

# Government for the People – Local Gov’t Explained ...Cien Personas Dijeron – Survey Says...

(To be played similar to Family Feud Game Show):

## Rules:

1. Post 8 categories of local government on the wall (titles outlined below).
2. Divide group into 2-3 teams of 5 participants each.
3. Choose one category of local government and read the description about what that agency is and does (See Below)
4. When a local government office is mentioned, participants will have 1 minute to discuss and come up with the top three reasons why someone would contact that entity.
5. After one minute, each team will read their answers and be given points for those they have correct. If they guess one or more of the top three they will receive 5 points for each answer, if they answer correctly but not in the top 3 they will receive 1 point for each correct answer. Incorrect answers receive no points.
6. Participants should understand that there are different entities for each type of complaint, suggestion etc. and in order to be effective advocates, they must approach the correct one.

- I. **City Council:** Each city has a city council that makes the rules for the city. In the City of San Diego, there are 8 council districts (9 districts starting in November of 2012). Each district has its own council representative, who represents that district and is responsible for representing the needs and desires of his/her district. They provide services focused on land use, urban, and community development.

### Top 5 Reasons to Contact City Council:

1. Potholes/Street Improvements
2. Compliance Issues

Land Use

Potholes in your neighborhood? These potholes can be a safety hazard. Contact your city council member to fix this problem. Your city council member can help you get good assistance from other city services, such as compliance. Call the people to call if you rent your home and need some help. If your landlord is unwilling to make.

- II. County Board of Supervisors:** The governing body for the county, responsible for oversight of County agencies including health, human services, environmental health, air quality, land use, and other agencies. There are 5 supervisors, one for each of the 5 supervisor districts. Programs important for families, such as food stamps and children's health services, are run by the county.

**Top 5 Reasons to Contact the County Board of Supervisors:**

1. Public Health Issues: air quality, beach quality, food quality, animal services, Health & Human Services agency, etc.
2. Problems w/ Social Service Benefits
3. Specific items on the Agenda- call the board to voice their opinion on what the board should vote on
4. Issues/Complaints with another county department
5. Animal Services: i.e. stray dogs

Example: Feeling that families in your neighborhood need more help to feed their children? You can contact your County Supervisor to ask for more outreach to your community to sign up the families that need food stamps.

- III. Port:** governed by seven members and the board are responsible for establishing policies for the activities and operations for San Diego Bay and the lands surrounding it.

**Top 4 Reasons to Contact the Port:**

1. Maintenance Issues
2. Parking Meters
3. Oil Spill
4. Pollution

Example: Want better access to the Bay for fishing and swimming? The Port is responsible for determining land use next to the bay.

- IV. Air Pollution Control District (APCD):** works to protect the people from harmful effects of air pollution.

**Top 5 Reasons to Contact the Air Pollution Control District:**

1. Odors Complaints- i.e. sewage spills
2. Dust from construction sites,
3. Barbequing (smoke)
4. Burning trash
5. Eastern-Northern County: dust from horses

Example: Are you annoyed by the auto body shop that burns tires near your home? You can report this to the APCD to reduce the air pollution from the shop.

- V. **Regional Water Quality Control Board**: regulates discharges of pollution into water that could cause or threaten to cause pollution to the public health and the environment.

**Top 4 Reasons to Contact the Regional Water Quality Control Board:**

1. Various spills they witness
2. Facilities that might look like it might break
3. Discharges residents observe or that they believe is not in compliance
4. Assumptions that there might be problems with the quality of the water

Example: Wondering if it's safe to go swimming at the beach or a local lake? The Regional Water Quality Control Board is the place to call to find out.

- VI. **SANDAG**: San Diego region's primary public planning, transportation, transit, construction, and research agency.

**Top 3 Reasons to Contact SANDAG:**

1. Demographics: Racial Population in certain neighborhoods: ex. If someone wants to buy home, they will ask what is the race predominance of the community.
2. Traffic counts: Ex. Opening a new store- want to know how much visibility they are going to attract
3. Compass Card Process: Payments/questions/billings

Example: Think your community is in need of a few more bus stops that will actually go to where you want? SANDAG is there to provide you and your community with different transportation modes.

- VII. **Air Resources Board (ARB)**: A state agency that helps to maintain a healthy air quality and protect the public from exposure to toxic air contaminants.

**Top 4 Reasons to Contact the Air Resources Board:**

1. Dust
2. Various odors
3. Businesses: pollution
4. Construction sites: noise, dust, etc.

Example: Is your child suffering from asthma made worse by traffic and pollution affecting your neighborhood? The Air Resources Board is responsible for ensuring the air you breathe is healthy for your lungs and is working to improve air quality in California.

**VIII. County Department of Environmental Health:** enhances the quality of life by protecting public health and safeguarding environmental quality and educating the public to increase environmental awareness.

**Top 4 reasons to Contact the County Dept. of Environmental Health:**

1. Trash Issue: not getting picked up on time
2. Food Related Illnesses: restaurants, groceries, etc
3. Pests: mice, rats, mosquitoes, dust
4. Beaches & bay water: whether it is safe to go in

Example: Have you wondered who to report to for unsanitary conditions in restaurants, such as cockroaches or a lack of hand washing soap in the bathroom? The County DEH is the agency that inspects restaurants, also public swimming pools.