



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



**Date:** April 2, 2014  
**Board Meeting Date:** April 8, 2014  
**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:**

**Legislative Update**

The Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees No. 4 met on March 25 and March 27, respectively, to consider a number proposals in the Governor's budget related to local government financing.

The Governor's proposed budget includes funding for three counties, including San Mateo, that experienced deficits in the 2012-13 Fiscal Year to fully fund their Triple Flip and Vehicle License Fee swap amounts from Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds.

The County is seeking \$10.9 million in insufficient Triple Flip funding for FY 12-13. The Governor's Budget currently recommends appropriating \$10.7 million; however, the County will seek an additional \$200,000 based on more recent calculations of the funding shortfall. Both the Assembly and Senate Subcommittees held the item open, pending final numbers from the counties in the May Revision.

The May Revision to the Governor's January budget is expected to be made public on May 14. The May Revision will contain updated projections for state revenues and an updated spending plan. State revenues have been strong through the first months of the year, leaving many anticipating a larger surplus than anticipated in January. Budget negotiations will begin in earnest to meet the constitutional deadline of June 15.

The March 2014 Legislative Activity Report, which details the bills that have been reviewed and acted on to-date, is attached. The County Manager's Office continues to work with its state advocacy teams, state associations and departments to review the more than 1,000 bills introduced in the second year of the two-year session. This report will be provided to your Board on a monthly basis through the end of the legislative session.

## **Public Safety**

### **Combatting Human Trafficking**

We will be conducting a "Community Day of Action" to counter modern-day slavery and human trafficking in the coming weeks. The Community Day of Action is focused on raising awareness of a hotline number for labor and commercial sex trafficking victims to seek help and it also serves the public so they can report suspicious activity.

Volunteers, led and organized by the County Manager's Office, will distribute human trafficking hotline resource posters to establishments as mandated by the Senate Bill 1193. To read more about this law and to download San Mateo County's human trafficking hotline resource poster, go to <http://www.heat-watch.org/bahc2freedom>.

San Mateo County has joined other Bay Area counties in a regional effort to raise awareness about this important issue. For additional information, please contact either Deputy County Manager Michael Callagy at 363-4129 or Communications Director Marshall Wilson at 363-4153.

### **Achieve 180 Final Graduation**

March 26, 2014, marked the final graduation ceremony for Achieve 180. This program will be transformed into a more comprehensive, full-service collaborative Reentry Program involving the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, Correctional Health Services, Behavioral Health Services and the Human Services Agency.

Achieve 180 bridged the gap between in-custody and out-of-custody services for 200 individuals a year, who had a medium to high risk to recidivate. As part of a collaborative reentry plan, it provided assessments, individualized case management plans, job readiness and development, referrals to substance abuse treatment and transitional housing.

The final graduation consisted of a client who remembered his life of crime due to addiction. Sober now for a year, he was asked why this time was different. He recounted how the Achieve 180 staff changed him forever by believing in him. He felt

that he owed it to them and to himself to start living a sober life away from friends and temptations that would eventually always lead him back to jail.

Funding for Achieve 180 came from a federal Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act Community Reentry Initiative grant, with matching funds from San Mateo County.

## **Health and Human Services**

### **Conclusion of the First Enrollment Period for the Affordable Care Act**

March 31 was the deadline to sign up for subsidized health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. At the local level, both the Health System and Human Services Agency reported high interest at enrollment sites where staff assisted many residents to complete the enrollment process with extended hours at key dates leading up to the deadline.

While we do not have final data to share with the Board since the enrollment period just ended, we know that more than 32,000 residents have enrolled in new ACA coverage during this historic first open enrollment. This includes almost 14,000 residents newly eligible for Medi-Cal and enrolled as of April 1 and more than 18,000 residents enrolled in a private health plan through Covered California as of March 1. We look forward to updating these data with the results of the high volume of residents whom County staff assisted during the month of March.

An indication of the additional enrollments expected is that as of March 5, San Mateo County received 14,273 Medi-Cal applications. During the final week of March, HSA's call center received 5,609 calls for applications so we know the number of applications is going to rise once we have final numbers.

Covered California has announced an extension for some residents to enroll past the deadline. This is to address the problems that the Covered California enrollment system experienced during the final days as it was overwhelmed and residents had difficulty completing the process on their website. For residents who were unable to create an online account due to technical difficulties and for those who didn't complete their full application, they have until midnight on April 15 to complete their applications.

### **Street and Bikeway Design Guidelines**

Your Board is invited to learn about innovative design standards for safe streets for pedestrians and bicyclists at a special session on Tuesday, May 13, in San Mateo. The session is sponsored by the Grand Boulevard Initiative, Caltrans District 4 and the Health System and will be led by the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

This session is tailored for elected officials and leading Peninsula policy makers. The agenda includes details of how street designs can improve safety, public spaces, the quality of life and the economy and strategies for how to promote design standards.

The training will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Mateo Main Library, Oak Room, 55 W. 3rd Ave., San Mateo. For more information, contact Jean Fraser, Chief of the Health System, or Melody Tulier in Health, Policy and Planning at [mtulier@smcgov.org](mailto:mtulier@smcgov.org) or 650-573-2304.

As designing safe streets represents a major effort, training sessions designed for planners, engineers and public works professionals are scheduled for May 13 and 20. The May 20 training includes a tour that will provide local leaders with practical tools to improve their streets.

### **First Five Strategic Plan**

First 5 San Mateo County in February launched its 2014 Strategic Planning Process to help the First 5 Commission set goals and priorities. This process will involve extensive dialogue between commissioners and community members about the needs of young children and their families and best practices to address them.

These public conversations are taking place at each Commission meeting between February and September. A final Strategic Plan will then be adopted to guide the future work of First 5 and help shape its impact and legacy in San Mateo County.

All members of the public who are concerned about the well being, education and care of our youngest children are encouraged to attend these meetings. Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the San Mateo County Office of Education, 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City.

To further broaden outreach, First 5 is employing social media. You can find First 5 San Mateo County's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/F5SMC>.

### **Performance**

#### **New Name and New Office for Budget Team**

We're pleased to announce that the Budget team has a new space and a new name. The Office of Budget, Policy and Performance is located on the first floor of 400 County Center.

Why add Policy? We wanted the unit's name to reflect its major priorities. As the two-year budget is implemented, in the non-budget year the group will be focusing on policies pertaining to fiscal issues such as fund balance, reserves, debt management, Measure A tracking, AB109 Realignment and other priorities.

There will also be an emphasis on outcome evaluations and performance reviews, as well as building the Shared Vision 2025 community goals dashboard. The name change represents the integration of all of these priorities with the work of producing the budget.

## **Community Services**

### **Congestion Relief and Safety Improvements for the Midcoast**

We are pleased to report that we have achieved progress on plans to improve safety on Highway 1 throughout the Midcoast, between Half Moon Bay and Montara. The County along with project partners are now turning concepts into concrete plans for 10 pedestrian crossings, two left-turn lanes and a series of raised medians. These project elements aim to improve highway congestion and provide safe opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel throughout the Midcoast.

The final design work is being funded by a \$1.5 million grant from the San Mateo County Transportation Authority along with a local match of \$150,000. This design work also includes securing necessary permits and associated work. The origin of the project is the 2010 Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Study, which sought to develop a plan for Highway 1 to better serve all users.

### **County Service Area 11: Grant Funding for Well**

The California Department of Water Resources has granted \$700,000 in funding to improve the well that serves approximately 100 Pescadero residents and businesses.

The County, in conjunction with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, conducted an extensive survey process to declare CSA11 a Disadvantaged Community. Because County Service Area 11, which encompasses Pescadero, was declared a disadvantaged community, the State waived a 25 percent local match requirement.

At the Dec. 11, 2012, Board meeting, your Board allocated \$150,000 to fund a series of projects needed to submit a competitive grant application to the State. The projects included completing 75 percent of the project design, initiating the necessary permitting process and updating a 2002 hydrologic study of the aquifer.

The \$700,000 grant will allow the County to drill a new, deeper well, double storage capacity by constructing a new 140,000 gallon storage tank and initiate a water conservation program. We anticipate that the contract will be executed this summer. Between now and then, the County will finish the project design with construction to begin in 2015.

The grant funding will allow the County to conduct vital water projects to ensure Pescadero continues to have reliable access to potable water.

### **Drought Update**

The County operates two small domestic water systems: County Service Area 7 in La Honda and County Service Area 11 in Pescadero as noted above.

CSA7, which diverts water from Alpine Creek and treats it at a small nearby plant, serves less than 70 residential connections. The system also provides potable water to Camp Glenwood and Sam McDonald Park. Local property owners have been adjudicated rights to divert restricted amounts of water from Alpine Creek, which is managed by a Watermaster to ensure property owners comply with diversion limits.

On March 13, 2014, after the County issued a water conservation notice to all CSA7 ratepayers, the Watermaster issued a letter to all residents who divert water from the creek requesting that all water users take immediate action to increase water conservation efforts.

As for CSA 11, it has been documented that the water level in the aquifer has been declining at a steady rate over a number of years. However, recent monitoring events have not shown a faster rate of decline from the lack of rain and, as noted above, the County is moving to boost storage capacity and deepen the well.

Since Governor Brown's declaration of a drought state of emergency, the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services has been working with the California Office of Emergency Services. In order to prepare for the drought to continue, DPW was asked to respond to the following question: "What County and/or State assistance might you require in response to a sustained shortage?"

- Regulatory approval of alternate supply sources from California Department of Public Health
- Funding for or assistance with securing, delivering, distributing bottled or trucked water
- Funding for development of water conservation incentives (i.e. low flow fixture rebate program, repair of leaky pipes, etc.) new water supplies and shortage facilities.

On the agricultural front, the County Agricultural Commissioner's office has been keeping producers informed as to drought relief programs. This has been especially important for livestock producers (cattle, goats, dairy, sheep, poultry, etc.), who have suffered the greatest.

The drought and lack of forage on the range has forced many to incur significant and unanticipated costs to purchase feed for livestock. Most recently, a letter was sent to livestock producers announcing the "Livestock Forage Relief" program being implemented through US Department of Agriculture. The relief program begins April 15 and provides direct relief dollars through the farm bill to reimburse livestock producers for a percentage of their feed costs.

### **Farmers Markets**

Spring means the season to shop at our County's numerous farmers market season is fast approaching. To prepare for that, both our Department of Agriculture and Environmental Health Division, which regulate farmers markets, will hold a workshop and training for market managers and operators.

This training helps to ensure that market managers know their responsibilities and are aware of any regulatory or program changes. San Mateo County may have more farmers markets per capita than any other county in California and this workshop helps ensure markets are operated with integrity and consumers can be confident the produce they are buying was grown by the farmer selling it.

For a list of certified farmers markets, visit [agwm.smcgov.org](http://agwm.smcgov.org) and look under “Agricultural Programs.”

### **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Bond Measure: Measure AA**

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s Board of Directors placed a \$300 million bond measure on the June 3 ballot that can be used to acquire and restore open space and improve access to open space. If passed, the tax rate cannot exceed \$3.18 per \$100,000 of assessed value of property.

This measure requires a two-thirds vote in the district’s jurisdiction in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. It will appear as Measure AA in all counties.

The district has identified 25 “high-priority” projects for funding that are listed on their website, [www.openspace.org/imagine](http://www.openspace.org/imagine).

These investment opportunities mirror and complement many goals San Mateo County Parks has embraced in the SMC Co Parks Strategic Plan, which was adopted by your Board in March 2013.

At least four of the district’s high-priority projects would require partnership with San Mateo County Parks. These are:

- Bayfront habitat protection and public access, which will enhance partnerships to complete gaps in the Bay Trail
- Coal Creek: reopening Alpine Road for trail use
- Regional Trail Connectors to link county, state and open space trails along the Peninsula
- Protecting redwoods, salmon habitat and marbled murrelets through watershed restoration and educational materials.

The Regional Trail Connectors project would require a jump start on revising the County’s Trail Plan, something the public has told us is very important.

We are currently working with the district on the possible timing on projects and the feasibility of partnerships if the measure is passed. In San Mateo County, voters in Atherton, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos and Woodside will consider the measure.

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

We are happy to report that the new Devil's Slide Trail is open and is already proving popular. The new 1.3-mile trail features new restrooms on each end, parking and a repaved roadway.

But what the trail truly offers are stunning views of the Pacific Ocean from where you had not dared take your eyes off of the road. The San Francisco Chronicle summed it up well when it said, "... it's hard to believe the narrow, winding stretch was a major highway carrying traffic in both directions between Pacifica and Montara."

We can certainly be proud of the work done by our Parks Department and all of our partners in bringing this dream to life.

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

#### **Fatherhood Conference**

The Fatherhood Collaborative will host a conference on April 17 that will include programs and strategies to support fathers and a discussion of how our community can support fathers. The keynote speaker will be Ralph Harper, the author of "Stepped-Up: The Urgency for Fatherhood."

Registration can be found at [SMCisSteppingUP.evenbrite.com](http://SMCisSteppingUP.evenbrite.com). For more information, contact Carine Verduco, executive director of the Fatherhood Collaborative, at 802-5090.