



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: Oct. 13, 2016
Board Meeting Date: Oct. 18, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #20

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

County to participate in statewide earthquake drill

Get ready to Drop! Cover! and Hold on! On Thursday, Oct. 20, nearly all the County's 6,000-plus employees will participate in the 2016 Great California Shakeout, an annual earthquake drill aimed at testing our emergency preparedness and reminding each of us that disasters can strike anywhere and anytime. While the state drill is set for 10:20 a.m., the County will actually hold its drill at 11 a.m. to accommodate the Courts' trial schedules. The Heart Walk will be held off-site during an overlapping time period which will give this year's exercise an added layer of realism as departments are required to account for the whereabouts of every employee at work and elsewhere. Due to the nature of their populations, the San Mateo Medical Center and County correctional facilities will not fully participate in the County drill.

We here at the County know how important it is to be prepared and I encourage all our residents to participate in the state drill no matter where they may be.

State honors OES District Coordinator

Congratulations to Nick Gottuso, district coordinator with the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES), who was honored by the state for his work in emergency management and preparedness. The California Emergency Services Association (CESA) awarded Gottuso its Silver Award earlier this month. Gottuso's hard work and dedication to our community includes creating the Coastside chapter of the Emergency Corps which encompasses 16 counties from Monterey to the Oregon border, and establishing emergency preparedness programs in our County's coastal towns.

Health and Human Services

Health System, partners aid families with conservatorships

Family Health's California Children's Services (CCS) along with partners Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) and the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County launched a program to aid parents who have children with complex health care needs but not the capacity to make medical decisions for themselves when they transition to adulthood. HPSM and CCS pair pro bono attorneys through Legal Aid with the families of those aging out of the system so they can take legal steps to become conservators of those children. In the first three months of the project, more than a dozen families were connected with an attorney. The project's annual goal at launch was assisting 24 families so we are quite pleased to reach the halfway mark so soon.

Community Services

Public Works unveils web redesign

The Department of Public Works recently unveiled its newly redesigned web pages which are now more user friendly, interactive and organized to help visitors more easily find the services and contacts they need. The site provides updates on projects and curates topics under four headings: roads, utilities, airports and surveying & map checking. The site also provides greater efficiency; for example, information on all permits issued by DPW are gathered on one page, along with related documents and checklists, which mean users no longer need to search multiple categories for help. Surveyors will appreciate the GIS map of survey markers which frees them from traveling to County Center in Redwood City for information. Future plans for the DPW site include ways for residents to pinpoint the services they receive at a specific address, storm-related news alerts and a map interface to local major capital projects being developed in our neighborhoods.

Legislative Update

Governor acts on bills with County impact

In the final days of September, Gov. Jerry Brown acted on several bills that will impact the County in the matters of equal access, corrections and elections.

He signed AB 1732, authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting and supported by the County, which requires that all single-stall toilets in California be designated as gender neutral and requires that governments and businesses post non-gender specific signs on single-occupancy restrooms by March 1, 2017.

In the area of corrections, he signed AB 2765, authored by Assemblymember Shirley Weber, that eliminates the three-year deadline for eligible defendants to seek resentencing or reclassification under Proposition 47. The bill extends the deadline by five years to Nov. 4, 2022, or later upon a showing of good cause. Brown also approved SB 266, authored by Sen. Marty Block, which authorizes the use of a sanction known as “flash incarceration” for probation or mandatory supervision defendants under public safety realignment. Finally, he signed SB 1322 authored by Sen. Holly Mitchell, which decriminalizes prostitution for minors and directs law enforcement to report the conduct or situation to county social services as abuse or neglect.

In the area of elections law, the Governor signed AB 2686, authored by Assemblymember Kevin Mullin to establish a pilot program allowing counties with a permanent vote-by-mail adoption rate of at least 50 percent in the last general statewide election to conduct a special election via all-mail-ballot to fill a vacancy in the Legislature or Congress. Brown also approved SB 450, authored by Sen. Ben Allen, that allows our County and 17 others — on or after Jan. 1, 2018 and subject to certain conditions— to set up vote centers for the drop off of mail-in ballots in the 10 days before the 2018 election.

Finally, the Governor signed AB 1787 by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez that requires local legislative bodies to provide additional time for members of the public who need an interpreter to address the body. AB 2636 By Assemblymember Eric Linder, also signed by the governor, allows local jurisdictions the option to accept online requests for vital records. Counties that choose to offer this option would need to provide a multilayered remote identity authentication method to establish the identity of the requestor, thereby ensuring the highest level of privacy security for the applicant.