



SEARCH: Weather Traffic Yellow Pages Real Estate Multimedia Contests Comics Feedback

Home News Politics Opinion Business Sports Living Arts & Ent. Travel Events USLNN.com



SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY
\$25 SEAT SALE
 Hurry, offer ends March 21!
 • Get Great Seats
 • Buy Online
 • Choose from a selection of our 2010 concerts
 Restrictions apply.
CLICK HERE NOW!

Report Card: Mayor, Council need to improve on environmental quality

BY COLIN PARENT, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 no comments | [be the first to comment!](#)

7 tweets

Editor's note: Over the next few days, leaders from local environmental organizations will blog about their "Report Card" and the future of San Diego's environmental policy. This is the first of 10 blogs. Read the second blog [here](#).

vote now

On Wednesday, a coalition of 11 environmental organizations released the first ever "Report Card" to grade a broad range of environmental quality issues for the city of San Diego.

The Report Card quantitatively grades Mayor Jerry Sanders and the City Council on their votes and policies related to the environment in 2009. It is available on the [League of Conservation Voters' Web site](#).

The Report Card grades city officials by the numbers. Consultants were hired from [Strategic Community Consulting](#) (SCC), an independent group which provides consulting services from the [UCSD Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies \(IR/PS\)](#) to nonprofit clients in the San Diego area.

SCC generated a list of votes and policy positions taken by the Mayor and City Council. SCC assigned each decision a weight on their relative environmental impact, and then decided independently whether city decisions were in accord with environmental quality. Both city officials and other stakeholders were provided an opportunity to provide input to the SCC decisions, but SCC made the final decisions.

The Mayor and a number of city Councilmembers did not do well on the Report Card. But the Report Card wasn't commissioned to reward or to punish city officials. The focus for our Coalition is not what happened in 2009, but what will happen in 2010. The purpose of the Report Card is to identify where city officials went wrong, and how they can better protect the environment going forward.

The Report Card identifies a number of policy issues the environmental community will be

LATEST POSTS - ALL BLOGS

- [RIP Alex Chilton: Songwriter remembered as more than cult sensation](#)
- [Hate crimes bill advances in Assembly](#)
- [Co-pay rising: Five health insurance myths](#)
- [Eastman: Operation urgent care rally focuses on Constitution](#)
- [USLNN, KOCE-TV announce partnership in Orange County](#)

DIVORCE
 MEDIATION
 CHILD SUPPORT
 ADOPTION

LAW & MEDIATION OFFICES OF
GARRISON KLUCK
 EXPERIENCED CERTIFIED SPECIALIST
FAMILYLAWSAN DIEGO.COM

LATEST POSTS - CURRENT BLOG

Hate crimes bill advances in Assembly

1 hour, 26 minutes ago
 Assemblymember Lori Saldaña's hate crimes bill advances to the full Assembly after being approved by a committee.

Eastman: Operation urgent care rally focuses on Constitution



watching a for next year's Report Card. Officials will likely receive good grades if they support the following issues expected to face the city in 2010:



Colin Parent is on the board of the League of Conservation Voters San Diego.

- Completion of an Indirect Potable Reuse demonstration project to recycle wastewater into usable drinking water and development of large-scale implementation projects.
- Minimizing impacts to wetlands in the proposed deviations to the city's Environmentally Sensitive Lands regulations.
- Reducing the potential environmental impacts of the city's proposed creek channel maintenance program for storm water conveyance.
- Implementing policies to encourage energy efficiency retrofits to municipal buildings and private residences in all neighborhoods,
- Appointing a Port Commissioner with a record of protecting the health and environment of communities surrounding the Port.

Over the course of the next week, members of our Report Card coalition will blog here on SDNN's A More Perfect Union about a number of environmental issues. They'll discuss some of the grades in the 2009 Report Card, and they'll also talk about some issues we expect to see on the 2010 Report Card.

Because of our proximity to the ocean, and our shared love of the outdoors, San Diegans are particularly concerned about our environmental health. It is our hope that by promoting these issues with the public, elected officials will be encouraged to enact policy that carefully protects our city's environmental quality.

The city of San Diego Environmental Quality Report Card Coalition:

The [League of Conservation Voters San Diego](#), [Surfrider San Diego](#), [San Diego Coastkeeper](#), [San Diego Sierra Club](#), [California Native Plant Society](#), [Center On Policy Initiatives](#), [Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation](#), [Environmental Health Coalition](#), [Friends of Rose Canyon](#), [San Diego Audubon Society](#), and [San Diego Canyonlands](#).

Colin Parent is on the board of the League of Conservation Voters San Diego. He is an attorney in private practice.

Tags: [anthony young](#), [Ben Hueso](#), [California Native Plant Society](#), [carl demaio](#), [center on policy initiatives](#), [city council](#), [City of San Diego](#), [Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation](#), [Coastkeeper](#), [Donna Frye](#), [Environmental Health Coalition](#), [Environmental Quality](#), [Environmentally Sensitive Lands](#), [Friends of Rose Canyon](#), [Graywater](#), [Indirect Potable Reuse](#), [Jerry Sanders](#), [kevin faulconer](#), [League of Conservation Voters](#), [marti emerald](#), [Port Commissioner](#), [Report card](#), [San Diego Audubon Society](#), [San Diego Canyonlands](#), [san diego port](#), [SDNN](#), [Sherri Lightner](#), [sierra club](#), [Strategic Community Consulting](#), [Surfrider](#), [todd gloria](#), [Tony Young](#), [UCSD Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies](#)

This entry was posted on Wednesday, March 10th, 2010 at 12:14 pm and is filed under [A More Perfect Union](#) . You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

SHARE THIS POST



POST A COMMENT

* Required to comment

4 hours, 5 minutes ago

Opinion: The U.S. Congress does not have the "consent of the governed" to pass President Obama's health care plan.

Lowe: Using transit is a smart way to create jobs

6 hours, 53 minutes ago

Opinion: Transit spending is a smart way to provide jobs, reduce congestion and provide transportation choices desired by employers and employees.

[more »](#)



• BLOGS

- [A Conversation with San Diego](#) (163)
- [A More Perfect Union](#) (410)
- [America's Finest Sports Blog](#) (267)
 - [Mad Runner](#) (5)
 - [San Diego Hoops Headquarters](#) (14)
 - [Surf Reports](#) (12)
- [Culture Cruncher](#) (196)
- [Decibel](#) (62)
- [Eat Drink San Diego](#) (47)
- [Gaslamp Gal](#) (36)
- [Giving'em the Business](#) (219)
- [Is That You God?](#) (17)
- [Sponsored Blogs](#) (142)
 - [Air Charter, Airports & Aviation](#) (57)
 - [Between the Sea and the Sky](#) (10)
 - [Biz Soup](#) (11)
 - [Boys and Girls Clubs](#) (3)
 - [Life is a Lease](#) (2)
 - [Onboard Orion Expeditions](#) (9)
 - [San Diego at Work Blog](#) (36)
 - [San Diego Family Law Blog](#) (6)
- [Teachable Moments](#) (21)
- [The Good Blog](#) (5)
- [The Universal Health Blog](#) (17)
- [Trippin](#) (75)

* Name

* E-Mail (will not be published)

Website

News Updates and More!

ESSENTIALS

- Weather
- Traffic
- Home

NEWS

- Most Recent
- Politics
- AP Headlines
- Rancho Bernardo



RSS

SECTIONS

- Opinion
- Business
- Sports
- Food & Drink
- Arts & Entertainment
- Music & Nightlife
- Lifestyle
- Health
- Visitors Guide
- Travel

BLOGS

- A Conversation with San Diego
- America's Finest Sports Blog
- Eat Drink San Diego
- A More Perfect Union
- Culture Cruncher
- Decibel
- Giving'em the Business
- Hear Here

EXTRAS

- Comics
- San Diego Yellow Pages
- Multimedia
- The Good Squad
- Out and About
- San Diego Resources

SDNN

- About Us
- Feedback
- Advertising
- Partners
- Employment
- Privacy Policy
- Terms of Service