



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



**Date:** Sept. 17, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** Sept. 22, 2015  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**From:** John L. Maltbie, County Manager  
**Subject:** County Manager's Report #17

**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**

**Juvenile hall wards earning college credit**

The County of San Mateo's Youth Services Center marked an exciting milestone this month when 28 wards finished the first college course ("Keys to Success") taught at the juvenile hall. The course gives the students dual college and high school credit along with the chance to say "I'm a college student." A number of groups and individuals made the opportunity possible, including Project Change and its provided instructor, Tabitha; the CASA volunteers supporting the students; Each One Reach One; the San Mateo County Office of Education; the Probation Department; and the San Mateo County Community College District and College of San Mateo which provided both funding and support.

**County providing mutual aid for Northern California wildfires**

Public safety agencies in San Mateo County, including the Office of Emergency Services, is providing mutual aid to the counties currently being ravaged by wildfires in Northern California. As of the last count, the County has sent four strike teams and 20 engines plus overhead support for fire operations in Lake and Amador counties. The

Office of Emergency Services is also supporting emergency operations centers in Amador County and assisting with mutual aid requests for law enforcement.

### **Community Services**

#### **New water treatment system at Memorial Park**

A new water treatment system servicing the historic Memorial Park campground is now installed and able to produce 30 gallons of clean water per minute — or up to 43,000 gallons per day — during a year with normal rainfall. The project also included new water storage tanks with greater capacity which helps the Parks Department meet the demands of the park's 90,000 annual visitors. More than \$19,000 worth of surplus parts from the deconstructed water plan were salvaged and donated to Community Service Area 7.

#### **Elections Office ramping up voter registration efforts**

With the County's all-mail ballot election looming, the Elections Office is pushing voter registration efforts with booths at events like the Millbrae Art & Wine Festival. The department is also sending its outreach team to high schools to register senior students who are 18 and pre-register 17 year olds so that their registration becomes active on their birthday.

A quick reminder: Today, Sept. 22, is National Voter Registration Day. Make sure you are registered and your information up to date.

### **Legislative update**

#### **Fire department tax exemption bill signed**

Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 598, authored by San Mateo Sen. Jerry Hill, which exempts all-volunteer fire departments from sales tax liability based on gross receipts. Sen. Hill carried the legislation after learning through his annual "It Outta Be a Law" contest that the La Honda Fire Brigade was required to pay taxes on the proceeds from their fundraisers rather than keeping each dollar raised for reinvestment into its operations. The tax exemption sunsets in 2021.

#### **State Legislature concludes first half of two-year session**

The State Legislature on Sept. 11 concluded year one of a two-year regular session by sending 941 bills to the governor's desk. Gov. Jerry Brown has until Oct. 11 to sign or veto the bills which include: AB 34 which supports at least one year of preschool before kindergarten for all children of qualified families; and, SB 350 which would require the amount of electricity generated and sold to retail customers annually from eligible renewable energy sourced to be increased by 50 percent by 2030.

The Board will receive a complete report on the outcome of the 2015 legislative session after Gov. Brown takes action on all bills.

### **News, Events and updates**

#### **Innovative foster youth training program earns prestigious award**

The Foster Youth Supported Training and Employment Program (STEP) won a prestigious 2015 Challenge Award from the California State Association of Counties, which honors innovation in county government.

STEP, which is administered by Human Resources and Human Services Agency, provides emancipated foster youth ages 18 to 24 with the opportunity for learning, paid working experience and mentoring within a County department. Results show that 76 percent of STEP participants enrolled or re-enrolled in college or vocational training and 69 percent entered employment after completing the program.