



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: September 3, 2014
Board Meeting Date: September 9, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #15

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:

LEGISLATION

Legislative Update—End of Session

The Senate and Assembly concluded business for the 2013-14 Legislative Session early morning, Saturday, August 30. The following are some key actions that were taken in the closing hours of the session affecting counties. A complete legislative update will be provided to your Board in early October following action by the Governor, who has until the end of September to sign or veto the proposed legislation.

November 2014 Ballot:

- \$7.5 billion water bond (Proposition 1)—would provide \$7.12 billion in new debt, plus the repurposing of existing unspent bond funds of \$425 million for a total of \$7.5 billion. The bond would provide for water use efficiency and recycling, groundwater cleanup and management, watershed restoration, and \$2.7 billion for additional water storage.

- Rainy Day Fund (Proposition 2)—would expand and protect the state’s “savings account” by requiring annual deposits to the reserve account to capture spikes in state revenues associated with capital gains.

Groundwater Management:

- Assembly Bill 1739 (Dickinson), Senate Bill 1168 and Senate Bill 1319 (Pavley)—package of three bills that would establish the framework to regulate groundwater pumping for the first time in California history.

Redevelopment:

- Senate Bill 1129 (Steinberg) and Assembly Bill 2493 (Bloom)—would undo components of the redevelopment dissolution process and would impose costs on counties and other taxing entities.
- Senate Bill 628 (Beall)—gut and amend that would implement an agreement between the Governor and legislative leaders on Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts ((EIFDs). The bill would expand the authority of local agencies to collaborate to achieve community infrastructure improvements.

County sponsored/supported bills:

- Senate Bill 968 (Hill)—would require the State Lands Commission to enter into any necessary negotiations with the owners of Martins Beach to acquire a right-of-way or easement for the creation of a public access route to the shoreline, including the sandy beach.

Other Bills of Interest:

- Assembly Bill 39 (Skinner)/Senate Bill 883 (Hancock)—gut and amend that would have designated Doctor’s Medical Center as Designated Public Hospital. Last minute changes to the bill removed this provision that now only contains a state General Fund appropriation.
- Assembly Bill 2126 (Bonta)—would require mandatory mediation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety Communications

As you know, your Board has committed to build a new facility to house Public Safety Communications (PSC), OES offices and an Emergency Operations Center. The location chosen is the site of the current motor pool and radio shop. This project is of the highest priority while the building must be designed to fit multiple needs and last for decades.

To help with this effort, Jaime Young, your PSC Director, will be transitioning to focus her full-time attention on the successful launch of this project. As such, we are now recruiting for an Assistant Public Safety Communications Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the center as well as the budget.

Interviews for this critical position are scheduled for later this month. We will provide you with information on the successful candidate in a future report.

Emergency Preparedness

On Friday, September 5, representatives from the Sheriff's Office, County Manager's Office, Human Services Agency, Health System and Public Works were to play lead roles in a major region-wide disaster exercise. Specifically, our County was to test a regional plan to manage donations and, separately, coordinate the flow of public information from the "disaster site" and coordinate public safety messages with agencies across the Bay Area.

No one wants to think about catastrophic events. But the recent Napa earthquake shows that we must always be prepared.

Health and Human Services

County Excellence

We all know that we have an excellent staff. What I would like to highlight is that many of our staff are sharing their knowledge and expertise with colleagues across the state this fall by teaching courses at the Institute for Excellence in County Government, sponsored by the California State Association of Counties.

This fall, for instance, Robert Manchia from Human Services is co-teaching a course, Realignment 301: Where and How Funds Flow. According to the course description, "This advanced course focuses on the funding and financial elements of 1991 and 2011 realignment updated with 2014 changes, including new legislation this summer which modifies 1991 funding formulas." I think you will agree with me that it takes someone with patience and an eye for detail not only to understand but to teach those concepts to others.

Also, Stephen Kaplan from Behavioral Health and Recovery Services will co-teach, "Health Care Reform and California Counties: How the Affordable Care Act is affecting counties and their clients." Donna Vaillancourt, our Human Resources Director, is co-teaching "Talent Development and Succession Planning," and Marshall Wilson in the County Manager's Office is co-teaching, "Making an Impression: Effective Media Practices."

Identification Cards for Veterans

In an effort to help our veterans receive the benefits and help they so richly deserve, the Human Services Agency is working on a proposal to issue veterans identification cards. Once issued, veterans could use the cards to quickly identify themselves at service centers where they can access benefits.

The ID card is but one method we are exploring to improve veterans' access to services and to improve our services for them. As you know, we are conducting a Veterans Needs Assessment with a convening for veterans and stakeholders scheduled for October 3.

Community Services

New Segment for the Crystal Springs Regional Trail

Construction is set to begin in mid-September on the newest segment of the Crystal Spring Regional Trail. The new segment, south of Crystal Springs Dam to Highway 92, will add nearly 1 mile for cycling, equestrians and hiking.

The new segment will include a restroom and benches. This will be very similar to the popular Sawyer Camp Trail, which hosts approximately 325,000 visitors per year. This segment will add to the overall goal which is a 17.5 mile trail stretching from San Bruno to Woodside.

Arr Matey!

We anticipate we will have received delivery of a new pirate-themed playground at Coyote Point by the time of this meeting. The playground will be located at the Beach Picnic Area and feature a pirate ship structure, and large, model alligators and sharks to climb. This will provide another alternative to the popular Magic Mountain playground.

Coyote Point Recreation Area consists of 149 acres and is the most popular San Mateo County Park, hosting approximately 400,000 visitors per year.

North Fair Oaks

The Community Council voted on August 28 night 7 to 0 to support a re-design of Middlefield Road that includes three traffic lanes, wider sidewalks, bike lanes and parallel parking. The Council also requested additional information about traffic signalization, parking options and a business sustainability plan.

The next steps are to work with Public Works and Planning and Building on these reports, prepare for a community meeting on September 23 to share this information and then prepare to bring this recommendation to the Board on October 21.

News, Events and Updates

Agenda Coordinator

With the retirement of Rebecca Romero, we have decided to have an open recruitment for the Agenda Coordinator. This is an important position responsible for ensuring you have the right information from the right departments at the right time so that you can make the decisions that impact our community.

In the interim, Alicia Garcia and Mina Lim in the County Manager's Office will share the responsibility of preparing the agenda. We will report back to you on the progress of our recruitment in a future report.

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Farewell and Good Luck

In a few weeks Marshall Wilson will be leaving the County to take a job as Vice President of Strategic Communications with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Marshall has been an outstanding Director of Communications for San Mateo County for eight years. We'll miss Marshall, but wish him well in his new job.