology access and moving programs online present challenges for nonprofits staff and their clients.

Among a list of growing concerns, nonprofit leaders rated the following as the most urgent challenges facing their organizations:

1. Decline in donations
2. Loss of fee for service revenue
3. Having to lay off employees
4. Delayed grant processing for program and/or general operating support
5. Government grant contracts that cannot be reimbursed

SBA implements automatic deferments of existing disaster loans

U.S. Small Business Administration [Administrator Jovita Carranza](#) announced changes to help borrowers still paying back SBA loans from previous disasters. By making this change, deferments through Dec. 31, 2020, will be automatic. Now, borrowers of home and business disaster loans do not have to contact SBA to request deferment.

More than 60 percent of county restaurants have completely closed

An estimated 60 percent of restaurants in San Diego County have chosen to close completely during the COVID19 crisis, instead of continuing operations focused on take-out and deliveries, the California Restaurant Association said.

To help affected employees of local eateries, the restaurant association has launched a “Restaurants Care” program that is accepting donations, including an initial \$100,000 from the owners of Skrewball Whiskey in Ocean Beach.

Meanwhile, restaurants in South County are eligible for 50 loans of \$5,000 each under a new program announced Monday by the South County Economic Development Council.

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

THE COMMUNITY OF BUSINESS

<https://www.sandiegobusiness.org/blog/san-diego-business-journal-message-from-edc-president-and-ceo-mark-cafferty/>

As I write this, I can only hope for everyone reading that your families and loved ones are both healthy and safe. The impact of COVID-19 in all corners of our community has been devastating and has changed our lives in numerous ways.

Things have certainly changed for our team at **San Diego Regional EDC** over the last few weeks, so I write today to share our unique perspectives.

As an economic development organization, EDC plays a unique role in serving the business community. We recognize that so much of this is uncharted territory for all of us. But as always, it is important to step back and look at what we know and focus on where we are needed most.

Our regional collaboration is an asset recognized around the world and I am certain it is going to be a key reason why San Diego emerges from this global health crisis stronger than ever. There is no doubt we will be facing challenging weeks and months ahead. Accurate and timely communication will be critical to our business community.

In that vein, our team has spent the last two weeks making outreach calls to our nearly 200 investors—the companies that underwrite our work. These companies range from regional giants such as Qualcomm, Sempra and Illumina, to shipbuilders like NASSCO, to hospitals/healthcare providers like Scripps, Sharp and Kaiser Permanente who are on the front lines of this crisis, to small and family owned business like Brown Law Group, Ace Parking and Jerome's Furniture. Some of them are busier than ever and some are struggling in unprecedented ways. Yet one resounding thing we have heard from all of them is that they want to know how they can help fellow San Diegans. Some of them have made donations to the **San Diego Foundation's COVID-19 Community Response Fund** and others have offered their manufacturing floors to produce critical resources.

Resources for the Business Community

While our team is still trying to get our hands around everything that is happening right now, and we certainly don't have all the answers, EDC has quickly pivoted to provide companies with a comprehensive list of resources that we feel can best meet their needs right now. And while these continue to change and expand by the day, I wanted to take a moment to point a few out:

City of San Diego – Economic Relief Package

Businesses in the City of San Diego may be eligible for the [Economic Relief Package](#), which provides approximately \$4 million in reduced fees. It includes a Small Business Relief Fund, where businesses can apply for grants and/or low-interest loans, as well as an extension of business permits and business tax-deferral options. I know some other cities in the region are working on their own relief packages as well.

Small Business Administration–Economic Injury Disaster Loan

The [San Diego and Imperial Small Business Development Center](#) can provide no-cost guidance through a company's recovery process. Businesses can apply for an [Economic Injury Disaster Loan](#), which may provide up to \$2 million of financial assistance. SBA also has immediate \$25,000 bridge loans available (less paperwork) for small businesses with an existing relationship with the SBA. To apply for these programs, visit SDIBDC's website and click "request counseling."

South County EDC – South County Restaurant Loan

South County Economic Development Council is offering [\\$5,000 no-interest loans](#) to eating establishments in South County. Apply here.

Organizations Offer Businesses Time, Money

Resources Offered By Local, State, Federal Entities

■ By JOE TASH

San Diego business owners have two things foremost on their minds as they deal with the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic – the first is concern for employees, many of whom have been laid off or had their hours cut, and the second is securing capital to pay their bills.

"What we're seeing is a panic for cash flow, for payroll, rent, and to survive," said Danny Fitzgerald, associate regional director with the **San Diego and Imperial County Small Business Development Center** network. "We're hearing from those that are in dire straits."

The network, which provides support for local businesses under contracts with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the state of California, has been inundated with calls since state and local officials ordered schools and non-essential businesses to shut down and residents to stay home.

Tourism and hospitality businesses, including restaurants, were initially hard-hit by the slowdown as people stopped traveling and dining out, but the effects are spreading out to other sectors of the economy, from printers and florists to gyms and movie theaters.

"The network's call volume has increased tenfold, and we were busy before," said Fitzgerald. The network operates eight offices in San Diego and Imperial counties, but those have closed since the crisis began, and the organization now offers its counseling services online and by phone.

The SBDC's counselors are helping business owners apply for disaster recovery loans through the **U.S. Small Business Administration**, and from other loan sources, said Fitzgerald. That advice includes how much to ask for, and what to do if they are initially declined.

Businesses should also evaluate their cash flow needs to determine how long they can survive, and contact creditors and landlords to request deferrals on loan payments, rent and other expenses, Fitzgerald said.

Along with the SBA disaster loans, he said, the state offers disaster loans to small businesses, which are guaranteed up to 95 percent, through the **California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBANK)**.

The city of San Diego has announced a \$4 million small business relief fund, while the San Diego Foundation and a coalition of public agencies, nonprofits and companies has established a community response fund, which has grown to \$6.2 million and will help workers hit by the

economic slowdown with payments for food, utilities and rent.

A \$2 trillion relief package working its way through Congress last week promised additional aid, from direct cash payments to individuals and families to small business loans to a \$500 billion corporate bailout fund.

In an effort to gather information about the impact of the coronavirus crisis on the local economy, the SBDC network, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp. have sent out a survey to businesses.

As businesses seek assistance to keep their doors open or to simply survive until the economy picks up, the San Diego office of the SBA has seen its call volume spike, said Mike Sovacool, the agency's deputy district director.

The agency had an initial \$50 billion to work with, said Sovacool, and it has already begun approving loans, with early recipients including at least one San Diego business, Sovacool said.

"The process is working," Sovacool said. Sovacool and officials with business groups in San Diego suggested that loan applicants familiarize themselves with the application form and required information before beginning the online loan application, which can be found at www.sba.gov.

Along with funds for the loans, the SBA has received funding for staff and infrastructure improvements to handle disaster loan applications from around the country, Sovacool said. "The SBA is ramping up to meet demand for the program."

The wave of applications for disaster assistance has led to slowdowns of the SBA web site. Sovacool suggested applicants might find it easier to access the web site during off-peak hours, after 6 p.m. or before 8 a.m.

"There are some system challenges but they're going to get fixed," he said.

The agency's goal is to process loan requests within two to three weeks, and in the early stages of the crisis, he said, some applications have been approved in as little as three days.

"The entire SBA and its resource partner network and lending institutions, they're all here to help (small businesses) get through this disaster," Sovacool said.

Business groups throughout San Diego County are working, in most cases remotely, to assist companies in dealing with the crisis, whether it's answering questions about workplace issues, putting out information about resources on their web sites, or offer-

ing support and encouragement.

The **South County Economic Development Council** established a \$250,000 loan fund to provide 50 loans of \$5,000 apiece to South County restaurants struggling after San Diego County health officials ordered all restaurants to close their dining rooms and serve food only for takeout or delivery.

Restaurant owners in South County are "desperate to know how to keep their doors open," but in spite of the economic situation, there is a sense of unity and shared purpose, said **Cindy Gompper-Graves**, president and CEO of the South County EDC.

Gompper-Graves said the loan application form is only one page, meant to streamline the approval process, and the first checks went out on Tuesday, March 24, less than a week after the loan program was announced.

"I still have funds left, once I get through today, we will have 20 to 25 loans available. I'd be happy if we could give all this money to the restaurants and they stay open to serve the community during these trying times," Gompper-Graves said.

The story is much the same in the East County, where businesses are scrambling to meet their expenses and avoid laying off employees if they can, said **Jo Marie Diamond**, president and CEO of the East County EDC.

The group is working with business owners in different ways, helping them connect with lenders and advising on how to keep their operations going virtually, as workers stay at home and carry out their duties while caring for children and attending to household matters.

"We're all mobilizing to the best of our abilities, but it's some scary times," Diamond said. "We'll come through this, it's just a question of when."

Debra Rosen, president and CEO of the **North San Diego Business Chamber**, said she's been impressed with the creativity shown by businesses as they keep in touch with customers and even broaden their reach online. Such as 24 Hour Fitness centers that have closed their physical locations but are putting workout videos online through a free app.

"People are looking for unique ways to stay engaged with their customers," Rosen said.

One way the public can support local businesses, said Rosen, is by buying restaurant gift cards, providing them with a much-needed cash infusion while also getting an early jump on holiday shopping.

Along the Convoy corridor in San Diego, businesses owned by Asian-Americans were

among the first to feel the economic pinch due to the stigma surrounding Asian people after the coronavirus outbreak began in China, said **Wesley Quach**, director of the Small Business Development Center operated by **San Diego's Asian Business Association**.

"It's a fact that not just Asian-Americans but Asians around the world have experienced increased prejudice, racism and threats because of this," Quach said. As early as January and February, local Asian-owned businesses experienced a drop-off in customers.

While some restaurants have tried to stay open during the crisis, others are geared more toward an in-person dining experience and have closed temporarily and laid off workers, Quach said.

That said, businesses along the Convoy corridor are also trying new and different ways to connect with the dining public. Last week, he said, the **Dumpling Inn-Shanghai Saloon** hosted a "mukbang," an online event in which a host on **Instagram** samples different foods and talks about them while chatting with observers. The practice began in South Korea, and has become a worldwide trend. The name means "eating show" in Korean. About 100 viewers took part in the online event, Quach said.

Businesses are also helping each other, as well as displaced workers, through the crisis. **Jerry Sanders**, president and CEO of the **San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**, said a gastro pub based in Barro Logan served meals for displaced restaurant workers, dishing up some 700 plates the first day and pledging to keep going until its food was gone.

"One of the hallmarks of San Diego is the fact that we take care of each other," Sanders said.

Going forward, the San Diego business community will be gathering information from business owners to target its efforts to where help is most needed, said **Mark Cafferty**, president and CEO of the **San Diego Regional EDC**. In the first week since its business impact survey went out, Cafferty said, some 500 responses have come in.

San Diego's industry sectors are rising to the occasion, said Cafferty, from hospitals and healthcare providers, to communications companies making sure the city is connected, to biotech companies racing to find a vaccine for the coronavirus.

"From science to healthcare to technology, to other elements of our economy, they are trying to make a difference, it's really impressive," Cafferty said. ■

Coronado News "South County EDC Announces \$5K Loans At 0% Interest Rate To Restaurants" March 25, 2020



http://www.coronadonewsca.com/news/coronado_home_and_business/south-county-edc-announces-5k-loans-at-0-interest-rate-to-restaurants/article_ff1b9b08-6ec8-11ea-857a-ef9e4cf47e7a.html

South County EDC Announces \$5K Loans At 0% Interest Rate To Restaurants



Mar 25, 2020 0

Emergency Business Loans
for operating restaurants in South County

* 0% Interest * No Application Fee * No Closing Costs * No Prepayment Penalty

\$5,000 available in emergency business loans.
Easy application process.
Quick approval process.

For more information, application, and qualifications click on link below:
<https://www.southcountyedc.com/coronavirus>

The South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC or SCEDC), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization was formed in 1989 by a group of South San Diego County business and community leaders, to promote education and encourage economic development in the South San Diego County Region. Our member cities include Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City, San Diego, San Diego County, and the Port of San Diego.

Contact us at 619-424-5143 or via email at scedc@southcountyedc.com



South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) announced today it will provide a one-time \$5,000 loan with no monthly payments and zero percent interest collected to eligible restaurants in South County as economic relief in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The total

WE DELIVER.
Order for home or at the Office

FREE DELIVERY
w/code GETDELONUS

TRY PANERA DELIVERY TODAY!

- Easy ordering online or in the app.
- Order ahead and choose your delivery time.
- Save your favorites and past orders.
- Track your order in real time, where available.

PaneraBread.com or get the app.



LATEST NEWS



repayment amount will be due until April 1, 2021. It is anticipated that a total of 50 loans will be provided.

This small infusion of funds is intended to assist South County small restaurants to remain open and continue to provide meals during this national emergency. South County EDC wants to invest in the small and independent restaurant establishments that make up a big part of the economic landscape of the region and is spearheading these efforts with a projected \$250,000 in loans.

Loans will have no application fees and no pre-payment penalties. Furthermore, and in alignment with government and health official guidelines, the application process will be conducted entirely through the South County EDC website only, with no face-to-face interaction. Applications are available to download and submit online and checks will be mailed to the approved businesses to limit personal contact and continue to comply with social distancing recommendations.

“As an economic development organization, South County EDC has always prioritized the economic health and well-being of South County businesses and communities,” said Cindy Gompper-Graves, CEO and President of South County EDC. “In an effort to support businesses through this evolving and challenging situation, South County EDC hopes to provide some economic relief to restaurants experiencing disruptions. We are here to invest in our small businesses that represent the fabric of our economy.”

To download the application and view the full list of qualifications and criteria to be eligible for this loan, visit www.SouthCountyEDC.com and click on the Coronavirus tab on the home page.



<https://coronadotimes.com/news/2020/03/31/city-of-coronado-projects-millions-in-lost-tax-revenue/>

City of Coronado Projects Millions in Lost Tax Revenue

By Jennifer Velez 03/31/2020



The majority of retail and restaurants have storefronts along Orange Avenue.

The future of revenue for Coronado, specifically monies derived from sales tax and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), will undoubtedly be at an unprecedented low this year, and even before the COVID-19 crisis the city was feeling the downturn. This came in large part from the major construction at The Del for their master plan with sales tax down \$312,000 and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) down \$834,000 for a combined total loss of \$1.1 million. Now the city is regrouping and adapting to the rapidly changing

environment looking at decreasing revenues as businesses, restaurants and hotels are closed or operating on a diminished scale. The Chamber of Commerce, Coronado MainStreet and Discover Coronado are all working to help local businesses during this difficult time.

City Manager Blair King provided the following estimates on the impacts to major city revenues:

- TOT – Revised FY 19-20 Budget (\$15,900,760) – Projected estimated actual FY 19-20 (\$10,000,000), a loss of \$6 million – initial FY budget \$6,360,300 (a decline of approximately \$9.5 million from budgeted FY 19-20)
- Sales Tax – Revised FY 19-20 Budget (\$3,223,350) – Projected estimated actual FY 19-20 (\$2,491,200), a loss of \$730,000 – initial FY budget \$1,289,340 (a decline of approximately \$2 million from budgeted FY 19-20)
- Interest earnings – Revised FY 19-20 Budget GF (\$1,724,800) – Projected estimated actual FY 19-20 (\$1,400,000), a loss of \$325,800 – initial FY budget \$900,000 (a decline of approximately \$825,000 from budgeted FY 19-20)

King also cited: Total loss revenue in FY 19-20 from these three sources = \$7,055,800, total estimated loss budgeted FY 19-20 to budgeted FY 20-21 = \$12,325,000. The percentage decline in revenues in FY 19-20 is approximately 11.5% and the year to year loss of FY 20-21 to 19-20 is approximately 20.2%.

King noted that "City policy allows committed reserves to be used if General Fund revenues fall below estimates by eight percent or greater. It is anticipated that the city will look to balance the fiscal year 20-21 General Fund budget with a draw from reserves." He also points out that it is early at this juncture to know if any position or projects will have to be cut.

Coronado Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sue Gillingham reports that the Chamber has been hard at work to help local businesses in the following ways:

1. Our first priority has been sharing information about the restaurants as they were the first businesses to be shut down. We continue to track who is open for pickup and/or delivery, plus whether they sell gift cards. In general,





1. Our first priority has been sharing information about the restaurants as they were the first businesses to be shut down. We continue to track who is open for pickup and/or delivery, plus whether they sell gift cards. In general, businesses' evening orders are going as well as can be expected.
2. We designed a fun Bingo type game to encourage folks to order out at a variety of restaurants over a 10-day time period. We have lots of prizes including gift cards and Chamber related items such as our cheerful Orange Ave beach towels and the Coronado-opoly board game.
3. We have added other types of critical businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, hardware stores, hotels, to our website.
4. Finally, we have been listing retail businesses that make it easy to order online with either pick up at the store or home delivery.

For more details, check out the Chamber website at <https://www.coronadochamber.com/> There is also a list of resources such as the city's daily updates, where to file for unemployment and how to use sick leave during this time.

Gillingham comments that "We have begun focusing on financial assistance. The South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) is providing interest free \$5,000 loans to 50 restaurants in South County. I have been encouraging all Coronado restaurants to apply and know that at least one restaurant has received their loan."

The Chamber has also created [a video covering two loans](#) that are being offered by the Federal Government which will be shown on Channel 19 and is available on the Chamber website. The first one is the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). It is administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA). Businesses may apply for up to \$2 million of operating capital to cover payroll, mortgage/lease, accounts payable, and extraordinary costs as a result of the pandemic. Up to \$10,000 of the loan can be a grant, and no repayment to the government will be required.

Coronado MainStreet Executive Director Rita Sarich is also dedicated to helping local businesses thrive and has been inundated with information from their national office and she is sharing everything with the city as they help the local business district. "We are pushing out pertinent information to every business at least every day. I'm sending a request to property owners to consider rent relief for their tenants. I'm attending webinars on what other cities are doing and getting some great ideas to pass on," comments Sarich. Check out the national website at <https://www.mainstreet.org/howwecanhelp/resourcecenter/covid19resources> and our local office at <https://www.coronadomainstreet.com/>



Local puzzles to keep you occupied are also available through MainStreet by emailing from861@gmail.com. You can select from two styles: the 300-piece iconic Hotel del Coronado photo puzzle by Evgeny Yorobe or the 300-piece Whimsical Village Collage by Jody Esquer. Puzzles are \$25.99 and can be paid for with credit card and then delivered to your home. Get yours today and have a competition with friends and neighbors as to who can complete it the fastest.

Discover Coronado Executive Director Todd Little confirmed that Discover Coronado is working closely with leaders at the Hotel del Coronado, Loews Coronado Bay Resort, Coronado Island Marriott Resort and the Glorietta Bay Inn to reschedule events and guests that have been postponed. Several resorts have closed temporarily, but leadership teams continue to work on recovery plans. A recent survey from Northstar Meetings Group suggests that most meeting planners hope to reschedule their event between September and December 2020. Others will delay their event until 2021, or later. As of deadline, Coronado Island Marriott Resort and the Glorietta Bay Inn are still open, and both the Hotel del Coronado and Loews Coronado Bay Resort are closed until further notice.



Little said, "When it is appropriate to do so, Discover Coronado will use industry marketing that targets meeting planners and they are in regular communication with the City of

Little said, "When it is appropriate to do so, Discover Coronado will use industry marketing that targets meeting planners and they are in regular communication with the City of Coronado, briefing one another on changes as they occur." He highlighted that a redesigned website was launched in January [DiscoverCoronado.com](https://www.discovercoronado.com) along with new campaign ("*Un-Land Yourself*") that distinguishes Coronado from land-locked meeting destinations.

One of the additional steps that the city has taken to ensure the health and safety of residents, as well as provide information and a sense of connection during this coronavirus pandemic, was setting up a call center. Senior Management Analyst Janine Zúñiga reports that the Call Center has been answering an average of two to four questions a day but sometimes up to eight calls. "In the past week, staff answered questions from callers wanting to know if parks, Dog Beach, the Bayshore Bikeway, and boat launch ramp were open. All are open; however, visitors must adhere to the social distancing protocol." She also reported that there have been calls for people wanting to volunteer and some needing assistance. The call center number is (619) 522-6380 and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

The San Diego Union-Tribune

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/communities/east-county/story/2020-04-02/south-county-east-county-covid-information-april-2>

South County/East County COVID information, April 2

By LAURA GROCH
APRIL 2, 2020 | 12 AM

For general questions about COVID-19, information about community resources, or if you are uninsured, go to 211sandiego.org or call 2-1-1.

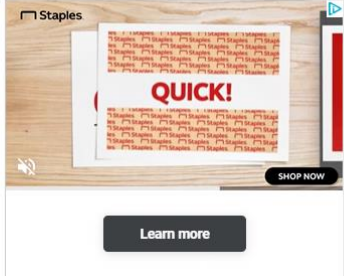
California has launched a new **hotline** that people — particularly older, isolated Californians — can call for local non-medical services, such as food delivery and mental health care: (833) 544-2374.

Food distribution: The San Diego Food Bank has many distribution sites in the county, including South and East County. Donations are also needed via SanDiegoFoodBank.org to expand food programs over the coming weeks and months. Visit SanDiegoFoodBank.org or call (866) 350-3663. Sites distributing food include:

El Cajon: 4 p.m. every third Tuesday until food is gone, El Cajon Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1630 E. Madison Ave.

Spring Valley: 10 a.m. every third Wednesday 10:00 a.m. until food is gone, Faith Chapel, 9400 Campo Road

ADVERTISEMENT



Staples

QUICK!

SHOP NOW

Learn more

MOST READ LOCAL STORIES >



National City: The food bank also hosts a Senior Food Distribution from 9 a.m.-noon every fourth Thursday at the Kimball Senior Center parking lot (1221 D Ave.)

Emergency food: To find a program nearest you that will provide access to emergency food, call 2-1-1 or visit <https://my211.force.com/s/service-directory?code=BD>.

More food in CV: South Bay Community Services has increased its distributions of healthy food for families in need to nine times a month at sites throughout Chula Vista and is engaging partners to launch more distributions in the coming weeks in response to increased need related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Scheduled days, times and locations are:

- 3-6 p.m. Tuesdays, Castle Park Middle School, 160 Quintard St.
- 3-5 p.m. every second Wednesday, South Bay Community Services, 707 F St.
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursdays, Castle Park Elementary School, 25 Emerson St.

Food distribution has been modified to drive-thru format as a special precaution. Families and individuals are asked to stay in their vehicles during pick-up. The fresh and nonperishable food items are made possible thanks to [Feeding San Diego](#), the [San Diego Food Bank](#) and Smart Food Foundation. Call (619) 420-3620.



Free food for kids: National City has teamed with Feeding San Diego to provide free emergency food for children. Packed lunches for kids are being distributed this week from 1-2:30 p.m. weekdays with no set end date at the Casa de Salud Youth Center, 1408 Harding Ave. The National School District provides free breakfast and lunch to students from 8-9 a.m. and noon-1:30 p.m. through Friday at Olivewood, El Toyon and Las Palmas Schools.

Santee offers online entertainment: The city of Santee offers a **Virtual Activity & Resource Page** at <https://bit.ly/3bDSjJ7> with links and ideas for fun, fitness, arts, education and well-being. Links include free fitness videos and apps (including Silver Sneakers for seniors), lots of children's crafts and recipes, virtual tours of museums, zoos and aquariums, and more. Have a great idea or resource to share? Contact the Community Services Department at amorrison@cityofsanteeca.gov.

IB task force: Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina has created a **task force** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force has a committee dedicated to connecting community members with volunteers and organizations that can help. Complete an online form to volunteer or if you need of assistance with housing, transportation, food, immigration concerns, laundry, needing a friendly phone call, a volunteer for necessary errands or other vital needs. Once the form is submitted, a volunteer will reach out to assist you. Find the form at <https://forms.gle/141ehYnEMx5kZwdv9>.

Business help: The South County Economic Development Council is offering a no-

Business help: The South County Economic Development Council is offering a no-interest loan to eating establishments in South County in order to provide some economic relief during these difficult times. Establishments can apply for a one-time \$5,000 loan that doesn't have to be repaid until April 1, 2021. Apply at <https://www.southcountyedc.com/emergencybusinessloanprogram>. This program is just one of many offered to businesses and employers at the council's website. Visit www.sandiegobusiness.org/coronavirus.

Chamber hosts forum: Join the National City Chamber of Commerce at 9 a.m. Friday for a video forum to discuss the new 501(c)(3) **National City Foundation to Support Community Response to COVID-19 and Associated Challenges**. The forum's goals include serving as a vehicle to promote civic engagement and create a steady flow of residents to serve on local and regional boards and commissions, as well as serving as an ad hoc advisory board to the city council and convening local nonprofits quarterly to exchange ideas. Register at bit.ly/3aw9plC. Meeting link: <https://bit.ly/2UtDJy9>. Download ZOOM on your device.

Free rides: To help with the COVID-19 crisis, FACT is offering free transportation for San Diego residents for any essential need through April 15. Seniors, persons with disabilities, students, veterans and others who need assistance may call FACT at (888) 924-3228 between 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, to request free transportation anywhere in San Diego County. Please have the names of rider(s), the pick-up address, and the pick-up time available when you call, and specify whether you use a mobility device, including wheelchair or scooter. Please call one day ahead when possible. FACT has limited daily capacity — the free rides are offered on a first-



<https://www.nav.com/blog/covid-19-resources-and-guidance-by-state-580441/>

California

In California, businesses suffering a hardship because of COVID-19 can request up to a 60-day extension from the State of California’s Employment Development Department (EDD) to file their state payroll reports and/or deposit state payroll taxes without penalty or interest. [Here’s more information.](#)

California also has an [Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) Work Sharing Program](#) that can help you minimize or eliminate layoffs.

If you rent commercial (or personal) property, here’s some relief: California Governor Newsom signed an executive order to halt evictions and slow foreclosures until May 31 unless conditions change.

The San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development, in partnership with Northeast Community Federal Credit Union, has created the [COVID-19 Small Business Resiliency Fund](#), which allows impacted small businesses to access up to \$10,000 for employee salaries and rent.

[Here](#) you can learn about deferred quarterly tax payments and annual small business licenses and permits, as well as emergency loan funds available to businesses hit by the pandemic.

In Los Angeles, the [Small Business Emergency Microloan Program](#) provides loans of \$5,000 up to \$20,000, with different repayment options.

The City of San Diego has launched its [Small Business Relief Fund \(SBRF\)](#) to provide grants and forgivable or low- to zero-interest-rate loans between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to eligible small businesses. The [South County Economic Development Council](#) (serving south San Diego county) is offering a no-interest loan to eating establishments in South County of \$5,000 with no interest and repayment due on April 1, 2021.



http://www.coronadonewsca.com/news/coronado_home_and_business/relief-options-available-for-coronado-small-businesses/article_3eddf2b8-784c-11ea-bd7e-57ee5dcadaf5.html

Relief Options Available For Coronado Small Businesses

by David Axelson Apr 6, 2020 0

During an interview at City Hall Friday morning, King discussed a wide range of possible solutions to the challenges currently faced by the Coronado small business community. City Staff will present options to the Coronado City Council during their meeting of Tuesday, April 7, 2020. "There are a variety of symbolic things," King said. "We're going to announce that we aren't going to be enforcing parking restrictions on Orange Avenue. Probably the biggest thing to take to the council is the City of San Marcos, the City of San Diego, and the South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) have made different programs available. San Marcos is making about \$3 million to \$4 million available out of their reserves. The SCEDC is making micro loans with a total capitalization of between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The City of San Diego has a plan and we'll probably show the City Council those various programs and see if they want to pursue the micro loans or something more along the line of San Marcos. We'll have a wide range of options for the council to consider."

San Diego Business Journal "South County EDC Names New CEO President" May 6, 2020
<http://sdbj.com/news/2020/may/06/south-county-edc-names-new-ceo-president/>

South County EDC Names New CEO, President

Wednesday, May 6, 2020



South County Economic Development Council announced it has named James O'Callaghan as the organization's new chief executive officer and president.

O'Callaghan succeeds 15-year president and CEO, Cindy Gompper-Graves.

The board of directors is excited to welcome James O'Callaghan to South County EDC," said Bob Penner, South County EDC board chair. "We are confident he is equipped and properly positioned to take on this important role."

The South County EDC board received 500 applications for the position.

According to the nonprofit, O'Callaghan's position before South County EDC was as executive director of the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism board, where he operated two business improvement districts and developed programs to attract and retain businesses within the districts. He was also president and CEO of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2016 to 2018 and of Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2012 to 2016. O'Callaghan has 24 years of experience in business development.

The EDC said O'Callaghan will report to the board of directors and will assume responsibility for all areas of the organization's programs and activities, including managing a team of 3 full-time staff, plus a dedicated cohort of capable interns, and an operating budget of approximately \$750,000.

He will be the leading advocate for the region, forging innovative partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders, working closely with elected officials, attracting and retaining business, nurturing binational business growth, and backing key initiatives to move our region forward.

San Diego Metro “James O’Callaghan takes helm of South County Economic Development Council” May 6, 2020

<http://www.sandiegometro.com/2020/05/daily-business-report-may-8-2020/>

James O’Callaghan takes helm of South County Economic Development Council



South County Economic Development Council has named James O’Callaghan as the organization’s new chief executive officer and president, succeeding 15-year President and CEO Cindy Gompper-Graves.

O’Callaghan served as executive director at the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board and before that served as president and CEO of two Chambers of Commerce from 2012 to 2018.

O’Callaghan graduated from Hofstra University in 2000 and received his master’s degree from Columbia University in 2002. His immediate position before South County EDC was as executive director of the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board, where he operated two business improvement districts and

developed programs to attract and retain businesses within the districts.

He was also president and CEO of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2016 to 2018 and the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2012 to 2016. O’Callaghan has 24 years of experience in business development.

O’Callaghan will report to the South County EDC Board of Directors and will assume responsibility for all areas of the organization’s programs and activities, including managing a team of three full-time staff, plus a group of interns, and an operating budget of approximately \$750,000. He will be the leading advocate for the region, forging innovative partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders, working closely with elected officials, attracting and retaining business, nurturing bi-national business growth, and backing key initiatives to move the region forward.

Serving the communities of Chula Vista and National City

THE STAR NEWS

The Star News "City Sets 90-Day Plan" May 8, 2020

<https://www.thestarnews.com/33559-2/>

City sets 90-day plan

By Jessica Brodtkin Webb - 05/08/2020

85 0



The city of Chula Vista approved a 90-day economic recovery plan May 5 in an effort to assist local businesses as they reopen following temporary COVID-19 related closures.

The plan includes a focused recovery program for small businesses with direct financial and technical assistance, marketing and promotion for small businesses, and numerous revisions to city policies and programs to remove barriers for businesses looking to reopen or relocate in Chula Vista, according to a city press release.

Deputy City Manager Eric Crockett said in an email the city of Chula Vista has a great amount of empathy and appreciation for the business community.

"We hope the implementation of this Plan will help ease their burdens on the road to

economic recovery. We look forward to seeing our businesses open back up safely and gradually in compliance with Governor Newsom's directives," Crockett said.

He also said the city is partnering with the South County Economic Development Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Third Avenue Village Association to hold industry specific focus groups to maintain lines of communications with our businesses.

Third Avenue Village Association's Executive Director Luanne Hulsizer said the plan benefits all of Chula Vista.

"I think it's an absolute win for our small businesses, not just on Third Avenue but in all of Chula Vista that the city has put together this comprehensive plan. It looks like we're going to have some opportunities for funding, which is utmost on everyone's mind," Hulsizer said.

However, Grind House owner Ron Richie expressed concern over conflicting information on available funding for those employees.

"I currently have Payroll Protection Plan funds but I have yet to touch it because so much conflicting information has come out since I applied. It's very nerve-wracking taking on debt when it's uncertain when business will return to normal, if ever," Richie said.

Copy Link owner Kimberly Marshall expressed concern for businesses that typically rely on future billing cycles to keep doors open in the present.

"We are an essential business so we've been able to remain open but the most difficult times are actually ahead of us because a lot of our revenue is billed in arrears. For example, we can bill for the previous quarter but these next 90-180 days are going to be tough because everybody has been shut down. We don't have much to bill for in these next few months," Marshall said.

However, other neighborhood business owners are simply waiting until they can open doors again to pick up where they left off before the pandemic prompted mandatory social distancing.

Chula Vista Brewery owner Timothy Parker said he is especially looking forward to seeing his regulars after reopening.

"Right now we can do curbside service so business hasn't drastically changed for us but I'm really looking forward to opening back up and having patrons back inside. I want to see my regulars," Parker said.

The full economic recovery plan is available on the city of Chula Vista's website at www.chulavistaca.gov/businesses .

TAGS

chula vista

latest news

Local News

**SCEDC ANNOUNCES
NEW CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AND PRESIDENT
James O'Callaghan
assumes responsibility as
new leader of non-profit
organization**



SAN DIEGO, CA – South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) announced it has named James O'Callaghan as the organization's new chief executive officer and president, succeeding 15-year President and CEO Cindy Gompper-Graves. O'Callaghan served as Executive Director at the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board and before that served as President and CEO of two Chambers of Commerce from 2012 to 2018.

"The Board of Directors is excited to welcome James O'Callaghan to South County EDC," said Bob Penner, South County EDC Board Chair. "We are confident he is equipped and properly positioned to take on this important role."

HALO HALO
VIRTUAL MIXER
Friday, May 15, 2020, 5:30pm

Co-hosts
Michael Cabradilla, Legathfield & Sureflow Entertainment
JoAnn Fields, Filipino Press

f /FILIPINOPRESS
/619JOANNFIELDS

z zoom

Small business owners who would like to present email
JoAnn@imaginemediagroup.com for the Zoom link.

The Filipino Press continues to be the key to the Filipino community despite the challenges of Covid-19. Join us for a virtual mixer & opportunity to support local small businesses.

FILIPINO PRESS AARP California Samahan Census 2020 COURT DE 2020 FIESTA PINOY

**CENSUS 2020
POWER HOUR**

f EVERY Tuesday & Thursday
LIVE AT 12:00PM-1:00PM PST
/619JOANNFIELDS

FILIPINO PRESS

SIVERTS

Continued from page 1

something I hold dear," she says.

Covid-19

The silver lining, says Jennifer, has been getting to spend more time with her six-year-old son, who's "been our source of light during this time of darkness. We cook elaborate meals as a family together, dress up in costumes, have living room dance parties, and go on our balcony and clap and scream for our first responders at 8 p.m. every night."

During the coronavirus pandemic, legal services are considered an "essential service." She and her staff are working from

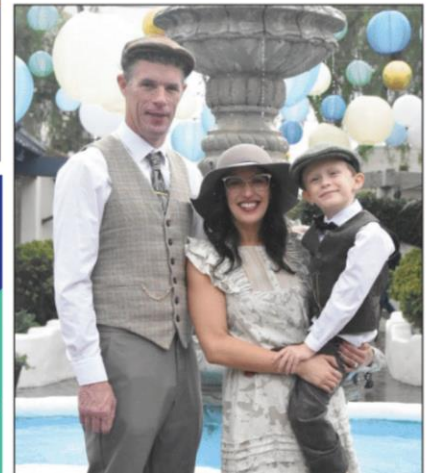
home, and all client contact is done over the phone.

"We've been getting a lot of calls from people who are worried about their employment or their rent or mortgages that they can't pay because of reduced income," she says. "A lot of people are going to need help dealing with the financial aftermath."

If you or someone you know needs an attorney, get in touch with Jennifer.

Law Offices of Jennifer B. Siverts

4455 Morena Blvd Ste 213
San Diego, CA 92117
Phone Number: (858) 272-5800
Email: jennifer@jbsmlaw.com



South County EDC announced the position back in September 2019 and began an intricate interview process to find the best fit for the non-profit organization. The South County EDC board received 500 applications during this time.

James O'Callaghan graduated from Hofstra University in 2000 and received his Master's degree from Columbia University in 2002. His immediate position before South County EDC was as Executive Director of the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board, where he operated two business improvement districts and developed programs to attract and retain businesses within the districts. He was also President and CEO of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2016 to 2018 and of Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2012 to 2016. O'Callaghan has 24 years of experience in business development.

"I've moved around many times in my life, and San Diego always had a special place in my heart," said O'Callaghan. "South San Diego County holds countless opportunities for growth and economic development that are difficult to find in other parts of the region. I am excited to take on this new role and hope to serve this community adequately and continue to bring positive changes in the near future."

O'Callaghan will report to the South County EDC Board of Directors and will assume responsibility for all areas of the organization's programs and activities, including managing a team of 3 full-time staff, plus a dedicated cohort of capable interns, and an operating budget of approximately \$750,000. He will be the leading advocate for the region, forging innovative partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders, working closely with elected officials, attracting and retaining business, nurturing bi-national business growth, and backing key initiatives to move our region forward.

For more information on South County EDC, visit www.SouthCountyEDC.com or email scedo@southcountyedc.com.

HOSTED BY:
Johne Fields

CENSUS 2020
United States
Census 2020
COUNT ME 2020

May 7, 2020 featured guest speakers:
DJ Kuttin Kandi, Asian Solidarity Collective
Kent Lee, Executive Director
Pacific Arts Movement

PACIFIC ARTS MOVEMENT
asian solidarity collective



Top Filipino-American lawyer Jennifer Siverts with her pride and joy, husband Brendon and son Emmet (courtesy photo)

Fiesta Pinoy
Old Schoolhouse Square
550 E 8th St #9, National City
Call us @ (619) 434-6255

**WE OPEN AT 6AM
7 DAYS A WEEK**

Feel Fiesta Everyday!
Over 40 Selections
of Quality Home Cooked Meals to
choose from daily!

Affordable dishes starting from \$3.75!

Homemade goodness desserts!

Special party trays for every occasion
for as low as \$30!

Try our Specialty Dishes!!
Seafood Pancit Malabon • Special Filipino Spaghetti
Chicken Inasal • Pork Belly Sisig • Dinakdakan
Calamari and more!!

H MART

**H Mart is seeking Stocking Clerks
for Seafood, Meat, Produce,
Grocery, and other departments.
(Full Time and Part Time)**

Visit our stores,
email: ca.hr@hmart.com or call
(562) 879-8591 to apply

Locations:
9440 Mira Mesa Bl.,
San Diego, CA 92126
Tel (858) 577-0060

7725 Balboa Ave, San Diego, CA 92111
Tel (858) 836-9230

PHOTO VIDEO
Wedding and Event Specialists

SUMMER SPECIAL
Our standard 6 hour package
now \$1495

KANGEN WATER
change your water - change your life™

FREE 2 week
water trial

Carol Costales
(323) 420-7697

NewsWire, "South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President" May 11, 2020

https://www.newswire.com/news/south-county-economic-development-council-announces-new-chief-21143714?_ga=2.46604071.1070502430.1589231011-857398302.1585789154

South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President

James O'Callaghan assumes responsibility as new leader of non-profit organization

PRESS RELEASE UPDATED: MAY 11, 2020 17:35 PDT

SAN DIEGO, May 11, 2020 (NewsWire.com) - South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) announced it has named James O'Callaghan as the organization's new chief executive officer and president, succeeding 15-year President and CEO Cindy Gompfer-Graves. O'Callaghan served as executive director at the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board and, before that, served as president and CEO of two Chambers of Commerce from 2012 to 2018.



"The Board of Directors is excited to welcome James O'Callaghan to South County EDC," said Bob Penner, South County EDC Board Chair. "We are confident he is equipped and properly positioned to take on this important role."

South County EDC announced the position in September 2019 and began an intricate process to find the best fit for the non-profit organization. The South County EDC board received 500 applications during this time.

James O'Callaghan graduated from Hofstra University in 2000 and received his master's degree from Columbia University in 2002. His immediate position before South County EDC was as executive director of the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board, where he operated two business improvement districts and developed programs to attract and retain businesses. He was also president and CEO of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2016 to 2018 and of Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2012 to 2016. O'Callaghan has 24 years of experience in business development.

"I've moved around many times in my life, and San Diego always had a special place in my heart," said O'Callaghan. "South San Diego County holds countless opportunities for growth and economic development that are difficult to find in other parts of the region. I am excited to take on this role and hope to serve this community adequately and continue to bring positive changes in the near future."

O'Callaghan will report to the South County EDC Board of Directors and will assume responsibility for all of the organization's programs and activities, including managing a team of three full-time staff, plus a dedicated cohort of interns, and an operating budget of approximately \$750,000. He will be the leading advocate for the region, forging innovative partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders, working with elected officials, attracting and retaining business, nurturing bi-national business growth, and backing key initiatives to move the region forward.

For more information, visit www.SouthCountyEDC.com or email scedc@southcountyedc.com.

About SCEDC

The South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC or SCEDC) is a non-profit organization formed in 1989 by a group of South San Diego County business and community leaders to promote education and encourage economic development in the South San Diego County Region. Member cities include Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial

Economy Watch, "South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President" May 11, 2020

<https://www.economywatch.com/news/south-county-economic-development-council-announces-new-chief-executive-officer-and-president>

South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President

MAY 11, 2020 • BY NEWSWIRE



EMAIL



FACEBOOK 0



LINKEDIN



TWITTER

James O'Callaghan assumes responsibility as new leader of non-profit organization SAN DIEGO - May 11, 2020 - (Newswire.com) South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) announced it has named James O'Callaghan as the organization's new chief executive officer and president, succeeding 15-year President and CEO Cindy Gompper-Graves. O'Callaghan served as executive director at the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board and, before that, served as president and CEO of two Chambers of Commerce from 2012 to 2018.

"The Board of Directors is excited to welcome James O'Callaghan to South County EDC," said Bob Penner, South County EDC Board Chair. "We are confident he is equipped and properly positioned to take on this important role."

South County EDC announced the position in September 2019 and began an intricate process to find the best fit for the non-profit organization. The South County EDC board received 500 applications during this time.

James O'Callaghan graduated from Hofstra University in 2000 and received his master's degree from Columbia University in 2002. His immediate position before South County EDC was as executive director of the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board, where he operated two business improvement districts and developed programs to attract and retain businesses. He was also president and CEO of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2016 to 2018 and of Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2012 to 2016. O'Callaghan has 24 years of experience in business development.

"I've moved around many times in my life, and San Diego always had a special place in my heart," said O'Callaghan. "South San Diego County holds countless opportunities for growth and economic development that are difficult to find in other parts of the region. I am excited to take on this role and hope to serve this community adequately and continue to bring positive changes in the near future."

O'Callaghan will report to the South County EDC Board of Directors and will assume responsibility for all of the organization's programs and activities, including managing a team of three full-time staff, plus a dedicated cohort of interns, and an operating budget of approximately \$750,000. He will be the leading advocate for the region, forging innovative partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders, working with elected officials, attracting and retaining business, nurturing bi-national business growth, and backing key initiatives to move the region forward.

For more information, visit www.SouthCountyEDC.com or email scedc@southcountyedc.com.

About SCEDC

The South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC or SCEDC) is a non-profit organization formed in 1989 by a group of South San Diego County business and community leaders to promote education and encourage economic development in the South San Diego County Region. Member cities include Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City, San Diego, San Diego County, and the Port of San Diego. SCEDC works with its partners in the northern portion of Baja California in the cities of Mexicali, Tijuana, Tecate, Rosarito, and Ensenada.

Press Release Service by Newswire.com Original Source: [South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President](#)

San Diego Union Tribune Market Watch, "South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President" May 11, 2020

<http://markets.financialcontent.com/sandiego/news/read?GUID=39925937>

By: Latest Press Releases from Newswire.com

May 11, 2020 at 20:35 PM EDT

South County Economic Development Council Announces New Chief Executive Officer and President

James O'Callaghan assumes responsibility as new leader of non-profit organization



SAN DIEGO - May 11, 2020 - (Newswire.com)

South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) announced it has named James O'Callaghan as the organization's new chief executive officer and president, succeeding 15-year President and CEO Cindy Gompper-Graves. O'Callaghan served as executive director at the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board and, before that, served as president and CEO of two Chambers of Commerce from 2012 to 2018.

"The Board of Directors is excited to welcome James O'Callaghan to South County EDC," said Bob Penner, South County EDC Board Chair. "We are confident he is equipped and properly positioned to take on this important role."

South County EDC announced the position in September 2019 and began an intricate process to find the best fit for the non-profit organization. The South County EDC board received 500 applications during this time.

James O'Callaghan graduated from Hofstra University in 2000 and received his master's degree from Columbia University in 2002. His immediate position before South County EDC was as executive director of the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board, where he operated two business improvement districts and developed programs to attract and retain businesses. He was also president and CEO of the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2016 to 2018 and of Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce from 2012 to 2016. O'Callaghan has 24 years of experience in business development.

"I've moved around many times in my life, and San Diego always had a special place in my heart," said O'Callaghan. "South San Diego County holds countless opportunities for growth and economic development that are difficult to find in other parts of the region. I am excited to take on this role and hope to serve this community adequately and continue to bring positive changes in the near future."

O'Callaghan will report to the South County EDC Board of Directors and will assume responsibility for all of the organization's programs and activities, including managing a team of three full-time staff, plus a dedicated cohort of interns, and an operating budget of approximately \$750,000. He will be the leading advocate for the region, forging innovative partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders, working with elected officials, attracting and retaining business, nurturing bi-national business growth, and backing key initiatives to move the region forward.

For more information, visit www.SouthCountyEDC.com or email scedc@southcountyedc.com.

About SCEDC

The South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC or SCEDC) is a non-profit organization formed in 1989 by a group of South San Diego County business and community leaders to promote education and encourage economic development in the South San Diego County Region. Member cities include Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City, San Diego, San Diego County, and the Port of San Diego. SCEDC works with its partners in the northern portion of Baja California in the cities of Mexicali, Tijuana, Tecate, Rosarito, and Ensenada.



KUSI, "South County Economic Development Council names new CEO, Jim O'Callaghan" May 12, 2020

<https://www.kusi.com/south-county-economic-development-council-names-new-ceo-jim-ocallaghan/>

South County Economic Development Council names new CEO, Jim O'Callaghan

Posted: May 12, 2020 by



SAN DIEGO (KUSI) – South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) announced it has named James O'Callaghan as the organization's new chief executive officer and president, succeeding 15-year President and CEO Cindy Gompper-Graves.

O'Callaghan served as Executive Director at the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board and before that served as President and CEO of two Chambers of Commerce from 2012 to 2018.

"The Board of Directors is excited to welcome James O'Callaghan to South County EDC," said Bob Penner, South County EDC Board Chair. "We are confident he is equipped and properly positioned to take on this important role."

"I've moved around many times in my life, and San Diego always had a special place in my heart," said O'Callaghan. "South San Diego County holds countless opportunities for growth and economic development that are difficult to find in other parts of the region. I am excited to take on this new role and hope to serve this community adequately and continue to bring positive changes in the near future."

O'Callaghan will report to the South County EDC Board of Directors and will assume responsibility for all areas of the organization's programs and activities, including managing a team of 3 full-time staff, plus a dedicated cohort of capable interns, and an operating budget of approximately \$750,000.

He will be the leading advocate for the region, forging innovative partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders, working closely with elected officials, attracting and retaining business, nurturing bi-national business growth, and backing key initiatives to move our region forward.

For more information on South County EDC, visit www.SouthCountyEDC.com or email scedc@southcountyedc.com.

Categories: [Good Morning San Diego](#), [In Studio Guests](#)



News Break

South County Economic Development Council names new CEO, Jim O’Callaghan” May 12, 2020
<https://www.newsbreak.com/california/san-diego/living/0P1uqESw/south-county-economic-development-council-names-new-ceo-jim-ocallaghan>

South County Economic Development Council names new CEO, Jim O’Callaghan

San Diego, CA | kusi.com | 20d



SAN DIEGO (KUSI) – South County Economic Development Council (South County EDC) announced it has named James O’Callaghan as the organization’s new chief executive officer and president, succeeding 15-year President and CEO Cindy Gompper-Graves.

BROWN MARKETING STRATEGIES
2837 PRESIDIO DR
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110-2722

The Daily Transcript

www.sdtranscript.com

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AND COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2652 Fourth Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Diego, CA 92103 ♦ (619)232-3486 ♦ notices@sdtranscript.com ♦ Vol. 135, No. 92 ♦ Since 1882 ♦ \$3 ♦ Tuesday, May 12, 2020

SDSU submits final offer for stadium site

By Thor Kamban Biberman
Daily Transcript Staff Writer

While San Diego State University has submitted what is intended to be its final purchase and sale agreement (PSA) for the stadium land in Mission Valley. But whether there are outstanding issues depends on which side is being asked.

The PSA was accompanied by a letter from San Diego State president Adela de la Torre to San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, explaining

why she feels all the major questions have been answered about the sale.

"After well over a year of negotiations, including hundreds of hours of meetings, my team and I believe this agreement encompasses and addresses all major issues for the City of San Diego, the California State University, and San Diego State University," de la Torre wrote. "What is before you today is fair and equitable to both parties and represents the best interests of the public that we both serve.

"For the taxpayers we both represent, this project will deliver an expanded campus; a world-class River Park as part of over 80 acres of parks, trails, recreation and open space; up to 4,600 much-needed residential units, including 10 percent of all units designated and operated as affordable housing; nearly 1.6 million square feet of innovation space; a new stadium, and so much more for our region."

The problem is that in a May 5 letter to San Diego City Council, City Attorney Mara Elliott

identified 14 policy issues she feels are unresolved – some of which may be in flux as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

De la Torre's letter came on the same day as the signed purchase agreement came into the city.

One question posed by Elliott in her letter to city council is whether "the commencement date for a new interim lease on the property should continue to be July 1, 2020, as original-

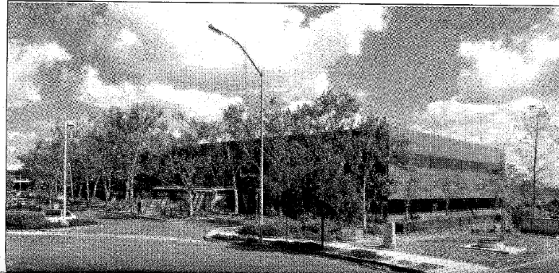
See Page 7 — SDSU

JLL: Biotechs may fare better during crisis, but still feel pinch

By Thor Kamban Biberman
Daily Transcript Staff Writer

While life science companies, particularly those who are on the hunt for coronavirus treatments or a vaccine, may have certain advantages, most biotech firms are far from being immune, according to a report from JLL.

"Leading up to COVID-19, the life science industry had recorded multiple years of strong investment levels, supplying several companies with capital to support ongoing research needs," JLL stated. "However, bio-



South County EDC gets new leadership

Daily Transcript Staff Report

The South County Economic Development Council has named James O'Callaghan as the organization's new chief executive officer and president, succeeding Cindy Gompper-Graves.

O'Callaghan previously served as the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board's executive officer.

See Page 7 — LEADERSHIP

Leadership

Continued from page 1

utive director. Earlier in his career he served as president and CEO of both the Huntington Beach and the Manhattan Beach chambers of commerce.

"We are confident he is equipped and properly positioned to take on this important role," South County EDC board chair Bob Penner said in a statement.

Gompper-Graves has served as the organization's head for 15 years.

South County EDC announced the availability of the post in September 2019 and began an intricate interview process to find the best fit for the nonprofit organization. The South County EDC board received 500 applications during this time.

While at the West Hollywood Travel and

Tourism Board, O'Callaghan operated two business improvement districts and developed programs to attract and retain businesses within the districts. He has 24 years of experience in business development.

"I've moved around many times in my life, and San Diego always had a special place in my heart," O'Callaghan said. "South San Diego County holds countless opportunities for growth and economic development that are difficult to find in other parts of the region. I am excited to take on this new role and hope to serve this community adequately and continue to bring positive changes in the near future."

O'Callaghan will report to the South County EDC Board of Directors and will assume responsibility for all areas of the organization's programs and activities, including managing a team of three full-time staff, a group of dedicated interns, and an operating budget of approximately \$750,000.



Photo courtesy of South County EDC
James O'Callaghan has been named CEO and president of the South County Economic Development Council.

He will be the leading advocate for the region, forging innovative partnerships with

private and public sector stakeholders, working closely with elected officials, attracting and retaining business, nurturing bi-national business growth, and backing key initiatives to move the region forward.

O'Callaghan graduated from Hofstra University in 2000 and received his Master's degree from Columbia University in 2002.

The South County Economic Development Council is a nonprofit organization formed in 1989 by a group of local business and community leaders, to promote education and encourage economic development in the South San Diego County Region. Their member cities include Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City, San Diego, San Diego County, and the Port of San Diego.

The group also works closely with counterparts in the northern portion of Baja California in the cities of Mexicali, Tijuana, Tecate, Rosarito and Ensenada.

The San Diego Union-Tribune

San Diego Union Tribune, "South County Economic Development Council selects new CEO in 15 years" May 13, 2020

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/communities/south-county/story/2020-05-13/south-county-edc-selects-first-new-ceo-in-15-years>

South County Economic Development Council selects first new CEO in 15 years



Cindy Gompper-Graves, Executive Director of the South County Economic Development Council (David Brooks)

Longtime CEO Cindy Gompper-Graves will be succeeded by James O'Callaghan

By GUSTAVO SOLIS
MAY 13, 2020 | 11:31 AM

ADVERTISEMENT

MOST READ LOCAL STORIES >



1 Large housing development could replace industrial lot in southwest Chula Vista
June 1, 2020

2 Decades in the making, Buena Vista Lagoon restoration plan finally approved
May 30, 2020

3 Community leaders: Don't lose the message behind the protests
May 31, 2020

4 Time expires for recall effort against Oceanside City Council member
May 31, 2020

5 Dozens rally in Santee to promote message of tolerance and inclusion

After 15 years as president and CEO of the South County Economic Development Council, Cindy Gompper-Graves is retiring.

“They are a great bunch of people and I have been honored to support their efforts over many years,” Gompper-Graves wrote in an email to The San Diego Union-Tribune on Monday.

One of the last initiatives the South County EDC did under Gompper-Graves’ watch was offering interest-free loans of up to \$5,000 to restaurants struggling to stay open amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the amount of the loans was small relative to the needs businesses have, the money was distributed faster than any state or federal emergency loan program.

The South County EDC formed in 1989 to encourage economic development in the southern part of San Diego County. Member cities include Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City and San Diego.



Over the last three decades, the nonprofit has encouraged private investment in the region and advocated for binational business growth.

More than 500 people filed applications to be Gompper-Graves’ replacement.

Ultimately, the board went with James O’Callaghan, a man with 24 years of business development experience who has served as president and CEO of both the Huntington Beach and Manhattan Beach chambers of commerce.

“The board of directors is excited to welcome James O’Callaghan to South County EDC,” said Bob Penner, South County EDC board chair. “We are confident he is equipped and properly positioned to take on this important role.”

The board expects O’Callaghan to be a leading advocate for the South County, forge public-private partnerships, attract and retain businesses, and nurture binational business growth.

He will oversee a full-time staff of three employees and manage an operating budget of roughly \$750,000.

[SOUTH COUNTY](#) [LATEST](#) [TOP STORIES](#) [TRENDING](#) [SHAREABLE](#)



Gustavo Solis

[✉ Email](#)

[Show Comments](#)

[SUPPORT OUR JOURNALISM](#) [SEND INVESTIGATIVE TIPS](#) [REPORT A PROBLEM WITH THIS STORY](#)

Serving the communities of Chula Vista and National City

THE STAR NEWS

The Star News, "Working Together Brings Success" May 22, 2020
<https://www.thestarnews.com/working-together-brings-success/>

Working together brings success

By James O'Callaghan - 05/22/2020

96 0



Since joining the South County Economic Development Council as its new CEO in early April, it has been amazing to see the commitment and pride local business owners have in their community and their customers.

Businesses are facing some of the toughest challenges ever encountered and remain

Businesses are facing some of the toughest challenges ever encountered and remain focused on what is best for everyone. Through our outreach efforts, it is apparent businesses are eager to get back to providing services and want to do so when it is safe for those they serve.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have spoken with hundreds of businesses via zoom and other technologies. Many of the conversations have surrounded putting the necessary measures in place to protect employees and customers. There has been a real sense of community and collaboration as companies look to source protective equipment and alter their business models. Operators have been quick to share best practices and contacts with counterparts and competitors.

Working with our civic partners throughout the county and beyond, we have been able to help to formulate plans to be implemented by companies as they prepare for the phasing of reopening. Supervisor Greg Cox and Mayor Kevin Faulconer have been tremendous in coordinating a cohesive effort in listening to constituents' needs and how they are impacted by proposed guidelines. All of this has led to the development of the San Diego County Safe Reopening Plan. The plan outlines the steps to safely reopen and affords consumers confidence the places they visit have taken appropriate steps to protect everyone.

At the South County EDC, the focus is on helping local businesses navigate these difficult times. Outreach will continue both through virtual meetings and data collection. Our commitment to clear, timely, and accurate communication has been even further ratcheted up. Our emergency loan program has already assisted 26 South County businesses since the beginning of March. The program continues to evolve creating access for even further assistance to companies in South County.

As an economic development council, we are proud to have stood with businesses and helped them retain and grow jobs over the past 30 years.

As the economy evolves and we all find ourselves in uncharted territory, the South County EDC has proactively taken steps to help those looking at transitioning their business. We are partnering with our local universities and colleges to assess what the new workforce will need in South County.

New programs and opportunities are being developed to help the workforce come back with an increased vigor and focus.

Having talked with business owners who have watched as their dreams face unexpected challenges, I am committed to seeking out resources to help them. As we move forward, collaboration and partnership with federal, state, and local organizations is necessary now more than ever. San Diego County and the cities I have the pleasure of working with here in South County are among the most passionate around. We know the road ahead is challenging and uncertain, but together we can continue to build on the success and resilience South County is known for.

James O'Callaghan is president & CEO of the South County Economic Development Council.

The Star News, "Young volunteers rise to the challenge of helping community" May 29, 2020
<https://www.thestarnews.com/young-volunteers-rise-to-the-challenge-of-helping-community/>

Young volunteers rise to the challenge of helping community

By Jessica Brodtkin Webb · 05/29/2020

77 0



One of the goals of Computers 2 Kids is to take retired electronics, refurbish them, and then partner with schools and other non-profits that do not have access to technology at home.



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, American adults between the ages of 35 and 54 are most likely to volunteer in their community, yet HandsOn San Diego has created a category of opportunities available to a completely different demographic: volunteers under the age of 18.

HandsOn Volunteer Engagement Coordinator Jessie Case explains youth volunteers sometimes encounter obstacles because of the age restrictions some organizations have in place for safety or liability reasons, but says HandsOn is committed to making volunteering easier for everyone, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LATEST NEWS



Hastings tops senior year with women's water polo All-American award
05/29/2020

Three South County alumni lead UCLA to No. 1 national ranking
05/29/2020

MUST READ

Generosity helps survive drama of closure
Jessica Brodtkin Webb · 05/30/2020

Bail set for April slaying
Neal Putnam · 05/29/2020

Young volunteers rise to the challenge of helping community
Jessica Brodtkin Webb · 05/29/2020

Load more

"During this pandemic, we've seen youth step up and answer the call to help their communities by distributing and delivering food, making cards for isolated seniors, and more. We hope that the projects we list on the San Diego COVID-19 volunteer hub will continue to inspire youth and adults alike to get involved," Case said.

One group that regularly includes younger volunteers is Computers 2 Kids, a non-profit founded in 2004 specifically to bridge the digital divide.

Chief Executive Officer Cheri Pierre said the whole premise is to take retired electronics, refurbish them, and then partner with schools and other non-profits that do not have access to technology at home.

They have partnered with schools across San Diego as well as the South County Economic Development Council.

"We are STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) based, we deal with low-income families, we're also environmentally conscious because we're extending the life of electronics by two to five years and we're a workforce development group," Pierre said.

Pierre credits Volunteer Coordinator Twyla Perry with finding ways to include children and teen volunteers.

"We had some very young kids, like five-year olds come through who were eager to help because they had been told to give back. Twyla created an event where the kids cleaned and wiped down the power connectors. It was a perfect activity and allowed us to really focus on those youngest kids," Pierre said.

They now have regular groups of children, teens, and persons with special needs regularly volunteer at the facility.

" 'No' should never be the first answer to fall back on and for so many people, that's the first response they get. We give packets to our families in multiple languages so even just having kids staple those packets is a volunteer task where they can help out," Pierre said.

She says it is just a matter of getting creative when coming up with tasks that will engage younger volunteers that also benefit the non-profit.

"For a 16 or 17 year-old to be able to come in and just start working on computers is helpful and appropriate. One thing we do require, if there is someone young in there, an adult or longtime volunteer is also there keeping an eye to make sure they're safe and that they have someone to walk them through the process of whatever they're working on," Pierre said.

She says they approach each situation as an employer-employee relationship.

"Teens sign in, they're taught to be respectful, no bullying... We really take this opportunity for the younger students to teach them how to behave in the workforce," Pierre said.

"A lot of organizations are struggling right now with sheltering in place. We've been open this entire time as a service agency. I encourage everyone: please don't be afraid to go back. There are over 11,000 nonprofits in San Diego county and collaboration is key for us. We're just one part of that. By working together, we all see better results."

The nonprofit has had to adjust their processes through the COVID pandemic by changing to a drive-through situation, said Pierre. She draws attention to how the increased demand for computers in the immediate weeks after school closures highlighted how many college-age students rely entirely on school computers.

"It's sad that it took something like this to spotlight the digital disparity and I feel like this is an opportunity for the entire state of California to really make a difference and eradicate a problem that is very real," Pierre said.

 Like 0
