

PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rutherford Seeks Nearly 20% Reduction in Elected Supervisors' Compensation

SAN BERNARDINO – Nov 15, 2011 – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors unanimously supported Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford's proposal to create an ordinance that will reduce Supervisors' benefits by nearly 20 percent.

"San Bernardino County Supervisors must lead by example, and agreeing to impose more than \$50,000 in benefit reductions on ourselves is a good place to start," Rutherford said.

The proposed ordinance would eliminate all County pick-ups of Supervisors' retirement contributions, County retirement medical trust fund contributions, County salary savings plans matches and supplemental contributions, County-paid life insurance or variable group universal life insurance, long term disability insurance, medical expense flexible spending account matches, and portable communication device allowances. Eliminating the benefits would reduce the total annual compensation for individual Board members by about \$54,000.

Rutherford requested the benefits reduction ordinance after this year's Grand Jury report criticized the Supervisorial benefits package as "very generous." Follow-up research showed that San Bernardino County Supervisors are eligible to receive the second highest total compensation among Southern California supervisors — about \$273,000 — while Los Angeles County Supervisors receive the highest at about \$320,000. The proposed reductions would bring the total compensation package for individual San Bernardino County Supervisors to approximately \$218,000. That compares to \$227,000 in Riverside County; \$237,000 in Orange County; and \$215,000 in San Diego County.

"In this economic climate when our taxpayers are suffering and our budget is strapped, we cannot continue to accept benefits that are so egregiously out of line with the private sector," said Rutherford.

In addition to their annual \$151,971 salary, San Bernardino County Supervisors are each eligible for a benefits package with an annual cost of approximately \$121,000. Benefits include health insurance, car and cellphone allowances, and retirement fund contributions. The combination brings the total annual compensation to approximately \$273,000.

According to the San Bernardino County Charter, only voters have the authority to establish Supervisors' base salaries, which are currently set by a measure voters approved in November 2006. However, Supervisors have the authority to create and approve their own benefits package.

The County Administrative Office will draft an ordinance to eliminate the benefits and will bring the ordinance back to the Board for approval early next year.

"This is one step forward on the path of letting our residents know that we are serious about changing the political culture of our County and restoring our region's reputation. It also signals our understanding that times are tough and we have to lead our organization in making tough cuts when we are asking employees to cut back as well," Rutherford said.

State law prohibits reducing an elected official's compensation while he/she is still in office, so the proposed ordinance would not impact current Supervisors. However, Supervisors can individually agree to impose reductions on themselves prior to the end of their terms. If the proposed benefits reduction ordinance is adopted, Supervisor Rutherford stated she would agree to the reductions immediately.

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US Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Restrictions Reduced and Winter Burning Projects Underway

San Bernardino, Calif., November 18, 2011 – With recent rain across the southland, forest officials on the San Bernardino National Forest reduced fire restrictions effective today and have begun winter burning projects.

“While campfires and recreational shooting are being allowed in portions of the forest, we are not completely out of wildfire danger yet, and ask the public to always exercise caution and call ahead to check conditions,” said San Bernardino National Forest Fire Management Officer Shawna Legarza. “The change in the weather also has allowed us to begin our winter burning program, which is one of our tools to help reduce the wildfire threat in local communities.”

Fire Restrictions

Under the reduced fire restrictions, visitors may have wood and charcoal fires in agency-provided campfire rings at campgrounds, picnic areas and yellow post sites. Recreational target shooting is permitted within designated sites in the Big Bear area and permitted areas on the San Jacinto Ranger District.

Current fire restriction and guidelines in effect on the San Bernardino National Forest are as follows:

- Wood and charcoal campfires are allowed only in developed campgrounds, picnic areas and Yellow Post campsites within agency-provided fire rings or designated stoves.
- Campfire permits are required for propane and gas stoves and lanterns used outside of developed recreation sites.
- Recreational shooting is limited to designated sites and public shooting ranges operated under special use permit only, except those engaged in legal hunting.
- The 1N09 Recreational Shooting area remains closed.
- An approved spark arrester is required for any internal combustion engine operated on designated forest routes. These include chainsaws, generators, motorcycles, and off-highway vehicles.
- Smoking is limited to enclosed vehicles, developed recreation sites and areas cleared of vegetation, three feet in diameter.
- Fireworks are always prohibited on the San Bernardino National Forest. Tracer, armor piercing, steel core, and Teflon ammunitions are also prohibited, as is discharging a firearm at any exploding target.

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Winter Burning Projects

As part of a continuing effort to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health, the San Bernardino National Forest has started this season's prescribed burning program. The prescribed fire program will continue through the winter months as weather and conditions permit.

The ignition of all prescribed burns is dependent on the availability of personnel and equipment, appropriate conditions, and in coordination with the [National Weather Service](#) and [South Coast Air Quality Management District \(SCAQMD\)](#) before and during prescribed burns in order to manage smoke production and minimize impacts as much as possible.

Fire managers follow a burn plan that outlines the "prescription" or environmental conditions such as temperature, wind, fuel moisture, ventilation, and relative humidity that need to be present before the project begins. When the criteria are met, crews implement, monitor, and patrol each burn to ensure it meets the goals and objectives outlined by managers.

We appreciate the public's tolerance of some smoke impacts in order to achieve the San Bernardino National Forest's fire prevention and resource management goals, and the public can call our local offices to find out where we are burning at the following numbers:

Big Bear Ranger Station & Discovery Center 909-382-2790

Lytle Creek Ranger Station 909-382-2851

Idyllwild Ranger Station 909-382-2922

Mill Creek Work Center 909-382-2882

Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument 760-862-9984

For additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest, please visit:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>

About the U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest

The San Bernardino National Forest is comprised of three Ranger Districts spanning 676,666 acres in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. From the desert floor to the pristine mountain peaks, the San Bernardino National Forest offers natural environments, spectacular scenery, developed campgrounds and picnic areas, numerous recreational opportunities, and the solitude of quiet wilderness and open space for the over 24 million residents of Southern California and those visiting the area. The forest environment also provides habitat for numerous plants and animals and is crucial in sustaining drinking water, air, and soil quality.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2011
PSA # 11-60

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County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health Participates in 2011 Statewide Medical and Health Exercise

San Bernardino. The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health in partnership with the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) is coordinating the 2011 California Statewide Medical and Health Functional Exercise Program on Thursday November 17, 2011.

The purpose of this exercise is to provide an opportunity for local preparedness and response partners to test and evaluate current response concepts, emergency plans, and capabilities to respond to a medical or public health emergency due to disruption to the public water supply. The exercise will focus on communication, intelligence/information sharing and dissemination, Emergency Operations Center management, responding to a medical surge and mass fatality emergency.

The scenario will test the County's preparedness for a water disruption emergency, and its ability to provide water to the community to sustain service operations.

The objectives of the functional exercise are to:

- Test plans and procedures to determine the County's capability to sustain operations and services during a disruption to the public water supply.
- Further test the ability to process the request for resources.
- Test methods for redundant communication during an emergency.
- Test incident management within the County by activating and operating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

These types of exercises provide an opportunity for the County to coordinate resources within the Region and State, and to increase the capacity to respond to medical, public health and other emergencies within the County of San Bernardino.

For more information, please contact the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Preparedness and Response Program at (909) 252-4406.

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

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