

COUNTY OF SONOMA ISSUES STATUS REPORT



January 2012



Table of Contents

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER	5
ISSUE 1: INVASIVE PESTS: EUROPEAN GRAPEVINE MOTH (EGVM)	5
ISSUE 2: ACTIVE FROST PROTECTION ORDINANCE	6
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT	7
ISSUE 1: DISTRICT WORK PLAN AND FEE LANDS STRATEGY	7
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER-TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR	8
ISSUE 1: REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RDA) DISSOLUTION	8
ISSUE 2: SONOMA COUNTY ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (SCEIP) AKA (PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY “PACE” NATIONALLY) LAWSUIT AGAINST FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCING AGENCY (FHFA), FANNIE MAE, AND FREDDIE MAC	9
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES	11
ISSUE 1: PERFORMANCE MEASURES – TOTAL DISTRIBUTED COLLECTIONS AND COST EFFECTIVENESS	11
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	12
ISSUE UPDATE IN PROGRESS	12
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR	13
ISSUE 1: STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM	13
ISSUE 2: ADVERTISING PROGRAM	14
CLERK-RECORDER-ASSESSOR	15
ISSUE 1: CO-LOCATING ALL DIVISIONS OF CLERK-RECORDER-ASSESSOR (CRA) IN LA PLAZA B	15
ISSUE 2: CLOSING ASSESSMENT ROLL AND COMPLETING BACKLOG OF PRIOR YEARS’ ASSESSMENT APPEALS	16
ADDITIONAL ISSUE UPDATES IN PROGRESS	17
COUNTY COUNSEL	18
ISSUE 1: TRIBAL RELATIONS	18
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	20
ISSUE 1: INCREASED REVENUES.....	20
ISSUE 2: DA CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	21
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD	22
ISSUE 1: INNOVATION ACTION COUNCIL.....	22
ISSUE 2: SONOMA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM	24
FAIRGROUNDS	25
ISSUE UPDATE IN PROGRESS	25
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES	26
ISSUE 1: DELIVERY OF UNINCORPORATED FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES.....	26
ISSUE 2: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS	27
GENERAL SERVICES	29
ISSUE 1: COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY FACILITIES PLAN (CCFP)	29
ISSUE 2: NEW STATE COURT HOUSE AT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER - CONSTRUCTION	30
ISSUE 3: FLEET ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAM.....	31
ISSUE 4: COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PROJECT	32
HEALTH SERVICES	33

ISSUE 1: FLUORIDE AND THE SONOMA COUNTY ORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE	33
ISSUE 2: NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM: PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT	34
ISSUE 3: ENHANCING COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES: BEST PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	35
ISSUE 4: ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL	36
ISSUE 5: TOBACCO/SECOND HAND SMOKE ORDINANCE	37
ISSUE 6: SONOMA COUNTY SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE	39
HUMAN RESOURCES	40
ISSUE 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN	40
ISSUE 2: RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS	42
ISSUE 3: INTRODUCTION AND NEGOTIATION OF TIER II RETIREMENT FORMULA	43
ISSUE 4: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSION PLANNING	44
HUMAN SERVICES	45
ISSUE 1: INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR STATE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY COUNTIES (INCLUDING REALIGNMENT)	45
ISSUE 2: UPSTREAM INVESTMENTS POLICY	49
ISSUE 3: PREPARING FOR EXPANDED SERVICES TO VETERANS	50
ISSUE 4: ALIGNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES	51
INFORMATION SYSTEMS	52
ISSUE 1: FINANCIAL SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	52
ISSUE 2: ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION	53
ISSUE 3: EXPAND WEB CONTENT AND BRANDING	54
PERMIT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	56
ISSUE 1: PRMD WORKLOAD, BUDGET AND STAFFING	56
ISSUE 2: AB 885 - STATEWIDE REGULATIONS FOR ONSITE WASTE WATER SYSTEMS (SEPTIC SYSTEMS)	57
ISSUE 3: AGGREGATE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (ARM) PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	58
ISSUE 4: COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING	59
ISSUE 5: PRESERVATION RANCH	60
PROBATION	61
ISSUE UPDATE IN PROGRESS	61
REGIONAL PARKS	62
ISSUE 1: ECOTOURISM AND PARKS PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE	62
SHERIFF'S OFFICE	63
ISSUE UPDATE IN PROGRESS	63
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS	64
ISSUE 1: AIRPORT MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT	64
ISSUE 2: ROAD FUNDING	65
ISSUE 3: SOLID WASTE LONG-TERM OPTIONS-LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL LANDFILL	66
ISSUE 4: VIABILITY OF 4 SMALL WATER SYSTEMS	67
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (UCCE)	68
ISSUE 1: VINEYARD FROST PROTECTION: INVESTIGATING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING WIND MACHINES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE USE OF WATER	68
ISSUE 2: INVASIVE PESTS: EUROPEAN GRAPEVINE MOTH (EGVM)	69
ISSUE 3: INCREASING FOOD ACCESS IN SONOMA COUNTY THROUGH INCREASED AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES	70
ISSUE 4: SPECIALTY CROPS PRODUCTION: SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE BUSINESSES BY ENHANCING DIVERSIFICATION, PRESERVING OUR FOOD PRODUCTION HERITAGE, WHILE MAINTAINING A PRISTINE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	71
ISSUE 5: MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM: REDUCING LANDFILL INPUTS AND URBAN PESTICIDE USAGE, CONSERVING WATER, STOPPING THE SPREAD OF SUDDEN OAK DEATH, AND HELPING HOME GARDENERS PRODUCE THEIR OWN FOOD	72
ISSUE 6: PROVIDING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ADULT-YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN THE AREAS OF HEALTHY LIVING, SCIENCE LITERACY AND CITIZENSHIP	73

ISSUE 7: RECOVERY OF ENDANGERED COHO SALMON 74

WATER AGENCY 75

ISSUE 1: WATER SUPPLY STRATEGIC POLICY / STRATEGIC PLAN 75

ISSUE 2: RUSSIAN RIVER BIOLOGICAL OPINION 76

ISSUE 3: GROUNDWATER 77

ISSUE 4: WHOLESAL WATER RATES 79

ISSUE 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY ENERGY POLICY..... 80

ISSUE 6: FLOOD CONTROL 81

Agricultural Commissioner

ISSUE 1: INVASIVE PESTS: EUROPEAN GRAPEVINE MOTH (EGVM)

BACKGROUND: Throughout the state the Agricultural Commissioner Offices, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), fulfill various functions toward the goal of preventing the introduction and spread of exotic and invasive pests. This is accomplished through trapping for early detection of insects, inspection of plant material at nurseries, farms, parcel shipping terminals (UPS, PO, FedEx, etc.), and other locations that receive or ship plant material.

CURRENT STATUS: Sonoma County is currently dealing with an infestation of the European Grapevine Moth, which is a highly destructive pest of grapes. This has resulted in a quarantine which has placed significant restrictions on the movement and handling of our wine grapes. These restrictions have resulted in significant economic impact to the wine grape industry in Sonoma County which is valued at \$8.2 billion dollars.

EGVM was first discovered in Napa County in October, 2009. Through cooperation with industry significant progress has been made in 2011. Sonoma County trap finds were reduced from 59 in 2010 to 9 in 2011. Because of the efforts of the industry to aggressively treat the pest, we will be eligible at the end of the 2012 season to be deregulated. Continued vigilance by the industry and the department in 2012 will be necessary to achieve this goal.

The department received \$1.3 million between FY 10/11 and FY 11/12 in federal funding to combat this pest. This funding has allowed us to effectively respond to quarantine requirements, which has allowed our agricultural industry to continue moving their products despite our quarantine status. We will continue to utilize federal funding to avoid staff layoffs and to hire additional staff, which benefits our community by supporting our local economy.

In addition to the work carried out by the Agricultural Commissioner, the UC Cooperative Extension has continued to provide significant scientific and research-based support to the County regarding this pest. UCCE works in close partnership with the Agricultural Commissioner to study and identify methods for successful eradication of EGVM.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Tony Linegar, Agricultural Commissioner, 565-2371; Stephanie Larson, Director of UC Cooperative Extension, 565-2621

Agricultural Commissioner

ISSUE 2: ACTIVE FROST PROTECTION ORDINANCE

BACKGROUND: More economic crop losses occur due to frost damage in the United States than to any other weather related hazard. Various crop protection methods are employed when freezing temperatures are experienced, ranging from utilizing wind machines to heaters and sprinklers. The agricultural community in Sonoma County often uses sprinkler irrigation to protect crops such as grapes during cold temperatures (frost season generally lasts from March to mid-May in Sonoma County). The coating of water on the crops freezes, protecting the plants themselves from freezing. In Sonoma County, the water used to protect crops from frost is sometimes diverted from a stream, creek or river. This can result in multiple landowners diverting water from a single watercourse causing a rapid decrease in stream flow which has the potential of stranding and killing threatened and endangered salmonids. Other sources of water include ponds, wells, and recycled water.

As a result of the potential serious impact to endangered wildlife when diverting water from a stream, creek or river, the California State Water Board has propagated a regulation that will prevent all diversions during frost season unless the diverters are participating in a “water demand management program.” Some economic analysis of these regulations has been conducted, showing significant potential economic damage to the county.

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved its own Frost Protection Ordinance which was implemented in 2011. The first phase of the program implementation created an annual registration program that has allowed the county to inventory frost water use. The second phase of the program was to include a monitoring and reporting program in order to meet the state water demand management program requirements.

CURRENT STATUS: The department initiated a survey in 2011 to inventory the frost protection. The county received over an 80% response from the survey. The survey included contacting vineyard owners and managers constituting 2,000 sites potentially utilizing water for frost protection. To date there are 471 sites registered for frost protection. All potential diverters will be surveyed again beginning in January 2012, with a focus on obtaining the data from those that previously did not respond.

As the situation evolved in 2011 individual property operators chose to pursue their own water demand management programs. These recent developments will necessitate a modification of the county ordinance as it is currently written, which had called for one water demand management program for the entire Russian River Watershed. Staff will be coming to the board with recommendations on how the ordinance might be modified to reflect these changes.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Tony Linegar, Agricultural Commissioner, 565-2371

Revised Date: 01/2012

Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

ISSUE 1: DISTRICT WORK PLAN AND FEE LANDS STRATEGY

BACKGROUND: In 1990 Sonoma County voters approved Measures A and C, respectively, to create the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (District) and enable the levying of a quarter cent sales tax to fund District operations until 2011. In 2006 voters approved Measure F, which will take effect in 2011 and extends the quarter-cent sales tax through 2031. As of April 2011, pursuant to Measure F, the quarter-cent sales tax is now levied by the County rather than the Sonoma County Open Space Authority. Also in 2011, the District began repayment of debt service associated with the sale of revenue bonds in 2007 (totaling approx. \$7.5 million annually), secured to take advantage of conservation opportunities. As required by Measure F, the Authority has been reorganized as the Sonoma County Open Space Fiscal Oversight Commission to provide independent fiscal oversight of the District's operations.

Since 1990, the District has protected over 80,000 acres of critical ecosystems and habitats, agricultural lands, urban separators, greenbelts and scenic viewsheds – contributing substantially to the quality of life and economic vitality of Sonoma County. Over the past several years, the District has experienced a significant decline in sales tax revenue. The District is retaining ownership of properties for longer periods because the agencies initially slated to own these properties - (state and county park systems) - , are under severe financial pressure and thus less able to manage new properties. Together with our partners, the District faces major challenges with managing and opening our lands for public access and recreation. The District's responsibilities include land management of nearly 7,500 acres and addressing long-term stewardship for its conservation easement and fee-owned properties. At the same time, the District continues to protect key agricultural and open space lands in Sonoma County, and is focusing on effective planning for and prioritization of these ongoing acquisitions. With the financial and resource allocation challenges associated with the inability to transfer fee lands, the District is increasingly using conservation easements as a tool for protecting land. The General Manager, at a workshop in April 2011, received Board direction to prepare a 3-Year Work Plan to outline priorities for District land protection investments, and to prepare a comprehensive Fee Lands Strategy that outlines the effective interim management and makes recommendations for the ultimate disposition of all District fee lands. Addressing the disposition of fee properties is one of the District's highest priorities within the Work Plan, as the expenditures on these properties affect the ability of the District to effectively protect additional agricultural and open space lands.

CURRENT STATUS: District staff will present the 3-Year Work Plan to the Board in late March 2011. District staff also plans to bring the Fee Lands Strategy to the Board in Summer 2012.

CAO CONTACT: Terry Saunders, CAO Analyst, 565-3782; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Bill Keene, General Manager, 565-7360

Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector

ISSUE 1: REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RDA) DISSOLUTION

BACKGROUND: In early 2011, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed eliminating redevelopment agencies to help solve the state's fiscal crisis. In the summer of 2011, Redevelopment Agencies filed suit with the State Supreme Court over the proposed elimination of Redevelopment Agencies. On December 29, 2011, the State Supreme Court rejected the RDA's claim that AB1X27 was unconstitutional.

New legislation will require the County Auditor to annually determine the amount of property tax increment that would have been allocated to Redevelopment Agencies and deposit that amount in Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Funds (RPTTF). In addition, the County Auditor will administer the RPTTFs for the benefit of holders of former RDA debt, taxing entities that receive pass-through payments and distribution of property taxes.

No later than May 16, 2012 and June 1, 2012 and each January 16 and June 1 thereafter, the County Auditor must transfer the amount of property tax revenues equal to that specified in the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule from the RPTTFs of each Successor Agency into a Redevelopment Obligation Retirement Fund to be administered by each Successor Agency. The Successor Agency must then make payments on listed Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule from the RORF.

Additionally the County Auditor must conduct an agreed-upon procedures audit of the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule by July 1, 2012.

CURRENT STATUS: Uniform implementation guidelines will be approved by the State Association of County Auditors within the coming months.

CAO CONTACT: Lori Norton, Deputy CAO 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Donna Dunk, Interim Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, 565-3274

Revised Date: 01/2012

Auditor-Controller-Auditor-Tax Collector

ISSUE 2: SONOMA COUNTY ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (SCEIP) AKA (PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY "PACE" NATIONALLY) LAWSUIT AGAINST FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCING AGENCY (FHFA), FANNIE MAE, AND FREDDIE MAC

BACKGROUND: In August 2008, Assembly Bill 811 was signed by the Governor, which authorized an expansion of the use of property assessments for purpose of financing energy retrofits and renewable energy improvements on property. On March 25, 2009, the Board authorized, in accordance with AB811, SCEIP as a \$100 million countywide assessment program to finance energy retrofit (insulation, dual pane windows, etc) and/or renewable energy (solar, wind, etc) improvements on residential and commercial properties. Property owners would voluntarily enter into contractual assessment agreements by which they would agree to repay the financing via an annual assessment on their property tax bill for up to the next 20 years.

As of November 2011, 2608 projects (2529 residential and 79 commercial) have been completed and over \$49 million disbursed. Using federal employment standards, the program has generated 664 new jobs. 26 other States across the nation, and the District of Columbia, have passed legislation similar to California, so that programs like SCEIP could be implemented.

In summer of 2009, FHFA expressed concerns about PACE as a financing vehicle for residential properties and the program's perceived impact on mortgages, in case of foreclosure, on those properties. Sonoma County and others responded to those concerns and perceptions. The County and others, including the California Attorney General, responded and attempted to address those concerns. May 2010, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac issued lending letters defining PACE assessments as "loans", raising the concern that lenders would consider PACE assessments to cause a default in a property owner's mortgage. Further, in July 2010, FHFA issued a letter directing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to take certain actions, which could include imposing stricter lending standards on PACE communities than are in place otherwise. Because of FHFA's directions to Fannie MAE and Freddie Mac, lenders now require that any PACE assessment be paid off in full upon refinancing or sale.

CURRENT STATUS: Sonoma County along with the California Attorney General, Sierra Club, Placer County, Nation Resources Defense Council, Leon County (Florida), City of Palm Desert have filed suit in federal courts against FHFA, Fannie, and Freddie to protect our community from lending discrimination, enforce our constitutional authority to tax, and to require the federal government to use proper protocol for changing regulations that effect the State environment. The California plaintiffs have successfully withstood FHFA's motion to dismiss the lawsuit (although the New York and Florida suits have been dismissed and are on appeal). In addition, as a result of Sonoma County's actions, FHFA has been ordered to allow public comment on its PACE rule, which comments it will be required to consider before finally issuing its statements as a rule. FHFA has appealed this order, and the matter is still pending in the Court.

Congressman Mike Thompson and others have introduced federal legislation, HR 2599, requiring FHFA to treat PACE assessments like other property assessments. This bi-partisan bill has over 50 supporters in the House of Representatives, as well as the support of many businesses and environmental groups.

By Program Policy, we update, semi-annually, the Board of Supervisors on policy and operational issues related to this new and exciting program. The County continues active involvement in supporting the litigation and legislative efforts.

CAO CONTACT: Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Donna Dunk, Interim Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, 565-3274; Kathy Larocque, Deputy County Counsel 565-3310

Child Support Services

ISSUE 1: PERFORMANCE MEASURES – TOTAL DISTRIBUTED COLLECTIONS AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

BACKGROUND: The State Department of Child Support Services (“State”) issues performance goals to the Counties each year:

- **Paternity Establishment** – Percentage of Dependents with Paternity Established or Acknowledged.
- **Support Orders** – Percentage of cases with Child Support Orders Established.
- **Current Support** – Percentage of Current Support Collected.
- **Arrears** – Percentage of Cases with an Arrears Collection (past due child support).
- **Cost Effectiveness** – Amount of child support collected divided by the cost of running the Department.
- **Total Distributed Collections** – Amount of total child support collected.

Historically, the Department has collected between \$28,000,000 and \$30,000,000 for local children and families; monies which are then invested in our local community for mortgages and rents, food and living expenses. The Department remains focused is on maintaining, if not improving, those figures. However, due to the bad economy, collections have gone down though staff is working cases more diligently and comprehensively. With less parents employed, less money is available to pay towards child support. Because of the depressed real estate market, parents are not selling their homes which prevents the Department from collecting on liens. Also, in what might be a distinctive trait to Sonoma County, the stagnation of the construction industry may be having a disproportionate impact on collections. Regardless of these challenges, staff continues to strategize and implement historical best practices, including checking in both parents to determine if there are new sources of income, working with employers to explain the enforcement of the wage assignment orders, and exploring innovative projects to help our collections improve. Staff’s resolve to find collections remains steadfast.

In 2009, the State emphasized the fifth performance measure, cost effectiveness, the amount of total collections divided by the Department’s expenditures. When the State issued the goal of \$2., the Department’s cost effectiveness stood at \$1.93. Since that time, the Department has steadily improved on its cost effectiveness via numerous strategies: reorganizing staff and reducing management positions, streamlining and reprioritizing work and cutting back on resources and services and supplies. Significant projects included moving into a newer, less expensive facility, converting to an electronic document system and requiring more management approval for expenditures. Fortunately, these efforts have paid off. In 2009 – 10, the Department closed the year with a cost effectiveness rate of \$2.06. In the most recent fiscal year, 2010- 2011, the Department anticipates closing the year at \$2.28. For 2011- 2012, the Department is striving to reach \$2.90 in cost effectiveness.

CURRENT STATUS: On-going efforts continue to meet and/or exceed on all performance measures with a heightened focus on Total Distributed Collections and Cost Effectiveness.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779, Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Julie S. Paik, Director, 565-4141, or Jennifer Traumann, Assistant Director, 565-4023

Revised Date: 01/2012

Community Development Commission

ISSUE UPDATE IN PROGRESS

County Administrator

ISSUE 1: STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

BACKGROUND: Annually the Board of Supervisors adopts a countywide legislative platform to empower and focus county advocacy efforts. These efforts are led by the Board of Supervisors and supported by staff as well as state and federal advocates. The platform is developed through querying County departments on key legislative priorities and then bringing to the Board a draft platform for consideration in January of each year.

This platform captures all departmental and agency concerns. Of specific note, as the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District have advocacy programs in place, the County Platform includes their priorities so that efforts are coordinated and resources maximized. Both agencies have their own advocates given the specialized nature of issues they are facing.

CURRENT STATUS: Beyond supporting the Board's legislative advocacy through their membership and leadership in various regional, state, and national local government organizations, The County is active in supporting key priorities in Sacramento and Washington on an ongoing basis. These efforts will continue with the focus on bringing new additional resources to Sonoma County. The Board will receive the draft County Legislative Platform on January 10th for consideration. In March 2012, the Board participates in the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference and meets with County congressional representatives in Washington DC to support county requests.

On the state front, as the Brown Administration grapples with California's \$9.2 billion deficit, the County will be an active player in seeking to mitigate potential harm caused by impending Budget cuts. The County is also actively developing language in order to advance the Counties efforts on pension reform.

CAO CONTACT: Jim Leddy, Community and Government Affairs Manager, 565-2190

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Veronica A. Ferguson, 565-2588

County Administrator

ISSUE 2: ADVERTISING PROGRAM

BACKGROUND: The Advertising Program is funded by Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT or bed tax), charged at a rate of 9% by all lodging facilities in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County. Established Board Policy directs 75% of these discretionary revenues to the Advertising Program/Fund and 25% to the General Fund for discretionary use. Consistent with the existing Advertising and Promotions Policy, the goal of the program is to promote community, cultural, and promotional activities that encourage community spirit, promote local art and culture, and market our county's agriculture and industry, which contribute to Sonoma County being a destination of choice for tourists. In addition, the Advertising Fund finances Economic Development Department operations and a portion of Regional Parks Department operations and maintenance costs, as well as other related departmental activities.

Note: Aside from the 9% county TOT, on November 2004 the Board established a Business Improvement Area where lodging establishments located on both the city (Sonoma and Healdsburg not in the boundary) and the unincorporated area grossing \$350,000/year collect an additional 2% to specifically to promote tourism to the area.

FY 11-12 USES (Adopted Budget)	
Community Organizations & Local Events	588,708
Departmental Activities	43,540
Regional Parks	2,231,768
Economic Development Department	1,108,458
County' Contribution to the Sonoma County Tourism Bureau (SCTB)	1,659,713
Affordable Housing	126,706
Collection & Program Administration: <i>(One-time Vacation Rental Ordinance Enforcement Project \$100k, ACTTC-Collections \$130k, \$200k Audit Services, Legal Services \$77.5k, and CAO-Program Administration \$52.5k)</i>	560,863
Total Expenses	\$6,319,756

As part of the FY 11/12 budget process for the Advertising Program, staff was instructed to review the Advertising and Promotions Policy as well as establish a new Program application process for grant awards, to be implemented and utilized to develop the FY 12/13 Program budget. The program currently provides funding to approximately 40 community organizations, and no new participants have been considered in the last 4-5 years, with the exception of a small funding allowance and application period in the summer of 2011 for a single category within the Policy. The new application process will be open to any organization wishing to apply, regardless of past participation and/or Program funding received.

CURRENT STATUS: Staff will be bringing the updated Program Policy to the Board for consideration in early 2012 and will implement the new application grant procedure and begin receiving and reviewing applications in spring 2012. As part of the FY 12/13 budget development process, the Board will be asked to review staff recommendations on funding designations to Regional Parks, the Economic Development Department, the Sonoma County Tourism Bureau, and other community organizations, based on the new Program Policy and applications received.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783

Revised Date: 01/2012

Clerk-Recorder-Assessor

ISSUE 1: CO-LOCATING ALL DIVISIONS OF CLERK-RECORDER-ASSESSOR (CRA) IN LA PLAZA B

BACKGROUND: The County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor's Offices were consolidated under a single department head over 10 years ago. At that time it was recognized that the department needed to co-locate, however, a suitable location was never identified. The department has five divisions (Administration, County Clerk, Registrar of Voters, Recorder and Assessor) located in four separate locations within the County complex. The physical separation of the divisions has impeded the department's ability to consolidate functions and cross-train staff. The objective of the relocation and consolidation is to improve the department's functionality and efficiency. The flexibility to shift personnel across division lines in times of extreme staffing needs is imperative due to significant reductions to the department's extra-help and overtime budgets.

In anticipation of the co-location, the department has requested a new job classification, combining the positions of Chief Deputy County Clerk and Chief Deputy Recorder into a single Chief Deputy County Clerk-Recorder position. Pending completion of the new classification, the Chief Deputy County Clerk has been appointed Chief Deputy Recorder on an interim basis. The department has realized an annual savings of \$169,117, since the retirement of the Chief Deputy Recorder a year and a half ago. However, the stress of being the sole manager for two divisions, in two separate locations, blocks apart, has also hastened the retirement of the incumbent, who is leaving in two weeks.

CURRENT STATUS: Working with the County Real Estate Manager and the County Architect's Office, potential off-campus sites were explored, and in March, 2011, a study of locating the department in the LaPlaza B was commissioned. That study was completed by Axia Consulting in August 2011 and a second study, focused on parking availability was completed by W-Trans in early October. In December, General Services forwarded the studies, an estimated cost analysis, move schedule and phasing plan. CRA is currently in the process of analyzing the information and providing feedback to the Architect's Office.

Funding for the CRA move will come from Modernization Funds, dedicated to upgrading and modernizing Recorder offices. Funding to remodel our existing spaces and move the other departments will need to come from another, (as of yet unidentified) funding source.

The anticipated timeline for this move, with Modernization funds provided for the CRA remodel and relocation, and funds to be identified for other departments, calls for completion in early 2014.

CAO CONTACT: Christine Williams, CAO Analyst, 565-3776; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Janice Atkinson, County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, 565-1877

Clerk-Recorder-Assessor

ISSUE 2: CLOSING ASSESSMENT ROLL AND COMPLETING BACKLOG OF PRIOR YEARS' ASSESSMENT APPEALS

BACKGROUND: Annually it is the task of the Assessor's Division to close the assessment roll. Due to the severe economic climate over the past several years, it has been necessary to review properties for decline in value (as required by Proposition 8 amendments to the Constitution), in addition to completing the Division's regular workload. Roughly 50,000 properties are now in "Prop. 8" status and must be reviewed annually.

Additionally, there has been a marked increase in the number of taxpayers who have a different opinion of value than the Assessor's Division. Due to increased workload, limited resources and the reduction in staffing levels, it has become necessary to modify the appeals process by eliminating much of the time that was previously spent with taxpayers in an attempt to reach agreement prior to the hearing date. While this is the approach recommended by the Archstone benchmark study, it has been implemented only out of necessity. Appeal hearings are now being scheduled at a rate of approximately 200 per month. It is understood that this increase in the number of hearings per Assessment Appeals Board meeting has significantly impacted the Board and the staff, and we are committed to working with them in hopes of finding ways to mitigate the impacts.

CURRENT STATUS: In regard to the Annual Assessment Roll, while we have begun working the 2012 appraisals, we continue to work on missed assessments from 2011, and hope to complete that workload by early February. I believe it is inevitable that the Assessment Roll will have to be extended into July for the third consecutive year.

There are approximately 1350 unresolved appeals for 09/10 and 10/11 that are not yet scheduled for hearing (does not include those already scheduled for the January and February hearings, nor does it include any of the 11/12 appeals). If we are able to continue to schedule hearings at the current rate, we should complete the 09/10 and 10/11 hearings in September 2012. A reduction in the number of hearings scheduled per meeting will extend the time taxpayers have to wait to have their appeal heard, and compound the workload for the Assessor's Division.

CAO CONTACT: Christine Williams, CAO Analyst, 565-3776

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Janice Atkinson, County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, 565-1877

Clerk-Recorder-Assessor

ADDITIONAL ISSUE UPDATES IN PROGRESS

County Counsel

ISSUE 1: TRIBAL RELATIONS

BACKGROUND: Sonoma County is home to five federally recognized sovereign tribal governments with another tribe seeking federal recognition. Three tribes have land in trust, one tribe has a casino, and two tribes are in various stages of developing a casino. The tribe seeking federal recognition is doing so for gaming purposes. Interaction with some tribes has been contentious over the past several years due to policy disputes related to their interests in developing and/or expanding gaming enterprises. The County opposes gambling development and expansion due to its impacts, but has limited decision-making authority in this area, particularly when a tribe is successful in having lands taken into trust by the federal government for gaming purposes. The County has invested significant resources and worked vigorously to ensure that any off-reservation impacts of development are fully mitigated by the tribe and not borne by the community. Tribal development will likely remain an area of significant concern and focus over the next several years.

CURRENT STATUS (BY TRIBE):

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians – A series of disputes between the County and Tribe (including litigation over the River Rock Casino alcohol license) were resolved in March 2008 in a complex settlement agreement. The agreement anticipated a significant expansion of the River Rock Casino, which has not occurred due to the current financial climate. As a result, the Tribe and County have renegotiated and restated some of the original payment terms. As restated, the Tribe remains committed to total payments of ~\$75 million, with annual payments reduced to reflect a delay in the expansion of operations and associated impacts. The County continues to be involved in detailed consultations and coordination with the Tribe, on issues related to off-reservation impacts of the existing Casino and on other Tribal developments. In 2011, the Tribe and County agreed to extend, by three years, restrictions on alcohol service at the Casino. Also of significance, the Tribe initiated and completed construction of the alternate access road to the Casino, thereby enhancing public safety response time. Finally, the Tribe and County worked together on roadway/shoulder improvements to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety on Highway 128, just east of the Russian River Bridge. (Supervisory District 4)

Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria – Graton has succeeded in having land taken into trust near Rohnert Park for its hotel-casino project and has certified its environmental document. Pursuant to the County's "Agreement to Agree," representatives from the Tribe and County have begun to discuss the terms of an agreement to mitigate off-reservation impacts. If discussions are ultimately unsuccessful, outstanding disputes may be resolved through binding arbitration pursuant to the Agreement to Agree.

The Tribe is also negotiating a compact with the Governor. The compact, which could become a model for other State/Tribal compacts, could result in a very positive development by requiring Tribes to fund local impact mitigations. However, the Compact must be analyzed and several issues must be resolved prior to the Tribe and County finalizing an agreement. Staff anticipates that the Governor will approve a compact in early 2012. Once approved the compact must be ratified by the Legislature. Staff will be briefing the Board on current discussions with the Tribe in late January. (Supervisory District 2)

Cloverdale Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians – The Cloverdale Band also plans a new casino and is in the final phases of its environmental review. The County has commented extensively on the environmental document and has concerns about whether it fully complies with NEPA. The County also has met jointly with the Tribe and the City of Cloverdale to ensure that the environmental impacts of the proposed project are fully mitigated. The Tribe has teamed with SeaAlaska (a native corporation) as its development partner but

currently has neither land in trust nor a compact with the Governor. In 2012 the County will continue to meet with the Tribe to seek to address environmental concerns, perhaps through an intergovernmental agreement similar to the Dry Creek and Graton tribes. (Supervisorial District 4)

Lytton Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians – Lytton operates a casino in the East Bay city of San Pablo. The Tribe has submitted an application to take 124+ acres of land into trust just outside the town of Windsor for the purposes of establishing a tribal land base, including member housing and government services. The County has identified a number of environmental issues including General Plan consistency, impacts to public service providers, and removal of oak woodlands. The County met with representatives of the Town of Windsor and the Tribe in an attempt to negotiate an agreement to mitigate environmental impacts of the proposed development. To date, the Tribe has not responded to the County’s request for a comprehensive approach to impact mitigation. The Tribe has been focused on reaching agreement with the Town of Windsor, who will be required to approve, through a vote of its residents, any outside service agreement for the extension of water and sewer services. (Supervisorial District 4)

Kashia (Stewart’s Point Rancheria) Band of Pomo Indians – Kashia has tribal land near the north coast and is exploring appropriate development opportunities. The Tribe has consulted with the County on various land use issues and the protection of sacred sites. (Supervisorial District 5)

Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley - In 2010, Sonoma and Napa Counties successfully intervened as defendants in a lawsuit brought by the purported tribe against the federal government. The lawsuit claims the federal government improperly terminated the former Tribe in 1959. It seeks restoration of the Plaintiff as a federally-recognized Tribe and trust land within the Tribe’s “historically aboriginal land” that is eligible for gaming. The Counties filed a motion to dismiss the Plaintiff’s lawsuit, which was denied in October 2011. The Counties are seeking expedited appellate review of one issue in that ruling, and otherwise intend to actively oppose the lawsuit. The Counties have also engaged in some settlement discussions, with foundered due to the Plaintiff’s strong interest in obtaining land to develop a casino project in Sonoma County. (Supervisorial District 4)

CAO CONTACT: Lori Norton, Deputy CAO 565-3345; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO 565-3781

COUNTY COUNSEL CONTACT: Jeff Brax, Deputy County Counsel, 565-3189; Bruce Goldstein, County Counsel, 565-6118

District Attorney

ISSUE 1: INCREASED REVENUES

BACKGROUND: Over the past several years, funding to support the activities of the District Attorney have decreased, due to the economic downturn. The District Attorney relies on several funding sources; these include general fund monies, state reimbursements, grants, and sales tax revenues. Unfortunately, these revenue streams have not kept up with the increasing cost of effectively managing the duties of the District Attorney. Annual sales tax revenues have dropped by more than \$500 thousand since FY 07/08. State reimbursements for mandated activities likewise have decreased significantly, with funding for most of these mandates suspended or eliminated in the past few years. Grant funding has also decreased, including the elimination this year of the Vertical Prosecution Program funded by CALEMA.

In order to manage the decreasing revenues, the District Attorney has made significant cuts to staff and operational costs, to the point that it will be impossible to adequately staff all of the courtrooms should any further cuts be made. To that end, it is imperative that additional funding streams be identified. Potential sources for new funding include exploring new grant programs, and identifying and implementing fees which the department can charge to support the activities of the department.

CURRENT STATUS: The District Attorney will be exploring grant opportunities and potential fees this spring, and anticipates coming to the Board early in FY 12/13 for approval of any newly identified funding sources.

CAO CONTACT: Terri Saunders, CAO Analyst, 565-3782; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jill Ravitch, District Attorney, 565-3098

District Attorney

ISSUE 2: DA CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

BACKGROUND: On October 1, 1984, the County of Sonoma's Information Systems Department (ISD) deployed what is known today as the Integrated Justice System (IJS). IJS is a tightly coupled and highly integrated system that was built and has been upgraded over the past 26 years based on specifications defined by the County's Justice Partners (District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender, Courts and Law Enforcement Agencies).

The DA has been using IJS, and a multitude of manual processes, for managing its criminal and civil justice caseload and accomplishing many of the day-to-day tasks of the department. The DA finds it must conduct much of its business manually because IJS lacks the caseload management features the District Attorney's Office requires to conduct its business efficiently and effectively. District Attorney staff are mired in paper, relying on a single case file to be effectively shared among staff all requiring it for different reasons and often at the same time. This lack of electronic documentation results in significant time being wasted by staff looking for files to process requests for information in a timely manner.

This lack of automation not only impacts the DA's Office, but also its law enforcement partners, Justice Partners, victims, the public and press. It impedes the District Attorney from being able to provide the "Same Justice Sooner".

A case management system (CMS) within the District Attorney's Office would allow for information to be acquired electronically on demand, resulting in a more efficient and accurate workflow. Integration with I/Leads would provide the capacity for data to be imported directly into a CMS system, reducing time delays while waiting for hard copy deliveries from law enforcement, and District Attorney staff time devoted to data entry. Discovery compliance, especially critical in time-sensitive Early Case Resolution (ECR) Court, would be expedited both in the receipt from agencies and the distribution to defense counsel, and discovery materials would be tracked with unique identification and time stamping. The CMS would virtually eliminate manual form generation which relies on hand-written instruction from attorneys and requires multiple word-processing based templates that operate separately from IJS. It would allow multiple users to access files simultaneously, avoiding time locating, copying, and transporting files. Internally, a CMS would provide management with the ability to easily track case filings, attorney case notes and communications, and any case plea offers to provide proper oversight of staff. Decisions in courtrooms would be captured, allowing for statistical analysis of offense types, courtrooms, and final outcomes which will better enable management staff to make data-driven decisions.

CURRENT STATUS: The District Attorney, working closely with the Information Systems Department, has completed a "Business Case for a District Attorney Case Management System." This document outlines the current status of case management, the goals of a case management system, and the expected costs and savings which will result. The District Attorney is currently putting together a Request for Proposal, which they hope to disseminate to potential vendors in mid-February, while at the same time, working with the CAO to determine a funding source.

CAO CONTACT: Terri Saunders, CAO Analyst, 565-3782; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jill Ravitch, District Attorney, 565-3098

Economic Development Board

ISSUE 1: INNOVATION ACTION COUNCIL

BACKGROUND: The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors created the Innovation Council and charged it with identifying and executing programs to strengthen the Sonoma County economy. It began its work in late 2007 and finished the first phase in January 2009. The Council, composed of 34 diverse community members including notable leaders from the business community, identified several areas where improvement would have a positive impact on our county's future business climate.

A smaller group, called the Innovation Action Council, was formed from the original Council to oversee execution of programs designed to realize these improvements. Funding from the Morgan Family Foundation supported these efforts.

Recently, the Morgan Family Foundation awarded another grant for a one-year period to develop an economic cluster analysis and job generation plan for Sonoma County. In order to maintain continuity and timeliness, the core group from the previous phase of the Innovation Action Council will be utilized, with several proposed additions to reflect emerging trends and to provide additional balance.

This "economic cluster-based" approach was pursued 10 years ago by the Economic Vitality Partnership, and resulted in the successful development of the Engineering Sciences Program at Sonoma State University (SSU), the Sonoma County Tourism Bureau (SCTB), the coordination and enhancement of local agricultural marketing efforts, the local economic research program, and other "spin-off" projects. To help provide additional balance and diverse perspectives, all Council meetings will be open to the public, and key groups will be informed and invited throughout the process. These groups will include key County workforce development and organized labor groups; major chambers and key business and agriculture trade groups; conservation and environmental groups; diverse community-based organizations; and City managers.

CURRENT STATUS: The Innovation Action Council will take direct aim at the issue of job creation in 2010-11. During the first phase of the project the group will determine needs of local businesses via several "focus group" sessions with key economic clusters. These sessions will be conducted by a consultant group, with findings brought back to the Innovation Action Council for review and eventual consolidation into an overall plan. The goal is to determine what job-generating clusters Sonoma County must have to be successful in generating jobs locally.

The process must be accomplished within one year to accommodate grant timelines. The consultant's primary task during Phase I will be to develop a report of findings and recommendations arising from the meetings with economic sector leaders. Staff and consultant will review economic development initiatives recently presented to the County such as the Building Economic Success Together (BEST) program. Phase I will conclude with presentation of a draft report and action plan in the winter of 2011. Phase II would follow, with cluster groups meeting to refine recommended initiatives developed in the focus groups, and begin developing action plans and goals. A progress report will be given at the State of the County in January 2011, and a final report and action plan will be presented to your Board and the community in May 2011.

Additionally, the feasibility of an economic development workshop in fall 2010 for local elected officials and staff will be explored with the California Local Association for Economic Development (CALED) with participation from Sonoma State University's Business School. The workshop may evolve into an ongoing education program through SSU. This educational aspect was considered useful during the Innovation Council's initial review.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Ben Stone, Director, 565-7170

Economic Development Board

ISSUE 2: SONOMA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

BACKGROUND: The Sonoma Green Business Program (SGBP) is a partnership of government agencies and utilities that assists, recognizes, and promotes local organizations, focusing on small- to medium-sized consumer-oriented businesses that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way. To be certified, participants must be in compliance with all environmental regulations and meet program standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution, and minimizing waste.

Fall 2007 marked the expansion of the Sonoma Green Business Program to include a wider range of businesses and fully integrate the Bay Area Green Business Program standards. Coordinated by the Sonoma County Economic development Board cooperation with the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Sonoma Green Business Program verifies that businesses meet higher standards of environmental performance. Our partnership of government agencies and utilities helps local businesses comply with all environmental regulations and take actions to conserve resources, prevent pollution, and minimize waste.

CURRENT STATUS: The Sonoma Green Business Program has certified 101 businesses in the County over the past 3 years. There are close to 2,300 certified throughout the Bay Area.

Quarterly, the SGBP Project Coordinator submits an agenda item to the Board for certification approval. Once businesses are approved for certification, their names are added to the Sonoma County and Bay Area GBP websites, and they receive window decals and use of the program logo.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Ben Stone, Director, 565-7170

Fairgrounds

ISSUE UPDATE IN PROGRESS

Fire and Emergency Services

ISSUE 1: DELIVERY OF UNINCORPORATED FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

BACKGROUND: In August 2009, the County completed and presented to the Board of Supervisors a review of County Fire Service Area #40 (CSA 40). CSA 40 is a special district that covers more than 680 square miles (43 percent) of the unincorporated portion of Sonoma County. The County provides all risk fire protection services to this area with paid, part time, and volunteer personnel assigned to 15 Volunteer Fire Companies. The review produced numerous recommendations for stabilizing and making improvements to County fire services. At that time, the Board directed the Fire and Emergency Services Department to develop and implementation plan and work with the County Administrator's Office to begin implementation of the report's recommendations. A Fire Steering Committee was formed, comprised of community stakeholders, volunteer firefighters, and county staff, to guide the implementation process. In October 2010 the Strategic Plan "Vision 2020" was accepted by the Board and staff was directed to move forward with implementation.

A central element of the Vision 2020 Plan is to formalize the Fire Operations and Training component of the Sonoma County Fire & Emergency Services Department (County Fire) structure and funding mechanisms. As we formalize County Fire's structure and its delivery of community based fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services, we have implemented clearly defined roles and responsibilities of both career and volunteer staff. The Steering Committee recognizes the importance of strong local voice from each community in defining the level of service they will receive, and how that service is delivered. As we continue to centralize our efforts into one Fire Department, we will remain largely a volunteer fire department that relies heavily on local community support and staffing. The ultimate objective of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan is to ensure that County Fire is sustainably resourced, adequately trained, adequately equipped, and adequately led.

CURRENT STATUS: The next critical report coming to the Board is a "standards of cover", which defines specific levels of service, including staffing configurations and performance measures, in the various communities covered by County Fire, and the resources needed to meet those service levels. Staff are working to complete the Standards of Cover for Emergency Response Plan, and will work with the County Administrator to bring the plan to the Board.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Mark Aston, County Fire Chief, Dept. Director, 565-1157

Fire and Emergency Services

ISSUE 2: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS

BACKGROUND: Emergency Management staff manage and oversee the Emergency Operations Center (EOC); training and exercising to improve our response capabilities; various County emergency response plans; 140 radio volunteers; Hazard Mitigation projects; Alert and Warning systems; and providing emergency management services to the 9 incorporated cities, Sonoma State University, and Sonoma County Junior College District. The Emergency Management Division efforts are critical to the cities and County’s emergency preparedness, and contribute to the region’s preparedness.

Since September 11th, 2001, the Emergency Management Division has taken on numerous federal and state mandates, and administered over \$12 million dollars in Homeland Security grant funds. This has provided first responder agencies with equipment and capabilities that significantly enhance the County’s ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters. Current Federal/State programs include those listed below. A limited number of these programs come with funding, however each comes with onerous administrative and management requirements without allowance for administrative and management costs. If these programs continue without opportunities to fund administrative and management costs, it will become increasingly difficult, if not impossible for Emergency Management to maintain the central role it plays in county and regional preparedness.

- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative – Resource Typing
- NIMS Capability Assessment Support Tool (NIMSCAST)
- National Emergency Responder Credentialing System Typing
- Incident Resource Inventory System (IRIS)
- National Preparedness System (NPS)
- State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
- Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) Grants
- Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG)
- Bay Area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) projects
- CA Metrics Project (CA Disaster Resource and Capability Assessment Project)
- Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS)
- CA Emergency Responder Credentialing Program
- Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TIC-P)
- Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCPGP)
- Citizen Corps Council

CURRENT STATUS: Fire and Emergency Services department has evaluated several strategies to address the increasing administrative burden associated with new and existing State and Federal preparedness programs, while maintaining the critical role the Emergency Management Division plays in regional emergency preparedness. The addition of a full time Emergency Coordinator in lieu of several extra-help positions has aided the division to meet these administrative burdens. An agreement with the Bay Area (UASI) to partially defray the cost of a Project Manager to the division to increase participation, coordinate, and manage UASI projects has recently been approved by the Board. An increase in Chief Aston’s workload due to his recent appointment to the Bay Area UASI Approval Authority has assisted the division with this new responsibility.

Additionally, there have been new training and exercise requirements added by FEMA to the EMPG. These new obligations have necessitated an adjustment to the existing work plan and are being worked into the FY 12-13 budget.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Christopher Helgren, Emergency Manager, 565-2052

General Services

ISSUE 1: COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY FACILITIES PLAN (CCFP)

BACKGROUND: The Sonoma County's 2010 Strategic Plan recognized that County facilities and real estate assets represent challenges and opportunities. It concluded that the County must adopt a strategic approach in planning, providing and managing facilities. In response, your Board authorized the Comprehensive County Facilities Plan, or CCFP, a strategic implementation project that will help the County meet Strategic Plan Goal 4: *"Plan, procure, operate, maintain and manage Sonoma County's facilities and real estate assets at their highest and best use, such that they provide the best value to the County."* The deliverable is a **Comprehensive County Facilities Plan**, which lays out a roadmap for achieving the Strategic Plan objectives for County facilities.

The CCFP will make recommendations for the future use of County-owned properties, including the 80-plus acre Chanate campus, which Sutter Health departs for its new facility location in about 2014. Also included will be recommendations for future improvements to the County Administration Center facilities and real estate, including potential consolidation of existing County facilities into new construction, surplus property disposition and/or mixed use development on excess land.

CURRENT STATUS: This project commenced in late 2009 with data collection across 24 participating General Government departments. Data collection and analysis is largely complete and preliminary Service Delivery, Real Estate and Financial findings and goals are being developed. Recommended improvements to the County real estate and facility portfolio along with an approach for financing improvements will be presented to your Board in early 2011.

CAO CONTACT: Christine Williams, CAO Analyst 565-3776; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: José Obregón, Director of General Services Department 565-3242

Revised Date: 01/2012

General Services

ISSUE 2: NEW STATE COURT HOUSE AT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER - CONSTRUCTION

BACKGROUND: In March 2009, the County responded to a request by the State Administrative Office of the Courts (A.O.C.) regarding opportunities for a proposed new court house site in Santa Rosa. The A.O.C. will construct a new 175,000 sq. ft., \$240,000,000 court house for functions currently housed in the obsolete Hall of Justice at the County Administration Center. In 2011 and after considering proposals from various parties, the A.O.C. deemed the County's proposed site, immediately adjacent to the Hall of Justice (H.O.J.) and near the County's Main Adult Detention Facility (M.A.D.F.), to be the "preferred site" in Santa Rosa for the new court house. To facilitate this project your Board approved the transfer of various county parcels to the A.O.C for use as the new courthouse building site. Included in these property transfers was the current County Fleet and Soil Testing site and facilities. These operations will need to be relocated by June 2013 the target date set by the A.O.C for the sale of the construction bonds that will be used to finance the construction of the new court facility. Construction of the court house in close proximity to the existing M.A.D.F. will mitigate complicated inmate transfer to a remote site, reduce inmate transfer costs and promote economic and job creation during the construction phase of the project. The issue for the upcoming year is completing the relocation of the fleet and soil lab operations and safeguarding the County' own interest in redeveloping the County Center complex.

CURRENT STATUS: The County completed negotiations with the e A.O.C. regarding the terms and conditions of the transfer of the site to the State, including cost of land, impacts on the prior transfer agreement of the H.O.J. to the State, the re-routing of existing on-site County utilities, and provision of off-site parking on County land for State use. Your Board authorized the transfer of the properties in Fall 2011 and the A.O.C. is scheduled to effect the purchased in the first quarter of 2012. Concurrently staff has issued an RFP for the development of relocation options for the fleet and soil lab operations and will be providing a recommendation to your Board. As stated the State wishes to conclude site acquisition in early 2012, with subsequent construction of the new court house by mid-2015.

CAO CONTACT: Christine Williams, CAO Analyst, 565-3776; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: José Obregón, Director of General Services Department, 565-3242

Revised Date: 01/2012

General Services

ISSUE 3: FLEET ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND: For the past two years the County has been working with all the cities and special agencies in the County to bring electric vehicles (EV) to our fleets and develop baseline public infrastructure for charging EVs. Most recently we have applied for grants from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) as part of two Bay Area wide collaborative efforts to receive funding for the program.

CURRENT STATUS: Two grants from the MTC, one for fleet vehicles and chargers and one for public vehicle chargers have been approved. Sonoma County has also been approved for chargers through the Charge Point America Program which is funding through the Department of Energy. Contracts for these grants should be coming before the Board during the first half of 2011.

CAO CONTACT: Christine Williams, CAO Analyst, 565-3776; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Dave Head, Fleet Manager, 565-2809

General Services

ISSUE 4: COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PROJECT

BACKGROUND: The Comprehensive Energy Project (CEP) is part of the Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP) the Board approved on September 12, 2006. The CPAP is intended to reduce County generated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 20% below what they were in 2000 by 2010. The primary objective of the CEP is to address the building-related GHG reduction goals of the CPAP. The reduction target for buildings is 6,348 tons of GHG per year. The project is designed to pay for itself through energy and water cost savings and, as a collateral benefit, it will replace worn-out infrastructure that has reached the end of its service life. The CEP is one of several energy and sustainability initiatives that have been and continue to be undertaken by the General Services Department.

The CEP is being implemented as a design/build project under the authority of Government Code Section 4217.10 et. seq., which allows public agencies to award energy saving projects to Energy Services Companies (ESCO) on the basis of experience, type of technology employed, cost or other relevant considerations.

To implement the CEP, an Energy Services Company (ESCO), AIRCON Energy, was retained to provide full energy related auditing, design and construction services for the project. In the first phase of the project, AIRCON completed an “investment grade audit”, which included a detailed survey of County facilities to identify opportunities for energy conservation and generation from renewable resources. Under Phase 1 AIRCON provided a comprehensive description of the County’s energy usage characteristics and undertook engineering and financial analysis to establish a list of energy efficiency measures (EEM’s) whose implementation will allow the County to achieve the facility Green House Gas reduction targets outlined in the County’s Climate Protection Action Plan. The EEMs identified included:

- Lighting retrofits at 20 buildings
- Replacement or reconstruction of heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning equipment in four buildings
- Replacement of chillers and other measures at the Central Mechanical Plant (CMP)
- Water reduction retrofit in the Main Adult Detention Facility (MADF), the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), and other buildings
- Installation of a 1.4 mega-watt fuel cell power generation plant with heat recovery at the CMP, which will satisfy a large portion of the electricity demand for facilities at the County Administration Center.

Phase 2 of the CEP, the implementation the above EEM’s, began June, 2009 and is anticipated to be completed in December, 2010. At this time, the implementation of these EEMs is expected to meet and exceed the energy and water savings projections for the project as well as exceed the projected Green House Gas reduction targets.

Many other facility projects, in addition to the Comprehensive Energy Project, offer opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and sustainable design. General Services will continue to take advantage of these opportunities and look for ways to incorporate and fund additional “green” measures into the projects, including where appropriate, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

CURRENT STATUS: Construction is underway and is anticipated to be completed, with all energy efficiency measures brought on line, by December, 2010. The project will then enter the one year the measurement and verification phase, to ensure that we are achieving the projected energy savings.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, 565-3779

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: José Obregón, Director of General Services Department, 565-3242

Health Services

ISSUE 1: FLUORIDE AND THE SONOMA COUNTY ORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

BACKGROUND: Poor oral health can threaten the health and healthy development of young children and compromise the health and wellbeing of adults. Too many children and adults in our community are unable to eat, sleep or learn because of painful, untreated decay, and suffer from dental problems and lack of access to a regular source of preventive care.

In a recent assessment, 52% of Sonoma County third-graders had a history of tooth decay, exceeding the state average and falling far short of the Healthy People 2010 goal of under 45%. Untreated tooth decay also affects more than a quarter (28%) of adults aged 35-44 and 18% of those aged 65 or older.

The Department provided a report to the Board on oral health in 2009, and received direction to develop recommendations related to fluoridation and other aspects of oral health. On January 12, 2010 the Board approved a contract with the California Dental Association Foundation (CDA Foundation) to conduct a fluoridation assessment for Sonoma County. The contract required the CDA Foundation provide the County an assessment of: 1) the water distribution system in Sonoma County; 2) the local history, governance, legal and other local issues related to fluoridation; and 3) the local community environment and potential for funding sources and partners.

In addition to this work, the Department along with the Sonoma Health Alliance, First 5 Sonoma County, and the Redwood Community Health Coalition convened a consortium of health and human service organizations concerned about a worsening crisis in the oral health status of low-income individuals in 2011. The task force was asked to develop a set of concrete, local, and relatively short-term recommendations that could significantly improve oral health status.

CURRENT STATUS: The task force focused on concrete, local strategies which: 1) could have significant positive impact on the oral health status of low-income children and adults; 2) could be substantially implemented within a three-year timeframe; and 3) could be implemented with current resources or those likely to be available within the near future. The task force reconvened in December 2011 to assess progress on the recommendations.

The Department will bring the work of the task force together with its work on the fluoride study to identify the need for additional resources and policies, develop an education campaign on the safety and benefits of fluoridation and chart a course for continued success. This report will come before the Board of Supervisors in early 2012 requesting direction from the Board on the Department's recommendations.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Rita Scardaci, Health Services Director, 565-4700; Mark Netherda, M.D. Public Health Officer, 565-4401

Revised Date: 01/2012

Health Services

ISSUE 2: NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM: PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

BACKGROUND: On March 23, 2010 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law. The ACA will be implemented over several years, with all the major provisions taking effect by January 2014. At the federal level, this will include implementation of insurance market reforms; distribution of \$1 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Fund; establishment of the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council and the release of the National Prevention & Health Promotion Strategy; and release of the final draft Accountable Care Organization regulations.

Provisions implemented at the State level will include establishing the health benefit exchanges including passage of enabling legislation and appointment of a five member exchange board; creation of a high-risk pool called Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan which provides coverage to nearly 6,000 uninsured Californians; and implementation of the Section 1115 Waiver has expanded coverage to over 200,000 medically indigent adults (MIA) and effective January 1, 2010 provided expanded coverage to 2,500 MIAs in Sonoma County through CMSP's Path2Health program.

CURRENT STATUS: Since passage of the ACA, Sonoma County Health Services and its community partners have taken important steps in planning for and implementing health care reform. Sonoma County Department of Health Services:

- Conducted a health care forum and other outreach/education efforts in the community on the impacts of the ACA;
- Worked closely with the County Medical Services Program (CMSP) to expand coverage to the medically indigent in Sonoma County under the Path2Health program;
- Facilitating a community wide effort to obtain federal funding under the ACA for improved care transitions for Medicare beneficiaries at high risk for readmission;
- Submitted a Letter of Intent under the ACA funded CMMI Health Care Innovation Grant program, to expand its existing integrated physical and behavioral health model of care to all community-based health centers.
- Health Action will convene and staff the Committee for Healthcare Improvement (CHI) to optimize health care delivery systems improvement.
- In partnership with Sonoma County Human Services Department and Redwood Community Health Coalition convened an Indigent Care Workgroup to identify the impact the ACA will have on Sonoma County's medically indigent population;
- Established Department workgroup to assess the impact of the ACA on operations.

The Department will compile the results of this work and report to your in February 2012. Within this report will be recommendations to include, among other things, establishing a long-term health care planning group. In addition to these recommendations, the Department will seek additional direction from your Board.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Rita Scardaci, Health Services Director, 565-4778

Health Services

ISSUE 3: ENHANCING COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES: BEST PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND: The County offers a variety of services to meet the needs of Sonoma County residents. There have been some dramatic shifts in Sonoma County’s demographics over the past ten years, with Latinos, seniors and residents with low income increasingly representing a larger portion of the county’s population. This project, which originated in the December 2007 Strategic Plan, was meant to identify ways to better engage and serve these specific populations.

The Department of Health Services was selected to manage this effort, and engaged The Blue Sky Consulting Group and Common Knowledge to conduct the research and evaluation needed to identify “best practices” for community engagement and outreach with Latino, seniors and low-income residents that have been successfully employed in communities throughout the state. Blue Sky will produce a report outlining findings, recommendations, and a road map for moving forward. While the Department of Health Services is managing the project, Blue Sky will focus its work to ensure the results and recommendations will be applicable County-wide. Stakeholder groups representing community partners and various County departments have been employed throughout the project to provide guidance to ensure the project is synchronized with other related efforts, such as Upstream Investments.

A detailed list of best practices along with recommendations for the County will be included in the report, and cover the spectrum of engagement and providing public service from communication and outreach strategies to human resource practices to community organizing.

CURRENT STATUS: A draft report will be provided to the Department in early January for review by the project advisory groups. The Department plans to share the draft report with Department Heads soon thereafter, anticipating a presentation to the Board of Supervisors early in the year. Additional resources will be available to County staff as well as partner organizations and the public via a webpage attached to the Department’s existing website. The Department will begin implementing several strategies related to social media, internal human resources, and building community capacity to address local health issues in the near term. In addition, the Department, in collaboration with other County departments, will seek the Board’s endorsement for further implementation of strategies to champion county-wide.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Peter Rumble, DHS, 565-4700

Revised Date: 01/2012

Health Services

ISSUE 4: ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

BACKGROUND: On September 28, 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved the organizational transfer of County Animal Care and Control (ACC) services from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to the Department of Health Services. The recommendation, made by the County Administrator, was based on a comparison with other jurisdictions in the State, an assessment of best practices and current operations, and extensive interviews with ACC staff and community partners. Along with the recommendation for transition, the Department also committed to carrying out a more in-depth analysis of best practices and operational models and return to the Board with long-term recommendations.

To help encourage a successful process, the Department identified the need to for a neutral party with expertise animal care services to conduct this research under the Department's direction. The Department selected Lilley Consulting Group in late summer. The scope of work for the project included best practice, literature, and operational reviews in addition to a series of public meetings and focus groups. The Department envisions compiling this research with additional information and work carried out by Department staff into a single report for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

CURRENT STATUS: The Department has held two public meetings and five focus groups, with the consultant facilitating each meeting. In addition, Department staff have met with interested community members and stakeholders. Best practice and organizational review research will be completed in February, and the Department will conduct any additional work that is needed to prepare a final report for the Board soon thereafter. Through the report, the Department will request the Board's direction on issues related to organizational structure, governance models, staffing, and facilities, among others.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Rita Scardaci, Director, DHS, 565-4700; Peter Rumble, 565-4706

Health Services

ISSUE 5: TOBACCO/SECOND HAND SMOKE ORDINANCE

BACKGROUND: On September 13, 2011, the Board of Supervisors took action to add Article 4 to Sonoma County Code Chapter 32, Smoking Ordinance of Sonoma County prohibiting smoking in Multi-Unit Residences. In addition, the Board took action to adopt a Concurrent Resolution for the Special Districts, Water Agency, and Community Development Commission (collectively “Local Agencies”) adopting a non-smoking policy. Effective November 12, 2011, smoking is prohibited in all unenclosed areas owned by the County except Designated Smoking Areas, and in all vehicles and enclosed areas owned, leased or operated by the Local Agencies. Effective November 12, 2012, smoking became prohibited on County-owned properties occupied by the Water Agency and Sanitation Districts.

The code amendments approved by the Board made significant strides to strengthen the County’s protection of public health from the leading cause of preventable death – tobacco smoke and second hand smoke exposure. The amendments mirror those already existing in other jurisdictions, and are based on best practices and longstanding medical science. Key implementation dates include:

1. Effective November 12, 2011, smoking is prohibited in all unenclosed areas owned by the County except Designated Smoking Areas, and in all vehicles and enclosed areas owned, leased or operated by the Local Agencies.
2. Effective June 1, 2011 – smoking in outdoor dining areas is be prohibited.
3. Effective November 12, 2012, smoking will be prohibited on County-owned properties occupied by the Water Agency and Sanitation Districts.
4. Effective January 2013; smoking in multi-unit housing will be prohibited with the exception of designated smoking areas.

CURRENT STATUS: On November 4, 2012 the Board approved a public information campaign strategy to educate impacted businesses and housing communities, County employees and visitors, and the general public about the new smoking regulations, and to provide smoking cessation information. DHS launched the public information campaign in November and will continue with planned print, radio and web-based media through June 30 2013. The campaign was launched in November 2012. Key components include:

1. Breathe Easy print ad campaign in the Bohemian (ongoing through June 2013)
2. Breathe Easy print ad campaign in the Press Democrat: Blitz surrounding key implementation dates
3. Radio Ads on KZST, Froggy, Exitos, KSRT, KJOR, KSVY: Blitz surrounding key implementation dates
4. Direct Mailings to restaurants/wineries/business’ and MUH owners/managers
5. County Kick-off Press event: featuring Dr. Neal Klepies and Cessation support info
6. Website development including tool kits for key stakeholder groups with info and implementation support and cessation service information for County employees and residents: ongoing
7. Articles: Press Democrat, local papers, newsletters, business journals: ongoing.
8. Presentations to employee groups, community groups, associations.

The formal campaign will continue through June 2013 with emphasis on key implementation dates. Department efforts to support implementation and provide education and referral to cessation services will be ongoing. The Department will seek input and participation from your Board throughout this campaign to help ensure successful implementation of the ordinance.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Rita Scardaci, Health Services Director, 565-4700; Mark Netherda, M.D. Public Health Officer, 565-4495

Revised Date: 01/2012

Health Services

ISSUE 6: SONOMA COUNTY SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE

BACKGROUND: According to the Surgeon General's Report, alcohol is the drug of choice among adolescents, used by more young people than tobacco or illicit drugs. Youth who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become dependent on alcohol than those who wait until age 21. What's more, the brain goes through rapid development and 'wiring' changes between the ages of 12-21. Teen alcohol use can damage this development, specifically in the key brain areas responsible for thinking, planning, good judgment, decision-making, impulse control, learning and memory. Results of the 2007-2009 California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) show that twenty-three percent (23%) of Sonoma County 7th graders and forty nine percent (49%) of 9th graders report being under the age of 14 when they had their first drink. The data also show forty-four percent (44%) of 11th graders in Sonoma County report having had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days, a rate higher than the state rate of 36%.

When alcohol is available to youth in their homes, this becomes a risk factor for increased alcohol use and alcohol-related problems. The occurrence of underage drinking parties in homes and on private property throughout Sonoma County creates dangerous health and safety concerns for both underage drinkers as well as the larger community. Research shows that interventions that modify the environments in which underage youth find themselves have an impact on alcohol consumption levels. The Social Host Ordinance is a powerful policy designed to prevent underage drinking by holding individuals responsible for providing a location where underage drinking takes place. The intent of a The Social Host Ordinance is to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare by promoting responsible hosting. The Social Host Ordinances encourage hosts to be vigilant and proactive in preventing underage drinking on private and public property, while reinforcing a clear and consistent community-wide message that underage drinking is unhealthy, unsafe and unacceptable.

No single law can eliminate teen drinking, but because house parties are the single most frequent place that teens drink, social hosting laws are one critical piece of a comprehensive solution to alcohol problems. Communities across Sonoma County have enacted Social Host Ordinances, including Petaluma (2007), Sonoma (2009) and Sebastopol (2010); the City of Cloverdale is considering a SHO. The Counties of Marin and Napa have enacted policies in both incorporated cities and the unincorporated areas of their counties.

CURRENT STATUS: The Department is working with the Sonoma County Sherriff's Office to draft a Social Host ordinance. It is anticipated the ordinance will come to the Board of Supervisors for a first reading in the Fall of FY 2012-2013.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Rita Scardaci, Health Services Director, 565-4700; Mark Netherda, M.D. Public Health Officer, 565-4495

Human Resources

ISSUE 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN

BACKGROUND: A Self Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) is required by the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), to ensure the accessibility of all County provided public activities and services. In December 2009, the Board approved the County of Sonoma 2009 updated SETP, updating the initial 1992 Transition Plan. The Board has allocated \$2 million from Tobacco Endowment funds in FYs 09/10 & 10/11 and 11/12. The Board also set a multi-year funding goal of \$2 million over the next few years to fund the estimated \$25 million in ADA remediation work prioritized within the SETP. Funding source for future years has not yet been identified and funding goal will be reassessed annually, evaluating implementation goals, alternate available funding, and the financial resources of the County.

The cost of barrier removal equates to a capital outlay of approximately \$1.7 to \$2.1 million dollars per year (in today's dollars) over the approved 12-year schedule. The SETP articulates the County's commitment to improve access to County programs and services and to provide accommodation to individuals with disabilities as required under state and federal law. The SETP can be found on the County's internet page at http://www.sonoma-county.org/hr/ada_title2.htm.

The Department of Justice (federal) enforces the ADA. Many local jurisdictions have been audited by the Department of Justice in the past few years by random audit (Project Civic Access) or through complaint investigation and have negotiated Settlement Agreements committing the Agencies to multi-million dollar ADA remediation work in typically short time frames. Recent examples include the City of Santa Rosa (\$5 million); the City of Sacramento (\$30 million) and Cal –Trans (\$1.1 billion.) Additional information on Project Civic Access and DOJ enforcement actions can be found at www.ada.gov.

CURRENT STATUS: During FY 11/12 the ADA capital improvement fund will finance:

\$700,000 to remediate and improve access to General Services Facilities, including the Board of Supervisor Chambers barrier removal project that will correct non-compliant ramp & slopes and improve path of travel within Chambers, install automatic door openers at highest utilized entrance doors and restrooms in County complex, and improve path of travel in County Complex including the Hall of Justice, Animal Shelter and Juvenile Justice Center.

\$290,000 in Regional Parks Barrier removal projects, including disabled access renovations to Healdsburg Veteran's Memorial Beach, Ernie Smith Community Park, and Doran Park. The specific scope of the project will be to provide accessible parking, paths of travel, and access improvements to restroom and shower facilities, family picnic and camp sites, and drinking fountains. Funding was also provided to produce an accessible interactive web site map that identifies accessible areas of the Spring Lake Park, and identifies accessibility features of all Regional Parks.

\$172,000 in Fairground improvements to path of travel and accessible parking.

\$200,000 in Transportation and Public Works path of travel improvements including removing curb ramp and sidewalk barriers at County services facilities including Environmental Health (Airport Blvd.), Family Youth and Children (Copperhill Parkway); and Department of Health Services (Guerneville). Establish fund for providing signalized traffic intersections for blind and visually impaired & POT improvements as requested.

In addition to facility improvements, the County is also evaluating program delivery to ensure all communications with our public remain effective, and improving access to information within our Board

meetings and web pages for all users, including users with disabilities. This includes technology improvements to web streaming, closed-captioning, and technologies to simplify the posting of compliant web content, as well as investing in equipment, such as expanded cabling and web content management software, to preserve capability for future information technology upgrades.

CAO CONTACT: Lori Norton, Deputy County Administrator, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Taryn Young, EEO Manager and ADA Coordinator, 565-2107 and Marcia Chadbourne, Risk Manager 565-2473

Human Resources

ISSUE 2: RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS

BACKGROUND: In 2008, Sonoma County negotiated or imposed changes to medical benefits for employees, which also resulted in changes to medical benefits provided to retirees. Employees hired prior to January 1, 2009, receive a monthly contribution towards medical plan premiums. Employees hired after January 1, 2009 are subject to a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) plan. Retirees receive the same contribution towards medical premiums as those employees covered by the Sonoma County Salary Resolution. The County currently provides \$500 per month towards medical plan premiums for employees and retirees, regardless of the level of coverage or number of dependents the employees or retirees choose to cover.

As a result of the changes in medical benefits, the Sonoma County Association of Retired Employees (SCARE) filed a lawsuit in United States District Court, seeking to restore retiree medical benefit contributions to their pre-2008 level. The County was successful in having the lawsuit dismissed, but SCARE appealed the matter to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where it is currently pending. In June 2009, other changes took effect which do not allow current employees to count service time they purchased (former time spent as extra help or contract employees, for example) toward retiree medical eligibility. This change was initially imposed on SEIU and later part of a fully negotiated and agreed to employment contract. Regardless, SEIU filed a grievance regarding the matter. An arbitration was held on December 16, 2010. The parties are in the process of submitting post-arbitration briefs and expect the arbitrator to issue a decision by the end of February, if not earlier.

CURRENT STATUS: As mentioned above, the SCARE lawsuit is currently pending before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the SEIU arbitration is pending before an arbitrator.

CAO CONTACT: County Counsel – Bruce Goldstein and Gregory Dion, 565-2421.

Human Resources

ISSUE 3: INTRODUCTION AND NEGOTIATION OF TIER II RETIREMENT FORMULA

BACKGROUND: Based upon an enhanced benefit formula enacted in 2004 for General Members and 2006 for Safety Members, Sonoma County provides a 3% @ 60 (General) and 3% @ 50 (Safety) retirement benefit. The formula is also calculated based upon the single highest year of compensation. On December 7, 2010, the County Administrative Office presented an informational session to your Board and labor group representatives, intended to illustrate a change in retirement formulas and the savings/outcome that would result. In 2011, the County and Employee Organizations formed the Retirement Program Cost Committee. The purpose was to explore retirement program options for future employees. The Committee shared information and discussed the option of a second retirement tier for new employees. The Committee also obtained an actuarial study which shows the potential impacts to County and employee cost for selected retirement benefit formulas. The Committee made progress toward an understanding of the complexities of retirement funding and options available for exploring the modification of retirement benefits for future employees.

On November 8, 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted the goals identified in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Pension Reform and directed staff to initiate strategies contained within the report. To the extent that these goals involve changes to negotiated benefits, Human Resources will seek appropriate changes through negotiations in 2012 and 2013.

CURRENT STATUS: Human Resources staff is developing the County's labor strategy for the Board's consideration prior to the start of negotiations which begin in April, 2012. Based on the current contract expiration dates, nine Memoranda of Understanding will be negotiated in 2012, and two will be negotiated in 2013.

CAO CONTACT: Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Wendy Macy, Human Resources Directors; 565- 2875; and Carol Allen, Employee Relations Manager, 565-2549

Human Resources

ISSUE 4: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

BACKGROUND: In 2003, the County established a county-wide succession plan that addressed the movement expected at the top levels of the workforce at that time. From this effort, an executive development training program was established. Since then, the workforce has decreased by approximately 600 positions, the baby boomer retirement projections from 2003 are today's reality and the local business environment, general state of the economy and political climate have dramatically changed. Pension reform efforts will likely result in more vacancies throughout the organization, particularly at the top levels and in key management positions. Due to the General Fund reduction requirements, Human Resources has had to prioritize the most core and essential services and sacrifice the training division and its associated positions. Efforts are currently underway to develop and maintain some training related to best HR management practices and County policy and procedures, but these efforts are ancillary to the core program areas and services that the management team is leading. This is a short-sighted approach to maintaining a nimble and prepared stable of managers for executive level positions.

There is a critical need at this time for the County to embark upon the process of re-establishing a succession plan which will strategically lay the framework for recruiting, growing, and retaining the best leadership talent. The objective is to connect the Board of Supervisors with the leadership future and to build the infrastructure that Department Heads and their team need to execute the various elements of the succession plan. The establishment of a true succession plan requires an assessment and gap analysis and then developing strategies and action plans such as instituting a compensation philosophy, establishing a training, development and mentorship program, developing a retention program and branding the County as an employer of choice. There are many approaches to setting the foundation for an executable and successful succession planning program, which need to be explored in tandem by the Human Resources Department, County Administrator's Office, the Board of Supervisors, and each County department.

CURRENT STATUS: Human Resources staff is working on a proposal to identify the goals of a succession planning program, the available options that could be utilized in a merit system environment and in setting the infrastructure, and the needed resources to create and implement such a program.

CAO CONTACT: Veronica Ferguson, CAO, 565-2588.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Wendy Macy, Human Resources Director, 565-2875.

Human Services

ISSUE 1: INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR STATE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY COUNTIES (INCLUDING REALIGNMENT)

BACKGROUND:

- The State Welfare and Institutions Code require counties to operate most HSD programs on behalf of the state.
- The State provides federal and state funds for most of these programs, but there is typically a required county general fund “match”; the percentage varies by program. For both Adult Protective Services and Child Welfare Services, the county currently provides more general fund than required.
- State funding for various human services programs has been negatively impacted by the State’s ongoing budget crisis which in turn impacts the Department’s ability to claim federal matching funds.
- In 2011-2012, the State realigned several HSD programs (which are discussed below).
- While this issue status report focuses mostly on state funding, the federal government provides approximately 46% of the Department’s funding and reductions at the federal level also impact the Department. Updates about the federal budget will be provided to the Board when available.

Department programs funded by the State include:

1. Adult Protective Services (APS), in which HSD operates a 24 hour hotline to receive reports of suspected abuse and neglect and provides assessment, investigation, and case management services including emergency shelter care, food, and transportation. In response to state funding constraints, the Department has eliminated APS social work positions over the years even though the need for services has increased. APS referrals have increased 63% since 2006 while funding has remained flat. In 2011-2012, APS was included in the realignment of State funds. However, the base realignment amount was not adjusted to reflect current need and APS funding continues to be significantly inadequate. The Board of Supervisors elects to over-match APS each year to compensate for the state’s failure to fund at the level of need.

Increases in the APS caseload are primarily due to significant growth in the aging demographic, as well as additional mandated reporting requirements and community education about the availability of services. Workers now close cases once the immediate issue is resolved rather than keeping them open to allow for all potential other issues to surface and resolve.

2. Child Welfare Services, in which HSD is required to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children at risk of or suffering from child abuse and neglect. In Sonoma County, HSD’s Family Youth and Children Division provides these services which include maintaining a 24 hotline to receive calls of suspected abuse/neglect, investigation of calls meeting certain criteria, providing foster care to children who must be removed from unsafe living conditions, working with parents to enable children to return home and providing ongoing social work to children during their time in foster care, and operation of a 24/7 emergency residential home for abused children (Valley of the Moon Children’s Home).

Sonoma County caseloads are higher than the levels called for in a workload study done by the State. Caseloads would be even higher if funding wasn’t overmatched. Inadequate funding inhibits the provision of upstream prevention services which may provide better and less costly outcomes in the longer term and without which may leave some children at potential risk.

In 2011-2012, the state realigned child welfare funding to Counties. However, the state 1) only provided counties with a reliable funding source to pay for these services for one year; 2) did not include prior-year-end foster care cost increases related to a settled court case; 3) did not include expanded costs related to the extension of foster care through age 21; and 4) did not shift control and decision-making power to counties. CSAC supports placing an initiative on the 2012 ballot that would address some of these issues including dedicate ongoing funding for counties out of existing state funds, preventing a funding raid by the legislature in the future, and shifting control and decision-making power from the state to local governments, which are more accountable to the public, better understand local needs, and use tax dollars more efficiently.

One component of child welfare realignment is shifting management of adoptions from the state to counties. The Department will be working over the next two years to plan and execute the most beneficial mechanism to provide adoption services.

3. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), administered by HSD's Adult and Aging Division, provides services enabling seniors and persons with disabilities to remain in their home by utilizing caregivers paid per hour from the IHSS allocation. The number of hours each individual is eligible for is based on a state prescribed formula. Sonoma County pays \$11.50 per hour per a negotiated agreement between the county and the SEIU represented care providers. The state only requires Counties to pay \$8.00 per hour; the county's share of the difference between the two wages represents \$4.0 million in discretionary county general fund expenditures.

The 2011-12 state budget reduced IHSS client hours by 20%. Currently, the 5,193 Sonoma County IHSS clients receive an average of 95 hours per month, or about 24 hours each week from 4,770 providers. A 20% reduction would reduce this to an average of 76 hour per month – a loss of about 19 hours per month. This follows a 3.6% across-the-board reduction to IHSS recipient hours last year. The intent of IHSS is to ensure that disabled adults and frail seniors can live safely and independently at home for as long as possible. Any reduction increases the likelihood that some client will need institutional care – a far more costly alternative to in home care. To date, a court injunction has halted the implementation of this 20% reduction in IHSS hours. The Federal District Court is expected to rule on the reduction on January 19, 2012.

The State has introduced a new initiative for IHSS called Coordinated Care for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries (clients who are eligible for both Medi-Cal and Medicare). This initiative will better coordinate IHSS and other services and supports while blending funding from Medicare. The MediCal managed care plans will have a role in the enhanced program.

4. Public Assistance Programs, where HSD is responsible for initial and ongoing eligibility determination for recipients of Medi-Cal, County Medical Services Program (CMSP), CalWORKs (TANF), CalFresh (Food Stamps) and General Assistance. Of these five programs, Medi-Cal has no county share of cost, CMSP, CalWORKs and CalFresh have a county share, and General Assistance is 100% supported by county general fund, even though the program is mandated under State statute. Over the past five years, through the recession, the Sonoma County CalFresh caseload has increased 158%, Medi-Cal has increased 23%, and CalWORKs has increased 24%. As entitlement programs, these programs have received state and federal funding increases due to caseload growth. However, these funding increases have not kept pace with the rate of caseload growth. The Department has compensated by implementing a variety of efficiency improvements including grouped applications (instead of individual applications) and expanded remote application options (on-line and telephone). To date, Congress has not reauthorized TANF except for a temporary two-month reauthorization that expires in February, 2012. If Congress fails to reauthorize TANF, and it falls out of the baseline budget, it could be difficult in this pay-as-you-go budget environment

to identify adequate funding. It is not clear what the federal expectation would be for TANF were Congress to change the current federal appropriation

5. Employment Programs, where HSD provides services directly and through community contracts to assist CalWORKs (TANF) and CalFresh (Food Stamp) recipients to find employment. The Department also administers the Workforce Investment Act, which provides employment assistance to unemployed and underemployed adults and laid-off workers and economically disadvantaged youth. The Department is a key partner with other State and local partner agencies at Sonoma County Job Link, a one-stop service center for job seekers.

TANF's federally required Work Participation Rate (WPR) is essentially unattainable due to inadequate funding from the State. Sonoma County averages a 14% WPR and the federal expectation is 50% to prevent fiscal penalties. Under federal WPR requirements, single-parent CalWORKs recipients are required to work or participate in work-related activities for 32 hours per week for four weeks a month. However, the following state actions have severely hampered counties and clients ability to meet the work requirement.

- **The state has exempted** a number of CalWORKs clients from work requirements and has eliminated Welfare-to-Work (WTW) funding for these clients. Providing work support services for these state-exempted clients, as required by the federal WPR, is an unfunded mandate and makes it almost impossible to meet WPR. Clients who are exempted from WPR by the State are not required to participate in WTW services and most choose not to which significantly and negatively impacts Sonoma's WPR.
- The state has significantly reduced **funding for supportive services** and the County is no longer able to provide an acceptable range of services for WTW clients which also reduces the likelihood that clients can successfully work 32 hours per week all month. In recent years and due to state funding reductions, the County has reduced or eliminated child care services, some types of transportation and housing support, and assistance with education expenses.
- The State has reduced **Stage 3 Child Care services** – the child care subsidy for extremely low-income families and which many CalWORKs recipients receive when they exit CalWORKs. The loss of Stage 3 Child Care essentially provides a disincentive for CalWORKs recipients to accept entry-level jobs (because they will be unable to afford childcare) and reduces the likelihood that they will successfully leave CalWORKs.

State requirements also threaten Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding. Although the State provides no additional funds to the federal WIA funding, the State does add additional requirements. For instance, this year the State has added a requirement that 25% of all FY 12/13 WIA funds must be used to pay for job training for clients. In Sonoma County, WIA recipients do not need and or request this level of training and instead want assistance to find a job. Dedicating 25% of County WIA funding to training reduces the County's ability to tailor employment services to local needs. The penalty for not meeting this state requirement is a reduction in WIA funding. And, federal budget negotiations currently include proposals to reduce WIA funding.

Finally, state allocations to all county human services programs do not recognize cost of doing business increases and have not since 2001.

CURRENT STATUS: The Department continues to work through the County Welfare Directors' Association (CWDA), the California Workforce Association (CWA), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to advocate for full funding for various human services programs as well as mandate relief at both federal and state levels.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jerry Dunn, Interim Director, 565-5750

Revised Date: 01/2012

Human Services

ISSUE 2: UPSTREAM INVESTMENTS POLICY

BACKGROUND: The 2007 Sonoma County Strategic Plan found that criminal justice costs comprised over half of the discretionary general fund and, as a percent of the total discretionary general fund, were growing. As criminal justice costs continued to rise, County funds available for other County services were diminished. To explore whether or not there were alternatives to increasing criminal justice costs, the Board of Supervisors chartered the Upstream Investments Project to understand the antecedents to criminal behavior and to identify upstream interventions that reduce downstream criminal justice costs.

Although this work started with a focus on criminal justice costs, it is clear that the factors that contribute to criminal justice costs are also the factors that contribute to other County costs such as public assistance dependency, child abuse and neglect, addictions, and/or poor academic achievement. Therefore, the Upstream Investments Policy seeks to improve opportunities for residents and reduce societal costs in all these areas.

This policy, sponsored by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and widely supported throughout the community, seeks to eliminate poverty in Sonoma County and ensure equal opportunity for quality education and good health in nurturing home and community environments. The three primary strategies are:

- **Invest Early:** Whenever possible, dedicate funding and other resources to prevention-focused policies and interventions.
- **Invest Wisely:** Ensure that upstream policies and interventions have the highest possible likelihood of success by selecting those that are backed by sound evidence.
- **Invest Together:** Focus community-wide upstream policies and interventions on preventing six targeted factors and improving 22 indicators of success to achieve the Upstream vision, mission, goals, and measureable impacts.

CURRENT STATUS: In November 2011 the board of Supervises approved the following next steps and the Upstream Investments Policy Committee will implement these recommendations over the next two years.

Invest Early

- Expand the Outreach Campaign to influence public opinion.
- Significantly expand resources for upstream investments.

Invest Wisely

- Formalize the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs.
- Continue the program evaluation technical assistance.
- Finish and launch the interactive cost benefit tool.

Invest Together

- Embed the indicators of success in *www.HealthySonoma.org*.
- Continue the County's leadership of incorporating upstream principles in County activities.
- Increase collective impact related to upstream Investments and other aligned initiatives.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-2431; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jerry Dunn, Interim Director, 565-5750

Human Services

ISSUE 3: PREPARING FOR EXPANDED SERVICES TO VETERANS

BACKGROUND The national unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans was 11.5% in September, 2011 and over one million service members nationally will leave military service between 2011 and 2016. Jurisdictions across the State are preparing to reintegrate an influx of veterans as a result of the conclusion of combat operations in Iraq and recent budget reductions for the Department of Defense which will result in a significant reduction in force. Many veterans will need services related to employment, education, healthcare, criminal justice, and accessing Veterans Administration benefits.

Sonoma County is currently home to 38,276 veterans and the demand for veteran's services is expected to increase.

- Veterans reintegrating into society are often faced with significant barriers to employment. Their military occupational specialties may have little transferability into civilian occupations. Many went in to the military with some barrier to employment (for instance, lack of education). Priority service has always been available to veterans at Job Link. The Department of Labor Gold Card Initiative for Post-9/11 Era Veterans announced by President Obama on November 7, 2011 provides enhanced services. These enhanced services include six months of follow-up, access to an EDD Local Veterans' Employment Representative, access to an EDD Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program specialist, and electronic tools through specific veteran web sites. Local veterans have access to the full array of Job Link services; a recent addition is the Veterans Networking group comprised of several partner agencies and veteran service providers. The influx of veterans into Job Link increases staff workload. No additional funding has been provided for these expanded employment services for Veterans.
- Veterans of the current conflict are returning with a significantly higher exposure to combat operations than their counterparts in prior conflicts. The change in the nature of combat has resulted in significant exposure to explosions and other combat events resulting in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and a myriad of other disabilities.
- Many veterans enter the criminal justice system because of behavior problems that have a genesis in their visible and invisible combat wounds, and/or their frustration with unemployment.
- As WWII, Korean, and Vietnam veterans and their spouses age, they are afflicted with cognitive impairments such as dementia and Alzheimer's requiring caregivers or care facilities. Many of these Veterans and surviving spouses are potentially eligible for significant financial benefits from the Veterans Administration to help pay for their care facilities or caregivers. Absent coordinated outreach and office services for these, many of these potential financial benefits are unused or under-used which places an unnecessary financial burden on families and County or State resources such as MediCal.

CURRENT STATUS: The Department has begun collecting more data about veterans receiving services. Veteran status is now tracked and reported for recipients of Medi-Cal, CMSP, CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Assistance, and Job Link. Over the next year, the Department will have more information about the needs of veterans returning to Sonoma County

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-2431; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jerry Dunn, Interim Director, 565-5750

Revised Date: 01/2012

Human Services

ISSUE 4: ALIGNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

BACKGROUND: Workforce issues in Sonoma County are changing rapidly and a variety of economic development initiatives have emerged over the past few years. In the November report to the Board, the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee identified (in part) a need to align similar economic and workforce development activities. The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is a natural leader in coordinating and aligning these varied initiatives.

As the county emerges from the recent recession, the landscape of workforce issues is changing rapidly. The skills and training needed by employers in 2012 differs significantly from the past. It is the mission of the WIB to provide vision, direction, and coordination of a system that enables Sonoma County to have the most effective workforce attainable. One important focus of the WIB is to support effective job preparation for youth ages 14-21. Currently, the unemployment rate for Sonoma youth ages 16-19 is 34% signaling significantly reduced entry-level job opportunities for youth compared to past generations. HSD, the WIB, and the Water Agency collaborate to provide comprehensive youth employment services including the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps.

In the December Workforce Investment Board (WIB) meeting, the WIB planned to align WIB strategic priorities and activities with related initiatives throughout the community including those led by the Economic Development Board (EDB), Building Economic Success together (BEST), Sonoma County Office of Education P-16 Career Development, Health Action, Aiming High, First 5, and others.

The Sonoma County WIB has been a leader in local economic development since 2000. The 45 WIB members are Board appointed and represent business, education, labor, community-based organizations, and other economic development partners.

CURRENT STATUS: The WIB will submit their plan to the Board of Supervisors in March and will highlight the alignment of local economic development activities.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-2431; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jerry Dunn, Interim Director, 565-5750

Revised Date: 01/2012

Information Systems

ISSUE 1: FINANCIAL SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT

BACKGROUND: For more than a decade, the County has been working to upgrade or install major software for significant internal support functions. In 2005, The Board of Supervisors (BOS) unanimously accepted the Information Systems Department's Strategic Plan for Technology. The underlying themes of the ISD Strategic Plan are to create and enhance the County's information sharing opportunities in an efficient and effective way, and to improve the systems used to measure the financial impacts of County Programs.

The County's current Financial Management System (FAMIS) was implemented in 1985, 26 years ago. The County's current financial system is run on outdated technology, is inefficient, requires excessive manual intervention, and cannot provide timely management information. Additionally, the older technology is difficult and expensive to support and does not provide accessible, transparent, and fiscally responsible and accountable information in a meaningful and understandable form. The County needs to replace the current financial systems with a single, more comprehensive environment to manage financial accounting and transform processes embedded in overly complex technologies which evolved over the past 30 years within and between departments, special districts, funds, and agencies. A new Financial Management System will improve operations and provide management with essential data, tools, and information.

An RFP was issued in the summer of 2010. An extensive selection process was conducted over the following 18 month period. This is a time sensitive issue, given that the current system is no longer directly supported by manufacturers. A new system will allow for better financial tracking and management, and substantially reduce the need for departmental shadow systems. It should include functionality for:

- **Budgeting** (must be compatible with current HR and payroll systems)
- **Purchasing** (enforce budget control, manage contracts, needs vendor self-service function, automated bid and quote management)
- **Accounts Payable** (automated invoice processing)
- **Accounts Receivable** (track accounts receivable, billing capabilities)
- **Cashiering** (processing payments to departments and initiating billing)
- **Project Accounting** (track project costs for all departments and districts)
- **Grant Accounting** (manage and track spending, billing, staff)
- **Fixed Assets/Inventory** (track info for physical and financial assets)

CURRENT STATUS: A Project Team consisting of ISD, ATTC, and the CAO have invested significant resources over the past two years to define baseline requirements and release a request for proposals. Eight proposals were received in October 2010 and subsequent review completed. The project team has selected a preferred vendor team is preparing to enter negotiations with the preferred vendor for detailed planning analysis and design. The Project Team is currently reviewing financing options, timelines and scope. The Board will see an informational item updating it on the status of this project in the first quarter of 2012. Subject to Board approval this project is estimated to run 36 to 48 months.

ESTIMATED COSTS: External Costs \$8-12 Million

CAO CONTACT: Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: John Hartwig, Director, 565-6055; Donna Dunk, Interim Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, 565-3274

Information Systems

ISSUE 2: ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

The County's newly acquired electronic document management system strongly supports the County's Strategic Plan Focus Area of Civic Services and Engagement by providing a core foundational infrastructure for improving access and management of information. The electronic document management system will reduce the County's reliance on paper-based systems for managing its daily operations and will position information for accessibility and sharing in electronic formats. This will increase staff efficiency, productivity, and improve customer service. The electronic document management system will facilitate records retention compliance, enhance data security, and reduce disaster recovery risks.

BACKGROUND: The 2005-2010 Information Systems Department Strategic Plan for Technology identified electronic document management as one of five key information technology strategic initiatives for the County. It was determined that electronic document management and workflow tools would enable County managers and staff to manage and share electronic documents across the enterprise and with the public, resulting in improved customer service, increased employee productivity, and enhanced decision-making support.

A document management system is vital for leveraging both existing and new investments in business systems, allowing users to tie scanned and electronically generated documents to key data held within those systems for easy, instantaneous retrieval.

CURRENT STATUS: In July 2011, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Neko Industries, Inc. for the procurement, installation, implementation, training, and support of a core electronic document management system by Hyland Software.

The Information Systems Department is currently in the process of configuring the core system and the Board of Supervisors will begin to see amendments to the contract to undertake initial pilot projects in Health Services, County Counsel and Board of Supervisors offices.

ESTIMATED COSTS: \$1.094 Million from the Technology Fund has been approved to develop a core system and pay for two years of maintenance and support. Additional funding for new records and document series will be necessary as departments prioritize implementation of system features for specific business processes and programs.

CAO CONTACT: Christine Williams, Analyst, 565-3776; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: John Hartwig, Director, 565-6055

Information Systems

ISSUE 3: EXPAND WEB CONTENT AND BRANDING

Information Systems is acquiring and implementing a web content management system to increase and improve the County's accessibility, transparency, and accountability to the public in support of Civic Service and Engagement goals. County web sites are a primary means of communicating information to the public, and the advent of social media provides an opportunity for two-way communication between the public and County leaders and staff.

With a web content management system the County will be able to leverage its investments in document management, financial, geographic information, and other business systems to provide self-serve, on-demand, always-available information and services to the public.

Currently, County web content is organized by department with little or no collaboration or continuity among departments in style, navigation or design. The relationship of the information for which a constituent is looking to the department web site containing that information is often not readily apparent or discoverable. The web content management system implementation will result in a reorganization of web content focused on the needs of the constituents.

A new system will establish a foundational mechanism that, over time:

- Ensures a common brand or 'look and feel' throughout County web pages
- Ensures ADA compliance; enforceable through the use of standardized templates and validation tools
- Provides an automated workflow process that empowers content editors to publish their own content without going through ISD, improving timeliness of information
- Allows content owners, without a technical background, to create and manage their content directly on their web pages
- Provides for automated roll-out and removal of web content, ensuring up-to-date information on services, rates and other time-sensitive information, for example.
- Provides Multi-language and Mobile Device (smartphones, tablets) support
- Is integrated with social media channels, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, and marketing initiatives

BACKGROUND: The 2005-2010 Information Systems Department (ISD) Strategic Plan for Technology identified a WCMS as a key component of the Internet Services strategic initiative, recognizing that current WCMS systems offer features to improve both the citizens' experience with the County's web sites and content owner's ability to provide timely and relevant information.

The Information Systems Management Review in 2010 included a recommendation to acquire and implement a WCMS to streamline processes, improve site consistency and reduce costs. The FY11/12 budget incorporated objectives and budgetary authority to move forward with acquisition and implementation of a WCMS.

Also in 2010, the County adopted a Web Site Accessibility Policy to ensure all content posted to our internet sites is accessible to individuals with disabilities (ADA compliant).

CURRENT STATUS: A Request for Proposals was released on June 10, 2011. Eleven proposals were received on July 15, 2011. ISD staff along with a work group comprised of representatives from several departments evaluated and selected a preferred vendor for software and implementation services. Project planning and contract negotiations are underway. The BOS should expect to see a contract to award in the first quarter,

2012 with a phased implementation thereafter. The goal is to have an operational system by FY11-12 year-end with phased roll-out of content throughout FY12-13.

BUDGET: \$680,000 (to establish foundational system, home site, templates and tools); supplemental departmental funding required for future projects and full migration to the new web content management system.

CAO CONTACT: Christine Williams, Analyst, 565-3776; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: John Hartwig, Director, 565-6160

Permit & Resource Management

ISSUE 1: PRMD WORKLOAD, BUDGET AND STAFFING

BACKGROUND: Most of PRMD's funding comes from fees charged to permit applicants. This comprises about 77 percent of the department's revenue budget. An additional 19 percent comes from the County General Fund and the remaining revenue comes from other County departments who contract for PRMD services and some small state grants. This reliance on the development decisions of literally thousands of individual permittees makes PRMD's budget somewhat volatile from year to year and subjects the department to sometimes dramatic revenue shortfalls during periods of economic downturn when construction activity slows. The current slowdown is the worst in memory, although construction in the unincorporated county has not suffered to the same magnitude as the cities, which tend to have more "production" housing development. In the unincorporated areas, custom homes and winery/tourism related development have remained active, but at a reduced level. PRMD's workload (measured by new permit applications) is down by 25 to 30 percent compared to historic highs, with some divisions experiencing even larger declines.

The decline in workload has come in stages over the past 4 years and has resulted in permit revenues that were significantly less than budgeted in prior budget years. PRMD has made up this shortfall through staff reductions from both attrition and layoffs (reducing from 168 FTE in FY 07-08 to 102 in the current year), through other expense reductions, and through use of "deferred revenue," which is revenue set aside from prior years when revenue exceeded expenses. For the current fiscal year, the Board approved one time use of \$611,000 in deferred revenue to fund five add-back positions, two in Code Enforcement and three in Comprehensive Planning. This leaves a balance of about \$950,000 in deferred revenue.

We have also shifted some staff to work on revenue generating activities such as planning permits that are processed on an "at-cost" (billable) basis. This has boosted revenue from these sources and accelerated the processing of these applications. However, this has diverted staff away from program activities like General Plan implementation.

Although workload is down, a nearly 40 percent drop in staffing, including the loss of 18 filled positions in this fiscal year alone, has increased the burden on remaining staff members at every level and in every division.

CURRENT STATUS: Permit activity appears to be down only slightly compared to last year, which is relatively good news. Expenses are also under budget due to greater than anticipated salary savings. At this time the department appears to be on-target to meet its net-cost budget for FY 11-12. However, with costs increasing and one-time funding (deferred revenue) unavailable for FY 12-13, the department is likely looking at further reductions in the coming year.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Pete Parkinson, Director, x2563

Permit and Resource Management Department

ISSUE 2: AB 885 - STATEWIDE REGULATIONS FOR ONSITE WASTE WATER SYSTEMS (SEPTIC SYSTEMS)

BACKGROUND: State lawmakers passed Assembly Bill 885 (AB885) in September 2000. The bill required the State Water Resources Control Board to develop statewide regulations for septic systems. The bill required the State Water Resources Control Board to work collaboratively with stakeholders representing counties, special districts, state associations, professional groups, and homeowners to create statewide standards that would standardize regulations for the estimated 1.2 million septic systems in California. PRMD staff have actively participated in this process through statewide environmental health officer's association. There is an estimated 50,000 septic systems in Sonoma County alone. The County already has a very robust septic program that has proven very effective over the years.

The Water Board published draft regulations in 2009 which were excessive in cost and labor, characterized as "one-size-fits-all", and which were not scientifically justified. These regulations drew objections from counties and from the public up and down the state. As a result, the Water Board withdrew the proposed regulations and committed to developing a more responsive proposal.

In 2011, the Water Board released a revised draft policy regarding septic systems under AB 885. While much improved, the revised draft policy still has far ranging implications for new, existing and replacement septic systems across the state. The revised draft policy establishes a tiered approach that requires little to no work for properly functioning septic systems while imposing stringent regulations on those systems that are near impaired water bodies. Many septic systems will be affected by the draft policy when they need repair or replacement in the future. PRMD prepared comments on the 2011 draft policy. These comments were submitted to the State Board on November 14, 2011.

CURRENT STATUS: The State Board is considering all the submitted comments and expects to release another draft in March 2012. This draft will have a 45 day public comment period. An adoption hearing is tentatively scheduled for late June 2012. Following adoption by the State Board, staff will work closely with the Regional Water Boards on local implementation.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Nathan Quarles, Engineering Division Manager, x3507

Permit and Resource Management Department

ISSUE 3: AGGREGATE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (ARM) PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

BACKGROUND: The County is the lead agency for ensuring compliance with State's 1975 Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and county ordinances adopted pursuant to it to regulate surface mining activities. Mining is currently limited to the excavation and production of construction aggregates, which have historically come from three different types of mining: Terrace mining, instream mining and quarries. The Sonoma County Aggregate Resources Management (ARM) Plan, last updated in 1994, establishes priority areas for aggregate production and detailed policies, procedures, and standards for mineral extraction.

As required under the ARM Plan, terrace mining is all but phased out. This creates the need for an additional source of high quality aggregate materials (e.g. harder rock typically used in cement concrete, known as PCC aggregate) and the intent of the ARM Plan is to shift PCC production to local quarries. Major permits for quarry expansions have recently been approved and one other is pending (Mark West Quarry). In late 2010 the Board approved a new quarry on Roblar Road. The County has also approved the importation via barge of high quality aggregates from sources outside of the county. The Planning Commission has also recommended that the ARM Plan be updated to address the importation issue.

Additional high quality aggregates are also provided through in-stream bar skimming operations in designated areas along the Russian River, Gualala River and Austin Creek. Aggregate is replenished in these areas by natural river processes, but the supply is not sufficient to meet the entire local demand. The Board also approved a major instream mining operation in the Alexander Valley (Syar Industries) in 2010.

One of the major impacts of aggregate operations is the additional structural roadway design requirements and excessive road wear and damage that heavy aggregate trucks have on the County road system. The estimated impact of the aggregate industry, including imports, has been estimated to be the equivalent of overlaying 5 miles of arterial roadway every year. The ARM Plan requires that aggregate operators pay an annual fee to offset these costs and most use permits for aggregate operations have included this as a condition of approval. In 2009, the Board set the initial fee amount relatively low, at 10 cents per ton, in recognition of the current poor economy.

CURRENT STATUS: Both the Roblar Road Quarry and Syar instream projects are in litigation. Major quarry expansion permits are still pending for Mark West and Stony Point quarries.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jennifer Barrett, Deputy Director – Planning, x1947

Permit and Resource Management Department

ISSUE 4: COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

BACKGROUND: The primary role of the Comprehensive Planning Division is to update and implement the County's General Plan and to complete special projects as directed by the Board. The General Plan is the "constitution" or blueprint for land use in unincorporated Sonoma County. It includes maps that show where agricultural, residential, commercial and other land uses will be located, and a series of policies that guide future decisions about growth, development and conservation of resources. The General Plan provides for additional economic development while maintaining the quality of life that Sonoma County residents treasure.

The Board of Supervisors adopted an update of the General Plan (known as GP2020) on September 23, 2008; updated the Housing Element in May 2009; and updated the Circulation Element in connection with the Countywide Bicycle Plan in August 2010. In the update, the Board specified certain programs and policies as a high priority in the General Plan, including implementation of Housing programs; the designation of additional Community Separators and development of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. Implementation of these policies and programs is coordinated through a Work Plan for the Comprehensive Planning Division which serves to prioritize the work efforts and allocate the resources to the highest priority programs. The Comprehensive Planning Work Plan was most recently reviewed and updated by the Board in September 2011.

The California Coastal Act requires that cities and counties adopt a Local Coastal Plan (LCP) that serves as the General Plan for the Coastal Zone. The Coastal Zone boundary is defined in the Act and established by the California Coastal Commission, but generally extends 1,000 yards inland from the mean tide line and covers approximately 55 miles of coastline. The primary focus of the Local Coastal Program is to preserve and protect environmentally sensitive habitats and maintain maximum production of agricultural and timber resource lands, while providing the public with maximum access to the shoreline. The County phased the completion of the LCP update to follow the adoption of the GP2020. The LCP must be certified by the Coastal Commission before it becomes effective. Staff has been working on preparation of the administrative Draft LCP and its implementing ordinances and is coordinating a preliminary review of the documents with the Coastal Commission staff. Some of the remaining issues that will need to be addressed with the Local Coastal Plan update include climate change and the predicted rise in sea levels and development of energy production facilities in coastal areas (i.e. wind, solar, & tidal).

CURRENT STATUS: Staff is currently working on administrative drafts of the zoning code changes and a comprehensive update of the Development Code will be ready for Planning Commission review in 2012. An Administrative Draft Local Coastal Plan has been compiled by staff and preliminary review with Coastal Commission staff is underway. A Public Review Draft Local Coastal Plan is anticipated to be available for public review in 2012. A significant issue for the Comprehensive Planning work plan is the ongoing availability of staff resources to complete the high priority projects. The Board maintained staffing in FY 11-12 through use of one-time funds. If staffing is reduced in FY 12-13, comprehensive planning projects will be delayed significantly.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jennifer Barrett, Deputy Director – Planning, x2336

Revised Date: 01/2012

Permit and Resource Management Department

ISSUE 5: PRESERVATION RANCH

BACKGROUND: In 2001, the Board of Supervisors recognized the importance of protecting and maintaining lands for timber production and directed staff to address the regulation of conversion of timberlands to agricultural uses as part of the General Plan Update. The conversion of timberlands became one of the major resource management issues of the Update and was subsequently separated from the General Plan update process so that the Board could consider and put in place regulations sooner. The Board adopted timber conversion regulations in the zoning code in 2006/2007. The new regulations, the first of their kind in the state, require a County use permit for timber conversions that are in the RRD land use category. Among other requirements, the regulations require that a finding of public benefit must be made for any timber conversion approved by the County and that a minimum of 2 acres of timberlands be preserved in perpetuity for every acre of timberlands converted.

Following adoption of these policies and ordinances, PRMD received an application for the Preservation Ranch project encompassing approximately 19,300 acres in northwest Sonoma County. The applicants seek to establish a total 1769 acres to vineyards on the property (including 33 reservoir sites, agricultural employee housing, ag buildings, etc.) including conversion of approximately 1601 acres of ridgetop timberlands to vineyard. The proposal also includes merger of 160 existing legal parcels down to 63 total parcels; an offer to dedicate 221 acres to expand the remote Soda Springs Preserve; an offer to dedicate a 5-mile hiking trail; regrading of existing roads to reduce erosion and sedimentation from past logging practices; an offer to grant a 2,739 acre conservation easement to establish the Windy Gap Preserve; contributions for stream restoration; restoration of approximately 3,738 acres of timberlands to remain in timber production; and, provides a long-term Forest Management Plan for the entire 14,923 acres remaining in the Timber Preserve. The proposal is highly controversial.

This project will also require a Timber Conversion Permit and Timber Harvest Plan approval by CalFire (formerly CDF). The County and CalFire have a cooperating agency agreement to define the specific roles of each agency and the process for ensuring that an adequate environmental review document is prepared for use by both agencies. The County is the lead agency for evaluating impacts related to the conversion and agricultural use and long-term management of the forest lands. The project will first go to the Planning Commission for a recommendation and then to the Board to certify the EIR and determine if there is sufficient public benefits to approve timberland conversion to allow vineyard development. A development agreement may also be proposed, which would enable the County to negotiate public benefits above and beyond mitigation requirements or standard conditions.

CURRENT STATUS: Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report is ongoing. Although originally expected to be released in the first half of 2011, project complexities have delayed DEIR publication to the first half of 2012. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the Draft EIR and then the Final EIR will be prepared to address all comments on the Draft. The Planning Commission will then hold a public hearing on the project and provide its recommendations to the Board. This project could come before your Board in late 2012, but is more likely in early 2013.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jennifer Barrett, Deputy Director, Planning, x2336; David Schiltgen, Staff Planner, x7384

Revised Date: 01/2012

Probation

ISSUE UPDATE IN PROGRESS

Regional Parks

ISSUE 1: ECOTOURISM AND PARKS PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND: Outdoor adventure and recreation is the number one interest of people traveling to Sonoma County, and a major passion of county residents (see Sonoma County Visitor Research Report, p.30 by the Sonoma County Tourism Bureau). The Ecotourism and Parks Partnership Initiative will integrate Regional Parks and trails, Open Space District lands and State Parks into a cohesive network of public lands and recreational opportunities that will be available to County residents and drive an expanded ecotourism/recreation market.

From Bodega Bay to the Russian River, south to Petaluma, north to Cloverdale and east to Sonoma, each area of the County contains numerous possibilities for ecotourism as a pillar of Sonoma County's sustainable economy. Great potential exists in Sonoma County as a result of both challenging and positive circumstances. On the one hand, the County has acquired large, prime, scenic parklands which remain closed to the public, and contains five state parks which are slated for closure. On the other is the convergence of factors positioning the County to embrace a new paradigm as an ecotourism leader including state and local park partnerships, the community's strong response to potential closure of state parks, and the commitment to sustainable growth. Other drivers of expanded ecotourism and recreation include the siting of the Amgen bike tour in Santa Rosa, the forthcoming America's Cup race in the San Francisco Bay, and intense enthusiasm for Sonoma County as a biking destination.

The Ecotourism and Parks Partnership Initiative will reflect a partnership of County departments, State Parks, non-profits, and the tourism industry.

CURRENT STATUS: Regional Parks, the Open Space District, State Parks, and numerous non-profits and community members are creating plans to keep all state parks in Sonoma County open, and have created the Parks Alliance to coordinate efforts. Regional Parks is establishing stronger relationships with the Tourism Bureau and others to build upon the existing contribution of parks and open spaces to tourism and the local economy.

CAO CONTACT: Terri Saunders, CAO Analyst, 565-2431; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Caryl Hart, Director, 565-3342

Revised Date: 01/2012

ISSUE UPDATE IN PROGRESS

Transportation and Public Works

ISSUE 1: AIRPORT MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

BACKGROUND: The Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport has been owned and operated continuously by the County of Sonoma since 1946. Although it has primarily been a general aviation airport it has had commercial air carrier service operated by various carriers up until October of 2001. Between October 2001 and May 2007 the Airport was without commercial air service although there was significant numbers of Sonoma County residents using San Francisco and Oakland Airports. Significant efforts were made to attract airlines to the airport post October 2001. What was discovered through those efforts is that the airport's runways were not long enough to support the modern day regional jet traffic that most airlines prefer to use with an airport and community of the size of Sonoma County. As a result the County Board of Supervisors commissioned a study of runway extension alternatives in 2002. On February 25, 2003, the Board accepted the Airport runway feasibility study as complete with the preferred alternative A1. As part of this action, the Board directed staff to initiate an Airport Master Plan update (Update) and environmental analysis. In addition, in response to several accidents at other U.S. Airports new Congressional Mandates were implemented governing Runway Safety Areas (RSA's). The Airport is required to bring the RSA's into compliance with these Congressional Mandates by 2015. Therefore, the Master Plan Update addresses both improvements required for safety compliance as well as improvements identified to accommodate future identified air transportation needs. The Update must be completed, have both NEPA and CEQA certification, and be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) before the County may embark upon construction of a runway extension, safety improvements and new facilities at the airport.

The Master Plan Update project began in January 2005. The Master Plan Update consists of an inventory of existing facilities on the airport, aviation activity forecasts, airfield design, building area development, and a finance and implementation plan. The Update was developed with significant input from a citizen's advisory committee, and the public. The primary concerns have come from neighboring residential areas and are related to noise and impacts related to increased activity at that airport. The Draft Final Update, dated November 2007, has been finished.

CURRENT STATUS: On December 4, 2008, the Board of Supervisors accepted the Draft Final Update as complete and directed staff to initiate the environmental process.

The environmental documents are underway, a public scoping meeting was held in July 2007, the Draft EIR was released on August 5, 2011 and the FEIR was released on November 18, 2011. On December 1, 2011 the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and voted to recommend that the Board certify the EIR and approve the Master Plan and related General Plan and zoning Amendments. The Board has a hearing scheduled to consider the project on January 10, 2012. Should the Board of Supervisors certify the EIR and approve the project. The next step will be to start design of the short term improvements and concurrently finish the required NEPA approvals through the FAA. If all goes according to current schedule Phase 1 improvements could start as early as summer of 2012.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Susan Klassen, Deputy Director 565-2231

Revised Date: 01/2012

Transportation and Public Works

ISSUE 2: ROAD FUNDING

BACKGROUND: The County’s road network is in poor condition and is deteriorating exponentially. The cost of maintaining the 1382 miles within the network far exceeds the Department’s historical revenues.

Current Status: The Department is able to preserve about 11% or 155.9 miles of the County road network given historical revenues. The Board has approved a Priority Road System that can be sustained with anticipated future funding and has directed the Department to develop an Implementation Plan to further expand the Priority Road System. The Department will be presenting the Plan in January 2012 and will be continuing to discuss options for funding the remainder of the Road Network throughout the calendar year.

Road Name	Length (mi)		Road Name	Length (mi)
Adobe Rd	9.57		Mirabel Rd	1.38
Airport Blvd	1.99		Napa Rd	3.80
Alexander Valley Rd	3.36		Occidental Rd	5.92
Arnold Dr	9.25		Old Redwood Hwy	6.15
Bennett Valley Rd	2.00		Old Redwood Hwy N	3.30
Bodega Ave	7.34		Petaluma Ave	0.62
Bodega Hwy	9.26		Petaluma Blvd N	1.13
Calistoga Rd	5.68		Petaluma Blvd S	0.28
Crane Canyon Rd	1.77		Petaluma Hill Rd	8.35
Dry Creek Rd	10.12		Petrified Forest Rd	2.36
East Cotati Ave	0.51		Porter Creek Rd	4.65
East Washington St	0.23		River Rd	15.40
Frates Rd	0.63		Riverside Dr	0.12
Fulton Rd	2.40		Rohnert Park Expy	0.61
Grange Rd	1.87		Santa Rosa Ave	2.08
Guerneville Rd	5.35		Sebastopol Rd	0.69
Healdsburg Ave	0.19		Snyder Ln	0.69
Lakeville Rd	6.95		Stony Point Rd	10.36
Leveroni Rd	1.44		Todd Rd	1.33
Main St	0.32		Verano Ave	0.93
Mark West Springs Rd	5.54		Total Length	155.92

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO, 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Phil Demery, Director, 565-3584

Revised Date: 01/2012

Transportation and Public Works

ISSUE 3: SOLID WASTE LONG-TERM OPTIONS-LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL LANDFILL

BACKGROUND: With termination of the County's solid waste divestiture project, the County directed the formation of an advisory committee to develop long-term solid waste options. The Sonoma City/County Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG) is comprised of elected officials from each of the jurisdictions.

CURRENT STATUS: The SWAG has developed priorities that include increased diversion, economic efficiencies and local control. Their primary performance goals are to increase Countywide Diversion to 80% by 2015 and to 90% by 2020. The SWAG then formed a Research Committee to make recommendations on options to achieve the SWAG's objectives. The Research Committee submitted their report to the SWAG with recommendations in May 2011 and subsequently presented it to each jurisdiction in the County for review and comment. The SWAG has now hired a consultant to perform an independent analysis of the recommendations of the Research Committee, and develop the cost benefit of the various options and the cost implications to the regional refuse rates. The consultant's report is scheduled to be completed in February 2012.

The SWAG has already indicated their concurrence with the Board's desire to keep an in-county disposal option at the Central Landfill, as one of the solid waste options for their consideration. With that concurrence the Central Landfill was re-opened for limited landfill disposal on September 8, 2010. Additionally, the Board issued a notice to proceed with preparation of a long term permit application to permanently re-open the Central Landfill. The completed application was submitted to Regulatory Agencies (CalRecycle and Regional Water Quality Control Board) in March 2011. The regulatory agencies have deemed the application complete and are working on review and permitting. CalRecycle is expected to approve the permit in January. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is still reviewing the submittal and staff is hopeful that we will secure a permit by July of 2012. For the SWAG to make an informed recommendation to the Board and the Cities regarding the desirability of the in-county disposal option, and waste flow commitments, the permit needs to be achieved, so that on-going costs and feasibility can be determined. During the 6 months to 1 year that the permit is being processed by the regulatory agencies, the County and Cities will be continuing discussions related to regional solid waste options, flow commitments and cost sharing of closure, post-closure maintenance, and environmental liability costs for the Central Landfill and the 7 other closed landfills in the County.

CAO CONTACT: Christina Rivera, CAO Analyst, 565-3779; Lori Norton, Deputy CAO 565-3345

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Phil Demery, Director, 565-3584

Transportation and Public Works

ISSUE 4: VIABILITY OF 4 SMALL WATER SYSTEMS

Additional Issue Update in Progress

ISSUE 1: VINEYARD FROST PROTECTION: INVESTIGATING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING WIND MACHINES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE USE OF WATER

BACKGROUND: Reliable frost protection is required for sustainable and profitable wine grape production in Sonoma County; however, growers in the Russian River watershed are facing significant reductions in the availability of water for sprinkler frost protection due to environmental concerns and/or lack of supply. As a result, growers are keenly interested in the feasibility of using wind machines to protect vines from damaging low spring temperatures. However, the effectiveness of wind machines depends entirely upon local conditions; without a temperature inversion – where warmer air exists near the top of the tower thus the fan blades can push that air toward the ground - a wind machine does not provide significant frost protection benefit, and may even cause more severe plant damage. To ensure that large investments in expensive wind machines provide a predictable frost protection benefit, local temperature inversion conditions need to be quantified before purchasing and installing the equipment.

CURRENT STATUS: Beginning February 2012, the UCCE Viticulture Advisor, in collaboration with a UCCE colleague in San Luis Obispo County, will assess temperature conditions in a minimum of 10 locations representative of the frost-prone vineyard regions in Sonoma County. Temperatures will be monitored with the use of meteorological towers, operated from March through May, which is the period of frost risk for vines and trees. The information we obtain will allow growers in the assessed regions to quantify the potential benefit wind machines can be expected to deliver in their particular locations. This will allow growers to make calculated decisions regarding the benefits and potential return on investment of their expenditure on wind machines as compared to other frost protection methods.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Stephanie Larson, Director of UC Cooperative Extension, 565-2621

University of California Cooperative Extension

ISSUE 2: INVASIVE PESTS: EUROPEAN GRAPEVINE MOTH (EGVM)

BACKGROUND: Since the discovery of European grapevine moth (EGVM) in September of 2009, UCCE has generated and disseminated critical information on identification, monitoring and control strategies to all affected parties. The UCCE IPM Advisor is one of two UC researchers on the USDA APHIS Technical Working Group on EGVM. In that role she provides a local perspective and presents the results of her field research on EGVM biology and control in the North Coast. UCCE has assumed a leadership role to support and advise local (Agricultural Commissioner), State (CDFA) and Federal (USDA APHIS and NRCS) regulatory agencies. Our management guidelines on materials and timing will continue to be implemented in 2012, a critical year to meet the criteria for deregulation in of EGVM in Sonoma County.

The Viticulture and IPM advisors also address monitoring and management strategies for two other exotic pests affecting grape growing in Sonoma County. Through a multi-year survey of *light brown apple moth* populations, we are assessing its potential as a pest under our conditions. Studies on soil texture and vine uptake of systemic insecticides will provide soil application guidelines for controlling *vine mealybug* that reduces risk of offsite movement in our soils.

CURRENT STATUS: The UCCE is currently positioned to address pests that threaten the sustainability of vineyards. We designed a low impact pest management program to avoid potentially damaging secondary pest outbreaks and to protect the environment and waterways. We developed multimedia outreach materials and delivered in-season weekly alerts through electronic media to strategically time applications and avoid unnecessary use of pesticides.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Stephanie Larson, Director of UC Cooperative Extension, 565-2621

University of California Cooperative Extension

ISSUE 3: INCREASING FOOD ACCESS IN SONOMA COUNTY THROUGH INCREASED AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

BACKGROUND: Sonoma County, California is a largely rural county with nine incorporated urban and suburban areas. It is undergoing a significant transition, resulting in an urgent need for major innovation in its food systems, particularly in relation to the needs of low-income communities. Sonoma County is also “graying,” a trend that significantly impacts the farming and ranching community, where the average age of farm operators is 59.4. Because of these ongoing changes, there has been an increase lack of access to locally grown food throughout Sonoma County. More farmers and ranchers, especially those that meet these changing demographics, will help to increase food access Sonoma County.

CURRENT STATUS: On behalf of Sonoma County, UCCE received the *AGROpreneurship, A Collaborative Model for Diversifying and Strengthening Beginning Farmers and Ranchers*, for a Standard BFRDP project. It will place a priority emphasis on service to low-income, underrepresented, and Latino populations, utilizing a minimum of 25% of project funds for this purpose. *AGROpreneurship* directly addresses three of the most significant barriers to beginning and sustaining successful farming and ranching businesses in Sonoma County: 1) Obtaining directly relevant business skills and training; 2) Gaining relevant work experience with farming and ranching production and business management; and 3) Obtaining access to land and financing. *AGROpreneurship* works in close collaboration with Santa Rosa Junior College, ten master farmers and ranchers to provide side-by-side mentoring/internship opportunities and the Sonoma County Lands for Food Production program.

The project strategic goals are: 1) Increase access to customized business training for beginning farmers and ranchers; 2) Increase access to hands on mentorship training for beginning farmers; 3) Increase access to affordable farmland for beginning farmers through leases, purchases, and use of available county lands; and 4) Involve participating partners and professionals in collaborative learning communities supporting the broad dissemination of best practices.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Stephanie Larson, Director of UCCE, 565-2621

University of California Cooperative Extension

ISSUE 4: SPECIALTY CROPS PRODUCTION: SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE BUSINESSES BY ENHANCING DIVERSIFICATION, PRESERVING OUR FOOD PRODUCTION HERITAGE, WHILE MAINTAINING A PRISTINE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

BACKGROUND: Unique microclimates and rich soils have made Sonoma County a preeminent Bay Area agricultural region, with nearly 3,500 farming operations, 800 of which are small-scale producers growing specialty crops. New growers and existing farmers are constantly seeking different crops that will provide them with an edge in the market and ways to increase profits selling heritage crops such as Gravenstein apples, Santa Rosa plums, Crane melons, Tuscan-style olive oils, and Specialty Salad Mixes. Paul Vossen, the UCCE Farm Advisor has been providing practical specialty crops production information to farmers for 30 years. He recently returned from a sabbatical leave in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand where he discovered a number of potential new specialty crops that we can grow for profit in Sonoma County. In the past UCCE has conducted several research trials on growing crops organically in order to reduce the use of more toxic pesticides and preserve our natural environment. A cost study for producing bottled olive oil in coastal California was completed in 2011. Work is being done in conjunction with the Slow Food Movement to help Gravenstein apple farmers increase their profits by promoting the heritage nature of the Gravenstein apple. Over the years many one-on-one consultations have been made to help farmers assess their land's potential and to solve production problems in the field. Many seminars and classes have been conducted in cooperation with the Santa Rosa Junior College Ag Dept. and Shone Farm to train farmers about the newest techniques for growing crops, controlling pests, and marketing crops for a profit.

CURRENT STATUS: UCCE is in the process of establishing some new crop demonstration sites for interesting new specialty crops such as: early maturing figs, mulberries, the Florina apple variety, quince, heirloom potatoes, and Asian style melons. Existing trial sites for blueberry, raspberry, chestnut, citrus, apple, and oil olives will continue to provide local farmers with practical examples of new cultivars and show them how these crops can be grown. Local farmers and the SRJC Shone Farm maintain those plantings, which are also used to collect data on cultivar performance. Several crop production seminars are being planned to provide farmers with reliable science-based information on an ongoing basis including a series on growing tree fruits, berries and specialty vegetables. Work will continue with apple farmers to promote the sale of fresh and processed Gravenstein apples. Our UCCE website is updated periodically to continually provide locally valid information about growing crops. It is also linked to UC Davis crop production information and cost analysis sites and a UC network that provides updated information about pest management. Many UC production manuals are available for purchase at our office counter including ones on organic apple and olive production.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Stephanie Larson, Director, 565-2621

University of California Cooperative Extension

ISSUE 5: MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM: REDUCING LANDFILL INPUTS AND URBAN PESTICIDE USAGE, CONSERVING WATER, STOPPING THE SPREAD OF SUDDEN OAK DEATH, AND HELPING HOME GARDENERS PRODUCE THEIR OWN FOOD

BACKGROUND: Master Gardeners (MG's) are trained and certified University of California (UC) volunteers whose mission is to provide unbiased, high quality and science-based information to non-commercial home gardeners in Sonoma County. The program has been operating for 30 years. The volunteers extend information and provide technical assistance to home gardeners by answering gardening questions at two offices in Santa Rosa and in Sonoma. They take a proactive role in extending information through library talks, hands-on training in community gardens and urban neighborhoods, farmer's market booths, garden shows, the Sonoma County Fair, demonstrations, workshops, and teaching in school classrooms.

This last year 27,002 people were reached through approximately 362 events, community gatherings, workshops, farmers' markets, library series talks, and the resource desks. Several thousand more were reached via our website that provides educational information on home composting, pesticide use reduction strategies, water conservation, plant care, Sudden Oak Death (SOD) prevention, and growing your own food. School composting presentations reached 440 school children. Based on these efforts, an estimated 2,629 tons of organic materials (kitchen scraps and yard waste) were diverted from the landfill this last year. About one-fifth of those receiving information from MG's were motivated to start or increase back yard composting.

Most people who received information from Master Gardeners have changed their attitudes toward garden pesticides. Just over one-third tend to leave problems alone instead of treating them with something, another one-third now seek out the lowest possible toxicity products for application, and one-fifth have changed their gardens to include more appropriate plants that have fewer pest problems. This should lead to less pesticide use in the home garden, cleaner runoff water, and fewer unused toxic pesticides requiring disposal.

There has also been an ongoing effort to help county residents convert their water-hungry lawns into drought tolerant and beautiful landscapes. This has been accomplished through library talks, developing a brochure of "star" replacement plants that do especially well here, with demonstrations and workshops at private and public gardens, articles in the local newspaper, and by answering questions at farmer's markets, fairs, garden shows, and at the offices. Converting lawns into food producing gardens is an important part of the effort too. Food Gardening Specialists within the MG program have worked closely with community gardens, Regional Parks, the Food Access Workgroup, and iGROW to develop curriculum and provide hands-on workshops on practical food gardening for new vegetable and fruit growers in Sonoma County.

Master Gardener SOD Specialists directly contacted 3,650 people in their Sudden Oak Death (SOD) outreach activities. They gave 15 presentations and participated in 27 trainings throughout the county. Their primary goals were to determine where SOD exists in the county, slow the spread of SOD into non infected areas, and to help land owners, parks personnel, and arborists protect highly valued specimen trees from the disease.

CURRENT STATUS: The UCCE Master Gardener Program has a broad-based network of community projects and a reputation for providing practical science-based information, will continue to provide services that enhance our community and natural resources. There are currently 220 active Master Gardener Volunteers and 36 new trainees in the program.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS: Stephanie Larson, Director (565-2621)

University of California Cooperative Extension

ISSUE 6: PROVIDING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ADULT-YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN THE AREAS OF HEALTHY LIVING, SCIENCE LITERACY AND CITIZENSHIP

BACKGROUND: Since the first 4-H club in Sonoma County was created in 1934, UCCE has provided the opportunity for tens of thousands of youth and adults to gain skills by participating in the 4-H program. Although the demographics of the county have changed over the years, the core values of the 4-H program remain the same as we meet the needs of our county participants. Engaging youth in a wide variety of enrichment activities, conducted in a safe environment, accomplishes the goal of giving youth the skills they need to thrive and succeed throughout their lives. Research shows that when youth are participating in self-directed learning, the learning is optimized. Adult volunteers and teen educators are essential to this learning –facilitating the learning process using hands-on, experiential methods where youth are free to explore.

CURRENT STATUS: UCCE is currently positioned to continue to address the needs of our 4-H community. Today, as never before, 4-H youth pledge to work for the betterment of the community, the county and the world. The process of assisting young people to become productive citizens who are engaged in positive change is accomplished by strengthening families and communities, employing research based knowledge from the land grant university system into our 70 plus projects, fostering leadership and volunteerism in youth and adults as well as embracing and expanding the traditions of the Sonoma County 4-H youth program.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Stephanie Larson, Director of UCCE, 565-2621

Revised Date: 01/2012

University of California Cooperative Extension

ISSUE 7: RECOVERY OF ENDANGERED COHO SALMON

BACKGROUND: Coho salmon in Sonoma County have received state and federal designations as endangered species. An ambitious multi-agency recovery plan is underway and early signs of success have been documented by biologists working in UCCE and California Sea Grant. Of critical importance is to continue working with landowners to maintain and improve habitat and capitalize on the initial adult returns in order to establish strong wild salmon runs in each of three consecutive year classes. Research to identify needed stream flows is ongoing and this will inform decision making regarding conflicting water demands, water availability and conservation.

CURRENT STATUS: UC Cooperative Extension and California Sea Grant personnel continue a comprehensive monitoring program to document the success of the Russian River Captive Broodstock Coho Salmon Recovery Program. Personnel currently monitor all life history stages documenting the successful migration of yearling salmon smolts to the ocean and their subsequent return approximately 18 months later to spawn in Russian River tributaries. This monitoring program is part of a collaborative effort and contributes to the Department of Fish and Game's statewide coho salmon recovery program and the Biological Opinion developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service to guide recovery efforts.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Stephanie Larson, Director of UC Cooperative Extension, 565-2621

Revised Date: 01/2012

Water Agency

ISSUE 1: WATER SUPPLY STRATEGIC POLICY / STRATEGIC PLAN

BACKGROUND: In September, 2010 the Water Agency’s Board of Directors adopted the Water Supply Strategic Plan. The plan identified nine strategies for ensuring the reliable delivery of water in light of current and future challenges, including climate change, economic uncertainty and regulatory constraints. The development of the plan included extensive outreach to Water Contractors and the community. In December, 2011, the Board approved an update of the plan that reflects accomplishments, new projects and reprioritization of some projects. The nine strategies are:

- Implement projects to assure adequate summertime flows in Dry Creek Valley
- Improve management of Russian River system to protect fisheries and meet water demands
- Plan for adapting to impacts of climate change on water supply and flood control
- Identify and implement projects that capture stormwater for water supply uses
- Build partnerships with water users that facilitate information-based water supply planning programs
- Implement projects to improve transmission system reliability
- Improve the energy efficiency of water transmission system and increase renewable power use
- Implement integrated water management into Agency programs
- Automate data exchange and analysis to improve management decision making

In fall/winter of 2011, the Water Agency created five work groups (each comprised of employees from across the Water Agency) to identify five-year strategic priorities in the following areas: sanitation, flood control, water supply, energy and “our organization.” The teams completed development of their strategic goals and objectives in late December. The results are currently being coalesced into a comprehensive document that will be submitted to the Board for consideration in the spring.

CURRENT STATUS: The Water Agency updates the Water Supply Strategies Action Plan annually. The strategic plan is currently under review for update later this year.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer, 547-1959 (Water Supply Strategic Plan) Michael Thompson, Assistant General Manager of Business Operations, 521-1863 (Water Agency Strategic Plan)

Water Agency

ISSUE 2: RUSSIAN RIVER BIOLOGICAL OPINION

BACKGROUND: The Russian River watershed is designated as critical habitat for threatened or endangered stocks of coho salmon, Chinook salmon and steelhead. On September 24, 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Biological Opinion which found that water supply and flood control actions undertaken by the Water Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the Russian River watershed potentially jeopardize the existence or habitat of coho and steelhead.

The Biological Opinion requires the Water Agency to take certain actions over a 15-year period to protect listed species, including enhancing six miles of Dry Creek habitat, requesting the State Water Board to reduce minimum summertime flows in the Russian River and Dry Creek, and changing the way the estuary (at the mouth of the Russian River) is managed. Implementation of the 15-year plan will allow the Agency to meet current water supply needs and protect salmon and steelhead.

CURRENT STATUS: In the three years since the Biological Opinion was issued, the Water Agency has addressed several requirements, including:

Estuary-- The Russian River Estuary Management Project was approved and the final environmental impact report was certified by the Board in August 2011. The Water Agency is in the process of obtaining all needed permits to comply with the Biological Opinion requirements in the estuary. Monitoring and studies are ongoing.

Dry Creek – A habitat enhancement study is 90 percent complete. Concurrently, design work and environmental analysis was completed on a one-mile demonstration project and was approved by the Board of Directors. Right-of-way negotiations with landowners and the permitting process are underway. In addition, three tributary enhancement projects have been completed on Grape/Wine Creek, Crane Creek and Willow Creek (in the lower river area).

River Flows – In compliance with the Biological Opinion, the Water Agency has annually requested the State Water Resources Control Board reduce minimum summertime flows. The request for permanent changes to flows, the *Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project* (Fish Flow Project) is underway. A notice of preparation was issued in October 2010 for the environmental analysis of the project.

Fish Screen, Monitoring and Other – The Water Agency has received a grant from California Department of Fish and Game for the design of a new fish ladder associated a project to replace the fish screens at Mirabel as required by the Biological Opinion. Design is 30 percent complete on the project. An infiltration pond located at the Wohler water supply facilities was decommissioned in 2011. As required by the Biological Opinion, extensive monitoring in the estuary, Dry Creek, and the Russian River has taken place annually.

Compliance costs are estimated to be about \$150 million. Staff and Water Agency Directors are actively seeking state and federal support to complete the required actions.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Renee T. Webber, 547-1936; Pam Jeane, Asst. General Manager, 521-1864

Revised Date: 01/2012

Water Agency

ISSUE 3: GROUNDWATER

BACKGROUND: Although groundwater makes up a small percentage of the water supplied by the Sonoma County Water Agency it is the primary source of water for people in parts of the county not served by the water transmission system. Several of the Water Agency's water contractors use groundwater wells to supplement their water supply and the Water Agency operates groundwater wells located west of the city of Santa Rosa.

In 2001, the Water Agency embarked on a multi-year study of the major groundwater basins in the county in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). In December 2005, \$2.2 million groundwater study was initiated by USGS, the Agency and several local entities (Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, Windsor, County of Sonoma, and Cal American Water Company).

In the Sonoma Valley, the Water Agency led a basin advisory panel (BAP) comprised of local stakeholders to develop a groundwater management plan which was approved by the Water Agency's Board in 2007. The program has received several grants and other financial support from state agencies to support technical studies (by the Water Agency, NGOs, state and federal agencies) and water management activities within the groundwater basin, including:

- A groundwater-level monitoring program for approximately 135 wells is managed by the Water Agency and a group of volunteers from the BAP.
- The "Slow It, Spread It, Sink It" booklet that describes approaches for property owners to manage stormwater and enhance groundwater recharge.
- An annual report summarizing prior year activities and results of study/monitoring programs and a workplan for the upcoming year.

In the Santa Rosa Plain, a steering committee comprised of stakeholders from a wide range of constituencies met six times in 2010 with facilitation assistance from the Center for Collaborative Policy to determine if groundwater management planning in the plain is feasible, and if so, what form of management is appropriate. In January 2011, the Steering Committee recommended that stakeholders collaboratively develop a non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Basin under the Groundwater Management Act (AB 3030). The Water Agency received \$250,000 of grant and direct funding from the Department of Water Resources to support the development of a groundwater management plan. The Water Agency negotiated a multiparty agreement to fund groundwater management activities with the cities of Santa Rosa, Cotati, Sebastopol, and Rohnert Park; the Town of Windsor; the County of Sonoma; and the Cal American Water Company. The initial basin advisory panel was convened in December 2011. The panel consists of approximately 30 members representing diverse constituencies of water users and interest groups.

In 2010, the Water Agency responded to recent state legislation (SBx7-6) requiring groundwater monitoring in state identified groundwater basins. This statewide program is referred to as California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM). Of the 14 groundwater basins in Sonoma County, the Water Agency is the lead responsible entity for 2 basins and acts as the County's agent for 11 basins. The City of Petaluma is the responsible entity for the Petaluma Valley groundwater basin. These activities include stakeholder outreach, development of monitoring plans, training, collection of water levels, and reporting to the state within per deadlines required by the legislation.

Finally, the Agency and several of its water contractors (Cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Sonoma, Town of Windsor, and the Valley of the Moon Water District) have initiated a groundwater banking feasibility study to evaluate the potential for recharging aquifers in the Sonoma Valley and Santa Rosa Plain groundwater basins for subsequent use in the summer or during droughts with winter Russian River water using the Agency's water supply and diversion facilities.

CURRENT STATUS: The Santa Rosa Plain BAP met for the first time in December 2011 and will continue meeting in 2012. The USGS study for the Santa Rosa Plain should be released in late spring 2012. . The Sonoma Valley BAP is in its fifth year of implementing the groundwater management plan. The groundwater banking study is expected to be completed by the fall of 2012.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer, 547-1959

Water Agency

ISSUE 4: WHOLESALE WATER RATES

BACKGROUND: Water Agency staff prepares wholesale water rates for water contractors and other water customers on an annual basis. The water contractor's Water Advisory Committee (WAC) reviews the rate proposal and makes a recommendation to the Agency's Board of Directors on whether the budget and rates should be approved. The Board considers the WAC recommendation prior to approving the Agency's budget and wholesale water rates.

Wholesale rates are based on the cost of operating the water transmission system, paying debt service, designing and constructing capital improvements and actions required for compliance with the Biological Opinion. Because a majority of the Agency's costs are fixed, rates are heavily dependent on the amount of water expected to be delivered.

The rates for each contractor are calculated based on factors included in the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply. The Agency begins the budget setting and rate calculation process in October and it is a significant effort for Agency staff and the Finance Subcommittee members of the Technical Advisory Committee (comprised of contractors' staff representatives).

Rates vary by the aqueduct from which the contractor receives their water. Operational expenses and those capital projects that benefit all are paid for equally in the wholesale water rates. Other debt service and pipeline capital improvement projects benefit only specific contractors and are assigned to specific aqueducts. (Note: The rates for North Marin Water District and Marin Municipal Water District are calculated differently than other contractors.)

CURRENT STATUS: Wholesale water rates for fiscal year 2011-2012 are:

- **Santa Rosa Aqueduct** – \$634.11 per acre foot of water
- **Petaluma Aqueduct** – \$634.11 per acre foot of water
- **Sonoma Aqueduct** – \$703.33 per acre foot of water

The wholesale rate increase for 2011-12 was below 5 percent.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783, Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Spencer Bader, Division Director, 521-6207; Mike Thompson, Assistant General Manager of Business Operations, 521-1863

Revised Date: 01/2012

Water Agency

ISSUE 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY ENERGY POLICY

BACKGROUND: On March 22, 2011 the Agency’s Board of Directors adopted the Water Agency Energy Policy. This policy gives background on the Water Agency’s involvement in energy projects and the reasons for these activities. It also identifies specific projects where the Water Agency is involved and provides direction for participation in “projects of regional benefit”. The following is a list of significant projects listed or contemplated by the policy.

1. Carbon Free Water by 2015 – This program strives to provide all of the energy used by the Agency from renewable sources by 2015.
2. Renewable Energy Secure Communities (RESCO) – This project, funded by a \$1,000,000 grant from the California Energy Commission, seeks, among other things, to identify and quantify renewable energy resources in Sonoma County
3. Sonoma Clean Power – This program is investigating the feasibility of creating a Community Choice Aggregation in Sonoma County.
4. Farms to Fuel Project – This project will generate electricity and organic fertilizer from poultry litter.
5. Sustainable Energy Utility – This program will provide a mechanism for financing large scale efficiency and renewable energy projects for publicly owned buildings at no upfront cost.
6. Renewable Energy Development – The Agency is pursuing several large scale renewable energy projects, including solar and wind generation on County facilities.

CURRENT STATUS

1. Carbon Free Water by 2015 – The Water Agency inventories its greenhouse gas emissions each year. 2006 – 22,000 tons; 2010 – 3600 tons
2. Renewable Energy Secure Communities (RESCO) – The project is currently on track and is meeting deadlines set by the grant.
3. Sonoma Clean Power – A feasibility study has been completed and progress is being made to further define the goals.
4. Farms to Fuel Project - Fabrication of the plant has begun. Permitting is expected to continue through June 2012 with construction beginning in summer 2012.
5. Sustainable Energy Utility – A briefing of interested parties has been completed. A list of potential projects is being developed. A Board item regarding formation of an SEU will come forward in the Spring of 2012.
6. Renewable Energy Development – A request for proposals to develop a large solar array at the Sonoma County Airport will be finalized in January 2012. Investigation of solar and wind potential at the Central Landfill have begun.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783, Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Cordel Stillman, Deputy Chief Engineer, 547-1953

Water Agency

ISSUE 6: FLOOD CONTROL

BACKGROUND: The Water Agency maintains approximately 150 miles of flood control channels and creeks, primarily in the Santa Rosa Plain, Petaluma and Sonoma. The largest flood control project was the Central Sonoma Watershed Project, which resulted in the construction of Spring Lake, several other detention basins, and many miles of flood control channels in Santa Rosa. As a result of this project, the City of Santa Rosa has not experienced the same magnitude of flooding that has occurred in Petaluma, Rohnert Park, and Sonoma.

–Maintenance of the flood control channels was focused on preventing the establishment of trees and other vegetation that would slow down the flow of stormwater. When two fish that inhabit these creeks were placed on the endangered species list in the 1990s (coho salmon and steelhead trout), it became clear that these channels would need to be managed for more than just flood protection.

The Water Agency adopted a Stream Maintenance Program that relies on using specific species of trees to create shady canopies that keep the water cool during the summer while continuing to allow the flow of large amounts stormwaters during heavy rains. Invasive plants (like blackberry) are removed from the banks and replaced with native species that go dormant. This approach was endorsed by all the applicable regulatory agencies and has allowed the Water Agency to obtain multi-year permits, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in permitting fees and staff time.

Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps – The new stream maintenance approach requires aggressive pruning, limbing, and vegetation removal over many miles of flood control channels. Because this work can only be performed during the summer and early fall of each year, the Water Agency must make huge expansions and contractions in the size of the workforce dedicated to these activities each year. In 2009, with federal economic stimulus funds, the Water Agency, Human Services Department, and Workforce Investment Board partnered to create the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps. Crews of young people spend eight weeks during the summer maintaining creeks, building trails in parks, cleaning beaches and on other projects to benefit the environment and the community. Many of the youth are at-risk, and receive a paycheck, a support system and an opportunity to learn new skills and engage in the community. Stormwater Retention/Groundwater Recharge – The old days of massive federally-funded dams and reservoirs to reduce flooding are gone. But many areas of the county, including Sonoma Valley, Petaluma and Laguna/Mark West, experience flooding during large rainstorms. To take advantage of smaller state and federal grants focused on multi-benefit flood control projects, the Water Agency is conducting studies in these communities to identify projects that could reduce flooding while also recharging groundwater.

CURRENT STATUS:

Stream Maintenance Program – With permits now in hand from all regulatory agencies (the final one, from the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, was received in 2011), the Water Agency annually prioritizes creeks that need work. A schedule of planned maintenance is published in local newspapers and is available on the website. Approximately 20 miles of streams/flood control channels are maintained annually.

Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps – The SCYEC completed its third summer, with 200 young people participating. Ten miles of streams were cleared with SCYEC crews. Two crews comprised of older, out-of-school youth were extended into the fall and one crew is continuing to work year-round. The Water Agency and Human Services are planning for the 2012-13 season, with a goal of hiring approximately 200 young people, 100 of which would be performing stream maintenance work for the Water Agency.

Stormwater Retention/Groundwater Recharge – Initial analysis has been completed in all three watersheds, and potential project areas have been identified. For those projects where partners and potential partners

express interest, the Water Agency will move forward with engineering and other supporting studies. The goal is to be positioned to take advantage of potential grant and other funding sources.

Climate Change – The systems constructed to reduce flood risk in many Sonoma County communities were designed based on climatic data available at the time they were designed, which was in the 1960s. With 50 years of additional rainfall data available and potential future changes associated with climate change, new modeling is needed to evaluate the level of protection these systems currently provide.

CAO CONTACT: Jennifer Rogers, CAO Analyst, 565-3783; Chris Thomas, Deputy CAO, 565-3781

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer, 547-1959 (Stormwater Retention/Groundwater Recharge); Michael Thompson, Assistant General Manager of Business Operations, 521-1863 (Maintenance)