



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: Oct. 27, 2016
Board Meeting Date: Nov. 1, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: County Manager's Report #21

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

SMC Alert sign-ups spike after Highway 101 closure

The hours-long shut down of Highway 101 in both directions in San Carlos due to an RV engine fire had a slight silver lining — an increased interest in the County's emergency notification system. In the three days following the commute-hour incident, the County's Office of Emergency Services received 2,168 new SMC Alert sign ups thanks to our Communication Department's outreach through social media. We are now quickly approaching the milestone of signing up the 50,000th user.

Incidentally, the fire fell on the same day the County participated in the statewide earthquake drill which also prompted dozens of employees to sign up for SMC Alert.

Health and Human Services

County to convene team to evaluate animal shelter operations

Following media reports last week of animal welfare problems at the Coyote Point Shelter the Peninsula Humane Society operates through an agreement with the County

and its cities, the Health System convened a small team to immediately visit the facility. The team consisted of Health System Director Louise Rogers, Public Health Director Cassius Locket, a veterinarian and other Health staff involved in oversight of the contract. PHS staff were entirely cooperative, according to the team, which reported finding no examples of inhuman treatment of animals or distress. The facility, as expected, was found to be antiquated and in need of replacement, as is planned. They did not report finding the conditions or concerns depicted in the media. However, they and my office take these concerns quite seriously and we will conduct a more thorough review in November. My office is also updating all the city managers involved in the contract on the steps taken and planned.

Fourth-year enrollment for Affordable Health Care begins Nov.1

The 2017 enrollment period for Californians to sign up for affordable health insurance begins today, Nov. 1, and San Mateo County residents have new insurer Oscar to consider along with changing rates for existing insurers Kaiser, Blue Shield, Anthem, Chinese Community Health Plan and Health Net. The deadline to renew or enroll in Covered California health insurance is Jan. 31, 2017 and enrollees must act by Dec. 15, 2016 to avoid gaps in coverage or a tax penalty.

During the 2016 enrollment period, more than 7,000 San Mateo County residents successfully signed up for qualified health insurance plans at Covered California, and over 18,000 people renewed their coverage. Thousands more enrolled in Medi-Cal. Once again this year, County outreach efforts to enroll the estimated 7 percent of the population that remains uninsured will target “hot spots” including East Menlo Park, Redwood City, East Palo Alto, and North Fair Oaks. The County will partner with trusted, community-based organizations to raise public awareness to connect county residents to health coverage.

Community Services

Home For All initiative continues gaining support

The number of cities and groups that have adopted the Home For All resolution continues to grow. To date, the resolution has been passed by the County of San Mateo, Belmont, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, San Mateo and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County. The Pacifica and Redwood City councils heard presentations at their last meetings and will place the resolution on an upcoming consent agenda. Hillsborough will similarly consider the resolution at its Nov. 14 meeting. In 2017, presentations are proposed for Burlingame, Menlo Park, San Bruno, San Carlos and South San Francisco.

Information Services hosts GIS Day, launches new app

The County’s Information Services Department will share the great work of its GIS Teams in various departments at its first-ever GIS Day on Nov. 16 at County Center. The GIS Team provides a central platform for sharing maps and data both internally and with the public. The upcoming day is a great opportunity for programmers and users to share their work creating insightful maps.

At the event, the Office of Emergency Services will unveil its new Mosquito Alert App, a crowdsourcing application that lets the public report breeding sites by sending information and photos through their mobile devices. The citizen-gathered data will help OES identify mosquito hot spots and help guide vector management.

GIS Day began in 1999 and is credited to Ralph Nader.