

THE BILL OTTERSON BIOTECH LETTER
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WARD VALLEY

1. Despite being handed a resounding victory by the Third District Court of Appeal, disquieting rumors are circulating that Governor Pete Wilson is still seeking a way to compromise with Senator David Roberti and hold some kind of hearings before directing his Department of Health Services to proceed with the licensing. Biomedical Industry Council (BIC) President David Hale, Biocommerce Environmental Chair Mary Walker have written to the Governor imploring him to get on with the licensing, believing that any further hearing will only reactivate the "media circus" so well controlled by project opponents.
2. State Controller Gray Davis held a press conference requesting Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt to withhold his land transfer decision pending adjudicatory hearings. xxx, formerly at UCLA, offered a paper he authored on the adjudicatory hearings at that university. "The Committee to Bridge the Gap, the same group leading the opposition to the licensing of Ward Valley, was the principal intervenor in the UCLA hearings. They presented almost four thousand interrogatory questions. After four years of hearings, nothing was decided, and UCLA simply withdrew, out of frustration, he wrote. Copies of the complete report are available from Deborah Abblitt at 534-4750.
3. Citing a buildup of low-level waste in biotech companies and research laboratories in their districts, San Diego elected officials are writing Secretary Bruce Babbitt, requesting him to get on with his review of the land transfer question, so that all the waste can be stored in just one location. So far, letters have been sent by State Senators Lucy Killea and Wassie Deddah, State Assemblypersons Dede Alpert, Steve Peace and Tom Connolly, Mike Gotch?. Staffers to U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Shenck indicate that she has a letter in preparation.

HI-COM

4. Comstream Vice-Chairman Mel Gafner, Chairman of the Mayor's Economic Development Committee for High-Tech convened his first meeting Thursday at the UCSD Faculty Club. Consisting solely of high-tech CEO's, the Committee includes Robert Hecht-Nielson, Chairman HNC Neurocomputer [??], John Belden, President Octus??, Scott McClendon, President Overland Data Incorporated, Dave Flowers, President??, Pulse Engineering, Al Martinez, President Applied Materials Corporation, Rick Sulspizio, COO Qualcomm, Dennis Nau, President Sorrento Associates, and Chairman San Diego Chapter American

Electronics Association, Don Baldwin, VP SAIC, Jim Bixby, President ?? and Terry Bibbens, President ??. "This group could well develop into the high-tech equivalent of BIC and BioCom," said CONNECT Director Bill Otterson.

The group identified twelve local, state and federal issues of concern, many of which parallel the concerns of the biomedical industry. Jim Bixby, speaking by proxy, emphasized the importance of increased funding for the University of California, particularly in the Engineering disciplines. Chairman Mel Gafner asked CONNECT Champion Terry Bibbens to educate the group on the Trip Reduction Plan situation, which may be the groups first area of focus.

CLEAN AIR ACT - TRIP REDUCTION PLANS

5. CONNECT Champion Terry Bibbens continues his relentless investigation of alternatives to trip reduction plans to assist San Diego in improving its air quality, suggesting that "High-Tech Supports the Environment" is a much more positive approach to the problem. Pointing out that the main problem in San Diego is "transport smog" from the Los Angeles Basin and Illegal Gross Polluters, Ed Pacheo, VP SAIC said his company is investigating a retrofitable catalytic converter, manufactured by a company in Rancho Bernardo and sold in Mexico City to help alleviate that city's major smog problems. "If Gross Polluters were retrofitted in Los Angeles, not only would it benefit people in the South Coast Air Quality Region, but it would also reduce the smog transported to San Diego on days with a Sant Ana wind condition, said Bibbens.

CLEAN WATER ACT

6.

CONNECT MEETS THE PRESIDENT

7. During his visit to San Diego last week, President Clinton stayed at the Hotel Del Coronado as a guest of Sheila? and Larry Lawrence. Lawrence introduced CONNECT's Carole Ekstrom to the President, and Ekstrom presented the President with a copy of the CONNECT Directory. "All 350 CONNECT Members and Sponsors are now represented in the White House!" exclaimed Ekstrom.

FDA SPEEDUP

8. "If the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) reorganized its workload [MORE TO COME]

12
UCSD

12. CONNECT Director Bill Otterson promised UCSD Chancellor Dick Atkinson that Connect Sponsors and Members would send him 200 or more personalized letters supporting budget increases for the UC System and giving him examples of how UCSD had helped their firms. "Now, I will have to call on CONNECT affiliates to make good on my promise," said Otterson.

NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

To further confuse the airport site selection process, the Base Closure Commission put Miramar Naval Air Station on the potential base closures list late Friday. So Larry Lawrence did know something several months ago when he told the Board of Supervisors that Miramar might become a possibility!

DEFENSE CONVERSION FUNDS

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS

OTHER

PAST WEEK

UPCOMING

San Diego City Council will address the question of continuing the moratorium on certain lands around the proposed location of the Bi-national Airport on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 202 C Street, 12th Floor. "The question is a complex one," said Dialogue's **Chuck Nathanson**, "How much more traffic can Lindberg Field accomodate, even assuming the Marine Corp Recruit Depot space were to become available? How fast will demand increase? How much more demand would be needed to justify direct overseas flights by the airlines? What new 'short-take-off-short-landing' aircraft technology will be available by the year 2010 or 2020 when a full bi-national airport could become a reality? What might the Mexican Government's real position be on a bi-national site? What would be the cost of realigning runways at Miramar to accomodate large, lumbering commercial jets that can't turn away from La Jolla and UCSD on climb-out? Considering the slow-down in the real estate market, what would be the effective impact of removing the building moratorium?

"The Dialogue's Airport and Transportation Committee is preparing a report to address some of these questions. Should the City Council wait to see the report? Many of the questions are beyond the ambit of the City. Shouldn't a

