

# NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt  
Fourth District, San Bernardino County



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## Ovitt Aids Relief Effort in Gulfport, Mississippi

San Bernardino- Supervisor Gary Ovitt flew to Gulfport, Mississippi on Monday to bring aid and relief assistance to residents who have suffered losses in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Supervisor Ovitt aided the relief effort by coordinating County and local city governments in the 4<sup>th</sup> District in acquiring needed supplies to help the residents of Gulfport rebuild.

“It is our duty as Americans to show a spirit of unity by coming to the aid of our fellow countryman,” stated Ovitt. “We must lend a helping hand, a shoulder to lean on, and convey that spirit of optimism and hope to those who have suffered from this great devastation.”

Supervisor Ovitt had been working in conjunction with the local government of Gulfport to coordinate relief efforts for 2 weeks. A call from the Mayor of Gulfport requesting assistance during an emergency meeting of the Board of Supervisors quickly fueled the need for immediate action. Four 18 –Wheeler convoy full of supplies for victims of Katrina was transported on Friday, with County and local government officials arriving in Gulfport, Mississippi on Monday.

“This spirit of cooperation fostered between local governments across this great nation is a shining example of how our democracy works,” stated Ovitt. “That spirit, combined with this trip and newly fostered relationships, will prove to be an invaluable resource for Emergency Operations personnel throughout the County.”

In addition to providing aid, Emergency Operation Center personnel from County and local cities traveled to Gulfport to learn about relief efforts and the local emergency response. At Tuesday’s Board Meeting, the Board of Supervisors directed County Administrative Officer Mark Uffer to form an Emergency Response Task Force to review the County’s current Emergency Response plan and identify any weaknesses.

“Now is the time for the County to review our disaster plans and identify these ‘Hot Spots,’” stated Ovitt. “This information, combined with lessons learned from the recent Grand Prix and Old Fires in 2003, will help refine the County’s Emergency Operations.”

For additional information on how you can help in the San Bernardino County Katrina Relief Effort please contact Supervisor Ovitt’s District office at 909-465-1895.