...all of you! You, the readers of the Peninsula Beacon, are the ones who have enjoyed great service, friendly assistance above and beyond the norm, unusual selections, mouthwatering menu items and more at restaurants all around town — and you, our readers, let us know about it.

We are proud to present the results of the third Peninsula Beacon Readers Choice Awards. Our categories cover the sunniest corner for your morning coffee to the smoothest spot for a soothing nightcap and everything in between.

These awards recognize the people and places that make the Point Loma and Ocean Beach areas truly extraordinary. From Euro chic to American casual, you can find any dining option in these dynamic beach communities.

Ballots were printed in the Peninsula Beacon for seven weeks beginning in January. Some readers mailed their ballots while others chose to vote online. The votes have since been tabulated and the results presented inside this special supplement.

Some of the winners may surprise you; others have enjoyed sterling reputations for years and even decades. We hope these awards will encourage those who aspire to excellence every day and inspire new businesses to reach new heights.

Although we are all sometimes crushed by the daily grind, it’s gratifying to know that kindness, care and a bright smile do not go unnoticed.

The Peninsula Beacon would like to thank all the readers who took the time to single out the businesses and merchants who make Ocean Beach and Point Loma such rich and unique communities.

Congratulations!

Kevin McKay,
Editor, Peninsula Beacon
The following businesses were chosen by the readers of the Peninsula Beacon.

Readers were asked to cast ballots for their favorite choices. This was no simple task! With more than 71 categories, our readers came through with overwhelming response. We wish to thank all the readers who took the time to recognize these businesses which do so much to make Ocean Beach and Point Loma such wonderful communities.

### Readers Choice Awards 2010

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES WHICH WERE CHOSEN BY THE READERS OF THE PENINSULA BEACON.

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READERS CHOICE AWARDS 2010

THURSDAY APRIL 22, 2010
The Peninsula Beacon

THURSDAY
APRIL 22, 2010
The Peninsula Beacon

READERS CHOICE AWARDS 2010

Overall Restaurant
Nati’s Mexican Restaurant
The votes are in, and the readers have chosen Nati’s Mexican Restaurant as the best local restaurant for the second year in a row! It’s no wonder, as Nati’s has been serving the finest Mexican dishes made from scratch with fresh ingredients for 50 years. The owners pride themselves on serving virtually every dish made to order, including their delicious chili rellenos made with fresh chilies while providing patrons with affordable prices.

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Nati’s Mexican Restaurant
1852 Bacon St., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-3369

American Hodad’s
“If this isn’t the best burger you’ve ever had,” declares an electronic page devoted to Hodad’s in Ocean Beach, “we really don’t want to hear about it.” The staff wouldn’t have time to listen anyway – everybody’s too busy serving up OB’s favorite burger. No less than the peeps over at Fodor’s travel guides call the Hodad’s bacon-cheeseburger “awesome,” and there’s even a grilled cheese sandwich on the menu for those desiring lighter fare. They were also featured on “Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives”. You can get beer and malts to go with it all – the important thing, though is that you show up.

Hodad’s
5010 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-4623
www.hodadies.com

Appetizer
The Arizona Cafe
The “AZ” is the place to mingle for anyone who wants a real taste of the beach scene. An Ocean Beach landmark, the Arizona Cafe offers a 1940s atmosphere with a contemporary flare – even the ceiling reflects the artistic detail of the era. Check out the daily happy hour featuring $3 food and drink specials. The menu offers burgers, sliders, sandwiches, salads, appetizers and more – incredibly tasty variety that’s easy on the wallet. Or grab an order to go from our takeout

The Arizona Cafe
The Arizona Cafe
The Arizona Cafe
The Arizona Cafe

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US
#1 in Pt. Loma & Ocean Beach

1st PLACE
Pizza
Italian

3 Straight Years!

Full Bar & Large Covered Patio
Wine Cellar / Dining Room
3663 Voltaire St., San Diego • (619) 223-8197

1st PLACE
2010
Family Restaurant
Take-out Restaurant Service

IN APPRECIATION
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Buy 1 BRAVO’S COMBO at regular price and get 1 free (same or lesser value)
Excludes seafood combinations. Expires 5/4/10

Visit our Tequila Bar featuring over 30 types of Tequila or try our Mega Margarita 44oz. with 5 shots of Tequila…you may want to share this with a friend!

Bravo’s Mexican Bistro & Cantina
(619) 222-6633
5001 Newport Ave. Ocean Beach

IN APPRECIATION
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Buy 1 BRAVO’S COMBO at regular price and get 1 free (same or lesser value)
Excludes seafood combinations. Expires 5/4/10

Visit our Tequila Bar featuring over 30 types of Tequila or try our Mega Margarita 44oz. with 5 shots of Tequila…you may want to share this with a friend!

Lucy’s Tavern
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BAR
THANK YOU!
Thanks to all who voted for Juli as BEST BARTENDER
I love & appreciate all my friends for their support
- Juli
619-224-0834
4906 Voltaire Street (corner of Voltaire & Cable)
two awards from the American Culinary Federation for a recipe she created using only a shopping bag full of unrelated food items.

Island Prime
880 Harbor Island Dr., Harbor Island
(619) 298-6802
www.cohnrestaurants.com

Best City View
Bali Hai Restaurant
The Bali Hai Restaurant has been a favorite in San Diego for more than 55 years, and it’s no wonder, with one of the most spectacular views of San Diego Harbor. The circular architectural design and floor to ceiling windows promise diners great seating and views. Another one of the great amenities the Bali Hai Restaurant has to offer is the boat dock out on the backside of the restaurant. Every Sunday, many boat owners in the community come to the Bali Hai and dock to have Sunday Brunch—for some, it’s a Sunday ritual. If you own a boat, and are considering coming over for Sunday Brunch, we suggest you get there a little early to get a place on the dock. Sometimes boats get docked two deep on Sundays!! Mafalo – and enjoy!
Bali Hai Restaurant
2230 Shelter Island Dr.
(619) 222-1181
www.balihairestaurant.com

Best Ocean View
Nick’s at the Pier
Take Nick’s at the Beach (arguably the archetypal Pacific Beach eatery) and drop it on the Ocean Beach Pier; oddly enough, Nick’s at the Pier materializes, with the same vibe and commitment to quality you’ll find at the Pier. The fried calamari, the papas quesadilla, the crab cakes and steamed mussels – they’re all here, along with a killer wine list, a serious banquet menu and a stratospheric 23 big-screen TVs. Nick’s at the Pier has thought of just about everything. There’s a reason it all looks familiar – but don’t worry, you’ve come to the right place.
Nick’s at the Pier
5083 Santa Monica Ave.
(619) 222-7437
www.nicksatthepier.com

Breakfast
Red Sails Inn
Red Sails Inn is located on beautiful Shelter Island with a patio offering bayside dining and a great view of San Diego Sport Fishing Fleet. Serving the area for more than 50 years, Red Sails Inn has been a local watering hole and is widely known for family dining and great early-bird specials! Famous for their breakfast, Red Sails also offers lunch and dinner menus with everything from sandwiches to fresh Seafood, Steak and Lobster. They also have a special menu just for kids.
Red Sails Inn
2514 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma
(619) 222-3030
www.theredsails.com

Burger
Hodad’s
(see entry under Best American)

Burrito
Nico’s Mexican Food
“I’ve never loved anything in this crazy world,” one partisan says, “as much as I love a Nico’s bean and cheese burrito. “Anything”? That’s quite an endorsement, especially when you consider that this crazy world has lots of cool stuff in it – like this eatery’s legendary hot sauce and the way it piles on the beans. The chicken taquitos rate high as well, as does the veggie burrito and the refried fare. In a city that touts close to five million Mexican restaurants, Nico’s must indeed be unique in this crazy world — or in crazy OB at the very least.
Nico’s Mexican Food
4918 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 223-0230

Best Catering
Da Kine’s
Few restaurants in San Diego offer authentic Hawaiian cuisine, and even fewer can provide large quantities of the unique island flavors for parties and events. But Da Kine, which opened in San Diego in 1997, has found a winning formula for making high-quality, high-volume food. Customers can choose from menu options that include Kaha pig with cabbage, sweet and sour spare ribs, chicken katsu, teriyaki beef and the ever-popular poi, a Hawaiian staple made of mashed taro. And not only does Da Kine serve delicious food, they also offer is the boat dock out on the Ocean Beach Pier; archetypal Pacific Beach eatery) and take Nick’s at the Beach (arguably the archetypal Pacific Beach eatery) and drop it on the Ocean Beach Pier; oddly enough, Nick’s at the Pier materializes, with the same vibe and commitment to quality you’ll find at the Pier. The fried calamari, the papas quesadilla, the crab cakes and steamed mussels – they’re all here, along with a killer wine list, a serious banquet menu and a stratospheric 23 big-screen TVs. Nick’s at the Pier has thought of just about everything. There’s a reason it all looks familiar – but don’t worry, you’ve come to the right place.

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Chinese
Little Chef
One local tells of an innocuous run-in with Little Chef that speaks volumes. Not only was the food delicious, it was still hot when her boyfriend brought it to her at work. Now that’s fresh. They’ve been at the same location for more than 20 years and haven’t changed their prices in over 10 years! That means not only does Little Chef have the best Chinese, but it will be really tough to beat their prices! Some 60 chicken, beef and shrimp dishes dot the menu. Add the daily specials, and there’s not a lot Little Chef is missing as a restaurant or a community service.

Little Chef
4910 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-6627
Chinese Take-Out

Coffee Shop
Jungle Java
Jungle Java is a coffee shop with a shot of tropical paradise, so it is no wonder that readers named it their top destination for a java jolt. Patrons can grab a cup of their favorite brew and sip it in the quaint courtyard, which is filled with exotic foliage and festive patio furniture. Located only half a block from the ocean, Jungle Java combines the best of the beach with a unique tropical atmosphere and friendly service. Even better, the shop sells not only quality coffee, smoothies and food, but also gardening supplies, plants and international goods from Mexico, Indonesia, Africa and the Orient, which is why the café calls itself “a lush and tropical retreat from the concrete jungle outside.”

5047 Newport Ave.
Ocean Beach
(619) 224-0249
www.junglejavaofob.com

Comfort Food
Da Kine’s
(see entry under Best Catering)

Deli
Olive Tree Marketplace
Olive Tree Marketplace, Ocean Beach’s only upscale, independently owned grocery store, offers patrons a variety of quality fare, including wine and cheese, locally grown produce, USDA Choice grade beef and fresh-baked goods. Their wine and beer selection is truly impressive. But Bean’s readers were most impressed by the store’s deli, which uses the store’s best ingredients to craft mouthwatering sandwiches. Meat lovers will want to try the “Manhattan,” a hot pastrami sandwich smothered with melted provolone cheese and served on a toasted onion roll, while vegetarians will appreciate the Euro Veggie, a combination of chopped Kalamata olives and chives, sprouts, tomato, cucumbers and feta cheese served on warm pita bread. In all, the deli serves more than 20 sandwiches and more than a dozen varieties of salad.

Olive Tree Marketplace
4805 Narragansett Ave.
(619) 224-0443
www.olivetreeemarket.com

Desserts
Azúcar
Azúcar communicates the Cuban origins of Owner/Chef Vivian Henderson-Jackson — producing Cuban Thank you for voting us
Best Ocean View and
Place to Watch People 2010
and Best Fish & Chips 2009

Thank you for voting us
Best Dinner two years in a row!
Joao’s Best Fish & Chips
& Readers Choice for Fish Taco

Joao’s, San Diego’s Finest Seafood
• Breakfast on Sundays
• Happy Hour 3-6 Mon-Friday
• 3-close on Sundays
• 15 beers on tap
• Sports package & plasma T.V.s
• Patio dining

FREE COD TACO w/ ad w/ purchase of equal or greater value. Expires 6/1/10

THANKS FOR VOTING FOR US!

Readers choice Best:
• Catering
• Comfort food
• Lunch
• Place to go on a budget

Da Kine’s Daily Specials
Tuesday: Chicken Adobo
Wednesday: Roast Pork & Gravy
Thursday: Sweet & Sour Spare Ribs

BEER ON TAP

BUY 1 PLATE LUNCH GET 1 FREE
Does not include combo plates. Expires 6/1/10
inspired favorites like the light coconut cupcakes and red velvet cake—or the unique mojito cookies. Other fare include specialty Cuban items such as Cuban sandwiches with turkey and pork, papa rellenas (stuffed potato balls), conquetas (small friend rolls containing minced meat, mashed potatoes, and or shell fish and vegetables), pastelitos (baked puffs with filling). Azucar brings a taste of ethnicity to an ordinary lunch or snack in Ocean Beach. Whether you’re in the mood for a Cuban sandwich or a delicate cupcake, this papaya-green establishment will always bring an exotic flavor to the table.

Azucar
4820 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 523-2020
www.iloveazucar.com

Dinner
Joao’s Tin Fish Pub & Eatery
A historic fisherman’s restaurant. Visitors to Joao’s Tin Fish Eatery in Point Loma cannot stop raving about the establishment’s fish and chips plate, and many claim that they have never found a better version of the dish anywhere else. The restaurant’s entire menu consists of fresh-caught seafood that is brought to the restaurant daily, and much of the food is sourced locally. Although the fish and chips plate is one of the restaurant’s most popular dishes, guests also love the fish tacos, salmon omelette, crab cakes and grilled halibut. No matter what seafood you are craving, the Tin Fish has one goal: to make you happy.

Joao’s Tin Fish Pub & Eatery
Liberty Station, Point Loma
(619) 794-2192
www.thetinfish.net

Donut Shop
OB Donuts
OB Donuts is a great little shop to indulge your sweet tooth! Traditional donuts include glazed, chocolate, jelly, maple and chocolate bars—all freshly baked and mouth watering! They also carry great breakfast sandwiches, including bagel and croissant and your choice of ham, Canadian bacon and...
OB Donuts
1830 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-0298 www.obdonuts.com

Early Bird Special
Denny’s
Denny’s, home of the grand slam breakfasts, where breakfast is served 24/7. A favorite among families and for value, variety. Healthy, heart-friendly choices and senior discounts make this a favorite among local senior citizens. Always friendly, fast service and a great cup of joe.
Denny’s
3704 Camino Del Rio West, Sports Arena
(619) 295-9200

Family Restaurant
The Venetian
Even after receiving numerous awards this local Point Loma restaurant is still humbled by the continued recognition. This little Italian restaurant has stayed true to its family recipes more than 40 years, pleasing generations of families. The Venetian encompasses a great family atmosphere and if you stop in enough you will feel like family too. Owners Frank and Joe appreciate the local business and enjoy meeting the community that helps their restaurant prosper. The food has been described as California-Italian, which simply means you can expect great fare without a lot of heavy sauce, the way some other places think Italian should be done. The pastas and chicken entrees will command your serious attention, as will the tidy bar and the family-style menu.
The Venetian
3663 Voltaire St., Point Loma
(619) 223-8197 www.venetian1965.com

Fish & Chips
Joao’s Tin Fish Eatery
(see entry under Best Dinner)

Fish Tacos
South Beach Bar & Grille
Anybody who knows anything about coastal San Diego knows that the fish tacos here are the best in the history of the universe. But did anybody ever think about what kind of fare rests inside that delicious shell? South Beach Bar & Grille can only speak for itself on that score – and the Mahi taco, at an absolutely unbeatable price, speaks volumes for South Beach Bar & Grille. This place has lots of stellar values on everything else – it’s all part of doing business on the coast, which is already overrun with competitors. When it comes to a cheap, great taco, South Beach has it made. And if you visit, so do you.
South Beach Bar & Grille
5059 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 226-4577 www.southbeachob.com

French
Thee Bungalow
This old country bungalow features four intimate dining rooms perfect for that romantic rendezvous, small party or business meeting. The attentive staff, wine selection and consistent quality is what keeps locals, who have come to appreciate its wonderful food, coming back. House specialties include roast duck, roast lamb, fresh seafood and killer dessert soufflés – one taste of anything on the menu, and you’ll be coming back too.
Thee Bungalow
4996 W. Point Loma Blvd. (619) 224-2884 www.theebungalow.com

German
Kaiserhof Restaurant
Kaiserhof is a great family owned and operated German restaurant. A German restaurant would not be complete without wiener schnitzel or jager schnitzel. It doesn’t get much better than the wurst platte which includes: bratwurst, knackwurst and bauernwurst with sauerkraut and red potatoes and a good German beer. Other items include beef goulash, beef stroganoff, Bavarian-style sauerbraten, and the stuffed rolled beef specialty called rouladen. American-style entrees include broiled lobster tail, grilled halibut steak, poached salmon filet with hollandaise, filet mignon Madagascar with peppercorn/brandy sauce, or a New York strip steak. Dine in or enjoy the beer garden, a lovely outdoor heated area where you can sip a German brew and enjoy a traditional German and American meal. Full bar available.
Kaiserhof Restaurant
2253 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-0606 www.kaisерhofrestaurant.com

Greek
The Village Kabob
The Village Kabob offers the typical Greek fare: falafel, moussaka, gyros, kebabs and sandwiches. The sandwiches are delicious and fresh. The...
Greek fries are a great complement to a meal served with a sweet chilli sauce and tatziki, or try the colorful Greek fries with a tangy dressing.

Village Kabob Greek Restaurant. 4902 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach (619) 222-3255 www.village-kabob.com

Happy Hour
Sunshine Saloon
(see entry under Best Beer Selection)

Hot Dog
OB' Kanobe's
Many hot dog vendors focus on carry- ing one or two of the most popular brands at their shops, but not OB' Kanobe's. Owner Bob Allen provides dogs from industry scions like Hebrew National, Sabrett and Vienna for the old-school crowd, but he has also thrown in various flavors like the Jennie- O turkey dog, and a soy dog for more health-conscious customers. If you're not a fan of TV, feel free to tune in on one of OB' Kanobe's delicious sides, like bacon bits, chili or mozzarella cheese, and make it a meal by adding a bag of chips and a soda for $1.

OB' Kanobe's
4049 Santa Monica Ave., Ocean Beach (619) 213-9984

Ice Cream Yogurt
Lighthouse Ice Cream & Yogurt
The Lighthouse serves up some of the best ice cream and yogurt in Ocean Beach, now featuring double rainbow super premium, all natural, gluten free and certified kosher ice cream – but if you already read the name of the venue, you got the idea. But the Lighthouse also has something that the other places don't – a hot waffle ice cream sandwich, which includes your favorite ice cream studded between two Belgian waffles and put in a special iron. Reportedly, the heat doesn't even melt the ice cream – that means this place is worth a visit for the scientific phenomenon alone.

Lighthouse Ice Cream & Yogurt
5059 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach (619) 222-8600

Indian
Punjabi Indian Restaurant
The Punjabi region of India is a hub of cultural activity, and this restaurant in the heart of Midway lives up to the spirit of its name by providing a multi- tude of authentic Indian dishes. Customers can choose from Tandoori specialties, regional fare and vegetarian, chicken, lamb and seafood entrees that are served both buffet style and as part of a sit-down dinner. Every item on Punjabi's menu is available for takeout, so patrons who crave the fla-

Paradise City Kebab
3185 Midway Drive, Sports Arena (619) 866-6922

Galleragh's
This Irish-owned and operated pub in Ocean Beach has created a unique environment that represents the atmos-

Gallagher's Pub
5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach (619) 222-5300 www.gallagherspubOb.com

Italian
The Venetian
(see entry under Best Italian Restaurant)

Juice Bar
Jamba Juice
This California-based chain churns out more than 200 kinds of fruit smoothies from behind clearly color-

Jamba Juice
3305 Rosecrans St. Ste A, Sports Arena (619) 523-2800

Late Night Eatery
Nick's at the Pier
(see entry under Best Ocean View)

Live Music Venue
Winston's
You already knew that Winston's is the most popular live music venue in Ocean Beach. It's been that way for almost all of its 22 years and things aren't expected to change in the fore-

Winston's
5034 Newport Ave, Ocean Beach (619) 223-0558

Mexican
Miguel's Cocina
Miguel's Cocina in Point Loma has all the dishes customers love to see on the Mexican food menu with a few special touches that keep visitors coming back for more. Nearly every-

Miguel's Cocina
2912 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma (619) 224-2401 www.briquantine.com/miquels

Mexican Fast Food
Nico's
(see entry under Best Burrito)
Senior Special
Denny’s Restaurant
(see entry under Best Early Bird Special)

Specialty Drink
Tony’s Bar
(see entry under Best Martini)

Sports Bar
Sunshine Saloon
(see entry under Best Bar)

Steak
Fiddlers’ Green Restaurant
Fiddlers’ Green provides outstanding quality of food and service in a warm, casual and nautical atmosphere. The cuisine is prepared daily using the finest seasonal ingredients, local and organic produce, farm-raised meats and very best fish the oceans have to offer. Quiet, inviting, cool in summer, with a nice fire in the winter. Great steaks and prime rib, excellent shrimp and West Point Loma, and they’ve even expanded next door and added a sushi bar you’re sure to love.

Thai
Thai Time Bistro
Those looking to up the ante on their Thai food routine should try the delicious atmosphere. Food is always served with a nice fire in the winter. Great steaks and prime rib, excellent shrimp and West Point Loma, and they’ve even expanded next door and added a sushi bar you’re sure to love.

Vegetarian
Ocean Beach People’s Organic Food Co-op
Ocean Beach People’s Organic Food Co-op offers an extensive selection of organic produce, grocery, dairy, and bulk foods and herbs, as well as vitamins and homeopathics. Cruelty-free bodycare, and aromatherapy products. Enjoy a full service sit-down deli featuring a delicious selection of home-style vegetarian and vegan entrees, salads, sandwiches, freshly prepared baked goods, desserts, and more! At People’s, San Diego’s only community owned grocery store. Nearly 40 years old now, they are still buying and selling with the same healthful option in mind.

Ocean Beach People’s Organic Food Co-op
4765 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-1387
www.obpeoplesfoodcoop.com

Vietnamese
OB Noodle House
This restaurant, run by the sons of the owners of OB Donut, specializes in pho. This soup dish comes highly recommended in two sizes. Enjoy a hearty broth and “mix-ins,” including sprouts, basil, lime and jalapeno. Choose from steak (well-done or rare), rib-eye, meatball or tripe. Also on the menu, you’ll find broken rice, fried rice, some vermicelli dishes and a korean barbecue rib plate. They have appetizers (like fried dumplings, spring rolls and egg rolls). They also have a good beer selection, with many imports from Asia. Prices are reasonable. It’s located on Cable Street between Voltaire and West Point Loma, and they’ve even expanded next door and added a sushi bar you’re sure to love.

Wine Bar
The Vine Wine Bar & Cafe
Located just a block from the OB pier in the heart of Ocean Beach, The Vine is a great place to enjoy a glass of wine and tasty foods. If you are looking for an extensive variety of wines and beers from around the world, this is the place. They have special interests in small production, high quality wines and hand-crafted beers. The cafe-style menu includes eclectic dishes and twists on old favorites you’re sure to enjoy. The atmosphere is pure OB — a comfortable, easy-going neighborhood bar where the staff isn’t just your friendly servers, they’re your neighbors and fellow OBeacians! So pull up a chair, grab a glass of wine and hang out with friends. What could be better?

The Vine Wine Bar & Cafe
1851 Bacon St., Ocean Beach
(619) 223-8463
theeobline.com

3rd Corner
Wine Shop & Bistro
(see entry under Best Wine Selection)

Wine Bar
3rd Corner
Wine Shop & Bistro
(see entry under Best Wine Selection)

Village Kabob
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RAW_TEXT_END
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www.natis.sandiegan.com

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