



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
County Manager



**Date:** March 5, 2014  
**Board Meeting Date:** March 11, 2014  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**From:** John L. Maltbie, County Manager  
**Subject:** County Manager's Report #4

**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**

**Collaborative Reentry Plan**

At the end of this month the Achieve 180 Program will run out of federal funding and cease to exist. Behavioral Health and Recovery Services is exploring options to fund the program for three additional months to prevent a gap in services.

During the three months, BHRS along with a consultant (Resource Development Associates), County departments and community partners will develop a long-term plan to provide services to the population that was previously served by Achieve 180. This "San Mateo County Collaborative Reentry Plan" will be brought to your Board in the near future for approval and with a funding request.

The new program will consist of a comprehensive and collaborative case management and treatment plan system to address the moderate to high-risk inmates that want services. This new model, though well into planning, will not be ready to implement by April 1, 2014, thereby leaving a potential gap in services. If Behavioral Health is unable

to fund services for three months with current resources, there is a possibility that your Board may be asked for gap funding on March 25.

### **New Emergency Operations Center and Gasline Relocation**

The Department of Public Works has been working with PG&E to facilitate relocation of a high-pressure natural gas transmission main from its current location in the County's Motor Pool at the Redwood City campus. Relocation of the gas main is necessary to allow for the construction of a new Public Safety Communications/Emergency Operations Center (PSC/EOC) that is planned for the campus and will very likely be located at the Motor Pool site. PG&E should have the gas main relocated into Winslow Street and the existing gas main removed from the Motor Pool site within the next 60 to 90 days.

With regard to the new PSC/EOC facility, staff is working with Public Safety Communications and Sheriff's Office staff to finalize the program or "uses" that will be provided in the new building, including additional underground parking for the facility. We have retained a construction management firm to facilitate construction of the project using a design-build delivery method to expedite project completion. Prior to beginning construction on the building, it will be necessary to remove the Motor Pool, relocate the vehicle service function and radio shop to Grant Yard, and remove underground fuel tanks from the site. We expect demolition work to begin in late 2014, with building construction commencing in the summer of 2015.

### **Health and Human Services**

#### **CalFresh**

The Human Services Agency is working with the San Mateo County Office of Education to do a data match between children enrolled in the Hot Lunch Program and families enrolled in CalFresh. The objective is to identify those families not enrolled in CalFresh and enroll them in the program. Ideally, we would do the outreach to all families before the summer break. If we cannot, we will focus on those neighborhoods and school districts with high gaps between eligibility and enrollment in the CalFresh program.

#### **Veterans Services**

Last year, my office directed County departments and service organizations to convene a discussion to develop a coordinated and integrated system of care for our veterans. Deputy County Manager Reyna Farrales will be coordinating this effort with the Human Services Agency in the upcoming weeks. According to the 2012 census, there are an estimated 32,505 veterans residing in San Mateo County. HSA has two FTEs that assist our veterans to connect with VA services, obtaining more than \$2.7 million in benefits to veterans and their families.

#### **CORE Services in South San Francisco**

The County is in the process of selecting a new service provider to operate as the CORE service agency in the North County region. North Peninsula Neighborhood Services is no longer operating and the Human Services Agency has been filling in as

the temporary service provider at the Huntington Avenue office in South San Francisco. HSA staff is providing emergency food, shelter, transportation, and rental assistance to support families in the communities of South San Francisco, Brisbane and San Bruno. We have completed the RFP process and anticipate entering into contract negotiations with a provider shortly.

## **Community Services**

### **Local Drought Impacts**

San Mateo County has been declared a primary disaster area for drought by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Governor's office. Though some rain has fallen, it will be weeks before there is significant forage, a condition that has forced considerable and unexpected feed costs to local cattle ranchers.

Our Department of Agriculture is surveying local ranchers to determine the current impacts of the drought – the economic impacts of feed costs and water availability. This information, compiled with other counties or regions, assists relief agencies in assessing impacts and the magnitude of the response needed.

At this time, ranchers are primarily affected but if the outlook does not improve as planting season approaches, the broader industry impacts will be significant, for both San Mateo County and statewide. Ongoing drought in the agricultural sector will not only affect food availability and its cost, but will result in farm labor unemployment which will additionally pressure our social safety net.

The primary disaster designation for San Mateo County allows growers, ranchers, and nurserymen access to low-interest, fast-tracked, emergency loans through USDA's Farm Service Agency. Additionally, in response to the severity of the drought, cost share funds to improve existing water supplies are available through the Farm Service Agency and additional funds to enhance water conservation measures are available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program at USDA's National Resource Conservation Service.

### **Water Conservation at County Facilities**

Led by Public Works, we have taken steps to improve water conservation at many of our buildings. These efforts include installing:

- Low-flow aerators throughout the Hall of Justice, 455 and 555 County Center and the Child Care Center
- An ozone system – which allows for shorter wash cycles and reduces the need for hot water – in the Maguire Jail laundry
- Water controls to limit the length of showers and other water uses in the Maguire Jail; we are working on a project to install the same controls in the Maple Street Correctional Center

Public Works is currently installing the low-flow aerators in facilities in East Palo Alto, at 2500 Middlefield Road in Redwood City, the Youth Services Center and Probation offices in the North County. Public Works is also adjusting landscaping irrigations clocks to run at two intervals to reduce run off and maximize the watering.

These are just examples from a much longer list. We will report back to you at a future meeting on the actual amount of water savings we are achieving.

### **Animal Control Shelter**

The Memorandum of Agreement to authorize the County to begin building a new Animal Control Shelter has been approved by four cities as of the date of this report. It is calendared for another nine City Councils, to be heard in March and April. Staff from the Health System has attended all City Council meetings to answer questions and hear comments. We anticipate all cities will approve the MOA by mid-May. It is our goal to have the building project underway before we develop a new Animal Control Contract.

### **Animal Control Contract**

It's important to point out that building a new shelter is a separate process from putting a new contract in place for animal control services. On that effort, an Animal Control Contract Pre-Negotiation Committee composed of representatives from San Carlos, Atherton, San Mateo, East Palo Alto, Foster City and Half Moon Bay City has met three times to discuss all Animal Control issues and to develop solutions.

At their next meeting, this committee will be reviewing a draft of the animal control agreement. The Pre-Negotiation Committee will then disband and become the Negotiation Committee. This will be led by San Carlos City Manager Jeff Maltbie, San Mateo Assistant City Manager Matt Bronson, Deputy County Manager Mike Callagy and ST Mayer, Director of Public Health, Policy and Planning. Discussions with the contractor will begin in May with the intent of having recommendations for a new contract by October 2014 so that the Board can consider the contract in advance of the current contract expiration of June 2015.

## **Performance**

### **Assessment Appeals**

The Assessment Appeals process has undergone a variety of process improvements during the course of the year to accelerate the hearing for the taxpayers while decreasing its backlog. Last year, the Assessment Appeals Board implemented a pre-hearing conference to facilitate the exchange of information between the Assessor's Office and the applicant as well as to set a date for an evidentiary hearing. This has resulted in an increase in the number of stipulations and reduced the number of applicants that are required to appear before the Board.

Although the process, by law, allows for an application to be heard within two years, one of the AAB's goals is to make every effort to expedite the application from the time it is filed until the time it appears before the board. To reach this goal, the AAB clerk has

increased the number of applications that are being heard at each hearing by roughly 100 percent. As a result, all of the 2012 applications have been scheduled for either a pre-hearing conference or regular hearing by the end of June. The 2013 applications, which had a submission deadline of December 2, 2013, are being scheduled for pre-hearing conferences beginning May of this year.

The Assessment Appeals Board has also completed the Genentech evidentiary hearings for the application years of 2000 through 2005, except for the year 2003. Some of the issues brought before the Board included equipment valuation as well as its depreciation. The last meeting will be on May 7 before the Board renders its decision.

### **News, Events and Updates**

#### **Devil's Slide Trail**

Mark your calendars: the official opening of the new and highly anticipated Devil's Slide Trail is set for March 21. As you know we are converting 1.3 miles of the former Highway 1 into a world-class pathway. The project includes surface repairs, signage, accessibility improvements, habitat protection and scenic overlooks. Parks staff has trained 25 Trail Ambassadors who will donate their time to enhancing the visitor's experience by answering questions and acting as volunteer docents.

#### **Women's Hall of Fame**

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will deliver the keynote address at the 30th Annual San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on March 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the San Mateo County History Museum. In addition to Justice O'Connor, who began her legal career in San Mateo County, the Commission on the Status of Women is honoring Dr. Faye McNair-Knox of East Palo Alto and Fatima Soares of Half Moon Bay along with the 2014 Young Woman of Excellence, Nina Luo of Millbrae. More information about this event is available at [www.smcgov.org/csw](http://www.smcgov.org/csw).

#### **Energy Upgrade Outreach**

County staff is organizing a Homeowner's Workshop on Energy Upgrade California at the Burlingame library on March 27. The workshop will give homeowners information on how to access rebates of up to \$4,500 for energy efficiency upgrades to their homes and connect them to participating contractors. In addition, the County is working to actively recruit more local contractors to become participating contractors with the Home Upgrade program. A free training is being offered for contractors on March 20-21 at Skyline College on how to join the Home Upgrade program, and will include an overview of energy efficiency basics and home performance.