



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: March 23, 2017

Board Meeting Date: March 28, 2017

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: County Manager's Report #6

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

New chief named to head Public Defender's Office

Beginning today, the County's Public Defender Office (PDP) officially has a new chief at its helm. The Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Bar Association offered Myra Weiher the position of chief defender earlier this month, effective March 28. Weiher, who had been serving as assistant chief defender, takes over from longtime former chief defender John Digiacinto.

The County contracts with the PDP to provide criminal defense for defendants who cannot afford their own legal counsel. The unique system in which private attorneys provide indigent defense has operated in the county for nearly 50 years — with Digiacinto, as your Board knows, involved for a large majority. The current contract expires in June 2017.

Community Services

Sustainability honors local students at STEM Fair

Perhaps it's called succession planning, but the Office of Sustainability recently gave special awards to area students at the San Mateo County Science Technology

Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Fair. The office's Schools Program — previously known as the RecycleWorks Schools Program — has been evaluating STEM Fair projects and issuing special awards for the last 10 years. This year, the special award categories were resource conservation, energy conservation and water conservation. The honors are distinct from the awards handed out by fair judges.

Of special note, Genevieve Bigue, the seventh-grade daughter of social media coordinator Christa Bigue in my office, was among the honorees for her project demonstrating how to create hydropower using waterwheels to generate energy from the flow of wastewater coming from our homes. Other winners are sixth-grader Malia Loo for her project "Mulching Earth" to answer "What are the best conditions to promote the decomposition of organics?"; eighth-grader Marjorie McKusick for her project "Can Mealworms Help Save the Planet?," and eighth-grader Dayton Lindsey whose project shed light on the important of reusing greywater from a home to water plants.

The Office of Sustainability is likely already finding all the honorees a position. Congratulations to all the winners!

County's open data liaison offers insight at national conference

John Ridener, the County's open data community Liaison in the Information Services Department, co-led a session at the nation Socrata Connect conference in Washington, D.C. earlier this month aimed at helping other jurisdictions interested in starting their own open data programs. Ridener, alongside the open data project manager for Montgomery County, Maryland explained how he and his peers formed a three-person "support group" network which they leverage to make their programs successful. Ridener helped attendees narrow down what can be a daunting task list to a few high-value items and provided a structured networking opportunity for sharing and learning.

The Socrata Connect conference is designed to inspire attendees with a vision of what a data-fueled government looks like and give participants tangible steps to get started and fulfill the vision of open government. One issue with open data is that governments are all working toward similar goals but under slightly different conditions. For example, what might be an open data policy in one location could be a codified law in another. Ridener noted that today's new programs will be tomorrow's experienced ones, similar to how our County is helping create a new path that others are now following.

Measure K

Skylonda Fire Station replacement progressing

The replacement fire station on Skyline Boulevard near Woodside Road is taking shape. In the past few weeks, crews have installed a steel frame while work continues on the masonry and wooden framing. If the weather cooperates — the Project Development Unit has their collective fingers crossed — the replacement station should be complete by the end of the year.

The Skylonda Fire Station No. 58 will replace an existing decades-old station that lacks modern health and safety features. The project also involves improving vehicle access to Skyline Boulevard. The station, staffed under a contract with CalFire, provides emergency response for Kings Mountain, La Honda, Upper Woodside and Skyline

Boulevard and support for other areas of the county.

The Skylonda Fire Station is funded with \$4 million in local Measure K sales tax funds and \$4.1 million in bond proceeds.

News, Events and Updates

Deputy County Manager honored

Deputy County Manager Reyna Farrales is the recipient of the 2016 Wes McClure Outstanding Assistant Award, a prestigious honor from the Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC). The award recognizes outstanding achievement and exemplary commitment to her work plus dedication to her profession. Farrales' nomination noted her advocacy for professional development and leadership, her support of several civic and management organizations and her leading of several MMANC sessions over the years. Farrales is a shining example of her profession and the County is lucky to have her in its service. I am proud to call her my colleague and friend.

Home For All initiative becomes more social

The Home For All initiative has taken to social media to help spread the word about the need for a diversity of housing options in San Mateo County and inspire community support for efforts in individual jurisdictions. The initiative, which is an effort by the County and many partners, will share photos of beautiful housing projects on its Instagram account as well as news and updates via Twitter and a newsletter. Check it out by visiting www.homeforeallsmc.org or following it at @HomeforAllSMC. Meanwhile, the initiative continues working with our cities in adopting the Home For All Initiative which indicates their willingness to participate in finding solutions. To date, 11 cities have signed on: Belmont, Burlingame, Colma, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Pacifica, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos and San Mateo.