

Kalra Capitol Report



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A New Chapter for Cinco de Mayo in East Side San José



In a vibrant display of culture and community spirit, East Side San José recently revived its Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival, uniting residents and leaders in a colorful celebration after many years. The festival began with a parade featuring hundreds of unique lowriders, local schools, community organizations, horses, and a 2024 Olympic-themed float by Telemundo.

The parade route started at the Mexican Heritage Plaza and concluded at the festival at Emma Prush Farm Park, with enthusiastic spectators cheering on the participants.

At Emma Prusch Farm Park, the festival atmosphere buzzed with activity. The newly opened All-Inclusive Playground was a hit among the younger attendees, while adults enjoyed traditional and contemporary musical performances by artists like Alexis Sandoval and DJ Jose Mad. An array of food vendors offering authentic Mexican cuisine enhanced the festive atmosphere.

Festivities like the Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival are crucial for local small businesses and entrepreneurs selling arts, crafts, cultural items, and handmade goods, providing a platform to showcase their products and offer food vendors a bustling marketplace to attract new customers. Additionally, it provides community resources an invaluable opportunity to connect with residents who may be in need of assistance.

Asm. Kalra emphasized the gatherings' importance in fostering community pride and economic growth. "Today demonstrated the strength and vibrancy of East San José and marked a new beginning for Cinco de Mayo in San José with the partnership of the city, the low rider council and other community partners that come together to endure the residents have a safe place to celebrate this amazing festivity."

A Message From Asm. Ash Kalra

Hello Friends and Constituents,

I hope this message finds you enjoying the blossoming beauty of springtime in our district! As we embrace the vibrant energy of this season, I wanted to take a moment to update you on my work for AD 25.

As we dive into the heart of legislative work, I'm filled with enthusiasm for the opportunities ahead. Serving as Chair of the Judiciary Committee continues to be a privilege, allowing me to advocate for policies that uphold justice and fairness for all Californians. I'm particularly thrilled to announce the introduction of a dynamic bill package that promises to address key issues facing our community. From bolstering environmental protections to advancing social justice initiatives and expanding healthcare, this package reflects our commitment to creating positive change. I encourage you to take a look on the following page.

As always, I encourage you to stay in touch with my office and share your priorities and concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff with any questions or suggestions you may have at 408-286-2535.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Ash Kalra

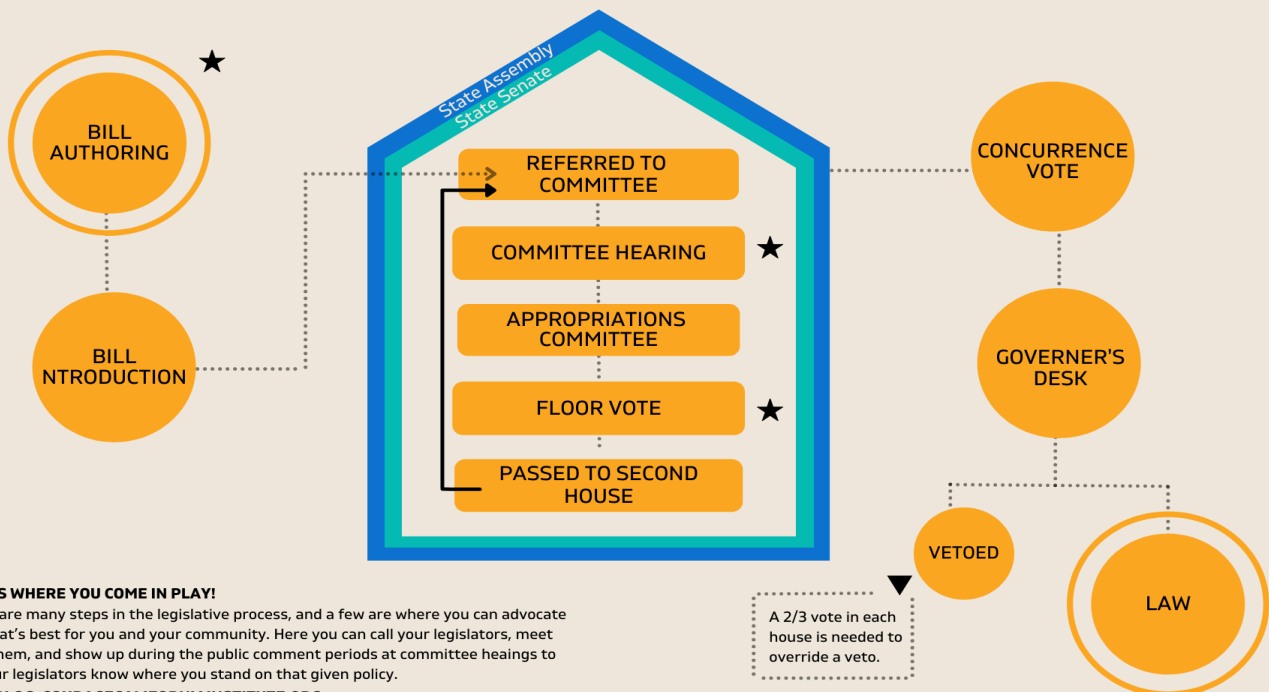


Kalra Bill Package

California's Legislative Session

In California, a legislative session is a two-year period during which the bicameral legislature, the State Assembly, and the Senate convene to create new laws. Each year in the session, ideas are drafted into bills, and those bills have deadlines to make it through the legislative process. If a bill clears the legislative process, it goes to the governor's desk to be signed into law or vetoed.

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AB 1993 – Expanding Residential Care Facilities for Elderly (RCFE): Allows small RCFE homes to serve up to ten individuals which will unlock homes for thousands of residents, providing both housing and care for the state's aging population.

AB 2065 – RJA Criminal Justice Data: Improves access to critical data to aid individuals seeking relief under the Racial Justice Act (RJA) and requires law enforcement agencies to share probation and police reports with attorneys investigating an RJA claim.

AB 2133 – Expanding Access to Cat Neuter Services: Increases cat neuter availability by allowing registered veterinary technicians to perform cat neuters under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

AB 2168 – Victimless Misdemeanors:

Requires a court to dismiss victimless low-level misdemeanors against individuals already sentenced to state prison but are still being held in county jail because of an open misdemeanor case.

AB 2200 – California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act: Begins the process of creating a universal single-payer system of health care for every California resident.

AB 2288 – PAGA Injunctive Relief: Builds upon PAGA's role as a vital tool to enforce workers' rights and strengthens its impact by allowing courts to order injunctive relief in a Private Attorney General Act (PAGA) claim.

AB 2347 – Eviction Default Judgements: Prevents default judgments that evict a tenant based on improper service of summons by requiring landlords to file proof of service with the court and providing tenants with a meaningful amount of time to respond.

AB 2398 – CSU Audits: Increases transparency by requiring each California State University (CSU) campus to undergo an external audit every three years.

AB 2441 – Ending Mandatory Police Referrals in Schools: Eliminates the mandate on educators to notify law enforcement of certain student behavior and removes criminal penalties for students enrolled in the school district for "willful disturbance" of a public school or meeting.

ABAB 2509 – IPM Definition: Codifies definitions of "integrated pest management" (IPM) and "invasive species", and requires the Invasive Species Council of California to prioritize principals of IPM in all of its activities.

2602 – Digital Replicas and Performer Rights: Protects a performer's right to their digital self by requiring informed consent and proper representation in executing a contract for any transfer of rights of that individual's likeness or voice.

AB 2640 – Compassionate Learning Advancement for Science Students (CLASS) Act: Empowers students to be informed of their right to opt out of animal dissection.

AB 2682 – Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA): Amends OSA's Enabling Act to allow the purchase of certain lands from willing sellers in fee title, update contracting requirements for materials, offer lower tax rates to seniors, and grant the ability to employ Community Facilities Districts (CFDs).

AB 2773 – Justice for Elder Abuse Victims: Increases access to justice for elderly and dependent adults who are physically abused and neglected in nursing homes and discourages facilities from intentionally destroying or concealing (spoliation) evidence in relation to a civil case.

AB 2812 – Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Contracting Thresholds: Modifies the bidding thresholds VTA uses to procure supplies, materials, or equipment, allowing VTA to lessen the administrative burden and costs of procuring routine, non-construction items.

AB 2926 – Affordable Housing Preservation: Preserves existing affordable housing and protects low-income tenants from being displaced by requiring owners who receive a bona fide purchase offer from a preservation buyer to either accept the offer or re-restrict the property as affordable housing.

AB 3021 – Interrogation Practices: Empowers the family members of victims of police violence to exercise their rights in interactions with law enforcement when they are at their most vulnerable.

AB 3122 – Objective Planning Standards: Modifies the 15 percent rule in SB 35 to have the cap only apply to increases in square footage over 15 percent and decreases in unit count that exceed 15 percent. This change provides flexibility to reduce the size of a project to better respond to market needs or to increase the unit count to take advantage of recent changes in the state density bonus law.

Urban Putt San José: A New Chapter in Downtown San José's Revitalization



Urban Putt San José recently opened its doors, significantly enhancing downtown San José's entertainment offerings. This innovative venue, situated at the former Camera 12 Cinema at 201 S 2nd St., ingeniously combines miniature golf with a vibrant social atmosphere, making it suitable for all ages.

The grand opening was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Asm. Ash Kalra. He expressed enthusiasm about this new chapter in the city's revitalization efforts, stating, "Urban Putt is a creative and enjoyable addition

to downtown San José. Its unique blend of fun, art, and community spirit is exactly what we need to foster economic growth and bring our community together."

Urban Putt is distinguished by its creatively themed mini-golf holes that echo various elements of San José and the wider Silicon Valley, including local landmarks like the San José Opera House and the Winchester Mystery House. The course also includes a shark-themed hole in tribute to the San José Sharks and a giant circuit board-themed hole, nodding to the region's tech-centric culture.

Urban Putt's restaurant and bar enhance the experience with a diverse menu, local brews, and innovative cocktails, reflecting the venue's commitment to supporting the local economy and offering a unique outing for both residents and tourists.

More than just a place for recreation, Urban Putt stands as a testament to San José's development and the importance of local enterprises that enhance community life. Through its blend of entertainment, dining, and social interaction, the venue contributes to both the local economy and the area's social vitality, embodying the spirit of enjoyment and community that characterizes San José.

Cambodian Community Events Throughout AD 25



Asm. Ash Kalra's district, which encompasses the majority of San José, including downtown and open space areas in southeast Santa Clara County, is home to one of the most vibrant Cambodian communities across California. In 2024, for the first time in San José's history, Cambodian community leaders hosted a flag-raising ceremony at the Rotunda at City Hall. Three Assembly Offices that represent parts of Santa Clara County – Kalra, Pellerin, and Berman – attended the special occasion in person on April 5.

On April 13, Asm. Kalra attended the kick-off of the Khmer and Cambodian New Year at Khemararam Buddhist Temple and Khemara Rangsey Temple. Hundreds of community members gathered at the temples, enjoying a wide selection of food, listening to wise words from spiritual leaders, and

praying for the well-being of all communities in San José and beyond.

Kalra shared, "I appreciate another opportunity to join the wonderful celebration of Khmer New Year, and this celebration will bring great fortune to our community in Assembly District 25!"

Asm. Kalra Hosts 8th Annual Black History Month Celebration in AD 25



On February 28th, Asm. Kalra proudly hosted the 8th Annual AD 25 Black History Month Celebration at the historic First AME Zion Church. The event kicked off at 5:30 PM with warm welcomes from Asm. Kalra, who expressed his gratitude for the community's presence in honoring and celebrating Black History Month. Attendees gathered to reflect on the resilience, achievements, and cultural heritage of the Black community, recognizing its profound impact on shaping American history.

Asm. Kalra set the tone for the evening by highlighting the significance of the church's 160-year history, emphasizing its role as a beacon of activism and faith in San José. The church's legacy as a hub for social and civil rights movements, including its pivotal contributions to organizations like the NAACP and CORE, served as a reminder of the enduring spirit of resilience and advocacy within the Black community.

Throughout the evening, notable individuals and organizations were recognized for their outstanding contributions to various fields:

Legacy Award: Ken Noel's enduring legacy as a pioneering athlete activist and educator was celebrated, recognizing his role in advocating for civil rights and social justice at San José State University and beyond. Noel's continued commitment to effecting meaningful change exemplifies his unwavering dedication to creating a more just and equitable society.

Leadership in Business: Townsend's Automotive was honored for over three decades of community commitment, providing affordable automotive repairs and extending their reach to those most in need through partnerships with organizations like HomeFirst and PATH. Larry Townsend's honesty, integrity, and hard work solidified Townsend's Automotive as a trusted business in the community.

Leadership in Education: Tomara Hall, an Afro-Latina educator, received recognition for her dedication to building anti-racist classrooms and schools through her organization, Teachers Empowering Youth Activists (TEYA). Her leadership in fostering inclusivity and addressing systemic inequalities within educational institutions was applauded, along with her political advocacy for meaningful change in education and social justice.

Leadership in History and Culture: Clarissa Moore, an artist, educator, and advocate, was honored for her fireless efforts in preserving and celebrating Black culture and heritage in Silicon Valley. From creating groundbreaking exhibits like "Young, Gifted, and Black" to coordinating diversity training programs, Moore's commitment to promoting Black excellence and community engagement was celebrated. (continued)



Leadership in Advocacy: Reverend Jeff Moore's leadership and advocacy for social justice across the Bay Area were acknowledged, particularly his efforts in law enforcement reform and juvenile justice. His dedication to accountability, transparency, and equitable treatment within institutions highlighted his commitment to advancing civil rights and systemic change.

The evening concluded with a heartfelt tribute to the First AME Zion Church, commemorating its 160 years of service and resilience. Asm. Kalra presented a resolution honoring the church's legacy and facilitated a charitable donation of \$500 from the San José Earthquakes, acknowledging the church's ongoing community service and impact.

As attendees reflected on the evening's festivities, they left with a renewed sense of appreciation for Black history and a commitment to continuing the legacy of resilience, activism, and community service exemplified by the honorees and the First AME Zion Church.



Assembly District 25 Remembers Black April

With the City of San José boasting the highest population of Vietnamese origin per area outside of Vietnam, members of the Vietnamese American and Vietnamese refugee communities across the district and California gather every year to host flag-raising ceremonies and commemorative events in remembrance of April 30, 1975. This day is known as Black April, Black April Memorial Month, or Tháng Tư Đen, and the annual gathering aims to pay tribute to the lives lost and the heroes of the Republic of Vietnam during the Fall of Saigon in 1975. During that tragic day, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees left their homeland on tiny boats in search of freedom in strange lands as the communist regime took over Vietnam with brutal force.

On the occasion of the 49th year of Black April Memorial Day, Asm. Kalra and his office attended the Black April Commemoration events in his district. He attended two solemn commemorative events in person, first at Santa Clara County's Vietnamese American Service Center and then at the County building. Due to his legislative schedule during weekdays, his district office attended the meaningful commemoration at Viet Heritage Garden and San José City Hall. Each commemoration is special in its own right, whether indoor or outdoor.

Reflecting on this year's Black April Day, Kalra stated, "I always stand with our Vietnamese Americans and Vietnamese refugee communities throughout California to commemorate April 30 as Black April, a day that serves as a remembrance of the principles of human rights, freedom, and democracy."



As a co-author of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 5 (Ta) and Senate Concurrent Resolution 8 (Nguyen), two resolutions chaptered in 2023 in recognition of Black April Memorial Month, Kalra also shared, "I encourage Californians to set aside moments on April 30 to remember the heroes and civilians who fought communism in pursuit of a just world."

Caltrain Goes Electric! Kalra Received Transportation Honor!

Asm. Ash Kalra's recent visit and tour of the Caltrain Electrification Project at San José's Diridon Station on April 5, 2024, highlighted his steadfast support for sustainable and high-speed public transportation initiatives. With a longstanding dedication to Caltrain electrification, Kalra has been a vocal proponent of projects aimed at reducing environmental impact and improving regional connectivity. As we look into the future, San José's Diridon station will become a major epicenter for electric high-speed rail.

Kalra's enthusiasm for the Caltrain Electrification Project is rooted in its potential to revolutionize transportation in the Bay Area. By transitioning to electric trains, the project not only enhances service and safety but also aligns with California's ambitious goals for zero-emission vehicles. Once completed, Caltrain will stand as the state's premier electrified commuter rail system, paving the way for sustainable transportation solutions nationwide.

Recognizing Kalra's unwavering commitment to public infrastructure, the California Alliance for Jobs honored him at their "Investing in Our Transportation Infrastructure Reception" on March 21st. This recognition underscores Kalra's dedication to advancing transportation initiatives that benefit workers, community members, and legislative leaders alike.



Moreover, Kalra and fellow members of Caltrain's state legislative delegation have actively supported the agency by securing additional funding, which was critical in keeping the electrification project on schedule, with operations set to commence this fall of 2024. By advocating for resources for Caltrain electrification, Asm. Kalra and his colleagues are driving forward a transformative effort that promises to benefit the entire Bay Area region and contribute to the state's climate goals.

Asm. Ash Kalra's unwavering advocacy for projects like Caltrain electrification exemplifies his commitment to sustainable transportation, environmental stewardship, and economic prosperity for communities across California. You can be sure that Ash will be the first person on board Caltrain's inaugural electric train departure from San José!



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
Ash Kalra
DISTRICT 25

**MAY
2024**

**ASIAN AMERICAN &
PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH**

AD 25 Celebrates Women's History Month with March Bash



On March 22nd, 2024, the Assembly District 25's Women's History Month Celebration convened at SP2 Communal Bar + Restaurant, illuminating remarkable women leaders and uniting a community eager to commemorate their contributions. Asm. Kalra expressed appreciation and acknowledgment for women's historical struggles and victories. The occasion endeavored to ignite inspiration in forthcoming generations towards achieving gender equity. The ceremony spotlighted five exemplary women, each epitomizing leadership and service in San José and beyond.

Dr. Hilaria Bauer, the **AD 25 Woman of the Year**, stands as a beacon of educational excellence and community empowerment. With a distinguished career spanning leadership roles in education and philanthropy, Dr. Bauer's unwavering commitment to fostering academic achievement and multicultural understanding has left an indelible mark on San José.

The **Susan Hammer Legacy Award**, named in honor of the trail-blazing Mayor of San José, recognizes Betsy Hammer Carr for her tireless advocacy and community empowerment. As a champion

for participants of the Trades Orientation Program (TOP) and a steadfast supporter of union members, Betsy embodies the spirit of service and dedication to others, echoing her aunt's legacy of leadership.

Leena Guttal, awarded with the **Leadership in Community** award, stands as a testament to dedication and passion in the field of education. With over 30 years of commitment, Leena's journey from India to the United States exemplifies resilience and a fervent desire to make a difference. Her nurturing approach to teaching, illustrated by the homemade Indian feast she provides for her AP Calculus BC students on exam day, underscores her unwavering dedication to student success.

The **Leadership in Business** award went to Christina Bui. Her story embodies the entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of the immigrant experience. Born amidst the aftermath of the Vietnamese War, Christina's journey from her parents' tailoring shop to becoming a leader in the fashion industry speaks volumes about determination and the pursuit of dreams. Through her business, Love Me Knots, and her role at the Small Business Development Center, Christina champions fellow entrepreneurs, embodying the spirit of community and support.

Erin Salazar, AD 25's **Leadership in the Arts** honoree, has redefined the landscape of creativity and community engagement through her visionary leadership at Local Color. Her commitment to providing equitable opportunities for artists, coupled with her own artistic prowess, has enriched the cultural fabric of San José. Erin's passion for celebrating the decorative arts serves as a powerful testament to the transformative power of creativity.

As we reflect on this inspiring event, we eagerly anticipate next year's celebration, where we will continue to honor and uplift the diverse contributions of women in our community.





AFRICIO NADO
PRESENTS

AFRICA DAY 2024

A THREE-DAY EVENT

YEAR OF EDUCATION
MAY 24TH-26TH

DAY ONE PANEL DISCUSSION
VIRTUAL

DAY TWO AFRICA DAY
Los Gatos Masonic Center • Los Gatos, CA

DAY THREE AFRICA DAY
Historic St James Park • San Jose, CA
LEVITT PAVILION SAN JOSE 2024 SPRING CONCERT SERIES

MAY 24TH
2 PM - 4 PM PST

MAY 25TH
6-9PM PST

MAY 26TH
3:30-6:30PM PST



Dragon's Blessings: Celebrating Lunar New Year with Assembly District 25

According to the Lunar New Year Calendar, 2024 is the Year of the Dragon, observed by many Asian communities. Assembly District 25 is proud to be home to one of the largest and most vibrant Asian Pacific Islander communities across the state of California and the country. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that our District was blessed with many lively and exhilarating celebrations and festivals from February to mid-April. Specifically, with the City of San José claiming home to the highest population of Vietnamese origin per area outside of the country of Vietnam, Asm. Ash Kalra is always grateful for every opportunity to celebrate Tết Nguyên Đán, a version of Lunar New Year for Vietnamese community members.

Asm. Ash Kalra, a member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) legislator caucus in the State Legislature and the first AAPI member of the State Assembly to serve as Chair of the Judiciary Committee, enjoyed joining our community in celebrating this big season with two Lunar New Year Celebrations in the District.

On February 4, after spending his morning congratulating community leaders and advocates at Congressman Ro Khanna's Annual Recognition Event for Vietnamese American leaders at Santa Clara County's building, Kalra attended a meaningful celebration at Santa Clara County's Vietnamese American Service Center, which is the first of its kind in the country. Then he made it to the San José History Park for the grand-opening ceremony of the Lunar New Year: San José Festival 2024, co-hosted by an organizing committee consisting of Vietnamese American Roundtable and the United Vietnamese Student Associations of Northern California. He loved wearing his special dark blue Ao Dai with a powerful depiction of a golden dragon on it. Ao Dai is a long gown of historic significance to the Vietnamese diaspora, usually worn during Lunar New Year Celebrations.



Asm. Kalra shared, "Since the dragon in our Asian culture is associated with strength, success, and good fortune, I sincerely hope the spirit of the dragon will bring success to the endeavors and blessings to everyone and our community in the entire year of 2024!"

Grand Opening of AACI Family Dentistry in East San José

On April 23rd AACI (Asian Americans for Community Involvement) unveiled AACI Family Dentistry. Located in East San José, this center signifies AACI's commitment to providing comprehensive dental care to all, regardless of status or means. The need for affordable dental services, especially among marginalized families, is acute in Santa Clara County. AACI Family Dentistry, under the guidance of Dr. Shilpa Mehta, addresses this gap with preventive care, cleanings, fillings, and more.

Beyond dental interventions, AACI recognizes the profound impact of oral health on overall well-being. By integrating dental care into its holistic healthcare approach, AACI aims to address systemic health issues affecting the community.



Looking ahead, AACI plans to expand its services with primary care offerings in Summer 2024, further enhancing its role as a pillar of community health. To schedule an appointment or learn more, contact AACI Family Dentistry at (408) 272-1999 or visit www.aaci.org/dental.

SAN PEDRO SQUARE
ASPHALT MURAL PAINT EVENT

VOLUNTEER TO MAKE HISTORY

Become a part of history in the making! Join us as we unite to craft something extraordinary for our community. We can't wait to see you there!

**PAINT
DATES**

27-31

MAY 2024
9 A.M. - 7 P.M.

Everyone Welcome | No Experience Necessary

**SAN PEDRO
SQUARE**

N. San Pedro St., San Jose



RSVP AT: www.tinyurl.com/spsmural



Photos from Around the Capitol, the District & Beyond



Make a Friend for Life at San José Animal Care Center!

Aspen, a charming sable and cream Keeshond mix, has been eagerly awaiting a loving home at the San José Animal Care Center since November 2, 2023. At approximately 1 year and 3 months old, Aspen exudes youthful energy and affection. With her spunky personality and irresistible charm, Aspen is ready to brighten up any home. Whether it's playtime, cuddles, or simply lounging by your side, Aspen is sure to bring joy and companionship to her new family.

Keeshonds are a medium-sized breed known for their distinctive double-layered coats, plush ruffs around their necks, and expressive faces marked by "spectacles" around their eyes. They are intelligent, friendly, and outgoing dogs, often forming strong bonds with their families. Originally bred as watchdogs and companions on Dutch barges, Keeshonds thrive on social interaction and enjoy participating in various activities, making them excellent family pets.

Ready to make her yours? Adoptions and fosters take place in person at the Animal Care Center, conveniently located at 2750 Monterey Road in San José. Adoption hours are from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Please note that adoptions and fosters are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.



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State Agencies Contact Information

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Aging	(916) 419-7500
Alcoholic Beverage Control	(916) 419-2500
Board of Equalization	(800) 400-7115
Bureau of Automotive Repair	(800) 952-5210
California Courts	(415) 865-4200
California Highway Patrol	(800) 835-5247
Caltrans	(916) 654-2852
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Civil Rights Department	(800) 884-1684
Consumer Affairs	(800) 952-5210
Controller's Office	(916) 445-3028
Developmental Services	(916) 654-1690
Employment Development	(800) 300-5616
Fair Political Practices Commission	(916) 322-5660
Fish & Wildlife	(916) 445-0411
Food & Agriculture	(916) 654-0466
Health Care Services	(916) 445-1248
High Speed Rail Authority	(916) 324-1541
Insurance	(800) 927-4357
Motor Vehicles	(800) 777-0133
Parks & Recreation	(800) 777-0369
Public Health	(916) 558-1784
Rehabilitation	(916) 324-1313
Secretary of State	(916) 653-6814
Social Services	(916) 651-8848
Toxic Substances Control	(800) 728-6942
Veterans Affairs	(800) 952-5626

