



Press Release



Strategic
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City Council Outpaces Mayor on 2007 San Diego Water Quality Report Card *6th Annual Report Card is First to Rank Sanders under 'Strong Mayor' System*

On October 18, the 35th anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act, San Diego Coastkeeper released the *2007 San Diego Water Quality Report Card*, which examines the voting record of each City Council member and assesses the Mayor's performance on issues impacting the health of local waters and coastal habitat over the past year. The City received an overall grade of 'A-' on the 6th Annual Report Card, while Mayor Jerry Sanders received a 'C+'.

The Report Card, prepared by Strategic Community Consulting and commissioned by Coastkeeper, reviewed 67 votes taken by the City Council from October 2006 through September 2007, weighting those votes which had the greatest impact on the health of local waters. The votes considered included water and wastewater rate increases, land-use decisions that impact urban runoff pollution and coastal access (e.g. Navy Broadway Complex), enhancement projects (e.g. stream restoration), smoking ban on area beaches, and funding allocation for coastal protection.

Sanders, who no longer votes with the Council under the "Strong Mayor" form of government, was evaluated on Compliance with Federal, State and County regulations (50% of grade) and Endorsement of water project proposals (50% of grade). Areas examined included compliance with the San Diego County Municipal Stormwater Permit, water conservation and recycling efforts, and sewage treatment.

"This year presented unique challenges as we had to determine how to best evaluate Mayor Sanders under the City's new form of governance," noted Strategic Community Consulting Project Manager Matthew Owens. "Evaluating dozens of council votes and examining overall City compliance with, and leadership on, relevant regulations has led to the most comprehensive evaluation of the City's performance yet."

Six of eight Councilmembers scored in the 'A' range, with Toni Atkins ranking highest with an 'A+'. The lowest grade was Brian Maienschein's 'B-'. Donna Frye, who received an 'A-' is the only Councilmember to score in the 'A' range on each of the six Report Cards. All eight Councilmembers outpaced Mayor Sanders, who received a 'C+'.

“It is encouraging to see so our entire City Council step up to score high marks on coastal protection, particularly as we are still addressing our City’s financial problems,” stated Coastkeeper Executive Director Bruce Reznik. “We are disappointed, however, that the Mayor is not taking a greater leadership role on addressing inadequate sewage treatment and water supply shortages in the City.”

The 2007 *San Diego Water Quality Report Card* also projects those 2008 votes that are likely to be considered for next year’s evaluation, including a decision on the Point Loma Sewage Treatment Plant waiver, actions to implement the 2006 Water Reuse Study, and adoption of urban runoff measures (such as Low Impact Development).

The Report Card was initiated in 2002 as an independent assessment of the City Council on votes on issues impacting the health of our coast, bays and inland waterways in the City of San Diego. It seeks to educate San Diegans about the actions taken by Council members and the Mayor, and increase accountability of our elected officials. Download a copy the 2007 [San Diego Water Quality Report Card](#) here.

San Diego Coastkeeper protects the region’s bays, beaches, watersheds and ocean for the people and wildlife that depend on them. We balance community outreach, education, and advocacy to promote stewardship of clean water and a healthy coastal ecosystem.

Strategic Community Consulting (SCC) provides consulting services from the University of California's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) to nonprofit clients in the San Diego area. Additionally, SCC has sought to develop knowledge sharing and community partnerships between area nonprofits, IR/PS staff, faculty, and students, and individuals interested in promoting the capacity of civil society in San Diego.

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