



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: COUNTY MANAGER

Board Meeting Date: 11/5/2019

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Michael Callagy, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #17 of 2019

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

OES, County departments respond to more PG&E power shutoffs

Our Office of Emergency Services (OES) and numerous County departments continued their diligent and thorough responses to three more Public Safety Power Shutoff (SPSP) events in San Mateo County. Following the first on Oct. 9, the county was hit with three more shutoffs, including one that affected hundreds of thousands of residents across a majority of the geographical areas. Working with our partner agencies and the County's public information team, our Emergency Operations Center was able to update the public via SMC Alert, news releases and social media. Our airports also helped out, serving as staging and resupply stations for PG&E power inspection and restoration efforts. Public safety is always our number one priority and these planned outages are opportunities for us all to exercise our preparedness and response.

Community Services

Youth Climate Ambassadors Program to create new leaders

The Youth Climate Ambassadors Leadership Program provides 9th to 11th grade students with the opportunity to dive into social and environmental issues contributing to the global climate crisis and

become empowered leaders to take action and create positive change in their schools and greater community. During this year-long program, students will attend monthly workshops that cover a variety of topics to build their knowledge in climate change, climate justice, sustainability, and more. Throughout the program, students will develop and implement a community or school impact project that is designed around driving transformation in local climate change efforts. Students will gain experience building a variety of skills including how to make observations, conduct interviews, survey design and implementation, collect data, and more, based on a student's interest and project idea. After participating in this program, students will become part of a regional network of youth climate change leaders and will have directly participated in local climate change actions. This fellowship will run from January 2020 - December 2020 and is made possible through partnerships across organizations including Citizens Environmental Council of Burlingame, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Office of Education and Youth Leadership Institute. We are encouraging interested youth to apply for this program. Applications are being accepted through Nov. 11, 2019.

Seabin provides pollution capture and insight at Pillar Point

The Office of Sustainability has the honor of supporting many innovative waste reduction efforts across San Mateo County, through the 4R's (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, Rot) Grant Program. One grant recipient - a local non-profit named Sea Hugger- is hoping to do more about plastic pollution in the oceans by installing a "trash skimmer" device designed to be installed in the water of marinas, yacht clubs, and ports. Named "the Seabin", the unit acts as a floating garbage bin skimming the surface of the water by pumping water into the device. The Seabin can intercept floating debris, macro and micro plastics and can clean the water from contaminated organic material (leaves, seaweed). As a grant recipient, the Sea Hugger "Microplastic Removal and Education Program" will educate San Mateo County schoolchildren and the general public about plastics in our ocean and on local beaches via three components: the installation and monitoring of a Seabin in Pillar Point Harbor in Half Moon Bay, a student and volunteer effort for micro-plastic removal across beaches of San Mateo County and workshops in various schools throughout San Mateo County on plastic pollution generation on land and its effect on the ocean.

This grant program also provides collective benefit for several agencies, helping the County meet the Stormwater Trash Reduction Mandate, furthering the County's recycling education on prevention of plastic pollution at the source, and allowing the Harbor Commission to test the SeaBin as a pilot program and study ways to put more Sea Bins in Pillar Point Harbor. The Office of Sustainability will be collecting data on items captured by the Seabin. This project is a first in the Bay Area and only the second on the West Coast.

Measure K

Hundreds celebrate Ohlone Day at new center

Hundreds gathered Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, at the Sanchez Adobe historic site in Pacifica to celebrate the first inhabitants of the Peninsula -- the Ohlone. The festive event included cutting a ribbon to mark the completion of a new interpretive center that will tell the complicated history of San Mateo County from the time of the Ohlone to contact with Spanish explorers to when California was ruled by Mexico. This first "Ohlone Day" celebration was highlighted by special salutes to the first people who lived at the site, the Aramai of the Ramaytush Ohlone village of Pruristac. The Sanchez Adobe, which dates to the 1840s, is a San Mateo County Park operated by the San Mateo County Historical Association. The new interpretive center, along with upgrades to the park site, are paid for with local funds from Measure K, a half-cent, voter-approved sales tax extension. Photos from the event can be found on the County's Facebook page.