



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: Oct. 1, 2015
Board Meeting Date: Oct. 6, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #18

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 emergency alert system receiving strong reception

The newly improved countywide emergency notification system, SMC Alert, went live to the public two weeks ago. Public interest was so high during the initial roll out that the system drew 3,411 new enrollments in the first 10 days and as of last count 4,278 people logged in to update their existing profile. If you haven't yet joined or reviewed your current account contact information, do so at www.smcalert.info or by clicking on the button now located on the County's homepage.

Community Services

County tax roll jumps over last year

The County's tax roll for the 2015-2016 tax year is nearly \$2.2 billion — up from \$1,990,123,674.42 the previous year. The office of Tax Collector Sandie Arnott began mailing 217,059 secured property tax bills beginning Sept. 28 and encourages payers to go paperless by using "e-billing." The new online system goes live with this tax bill cycle, letting users receive an email reminder when taxes are due — the first installment is due Nov. 1— and pay directly through the Tax Collector's website.

Parks Foundation names new executive director

While the County is sad to see Julia Bott, longtime executive director of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, retire in mid-November, she is leaving it and the work it does on behalf of the County in good hands. Beginning Nov. 2, Michele Beasley will begin as the new executive director with a goal of creating great places that invite people to explore, learn and grow. She is a County native and has been the South Bay Regional Director for Greenbelt Alliance. San Mateo County Parks Director Marlene Finley said she is “thrilled” to work with Michele.

Performance

STARS Awards take fresh approach

Knowing that employees are where the County gets some of its best ideas, the Human Resources Department is putting a fresh spin on its STARS Awards, which collect, and reward, innovation suggestions to improve efficiency and effectiveness. This year marks the inaugural Innovation Summit, a daylong competition on Thursday, Nov. 19 at which employees will form cross-departmental teams of two to five, consult with experts and identify solutions. Each team will present their idea to a panel of judges who will determine the winners.

The revamp was inspired by the County’s first community hackathon, Hack-SMC, held in June and is an exciting new way to have employees from different departments and divisions collaborate.

County network upgrade progressing

The County’s upgrade of its network infrastructure is progressing well as is the build of a new data center at 1320 Marshall to replace the current data center on the County’s main campus. Complete network upgrades are finished at four of the five core County sites — Alameda, the Youth Services Center, Harbor Boulevard and Redwood City. This month, the San Mateo Medical Center site is scheduled for completion, as is upgraded connectivity to the remote sites. The projects will give all County users a faster internal network, faster Internet access and improved reliability.

News, Events and updates

Big Lift initiative on short list for Google Impact Challenge

The Big Lift, the County’s childhood literacy initiative with partners San Mateo County Office of Education and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation is among the top 10 finalists for a Google Impact Challenge grant. The Big Lift submitted its summer reading programs to the competition and is the only San Mateo County entity on the short list.

Bay Area residents will now vote through Oct. 20 on which ideas receive the most funding from the \$5 million being awarded and, of course, the County and all those involved in the Big Lift certainly hope they choose our effort. The Big Lift will receive a \$500,000 grant if it is among the top four projects. Please vote at www.impactchallenge.withgoogle.com/bayarea2015/charity/thebiglift

