

San Diego Bonsai Club

[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)

P.O. Box 86037 San Diego



## President's Message: Ignacio De La Torre

Well, we made it to the halfway point of the year. Aside from an occasional hot streak, the weather during the first half of the year made for a very conducive growing season. I hope your trees are flush with new growth.

We extend a special thanks to Shirley Kavanaugh, our June presenter. She is a long-time club member who has a knack for developing Saikei, or "planted landscapes". (She also has knack for winning awards at the County Fair.) It's not easy to present to your fellow members. We appreciate her willing to do so. I shared a few months ago that the Board of Directors wants to focus on increasing the number of female presenters and instructors. When asked, Shirley stepped right up. We have more female presenters (Cheryl Manning) and class instructors ('Lyn Stevenson and Brenda Crann) through the end of the year.

We also extend a big thanks to Louie Monticello who hosted a large juniper workshop. He helped class participants and didn't stop until we emptied the room. And we must thank John Voss who can be found at the back corner of the room at every meeting. He spent the entire meeting helping folks who needed help with their trees.

I close by writing about why it is that we meet on Father's Day. I had a couple of questions about it and explained the reason during our last meeting. It warrants an explanation in this newsletter.

Our club and 38 others are members of the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation (SDBGF). While most of the other organizations have a plant focus, such as the Iris Society, Cactus and Succulent Society, and Master Gardeners, groups such as the Tropical Fish Society, Herpetological Society (reptiles), and the Beekeeper's Society are also members. The SDBGF is the organization sanctioned by the city of San Diego to oversee the operation of clubs at Balboa Park. This includes coordinating the use of meeting rooms and patio areas and providing insurance coverage. Clubs are required to submit to the SDBGF annual meeting room requests two years in advance. (When I became president, I submitted requests for 2024 and 2025.) The SDBGF uses the calendar submissions to prioritize meeting room use. Shows and sales held by organizations have priority over meetings. This may be the most important point to be aware of. So, how do we arrive at a meeting on Father's Day? As you know, we typically meet in Room 101 on the second Sunday of the month, our preferred meeting day. In June, the second Sunday is assigned to the annual SD Bromeliad Society Show and Sale. And the first Sunday of June is dedicated to the SD Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale. The fourth Sunday is taken by the Art Club's Annual Exhibition.

So there you have it. We know that a meeting on Father's Day is not ideal, and we appreciate greatly that dads and other members are willing to spend their morning with us.

Here's to a great second half of the year.



### Next Meeting July 10, 2022:

Beg Classes 8:30AM room 104  
Int Class 8:30AM room101  
Meeting 10:30AM room 101

Casa del Prado  
at Balboa Park

**Classes:** see page 2

### **Resources:**

visit our website for information on private instructors and other resources to advance your bonsai skills  
[www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com)



## Education: Bill Graham, VP

The heat is continuing to rise! You really need to keep an eye on your watering and ensure that your trees do not dry out. I have had multiple days in the mid 90's and higher. When it gets like this, you may have to water twice a day. Check your soil to see whether it needs watering or not. There has also been a lot of wind lately. This will dry your trees out just as bad as the excess heat.

Louie Montecillo led a class using very nice large Juniper prostrata's. The trees were large with great character. Louie did an excellent job leading and helping to style the trees. This was Louie's first time leading a class and it was a great success!

### **Beginning Class: - Olea europea – Olives – 'lyn Stevenson. April 10 – June 19 – July 10**

This is the third and final session in this series and you will finish up your styling, wiring, and pruning your tree. You will repot your trees. The class starts at 8:30 am in Room 104. Please be on time or a few minutes early if you can help get the room set up for the class. Observers are always welcome. Even if you do not get into the class, you can still observe and learn. **SOLD OUT!**

### **Beginning Class: - Myrtus communis – Common Myrtle – Brenda Crann. August 7 – September 11 – December -11**

The third and final beginning class for 2022 will start in August. We have some nice Myrtus communis – the common myrtle. These trees are great material for bonsai. They back bud profusely, have nice small leaves, cream-colored flowers and exfoliating bark. What more could you ask for? Brenda Crann will be the teacher for this session. The sign-up sheet will be at the June meeting. The cost is \$50.00. AS ANNOUNCED AT THE JUNE MEETING, THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THIS CLASS WILL BE AT THE DECEMBER MEETING!! **SOLD OUT!**

### **Intermediate Workshops:**

**July – Large Olives – John Voss.** John has been working on these olives for several years. They are large and will be either clump or broom style. If you were at the December Meeting, I had an example on display at the back of the room. These are nice, large trees and will make great bonsai! **SOLD OUT!**

**August - NO WORKSHOP – CLUB REPOTTING EVENT.** We are going to try something new. There are trees that need to be repotted in the summer and the heat. We are going to have a warm season repotting event. These trees are olives, bougainvillea, ficus and other tropical you may have. Bring a tree and our many volunteers will help you repot it. Please limit yourself to two (2) trees. **PLEASE** clean your trees before bringing them in. Soil and assistance will be provided both before and after the meeting.

**September – Chaenomeles japonica – Dwarf Red Chojuba - Glenn Jensen.** We have a special and rare opportunity! Glenn Jensen will be leading a workshop with Chaenomeles japonica - Dwarf Red Chojubai, a small leaved red flowering Japanese quince. These trees make beautiful small bonsai with very pretty flowers. They can flower multiple times during the year and make elegant bonsai. Glenn has experience with these, and this should be an excellent class. This class is limited to 6 attendees. **The sign-up sheet will be at the July meeting.** The cost is \$115.00

**October – NO WORKSHOP – ANNUAL PICNIC AND SALE AT LAKE POWAY.**

+ New members are always excited about taking the beginners classes, and several have asked to be put on a waiting list for the next class. If you are a new member, please note that sign-up sheets for all classes and workshops are first available at the Bonsai Club meeting TWO months before the classes/workshops are held. We do not start a waiting list until after the sign-up sheet has been put out at the meeting and filled.

+ A reminder that all beginning classes, workshops and skills classes are taught from 8:30 am to 10:15 am on club meeting days at Balboa Park unless otherwise specified. Also, don't forget to bring any trees that you would like some help or advice on from our excellent bonsai masters at the club. Help is located in the back of Room 101 to the right of the stage.

+ If you have any ideas that can improve our programs or have skills that you would like to share please contact me at the monthly meeting or at [wfgraham3rd@gmail.com](mailto:wfgraham3rd@gmail.com). If you have any ideas that can improve our programs or have skills that you would like to share please contact me at [wfgraham3rd@gmail.com](mailto:wfgraham3rd@gmail.com).

## Special Event: by Markel Farley, VP

### **Nisei Week Japanese Festival:**

Our club bus trip will allow participants to experience one day of the festival on **August 20th, 2022.**

The Nisei week Japanese festival was started in 1934 during the depression by second-generation Japanese Americans who wanted to help attract more business to the Little Tokyo area. Nisei week is also one of the longest running ethnic festivals in the United States. Events will occur all week and additional information is found at [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org).

There are limited spaces left. **Sign-up** sheets will be made available at the next club meeting.

There will be a small fee per person. Members, friends, and family are welcome.

The club is planning to travel via bus to the festival in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. The bus will take us to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center to enjoy Japanese cultural arts. We will also visit shops around the area for dining and shopping.

## Robert Pressler, special guest, and presenter for our July Meeting: by Kyle Icke



Robert 'Bob' Pressler is the owner of Kimura Bonsai Nursery in Northridge, CA. He serves as the president of the California Bonsai Society and is a member of John Naka's club, Nanpuki, and Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai. He's been involved with bonsai for 53 years, starting at age 10!

Like most good teachers, he has studied with a variety of teachers himself starting informally with Frank Okamura at the Brooklyn Botanical gardens in the early 70's when he was a young boy. He moved to CA in 1984 and, a couple of years thereafter, met John Naka, Ben Oki and the whole crowd of Southern CA Bonsai artists. He also participated with numerous clubs which helped him expand his skills and gave him the opportunity to share his skills with others. In 2000, he met Kenji Miyata at a convention in CA and, since 2001, has been studying with him. Bob has conducted classes at his nursery as well as demo's and workshop for clubs near and far, visiting all parts of CA and many other states. Bob is also a landscape designer to the stars (including an Oscar winner).

Bob has received numerous awards, including the Nagata-Komai Award for Excellence in Instruction and Encouragement in the Art of Bonsai. This is a testament to his teaching style. The San Diego Club is fortunate to have him join us.





## Japanese Friendship Garden: by Neil Auwarter, Curator

Thanks to our June volunteers, Barbara French-Lee, Aaron Mathankeri, and Charlie and Sylvia Mosse.

Early summer is a relatively slow time in the garden. Spring foliage is hardened off and ready for the heat. The black pines will get some selective candling to balance strength. An olive and a bougainvillea will be repotted this month or next. And Charlie's woodcarving project continues on the old stump of a ginkgo that over time has morphed into a clump of younger trunks.

The accompanying photos are from my own garden. Photo 1: A Mourning Cloak butterfly, *Nymphalis antiopa*, rests on the tip of a cascade Silverberry. Mourning cloaks are not significant pollinators; instead, they eat mainly sap and decaying fruit. And with a lifespan of up to a year they are one of the longest-lived butterfly species. Photo 2: Another species, *Canis familiaris*, subspecies undetermined, rests on an upright Silverberry.

Enjoy the summer heat but prevent spider mites from doing the same by applying brisk watering to your conifers' foliage!



Morning Cloak butterfly, *Nymphalis antiopa*, rests on a cascade Silverberry.



*Canis familiaris*, subspecies unknown, rests on a Silverberry

**Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park: 'Lyn Stevenson, Liaison**



Summer has arrived with lots of visitors at the Bonsai Pavilion at Safari Park. We are also hearing from more members of SDBC who want to join the volunteers at the Pavilion! Great! We were delighted that we had a record response to the Anniversary Celebration which gave SDBC members an opportunity to see all the progress that has taken place during the last couple of Covid years. Thanks again to all who came and showing your appreciation for the work that was accomplished even when we had to curtail our celebrations for those couple of years,

Our June volunteers included: Keith & Sue Carter, Nate Chongsiriwatana, Julia Chow, Sally & Steve Dischinger, Cathy & Mark Edgar, Chuck Fasilis, Josh Frampton, Matthew Gelacio, Bob & Janice Hale, John Jackson, Jaya Kaelberer, Jim Kirchmer, Anistacia Miller, Charlie & Sylvia Mosse, Janet & Ron Palmer, Udaykant Pandey, 'lyn Stevenson, Dennis & Kathy Wagner, Mark Walters, and Ken Zito. Besides hours of volunteering , thanks to our refreshment donors: Charlie, Sylvia, Curator John, Cathy, and 'lyn. . . Donations of oranges, lemons, waters, mixed nuts, donuts, trail mixes, home baked bread, and fresh lemonade always encourage our volunteers to take

breaks and keep hydrated during the sunny, warm sessions at the Safari Park.

The concern and friendship and camaraderie shown among the volunteers makes the hours at the Pavilion so much more pleasant along with the sharing our bonsai knowledge. Working on the majestic bonsai in a tranquil garden is a joy for all. . . SDBC members are always welcome to join in this Fun!



Pictures courtesy of Charlie Mosse

Planting the newly donated Japanese Black pine in the entrance of Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion on June 4, 2022

See next page for more information on this donated tree.







## **A donated tree with a unique history**

- By Ignacio De La Torre

The club occasionally receives donations of trees, pots, and other bonsai-related items. It isn't often that someone donates a full-size tree with a unique history. That was the case when Russ Okihara, a retired dentist from San Diego, offered the club a full-size Japanese black pine. Russ was redoing his backyard and wanted to ensure the pine went to a good home.

Dennis Wagner, the club's Assistant Curator at the Safari Park Pavilion, and I visited Russ and what we found was a beautiful and very nicely developed Japanese black pine with a wonderful history. Russ shared that he purchased the tree in 1997 from Mas Takanashi who had grown it at his home. Masao "Mas" Takanashi was a founding member and early president of our club. He was a giant in the early development of bonsai culture in California. Mas planted the tree at Russ' home because he wanted to ensure it had a good chance to thrive. That it did.

Russ mentioned since then he and his uncle have taken care of the tree. His uncle is Jim Kimura, a former club member (and retired dentist) who now lives in Washington. It seemed the coincidences just kept coming.

We then started with the transplant. It took us about three hours to remove the tree and load it into Dennis' truck (Russ had to help us carry out the tree to the truck.) It takes great care to save as much of the root ball when transplanting a tree, especially one that did not have extensive root growth. The root ball was wrapped in cloth shade and wrapped with twine.

The tree was planted the next day at the pavilion in the Safari Park by Dennis Wagner, John Jackson, and Mark Edgar. A prominent location was quickly selected, and it was planted. The tree was then decandled and needles were pulled to minimize the amount of water it will require. It will take great attention to ensure it does well. The team at the Pavilion is closely monitoring it.

The tree now welcomes guests at the entrance to the pavilion. We thank Russ for the great donation and the history lesson.

See photos in the preceding 'pavilion' section and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and last page of this newsletter.

## San Diego Bonsai Club Board Meeting Minuets: by Ignacio De La Torre

Board Meeting June 21, 2022 called to order at 6:35 PM

Members present: Jaya Kaelberer, Markel Farley, Uday Pandey, Bill Graham, Ignacio De La Torre.

Members not present: Carla Marasco, Kyle Icke, Sue Carter.

### A. Meeting

#### B. Ignacio De La Torre -

1. Meeting room conflict for Sept. 11 meeting. Room 101 booked for Iris Fall sale.
  - a. Barbara French-Lee contacted Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG) for approval to use facility.
  - b. Bill Graham spoke with Cheryl Manning, our scheduled presenter. She needs access to a projector and screen. This is not available at JFG as meeting would be held outdoors.
  - c. Will contact SD Botanical Garden Foundation regarding other rooms at Casa del Prado.
  - d. SDBC pamphlets are running low. Need to identify company that has printed in the past. May ask current newsletter printing company to print pamphlets going forward to consolidate printing needs.

#### C. Nisei Week bus trip.

1. Ignacio shared that he and Abe Far described details of a Nisei Week bus trip in Markel's absence during the June 19 club meeting.
2. The cost of the trip was not shared. It is typically \$40 pp.
3. Need to arrange stops at bonsai locations along the way.
4. Markel will provide more details at the next meeting.
5. We had 20 tentatively sign up.

#### D. Jaya Kaelberer - Treasurer.

1. Jaya reserved pavilion at Poway Lake for meeting in October.
2. Jaya is cleaning up uncashed checks. Two remain.
3. Received a bounced check during April show. We received a replacement check with an apology letter.

#### E. Markel Farley, vice president - Special Projects.

1. Planning for the Fall show and sale will begin next month.
2. Will begin signing up volunteers at next month's meeting.
3. Mark Edgar, who typically handles the tree display organization duties, will not be in attendance during the show. Markel will handle those duties.

#### F. Uday Pandey, vice president - Membership

1. Memberships stands at 458 members.
2. Have ordered new badges for members. It was a large order.

#### G. Bill Graham, vice president- Education.

1. Instructors and classes are set through February 2023.
2. Have a full class for Brenda Crann with common myrtle. 30 participants.
3. Bob Pressler, July presenter, is willing to host morning semi-private workshops. Kyle Icke will arrange the five-six slots. May be sold through the website.



## Thank You: from all of us, by Ignacio De La Torre

We thank the following members who donated to the June Refreshments Table:

Wayne Lord, Debra Cox, Susan Mae Hull, Cristina and Abe Far, Jaya Kaelberer (scones), Janice Hale (kumquat marmalade), Shirley Kavanaugh, Sue and Keith Carter, Jackie Griffin (seedy maple muffins), Sandra Kehoe-Fortuna (oatmeal raisin cookies), Sylvia and Charlie Mosse (vegetarian chili and mandarins), Julia Chow (fried rice), and Phaedra Ehring and Calliope, Calypso, and Jeff Hall (doughnut holes).

We thank the following individuals who donated to the June Raffle Table:

Susan Mae Hull, Cristina and Abe Far, Shirley Kavanaugh, Cindy Pecile, Scott Flack, Eric Jacobson, Sue and Keith Carter, Julia Chow, Larry DeStefano, Christian Reha, John Voss, Kathy and Dennis Wagner, Gary Jones, Sylvia and Charlie Mosse, Uday Pandey, and Carl Gilbert.

## Program Notes from our June Presentation: By Keith Carter



Presenter Shirley Kavanaugh

One of the basic aims of bonsai cultivation is to present trees as close as possible to the way they appear in nature.

So, what better way to exhibit a tree in a truly natural context than with a seikei, or “planted landscape?”

That’s just what longtime SDBC member Shirley Kavanaugh showed members how to do at the June meeting as she assembled a beautiful seikei tray planting using distinctive schist stones, five ficus burtt-davyi trees from her personal collection and accent plants.

Shirley is a master of the seikei, having just won “best of show” honors at the 2022 San Diego County Fair for one of her tray plantings.

She uses an artistic approach to the assembly process when deciding where to locate the various elements: “It’s like a puzzle,” she said. “I just fiddle with things until they look right.” Be careful, however, not to place the roots of the trees under the rim of the tray, because water can collect there and make them soggy.

After positioning the trees and stones, Shirley placed small accent plants strategically around the tray, then scattered decomposed granite over the roots to hold everything in place.

After assembling a tray, she places it in a location where she won’t have to move it for 3-4 months to allow the trees and plants to become established.





Shirley, as a “cute and fun” project also put together a tray planting that incorporated plants, rocks , sand, and seashells, which she donated to the club raffle table.

The finished 'Seikei

## Treasurer's Report: by Jaya Kaelberer

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB - TREASURER'S REPORT		budget
Jaya Kaelberer as of 31 May, 2022		
<b>Accounts have been reconciled with Union Bank statements</b>		
<b>BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES (QuickBooks)</b>		
SDBC Checking	\$67,017	
Japanese Friendship Garden	\$2,343	
Bonsai Pavilion Checking	\$15,316	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$84,676</b>	
<b>SDBC Income</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Change from previous month</b>
Total Donation Income	\$2,301	\$709: \$500 : Tsushima honor, \$150: Pavilion, \$
Total Grant Qualcomm	\$250	No change from m/e April
Total Education Income	\$5,093	No change from m/e April
Total Fair Awards		
Total Membership Income	\$5,341	\$451: Club dues
Total Monthly Program.		
Total Raffle & Auction	\$7,301	\$3,377: \$3,252: Pav auction, \$125: Tree auction
Total Show Income	\$4,286	-\$13,216: -\$13,087: cheques to members, -\$129
Total Special Projects Income	-\$319	No change from m/e April
Total Tool Sales	\$2,280	No change from m/e April
<b>Total SDBC Income</b>	<b>\$26,532</b>	<b>\$43,400</b>
<b>SDBC Expenses</b>		<b>budget</b>
Total Bonsai Pavilion	\$3,003	No change from m/e April
Total Education	\$3,255	\$83: Travel to Pressler nursery
Total Japanese Friendship Garden		
Total Library	\$137	No change from m/e April
Mas Takanashi Grant		
Total Membership	\$638	No change from m/e April
Total Monthly Program	\$755	No change from m/e April
Total Newsletter	\$290	\$23: Mailchimp fees
Total SDBC Club Expenses		
Total GSBF Liability Insurance	\$2,150	No change from m/e April
Other	\$898	\$396: \$201: P.O. Box Rental, \$195: Table drapes
San Diego Fair		
Power of one scholarship		
Total SDBC Fall Show		
Total SDBC Spring Show	\$989	\$989: \$740: Banquet, \$249: Volunteer breakfast
Total Special Projects		
Total Taxes	\$570	\$25: CT-TR-1 registration fee
Total Tool Table Expenses	\$759	No change from m/e April
<b>Total SDBC Expense</b>	<b>\$13,444</b>	<b>\$43,400</b>
<b>Net SDBC Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$13,088</b>	<b>\$0</b>

+ In late breaking news, thanks to Qualcomm employee, board member and Pavilion volunteer, Udaykant Panday, Qualcomm generously donated a \$500 grant to the Pavilion!



## San Diego Bonsai Club Board

President:	<b>Ignacio De La Torre</b> <a href="mailto:igdltx5@gmail.com">igdltx5@gmail.com</a>
1st Vice President :	<b>Kyle Icke</b> <a href="mailto:Kyle.Icke@sdcounty.ca.gov">Kyle.Icke@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>
Secretary:	<b>Carla Marasco</b> <a href="mailto:adorebycarla@yahoo.com">adorebycarla@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer:	<b>Jaya Kaelberer</b> <a href="mailto:jaya.littletree@cox.net">jaya.littletree@cox.net</a>

VP Special Projects :	<b>Markel Farley</b> <a href="mailto:Mr.Farley.M@gmail.com">Mr.Farley.M@gmail.com</a>
VP Education:	<b>Bill Graham</b> <a href="mailto:wfgraham3rd@gmail.com">wfgraham3rd@gmail.com</a>
VP Membership:	<b>Udaykant Pandey</b> <a href="mailto:udaykant@gmail.com">udaykant@gmail.com</a>
Past President:	<b>Sue Carter</b> <a href="mailto:susangcarter2004@att.net">susangcarter2004@att.net</a>

## Appointed Positions

Refreshment Coordinator:	Olivia George
Publicity:	Keith Carter <a href="mailto:kcarter315@att.net">kcarter315@att.net</a>
Sunshine Chair:	Susan Baker <a href="mailto:baker@susanMbaker.com">baker@susanMbaker.com</a>
Librarian & Historian:	Sonya Holmquist <a href="mailto:sonyaanneh@gmail.com">sonyaanneh@gmail.com</a>
Tool Sales Manager:	Darryl & Christine Elmer <a href="mailto:droadie@sbcglobal.net">droadie@sbcglobal.net</a>

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### Japanese Friendship Garden

Bonsai Curator:	Neil Auwarter <a href="mailto:neilauwarter@hotmail.com">neilauwarter@hotmail.com</a>
Liaison :	Barbara French-Lee <a href="mailto:barbflee@hotmail.com">barbflee@hotmail.com</a>

### Safari Park Bonsai Pavilion

Curator:	John Jackson <a href="mailto:bonsaijohn@cox.net">bonsaijohn@cox.net</a>
Assistant Curator:	Dennis Wagner <a href="mailto:denisW@cox.net">denisW@cox.net</a>
Liaison :	'lyn Stevenson <a href="mailto:inthegrove@cox.net">inthegrove@cox.net</a>

**Please note:** The Bonsai Wire (TBW) is published 10 months of the year, by the San Diego Bonsai Club (SDBC). No issue in May and October. TBW and the SDBC logo are properties of SDBC. Articles are provided by SDBC members. Any articles submitted by non-SDBC members—if published—become property of SDBC. All submitted articles are subject to editing. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the SDBC

**SDBC Upcoming Events:** *MEETING TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

Month	Date(s)	Location	Rooms
July meeting	10	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
August	7	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
September meeting	11	Casa del Prado	104 - only
Sept Fall Show	15 - 18	Casa del Prado	101
Oct Picnic and Auction	9	Lake Poway	
Nov meeting	13	Casa del Prado	101 and 104
Dec meeting	11	Casa del Prado	101 and 104

**Workdays at Bonsai Pavilion.** Volunteer workdays at the Bonsai Pavilion are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays each month. Normal work hours are between 7am and 1pm. *You must be a certified Safari Park Volunteer. Contact 'lyn Stevenson for more information.*

Upcoming dates are:  
 July 2, 2022  
 July 16, 2022  
 August 6, 2022  
 August 20, 2022

**Workdays at the Japanese Friendship Garden** are on Wednesdays. *Contact Barbara French-Lee for more information*

**Membership:** by Udaykant Pandey, VP

Welcome

All new members







*July 2022*  
*The Bonsai Wire*

San Diego Bonsai Club  
P.O. Box 86037  
San Diego 92138

**Return Service Requested**