

Message from the Chairman



Gary C. Ovitt
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, Fourth District

REPRESENTING

- Ontario
- Chino
- Chino Hills
- Montclair



Citizens Business Bank Arena, Fourth District

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our more than 19,000 employees, the County of San Bernardino continued to make strides to improve public safety, build infrastructure, protect and preserve our environment, and expand economic development in 2009.

County government is driven by its budget and the state of the economy. Because we have been conservative and prudent with our financial resources, the current financial doldrums in which we find ourselves are tempered by solid fiscal management practices.

As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors as well as an elected public official, it is my job to make sure financial policies are in place to ensure that adequate resources are available to meet basic financial obligations and the county achieves financial continuity and stability. The county lives within its means. It never spends more than the resources it has.

We also look to the future by setting long-term goals and sticking to them. We don't defer expenses, they don't go away and come back to bite you later. We fund retirement obligations on a prudent actuarial basis. We maintain a fiscally sound rainy-day budget surplus. Emergencies arise and they have to be dealt with.

In 2009, the County of San Bernardino received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budgeting Award, marking four years in a row the county has received this honor. The county was presented with the State Controller's Award for Achieving Excellence in Financial Reporting, achieving the highest quality in California governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The continued downturn in the housing market, a decline in sales tax revenues, and threats posed by the state budget crisis combined with an increased demand for county services has forced the Board of Supervisors and County Administrative Office to tighten the reins on county spending. The county prepared for the current crisis by building a bank of vacant positions and building a healthy budget reserve fund during the recent boom years. The county continues to follow strict controls on the filling of vacant county jobs and on all county travel. Although the county has instituted a hiring freeze, several state funded positions within the county have been added.

These measures are designed to aid the county in avoiding service reductions to residents and laying off county employees, which would only add to the region's economic difficulties.

As you know, we're in an economic downturn unlike any of us have seen in modern times, with staggering job losses, rising unemployment, and a decimated housing industry. But we continue to work on solutions to these problems. Our top priority is bringing employers, trade and infrastructure that will attract more of the same to our region. We can partially insulate ourselves against global, national and economic trends by taking advantage of our assets as a region, with our low-priced land, available work force, affordable housing, recreation, and clean air and water.

I can't predict what the future will bring or how the economy or other circumstances are going to affect us. I do know that we not only have the opportunity, but we have a mandate to reinvent ourselves, think outside the box, and make tough decisions for the greater good. In short, to lead, which is so critical during challenging times.

Supervisor Gary C. Ovitt, Fourth District
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

First District



Mojave Desert, First District

Brad Mitzelfelt

REPRESENTING

Adelanto, Amboy, Apple Valley, Argus, Baker, Baldy Mesa, Barstow, Big River, Cadiz, Cima, Daggett, Earp, Edwards Air Force Base, El Mirage, Essex, Fort Irwin, Goffs, Helendale, Hesperia, Hinkley, Kelso, Kramer, Lake Havasu, Lenwood, Ludlow, Lucerne Valley, Mountain Pass, Needles, Newberry Springs, Nipton, Oak Hills, Oro Grande, Parker Dam, Phelan, Piñon Hills, Red Mountain, Rice, Silver Lakes, Spring Valley Lake, Summit Valley, Trona, Twentynine Palms, Victorville, Vidal, Windy Acres, Wonder Valley, Wrightwood, and Yermo.

Second District



California Speedway, Second District

Paul Biane

REPRESENTING

Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, San Antonio Heights, Mt. Baldy Village, Lytle Creek, Devore, Cedar Pines Park, Crestline, Lake Gregory, and Crest Forest.