NEWS

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High Desert teleconferencing to return in the summer

High Desert residents will briefly be unable to remotely participate in Board of Supervisors meetings while the county moves the teleconferencing site from Victorville to Hesperia.

In an effort to increase participation, the county is moving the High Desert teleconferencing location from the Victorville Transitional Assistance office to the Jerry Lewis High Desert Government Center in Hesperia. The county is also establishing a teleconferencing location in Joshua Tree.

Through teleconferencing, the public can either testify before or make presentations to the Board of Supervisors or simply watch the meeting without having to travel to San Bernardino. Live and archived meetings can be viewed through CountyDirect at http://www.sbcounty.gov/main/countydirect.asp.

Only about half of the approximately 45 meetings that have occurred since the Victorville teleconference site went live in September 2011 have attracted public participation. The county hopes that moving to a location that offers an array of government services will lead to an increase in use.

Teleconferencing from Victorville ceased following the April 9 Board of Supervisors meeting so the equipment from that site, which is not compatible with the Hesperia location, could be moved to the Joshua Tree site in time for a May 7 launch. Equipment for the Hesperia location has been ordered and teleconferencing from the High Desert is expected to resume sometime during the summer.