

NEWS

From Chairman Gary Ovitt
Fourth District Supervisor, San Bernardino County



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES CONTRACT WITH THE LA JOLLA INSTITUTE TO PRODUCE A COMMUNITY INDICATORS REPORT

The Board of Supervisors today approved a \$150,000 allocation from the County's 2009-10 Board Elective Projects budget to the Economic Development Agency to issue a contract with the La Jolla Institute for development of a Community Indicators Report (CIR) to annually measure the overall quality of life in San Bernardino County.

As part of the 2009-10 budget process, the Board of Supervisors set aside an allocation for the five Supervisorial Districts to finance unbudgeted local needs as identified by the Board throughout the fiscal year. In establishing this budget, the Board required specific approval of projects identified for this funding. One such project, identified by Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt, involves an allocation to the Economic Development Agency to contract with the La Jolla Institute for development of a (CIR) to annually measure the overall quality of life in San Bernardino County.

Supervisor Ovitt said, "San Bernardino County has enjoyed years of steady, traditional economic growth. However, years of high expectations have been followed by the challenges and disappointments of becoming the focal point of our nation's economic difficulties. The dramatic shift that has occurred over the last few years has rippled through the county impacting its residents and workers. Measuring key health, social, education and economic indicators and evaluating the impacts of these changes, can provide a mechanism to target and address our most critical issues."

Ovitt went on to say; "I am very pleased that Herb Fischer (former County Superintendent of Schools), Norm King (former SANBAG Executive Director), and Kent Paxton (former Children's Network Executive Director) have agreed to serve as part of the team putting this report together. Their expertise in the fields of education, transportation, and social services, as well as their wealth of knowledge about our county, will be a valuable resource to draw upon."

The La Jolla Institute is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan institution for policy research, education, and economic development. The focus of the institute is to advance a

better understanding of the impact of the new economy and new ways of working with organizations and communities alike.

The La Jolla Institute will develop a Community Indicators Report (CIR) to measure the overall quality of life in San Bernardino County by tracking key indicators of economic, social and environmental well being. In creating the CIR, the La Jolla Institute will:

- Convene key community/subject matter leaders to identify the key issues for measurement and data sources;
- Conduct public outreach to gain community reaction and input;
- Provide an analytical context and a commentary for the information;
- Produce both a printed and web-based report for broad circulation;
- Initiate strategy dialogs on key findings to address critical issues.

Supervisor Ovitt said; “The CIR is intended to provide citizens and stakeholders with information and analysis of key community indicators and governmental activities reflecting current conditions in the County. Modeled after community indicator reports published around the country, this report will provide a timely framework to understand the County as a system and the relationship of key findings. The report will be completed in January 2010, for release in February 2010. It will serve as a dynamic measurement tool which can support a variety of local and regional initiatives focused on the well-being of the County and will be an integral piece of San Bernardino’s State of the County event.”

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