



Mostly sunny; highs in the 70s to mid-80s / B-7



Chargers enjoy training camp without Leaf / C-1

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Workers protest marine life act

Creation of protected areas raises concerns

MARTY GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

SAN DIEGO — Several hundred angry people who make their living from the ocean crowded a state Department of Fish and Game workshop Friday night to voice their concerns about how maps of new underwater reserves will be drawn.

Commercial and recreational fishermen, divers and people from the shipyards and bait companies that support them came from as far away as Newport Beach to the workshop held at a Mission Valley hotel.

They came to be heard on how a new law, called the Marine Life Protection Act, will affect their hobbies, businesses and lives.

"If they do what they are talking about, they will put lots of people out of work and out of business," said John Pratt, who runs a bait-gathering boat for Everingham Brothers, a Chula Vista commercial bait operation.

In October 1999, the state Legislature approved a bill sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council that creates a series of marine protected areas where commercial and recreational fishing will be restricted or forbidden. The goal of the bill was to create new habitats and protect existing ones.

Now, a year and a half later, the Department of Fish and Game is taking proposed maps to the people who work or play in the ocean to see how to balance conservation with how people use the ocean. The maps are only proposed, Cal State Fullerton

► MARINE, A-2

City gets grant to clean creek

\$814K will aid efforts to clean ocean-bound creek water

SPENCER SOPER
STAFF WRITER

ENCINITAS — An \$814,000 windfall from the state will help Encinitas clean up contaminated creek water before it reaches Moonlight Beach, city and state officials said Friday.

The grant comes from the state's Clean Beach Initiative, a \$10 million spending meas-

ure that aims to curb beach closures statewide. The funds were part of the \$103 billion state budget the governor signed Thursday.

The city will use the money to install an ozone filter along Cottonwood Creek to clean stream water before it reaches the ocean. The creek,

which drains a 4-square-mile urbanized watershed, has caused pollution problems at the beach for years.

"We're going to clean the bacteria out of the creek," said Kathy Weldon, the city's storm water manager.

The shed-sized plant will be built along the creek at

Third and B streets, two blocks east of Moonlight Beach. Now that the city has the grant, permits from various state agencies will be needed but the filter will probably be installed by next April, Weldon said.

The filter will pump ozone, an electrically charged form

of oxygen, into the water to kill bacteria. After losing its charge, the gas breaks down into oxygen.

Weldon said that by using the filter, the creek remains a wildlife habitat. Otherwise, the waterway could be

► CREEK, A-6

School seeking musical talent

Encinitas School of Music quietly develops young musicians

ADAM KAYE
STAFF WRITER

ENCINITAS — A kind of musical renaissance is taking hold in the hills of Leucadia. The Encinitas School of Music is forming a youth orchestra and needs musicians.

"It's like a San Diego Symphony for kids," said artistic director and violinist Reginald Clews. "What we really want is something that isn't in downtown San Diego for people who live up here."

Clews, 27, is a fourth-generation musician and one of 12 teachers at the 3-year-old music school. He was born on the Mediterranean island country of Malta, where his grandfather and great-grandfather were once conductors for the national philharmonic orchestra.

Clews is an international performer, founding member of the Hutchins Consort and is in steady demand as a soloist and chamber musician. He moved to Encinitas 10 months ago and started teaching at the Encinitas School of Music.

The school, which is working to finalize its nonprofit status with the state, serves 150 students of all ages with 12 teachers. Students can study any kind of music

► MUSICAL, A-4



Photos by BILL WECHTER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above, from left, music students Chadd Burda, 13, Jennifer Razavi, 13, and Scott Love, 14, take a popular class at the Encinitas School of Music on Thursday. Below, Johanna Bible, 8, takes a violin lesson at the school Thursday.



House rejects easing arsenic levels in water

It is uncertain whether U.S. Senate will uphold the vote

DOUGLAS JEHL
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives voted 218-189 Friday to require the Bush administration to keep in place restrictions on the amount of arsenic allowed in drinking water at least as stringent as those set under President Clinton.

The move was another setback for the administration on environmental policy and a defeat for the House Republican leadership: 19 Re-

publicans joined with 199 Democrats.

If it is upheld by the Senate, which is uncertain, Friday's vote would allow the administration to choose only between putting in place the Clinton rules or tightening them further, thus guaranteeing at least an 80 percent reduction in the arsenic standard by 2006, when the rules are to take effect.

The Bush administration announced in March that it would suspend arsenic rules established under Clinton, which set the standard at 10 parts per billion. At that time and since, it was questioned whether the Clinton decision was based on an adequate understanding of the level at

► ARSENIC, A-9

Fluorescent bulbs save energy, money

DENIS DEVINE
STAFF WRITER

When California consumers get a bright idea about how to save energy and money as utility bills soar, the light bulb that blinks on overhead is increasingly a compact fluorescent one.

No self-respecting list of energy-saving tips would be complete without urging consumers to replace their incandescent light bulbs with their more energy-efficient compact fluorescent counterparts, but can the much more expensive bulbs really save

Edison to let deadline pass for filing bankruptcy. See Page A-5.

San Diegans money while helping to drop the state's ravenous demand for electricity?

A North County Times analysis shows that a leading manufacturer's compact fluorescent light bulb, despite initially costing \$14.60 more than that same manufacturer's incandescent bulb, would save an average San Diego

► BULBS, A-6

Gay partner can pursue wrongful death lawsuit

RON HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The lesbian partner of a woman mauled to death by dogs this year scored a surprising court victory Friday as a judge allowed her wrongful death suit to proceed to trial.

Judge A. James Robertson II agreed with the arguments of Sharon Smith's attorney that California state law has created an unfair barrier for her by not allowing same-sex couples to marry. That barrier precludes them from seeking benefits available to married couples and family members, such as the right to sue when someone's negligence has allegedly de-

prived them of companionship.

However, the equal protection provision of the state constitution prevents such exclusions, the judge ruled. Smith's attorney, Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, was elated with the ruling.

"This is a remarkable day. This is the first decision of this kind, not just in California but anywhere in the country," Minter said. "It's a



Sharon Smith

► LAWSUIT, A-9

Commission cuts superagency board size

DAVE DOWNEY
STAFF WRITER

SAN DIEGO — A state study commission proposing to shake up the San Diego County political landscape held its 19th and final meeting Friday, tinkering with a board that might decide regional issues one day and polishing a report headed for Sacramento.

Meeting at UC San Diego, the Regional Government Efficiency Commission made one more significant change to a package filled with unprecedented, sweeping proposals: Members voted to trim the size of the board that would run its proposed superagency from 15 members to 11.

Commissioner Paul Peterson, a San Diego land-use attorney, pushed for the change, saying that a smaller



BILL WECHTER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Commissioner Ron Roberts, fourth from left, addresses his colleagues on the Regional Government Efficiency Commission on Friday at UC San Diego.

board would be more manageable and would be easier to sell to San Diego County voters, who ultimately would decide whether to buy the government package.

Several commissioners

said they had taken some heat since approving a 15-member board a week ago, with critics charging that such a large body would be

► BOARD, A-7

INDEX

Ann Landers	D-2
Bridge	D-2
Business	D-1
Classifieds	E-1
Comics	D-2, 3
Crossword	E-4, 5, 8
Cryptocquote	E-4
Dear Abby	D-3
Editorials-Letters ..	A-10, 11
Horoscope	D-3
Jumble	E-4
Local	B-1
Lottery	A-2
Movie Listings	B-5
Obituaries	B-6
Public Notices	E-15
Sports	C-1
TV Listings/Weather ..	B-7

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