NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino Josie Gonzales Fifth District

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JGFDS-PR-260 COUNTY EXTENDS MILITARY LEAVE BENEFITS FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LISHA SMITH AT (909) 387-4565

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MILITARY LEAVE BENEFITS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES EXTENDED

SAN BERNARDINO - The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today unanimously approved Chair Josie Gonzales' items to extend supplemental military leave benefits for county employees called to duty.

"With all the concerns these employees have while making huge personal sacrifices to protect our freedoms, the very least we can do is help alleviate some of the financial worries their extended absence from home might cause them and their loved ones," said Chair Gonzales.

California law states that employees have a statutory right to be paid their regular salary during the first 30 days of military duty. In October 2001 the Board of Supervisors voted to establish the Supplemental Military Leave/Pay Program to provide extended support for its county employees.

The program, activated through Memoranda of Understanding and the Exempt Compensation Ordinance offers employees on active duty paid leave time, equal to the difference between their base county and base military pay, and continuation of full benefits after their 30-day entitlement under state law.

The action taken today extends the program through June 29, 2012, and will cost the County just over \$600,000. Twenty-one employees are now on extended military leave. Since 2001 the program has helped support approximately 235 county employees.

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