

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #17

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Public Safety

Sheriff's Office launches new pet therapy program

The Sheriff's Office, which is always looking at innovative services for inmates at County correctional facilities, recently started a new pet-assisted therapy program to help those in custody with mental illnesses. The program, which launched at the Maple Street Correctional Center, is a collaboration with the Peninsula Humane Society/SPCA. Once a week, therapy teams bring specially-trained Labrador Molly and German shepherd Sadie to the jail's specialized jail housing unit dedicated to the treatment of mental illness. The group therapy helps the female inmates in the unit learn coping and social skills and allows them to express themselves in positive ways which in turn reduces stress, anxiety and depression.

Community Services

HEART uses County loan to acquire NFO land

The Housing Endowment and Regional Trust Fund of San Mateo County (HEART), using a financial investment from the County, made its largest loan to date to acquire a .59-acre parcel in North Fair Oaks for a planned 67 units of affordable rental units for low and very low-income families and homeless/at-risk veterans. Residents will also have access to on-site services such as job skills training, financial literacy and health and wellness classes. The \$3.5 million loan to Palo Alto Housing Corporation (PAH) was made possible thanks to your Board approving a \$5 million loan to HEART earlier this year. The housing, to be built on the site of an existing car rental businesses, will also include six units for homeless/at-risk individuals with mental illness. We expect half the units will be rented to County clients.

Performance

Open data community liaison named top 20 leader

We always knew the County's Open Data Community Liaison John Ridener was a pretty impressive person but now word is getting out nationwide. John was recently named by industry site StateScoop as one of the top 20 open government leaders in the nation for his work growing and improving our 4-year-old open data program. The site lauded John and his colleagues across the country for their tireless efforts in using data and open government to improve democracy, government transparency and accountability. In an interview with StateScoop, John explained how the County's open data program helps the County improve how it serves the community and cited creation of our Community Vulnerability Index (CVI) which maps areas of need in the county. I congratulate John on his honor and the County is proud to have him onboard.

Measure K

New emergency response vehicles boast of Measure K funding

The core vehicles for response to fires, vehicle accidents, medical situations and rescues anywhere in San Mateo County are fire engines and trucks. We are pleased to report that several firefighters recently took a break from their duties to affix Measure K decals to the growing number of apparatus purchased with proceeds from the local half-cent sales tax. New engines purchased with Measure K funds are based at the Pescadero, Skylonda, La Honda, Cordilleras and Highlands stations. A new truck with a 100-foot extension ladder is also based at the Highlands. The decals will let residents know their Measure K funds are helping to improve public safety.

Summer 2017 Youth Conservation Crews wrap up ninth year

The partnership between San Mateo County Parks and the Student Conservation Association continued for a ninth year this summer as two locally recruited crews worked to improve our parks this past summer. One crew helped to improve the visitor experience in San Pedro Valley and Huddart parks with projects such as brush clearing, painting, trail maintenance and converting a lawn to a rock garden. The second crew worked on the San Andreas Trail and at Junipero Serra Park to increase public accessibility with projects such as erosion control, habitat restoration and trail widening. Here's a number worth noting: they moved more than eight tons of crushed rock to regrade a trail. In all, 17 crew members, two apprentice crew leaders and four crew leaders gained valuable experience this summer while improving our parks.

News, Events and Updates

County preparing for The Great California ShakeOut

The County and Courts are getting ready to drop, cover and hold on as part of California's annual statewide earthquake drill on Thursday, Oct. 19. At 11 a.m., our employees will practice their safety routine for two minutes under their desk before evacuating to their designated zones outside along with any members of the public who may be visiting County facilities at that day and time. Our County strives to keep our staff and the public safe at all times including during an emergency and the annual exercise is an important opportunity to keep our skills fresh. I hope your Board and the public also take the opportunity to practice no matter where you may be.