



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: July 30, 2015
Board Meeting Date: Aug. 4, 2015
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:

Public Safety

Drought has County making contingency plans

The ongoing dry season has the County's multi-department Drought Task Force Steering Committee meeting regularly to discuss concerns and plan accordingly. Should County Service Area 7's water source, Alpine Creek, drop to three inches above the intake pipe water hauling would begin by the Department of Public Works. So far, the water has remained at 10 inches over the pipe for a couple of months.

Skylonda Mutual Water Company projects running out of water in November 2015 and sought County assistance for a water shortage emergency in mid-July. The community-owned nonprofit serves 149 single-family residences and four commercial/institutional entities. Cal Water is ready to begin construction on a temporary water connection to supplement water while the creek pump is off.

Community Services

One-stop site for paying county fees

Individuals needing to pay County fees – particularly in multiple departments – will find the process easier with a new “one-stop shopping” method. Consolidated Cashiering is a shopping cart-style service going live Aug. 15 for the Tax Collector and Revenue Services initially, followed by the Health System and Department of Public Works’ airport division as a pilot. Once those prove successful, all interested departments are invited to join if they choose. While the set-up of each department is quite intricate, the goal is to provide users with a simpler way to find and pay County fees.

County taxpayers have online option

The Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office continues encouraging County taxpayers to sign up for “e-billing” and go paperless. The project goes live with the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 property tax bills and lets property owners pay their taxes directly through the Tax Collector’s website. Users will also receive an email reminder when tax payments are due.

The County has pushed for sign ups over the past two years but interest is approximately 1 percent of the approximately 221,000 parcels. However, other counties that have turned to e-billing also started out slowly and we are optimistic that similar to those jurisdictions the numbers will increase substantially as the new method catches on. To participate, visit www.sanmateocountytaxcollector.org and click the link mid-page for e-billing information.

New deputy director named

The Planning and Building Department has a new deputy director. Lisa Aozasa joined the department in 1998 and has served as acting deputy director since 2014. Lisa will continue supervising the Planning section and also lead Code Compliance. The department anticipates beginning recruitment for a planning service manager this month.

Legislation

County scores first legislative win of session

The County of San Mateo legislative team scored its first legislative win this session on July 16 when Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 1424, authored by 22nd District Assemblyman Kevin Mullin. The bill allows for greater participation on mental health boards/commissions by individuals who are also consumers of mental health services and employees of a contract agency whose employment is part of their recovery. The bill was Mullin’s first this session to receive a gubernatorial signature.

News, Events and updates

Sheriff’s Office hosts 14th annual North Fair Oaks Community Festival

The Sheriff’s Office will hold its annual North Fair Oaks Community Festival from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16 on Middlefield Road between First and Fifth Avenues. It’s a day of free live entertainment, arts and crafts, food, children’s activities and a parade. The proceeds benefit many of the Sheriff’s Office’s youth programs and the Queen of the Festival scholarship.