

NEWS

From the Office of

Brad Mitzelfelt

Supervisor, First District
San Bernardino County

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For information, contact
David Zook (909) 387-4830
www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt

County, Hesperia Sign Agreement to Build High Desert Government Center

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved an agreement with the City of Hesperia to build a state-of-the-art government center that will make a full array of County government services available locally to High Desert residents by next year.

“I am very excited to move this project forward,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the area. “High Desert residents deserve to have easy access to County services without having to drive to San Bernardino. This project has been a priority of mine and it’s gratifying to know that our local residents will have a high-quality facility in a central location to serve their needs for decades to come.”

The High Desert Government Center will be a two-story, 66,900 square-foot office building on 4.42 acres, donated by the City of Hesperia, at the corner of Smoketree Street and Seventh Avenue in Hesperia. The Center will be built by the City in conjunction with Hesperia’s new police station – an arrangement that will reduce costs for both facilities. The cost of the County building will be \$29.2 million, or \$2.8 million less than the original estimate of \$32 million. The design of the building will complement the existing civic center, which already includes City Hall and the Hesperia Branch library.

At the insistence of Supervisor Mitzelfelt, who has served for the past two years on the California Seismic Safety Commission, the building will meet “essential facility” standards to ensure the Center will be functional after a major earthquake. It will also incorporate energy efficiency features to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certificate standards.

“The construction of the new San Bernardino County High Desert Administration Building is another example of how collaboration between two agencies results in huge benefits for the citizens of Hesperia and the High Desert,” said Hesperia Mayor Thurston “Smitty” Smith.

The building will include offices for numerous County departments, including the Recorder, Environmental Health, Veterans Services, Assessor, Agricultural/Weights and Measures, Public Works, County Fire, Code Enforcement, Planning, Building and Safety, Registrar of Voters, Treasurer/Tax Collector, Human Resources and the Board of Supervisors.

Construction is expected to begin this summer with the project complete by late 2010.