



GENERAL MANAGER PERSPECTIVES SAN DIEGO COUNTRY ESTATES ASSOCIATION

Darren Shaw

October is also a great time for local events, including pumpkin patches and harvest festivals in nearby areas. Additionally, the proximity to the Ramona Valley Wine Region means you can enjoy vineyard tours and wine tastings amidst the autumn beauty. Whether you're enjoying a peaceful day at one of the many parks or exploring the nearby wilderness areas, October in San Diego Country Estates is an excellent time to appreciate its natural charm. There are only two park concerts left, and don't forget about the Fall Festival here on October 19.

It's that time of year when budget planning takes center stage. Our employee team began working on the 2025 operating budget and reserve plan several months ago. You might be surprised to learn that 15 departments contribute to the budget development process. This past week, the Budget Development Committee and board members met with each department to better understand the dynamics in creating the 2025 operating budget, reserve plan, and capital plan. On Tuesday, October 1, a budget presentation to the community is scheduled at 6 p.m. in the San Vicente Room. The board will formally consider approving the proposed 2025 operating budget, reserve, and capital plans at its October 22 board meeting.

The ADA Lift Project is finally in progress. Originally approved in 2017, the project will provide ADA-compliant access from the golf shop/pool level to the restaurant and main entrance areas. The board gave formal approval in February 2023, with the total cost estimated at around \$130,000. The lift is expected to be operational by the end of October.

The Pocket Park Shade Structure Project, which has been in development for almost three years, overcame another hurdle mandated by county permitting. The latest requirement is that the park area's entrance must be completely renovated to conform with ADA requirements. The board approved the additional expense at its board meeting earlier this week.

Two major projects planned before the end of the year are the reroofing of the clubhouse and the IEC barns. For the clubhouse project, we've hired a roof consultant/project manager to oversee the work. This project involves several challenges due to the numerous pieces of equipment added or relocated on the roof over the years. There are many penetrations (including HVAC units, fans, pumps, condensers, solar panels, and other equipment), and the roof consists of two different systems—sloped shingles and flat roofing. We aim to complete the specifications by October and put the project out for competitive bidding. At the IEC, the roofs of nine barns, which also have solar panels, will be replaced. This project is less complex, and we hope to secure a contractor by the end of October.

Don't forget to join us this Saturday at the new San Vicente Park, adjacent to the pickleball complex. Grand Opening festivities include live music and barbecue, snacks, and soft drinks.