## **NEWS**

## From Supervisor Gary Ovitt Fourth District, San Bernardino County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 3, 2009

For information, contact Burt Southard (909) 387-4866

## **Press Statement From Board Chairman Gary Ovitt**

At a January 22<sup>nd</sup> special meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board voted to direct County Counsel to bring back a recommended, 3<sup>rd</sup> party special counsel to research alleged actions and activities by the County Assessor. This special counsel was to report back to the board to see if cause existed to remove the Assessor from office under the terms of our Charter.

At this meeting I directed, with my colleagues consent, that everything the special counsel discovered would be turned over to the District Attorney's office. I also directed to have the special counsel report back to the Board either with findings or with a status report at today's Board meeting.

On Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Assessor resigned, causing the purpose of retaining special counsel to no longer exist. As John Hueston did not complete the investigation of misconduct by the Assessor, we will be changing the workscope of the special counsel from determining if cause existed to remove the Assessor under the terms of the Charter, to compiling research conducted to date and working with our in-house counsel to make recommendations to the Board as to possible next steps.

Therefore we will not be having a presentation by special counsel John Hueston today. Rather we will wait until Mr. Hueston consults with County Counsel and then the Board of Supervisors on whether any further action is warranted.

I think I can speak for all of the Supervisors when I say we are very anxious for the truth to come out, as well as for the Board to take appropriate action."