

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

AT YOUR SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2013

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4717

dwert@sbcounty.gov



Rutherford elected Board Chair; Ovitt chosen Vice Chair

The Board of Supervisors today unanimously elected Supervisor Janice Rutherford to serve as Board Chair and Supervisor Gary Ovitt to serve as Vice Chair for the next two years.

"It is a privilege to be selected to serve as Chair," Chair Rutherford said. "The Board has made tremendous strides over the past two years to focus on the County Vision and to restore public faith in County Government. I pledge to continue those efforts with the help and support of my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors. I also look forward to reaching out to County employees and listening to their ideas for further progress in the services we provide to residents and taxpayers."

"I am honored in the trust my colleagues have placed in me, and I look forward to assisting Chair Rutherford and working with my colleagues on the Board, our county staff, and the public to achieve our goals and continue to make the county a great place to live, work, and play," Vice Chair Ovitt said.

The Board, led by Chair Rutherford, also commended outgoing Chair Josie Gonzales for her two years of service at the Board's helm. "You have been an outstanding leader and an outstanding mentor," Chair Rutherford said to Supervisor Gonzales. "It will be impossible to bring the kind of heart and poignancy to the chairmanship that you did."

The voter-approved County Charter requires the Board to elect a Chair at its first meeting in January following an election of supervisors. The Chair serves as the Board's general executive agent by presiding over meetings of the Board, signing contracts approved by the Board, working with the Chief Executive Officer to set the Board's agenda, taking action on the Board's behalf when action is necessary prior to a scheduled Board meeting, and fulfilling any other duties as assigned by the Board.

-MORE-

New Chair & Vice Chair

January 8, 2013

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Covering more than 20,000 square miles and serving more than 2 million residents, the County of San Bernardino is the largest county in the United States in terms of area and the fifth largest in California in terms of population. The County's 39 departments provide a wide range of vital public services to residents, visitors, and businesses in the areas of law and justice, fire protection, health care, land planning, recreation and culture, elections, airports, economic development, and aid to children, the elderly, veterans, and the poor.

County Government worked closely with San Bernardino Associated Governments, the county's 24 cities and towns, residents, and community leaders to create a Countywide Vision, www.sbcounty.gov/vision. The County and SANBAG are now focused on continuing to work with various stakeholders to achieve the Vision by facilitating discussions where goals are set and achieved.

County Government is also focused on stabilizing the County's ongoing fiscal health through the current economic downturn by achieving sustainable budget solutions, including making allowances for all potential liabilities and working with employees to reach compensation agreements that are fair to workers while ensuring long-term fiscal stability.

NEWS

From the Homeownership Protection Program JPA

www.homeownershipjpa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2013

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4717

dwert@sbccounty.gov



JPA declines to consider eminent domain proposals

The Homeownership Protection Program Joint Powers Authority board today voted unanimously to issue a Request for Qualifications seeking plans to address the mortgage crisis in San Bernardino County. But the board decided against considering proposals that would include the use of eminent domain.

Board Chairman Greg Devereaux pointed out many experts have warned the use of eminent domain would destabilize an already weak local housing market and even worsen the mortgage crisis. At the same time, very few local homeowners and other stakeholders expressed support for the use of eminent domain. Many, in fact, opposed such a strategy.

“It’s wrong to impose that risk on the community without support from the community, and that level of support has not materialized,” said board Chairman Greg Devereaux. “We don’t want to do more harm than good in what we choose to do.”

Devereaux also said continuing to consider the possibility of eminent domain would interfere with efforts to work with the banking, mortgage, real estate and investment communities in making various forms of assistance available to local homeowners. In that vein, the JPA today approved an agreement with those stakeholders to support the County of San Bernardino’s ongoing efforts to link homeowners with assistance programs.

Several months ago the county launched www.saveyourhomesbccounty.org as part an effort to make San Bernardino County homeowners aware of programs and local events aimed at addressing foreclosures and negative equity.

The RFQ will be released and those with proposals will be invited to submit them as soon as the modifications approved today by the JPA board are incorporated into the document. Besides not considering proposals that rely on the use of eminent domain, respondents will be asked to include a risk assessment in their proposals.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division
222 West Hospitality Lane, Second Floor
San Bernardino CA 92415-0017
(909) 386-8701 Fax (909) 386-8964



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2013

Contact: Rex Richardson, Solid Waste Programs Administrator
909-386-8975 cell: 909-709-7224
rex.richardson@dpw.sbcounty.gov

Local Non-Profit Expands Recycling Efforts

Alpine Camp and Conference Center in Blue Jay, has expanded its recycling program with the recent addition of 23 new recycling collection bins. The bins were provided by the County's Beverage Container Recycling Program and will augment the existing collection containers. Alpine has been a recycling program participant since 2006, and has recycled 4,828 pounds of CRV (California Redemption Value) materials thus far.

Alpine is a camp for children and adults to come and have fun in the wilderness. It conducts outdoor activities, camps for students, music and arts programs and rents conference space.

Since July 2012, California businesses that generate four or more cubic yards of waste per week or multi-family residences of five or more units are required to have a recycling program. The County Beverage Container Program can assist businesses in meeting the State recycling requirement.

About the County Beverage Container Program:

Established in 2000 by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works-Solid Waste Management Division, the program uses grant funds from the State to provide collection containers, signing and promotional support to participating entities. This no-cost program is open to non-profits, schools and community groups in the unincorporated county area that want to start or expand recycling of California Beverage Containers. Currently there are 30 participants, and in 2012, participants recycled 15,884 pounds of CRV containers. Information about the program and how to participate in the program is available by calling the County Solid Waste Management Division at 909-386-8701 or by going online to:

www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste/BevContRecycMain.asp



Check Presentation to the Senior Nutrition Program

On Tuesday, January 22nd, the Mountain Sunrise Rotary, Lake Arrowhead Rotary, and Crestline Rotary presented a check for \$7500.00 to the "Senior Nutrition Program" at the San Moritz Lodge. Between 100-125 meals are served every Tuesday and the first and Third Thursday. The Seniors look forward to this sit-down lunch every week and many of them rely on this program to supplement their diet.

San Bernardino County had eliminated funding the \$40,000 program. The Rotary Clubs wanted to help. A total of \$7500 was raised for the program. Mountain Sunrise Rotary and Lake Arrowhead Rotary contributed \$2000 each and the Crestline Rotary Club contributed \$1000. A grant was written by Mountain Sunrise Rotary and our Rotary District contributed an additional \$2500. Penny Shubnell runs the program and she stated that the money would allow it to continue for about three months. The meals are catered by Woody's Boat House.

It was another Great Rotary Moment!

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

AT YOUR SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 31, 2012

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4717
dwert@sbcounty.gov



The County of San Bernardino: 2012 in Review

JANUARY

Open Government – As part of the county’s ongoing effort to make government more open and accessible, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors added a search function to its agenda system, allowing the public to search for words in board agendas, contracts and reports dating back to June 25, 1996. The new feature allows the public to easily research matters that have come before the Board of Supervisors, such as seeing when and how often the county has done business with certain contractors or taken action on a particular subject. The new agenda search can be found at <http://cob-sire.sbcounty.gov/sirepub/>.

Access to Benefits – The County’s Transitional Assistance Department assisted in forming a consortium of community and faith based organizations in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties around the topic of improving awareness of and access to CalFresh benefits. The consortium consists of members from TAD, Catholic Charities, Public Health, Superintendent of County Schools, Inland Empire Health Plan, Community Action Partnership, 211, Office on Homelessness, Behavioral Health, Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Molina Healthcare, Inland Valley Hope Partners, the Way World Outreach, and numerous other organizations. The consortium holds bimonthly meetings and has united around the following five overarching concerns: Unique Populations, Hunger Issues, Simplification of the C4Yourself online application, Policy/Legislative Clarification, and suggested changes and Marketing & Media Strategies.

Government Reform – On January 10 the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to reduce the benefits to Board members by nearly 40 percent, making board member compensation comparable to Riverside, Orange, and San Diego counties and saving taxpayers more than \$240,000 a year. “At a time when we are asking all of our staff and all of our departments and all of our programs to do more with less, at a time when our residents and taxpayers are running their households and their businesses and their lives with less, it is incumbent on us as elected leaders of this county to show

that we can do more with less, too,” said Supervisor Janice Rutherford, who proposed the cuts. Supervisors eliminated several types of benefits, including their retirement pickups, contributions toward 401(k) and 457(b) savings plans, and medical expense reimbursements.



Supervisor Janice Rutherford

Dr. SWAT – Arrowhead Regional Medical Center emergency room physician, Dr. Michael Neeki, serves in a new, medically-related venture with the Inland Regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. As a physician specially trained in SWAT, Dr. Neeki adds a new element to local law enforcement capabilities.



Dr. Neeki

ARkStorm – The San Bernardino County Museum on January 25 hosted a free public lecture by world-renown seismologist and disaster expert Dr. Lucy Jones about the ARkStorm Scenario, which describes catastrophic flooding resulting from a month-long deluge. The ARkStorm Scenario explores the resulting impacts to our social structure and can be used to understand how California’s “other” Big One can be more expensive than a large San Andreas earthquake.

Gang Injunction – On January 20, San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael A. Ramos announced the filing of a lawsuit seeking a gang injunction in the City of Rancho Cucamonga against the criminal street gang “Cucamonga Kings.” This injunction, with the cooperation of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, will restrict any gang activity, and will subject members to arrest if they engage in conduct within the Safety Zone. “For decades, the people of Rancho Cucamonga and the surrounding communities have had to sit back and suffer numerous crimes at the hands of these local terrorists. Not on my watch,” said San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael A. Ramos. “We look forward to working with the Sheriff’s Department in ending this gang’s

criminal activity and making it possible for the members of this community to live their lives free of fear and violence.”

Honored Scientist – Kathleen Springer, Senior Curator of Geological Sciences at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, traveled to Washington D.C. to be honored for her efforts with regional colleagues in earthquake education and outreach. Springer joined a delegation from California’s Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA) to accept an award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. Springer has long been a leading voice in encouraging earthquake preparedness and safety throughout the Inland Empire. The San Bernardino County Museum is southern California’s ECA Earthquake Education and Public Information Center, or EPIcenter. In this capacity, the museum annually leads the local community in the ECA’s cornerstone activity, the “Great California ShakeOut”, a statewide earthquake drill initiated in 2008 involving millions of participants each year all across California. Springer was honored with a similar award at the National Earthquake Conference in Memphis, Tennessee in April.



Kathleen Springer

FEBRUARY

ArrowCare – ARMC, in conjunction with other County of San Bernardino health departments, introduced a low-income health program called ArrowCare, providing comprehensive health care to thousands of county residents. The program serves as a bridge to health care reform and provides a patient-centered “medical home” model of care that strengthens the relationship between patients and their health care providers.

The Lisa Project – Children’s Network coordinated The Lisa Project’s three month exhibition in San Bernardino County at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, The Mall of Victor Valley, and Victoria Gardens. The Lisa Project was an interactive multisensory exhibit that tells the story of child abuse from a child’s perspective. The goal of bringing The Lisa Project to San Bernardino County was to raise awareness of child abuse and help illustrate that it is our collective responsibility to protect the children in our community. From January through March 2012, more than 5,100 people experienced The Lisa Project with the majority reporting they were much more aware of child abuse and neglect after experiencing the exhibit.



The Lisa Project

MARCH

Help for the Homeless – A combination of funding for new and renewed project grants awarded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided the County of San Bernardino more than \$7 million to furnish transitional and permanent housing, as well as other supportive services, to homeless individuals and families who might otherwise be living on the streets.

Family Health Center – ARMC opened a new and larger Westside Family Health Center, which was expanded from 12 exam rooms to 21 and from 7,000 square feet to 15,000, and is housed in a new co-location health care facility in Rialto. ARMC and the County of San Bernardino opened the co-location facility, the first of its kind in the area, to provide patients with access to multiple services from ARMC and the County's Public Health and Behavioral Health departments.

APRIL

TAY Center – The Department of Behavioral Health cut the ribbon on a new building for the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Center in San Bernardino. The new facility includes a 14-bed crisis residential facility. The One-Stop TAY Center also has a multipurpose room that can serve as an auditorium, a training kitchen, recreation room, resource center and a media education room. The construction has implemented practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions to provide an environmentally friendly facility. The building was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

ePro – Online access for businesses looking to provide products and services to the County of San Bernardino made a giant leap forward with the County Purchasing Department's launch of the new online Electronic Procurement Network system. ePro is a major technological advance that increases the speed, efficiency, cost savings and reporting capabilities of the County's acquisition processes. ePro's state-of-the-art system offers web-based vendor registration, bid notification, online solicitations, and electronic purchase orders. The easy-to-use system also gives County vendors the ability to respond to bids online, adjust proposals prior to the closing date as often as needed in response to addendums or market changes, upload certifications and bid documentation, and attend bid openings remotely. "Implementation of the ePro system will provide a faster and more efficient platform from which to manage purchasing countywide while reducing costs for both the county and suppliers," said Laurie Rozko, the County's Director of Purchasing. Access is available through the County Purchasing website at: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/purchasing/eprocurement/eproguide.aspx>

Hesperia Health Center – The Department of Public Health opened the Hesperia Health Center as a Federally Qualified Health Center. The Health Center will increase access to medical services, and patients can receive health screenings, referral services, immunizations, management of acute and chronic diseases, and preventive health education. “One out of four High Desert residents is without health insurance, and is unable to receive affordable preventive health care services,” Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. “The FQHCs provide a safety net for residents to access medical services without impacting emergency rooms and other local resources.”



Opening of the Hesperia Health Center

Restaurant Roundtables – The Division of Environmental Health Services hosted a series of Industry Roundtables in April and October for owners, managers and staff from various food facilities throughout San Bernardino County. Environmental Health Managers and Supervisors were available to answer questions and food facility operators learned about the most frequent food violations in San Bernardino County and their impact on public health.

New DA Website – The San Bernardino County District Attorney announced the launch of a new website. The overall design and user experience is a significant departure from the previous site. Not only do users have access to current news, but the site also provides a “Frequently Asked Questions” section and quick access to various services by way of an “Action Center” located on the home page.

MAY

Vision Goals – The Countywide Vision took a major step forward on May 2 when the Board of Supervisors and the San Bernardino Associated Governments Board of Directors approved the first two regional implementation goals developed through the Vision process, targeting cradle-to-career success and the creation of a business-friendly environment. The goals emerged from meetings between experts and stakeholders representing the elements of the Countywide Vision and were honed by city, town, and county leaders during the annual City/County Conference in March. Element leaders met throughout 2012 to set a course for achieving the goals through collaboration with residents and other stakeholders.

National Mental Health Month – During May, the National Mental Health Month, the Department of Behavioral Health celebrated the theme “Do More for 1 in 4” as a call to action to help the one in

four individuals who are living with a diagnosable, treatable mental health condition and/or substance abuse issue.

Budget Award – For the sixth year in a row, the County of San Bernardino was honored for producing one of the best government budget documents in North America by once again receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. To receive the budget award the county had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. The County of San Bernardino's award-winning budgets can be viewed on a newly created County Budget website: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/cao/budget/>



ARMC expanded its Breathmobile service to the High Desert, with added sites in Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Phelan, Victorville and Trona. ARMC's two Breathmobiles provide pediatric asthma care management at sites throughout the County of San Bernardino.

Wellness through Art – A Consumer Art exhibit was held May 1-31, 2012 at the County of San Bernardino Government Center. Focusing on "Wellness" through art, various modes of artistry from local talent living with mental illness were displayed at the County Government Center for the entire month of May. One of the highlights of the exhibit was on May 8, when many of the artists participated in the Meet the Artists and Wellness Expo. The artists made themselves available to the public to talk about the inspiration for their art, as well as how they use art in the recovery process. In addition, community agencies were on-site to promote traditional and alternative ways wellness can be achieved.



JUNE

Vision-based Budget – On June 15 the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a balanced, forward-thinking \$4 billion County budget based on achieving the Countywide Vision. “We stayed focused on our priorities to provide quality services and support public safety countywide,” said Board of Supervisors Chair Josie Gonzales. The 2012-13 Budget was \$28.8 million less than the 2011-12 budget, closed a projected \$33.2 million shortfall, and accomplished this while setting aside \$16.3 million for contingencies and reserves. The budget also put the County on track to eliminate a five-year gap of \$91.5 million by including \$40.3 million in savings.



Early Voting conducted by the County Registrar of Voters was a hit, especially with first-time voters.

Inspiring Students – ARMC and the UC Riverside School of Medicine formed a partnership enabling local high school and college students to shadow several ARMC doctors as part of a student pipeline program designed to develop physician leaders and strengthen interest in the field of medicine. The partnership helps to accomplish one of the goals of the County of San Bernardino’s Vision Project: partner with all sectors of the community to support the success of every child from cradle to career.

Geologic Map – San Bernardino County Museum geologists working in the deserts north of Las Vegas published the most detailed geological map of the region ever created. Funded through the Las Vegas Office of the Bureau of Land Management and released through the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, the map of the upper Las Vegas wash – including the famous Tule Springs paleontological site, where excavations half a century ago first established the geologic context of Ice Age fossils found there – was the culmination of more than a decade of careful fieldwork and laboratory analysis. The map (“Geologic Map of the Gass Peak SW Quadrangle, Clark County, Nevada”) is available to the public online (map: <http://www.nbmj.unr.edu/dox/m175.pdf>, text: http://www.nbmj.unr.edu/dox/m175_text.pdf).

Homeward Bound – In an effort to increase awareness regarding the thousands of homeless animals that are available for adoption at County operated animal shelters, Animal Care and Control launched “Homeward Bound Project Adopt” in 2012. This expanded marketing effort included the establishment of a Facebook page to update residents regarding the many positive outcomes that occur for pets and people within our County.



The County's Animal Care & Control Division, with ongoing consistent support from the Board of Supervisors, staged events throughout the year to promote the adoption of pets from County animal shelters. The biggest of these events was the first-ever "Homeward Bound – Mega Pet Adoption Event" at Yucaipa Regional Park on Father's Day weekend. This event sponsored by the Animals aRe First Fund (ARFF) along with the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley and the Yucaipa Animal Placement Society (YAPS), placed 163 pets. Look for the 2nd Annual Homeward Bound Mega Pet Adoption Event to be held in June 2013.

Video Tribute – The San Bernardino County District Attorney announced the launch of a three-minute video honoring the lives of peace officers who have died in the line of duty. The video contains footage from the Annual Peace Officer Memorial ceremony held at the San Bernardino Police station May 31, 2012. "Let us take time to honor our fallen officers, those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of public safety," said District Attorney Mike Ramos. "We will never forget. We will always remember our heroes."

JULY



The County Museum restored a number of damaged markers at the historic Agua Mansa Cemetery and created new interpretive exhibits in the chapel building.

West Nile Virus – The Division of Environmental Health Services conducted presentations to over 800 K-8th grade children in Fontana about how to protect themselves and their families from West Nile Virus (WNV). These presentations were conducted during the peak of the WNV season and in areas where WNV was most prevalent. Health Educator Amanda Gaspard is presenting to the children.



Visitors to the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands enjoyed Rockin' at the Grove, the museum's July 2012 vintage dance event, and Train Days, our annual celebration of trains, and riding the rails.

AUGUST

Achievement Awards – The County of San Bernardino once again distinguished itself among the nation's counties, winning 15 Achievement Awards for 2012 from the National Association of Counties. Only nine of California's 58 counties were honored in 2012, including Riverside County with two awards.

Dialing for Dollars – Among the NACo award winners was the County Department of Child Support Services for its collaboration with the Transitional Assistance Department on the Dialing for Dollars program. Dialing for Dollars utilizes participants in the Welfare-to-Work program to place phone calls to non-custodial parents with delinquent child support accounts, requesting that payment be made to bring delinquent accounts current. Since the program started, workers have made 169,400 calls and have collected more than \$621,000 in child support payments. As a result of the work experience obtained in this program, 50 percent of these Welfare-to-Work participants have secured permanent employment. Child support collections have increased significantly over the last few years. In spite of the economic downturn, collections have increased by \$11 million in annual collections during the past four years. During 2012, distributed collections increased by 4.3 percent, totaling approximately \$170 million. The child support program includes five federal performance measures which track the extent to which child support agencies are effectively and efficiently managing their caseloads. The department has shown significant improvement in each measure in recent years, and received the State child support Director's Excellence award for exceeding all State-established performance goals in 2011.



The Division of Environmental Health Services also received a 2012 NACo Award for the Development of a Mobile Website to increase public accessibility to Environmental Health Services. This award was presented by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and received by Dean Holsonbake, Jim Nichol and Ray Britain.

AUGUST

Vision Achievement – The Countywide Vision Water Element Group unveiled the region’s first-ever water inventory showing that more than enough water will exist to meet the needs of San Bernardino County residents and businesses through 2035 only if water users step-up conservation efforts and the public and local government leaders are willing to invest in projects that will store and protect additional water supplies. The project marked a historic degree of cooperation between separate, independent water agencies, which was honored with the Building Industry Association Baldy View Chapter 2012 Good Government Award.



Board of Supervisors Chair Josie Gonzales, County CEO Greg Devereaux, and Water Element Group members Celeste Cantu and Kirby Brill accept the Good Government Award.

Animal Adoption Challenge – The Animal Care and Control Division was one of 50 animal shelter systems who participated in the ASPCA – Rachael Ray 100k Challenge during the months of August, September and October 2012. During this national competition, animals returned to their owners increased by 25 percent, private adoptions increased by 17.5 percent, and rescue group placements remained consistent when compared to the previous year.



Stroke Center – ARMC, which developed the County of San Bernardino’s first primary stroke center, received a two-year stroke center recertification from the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program. This designation demonstrates that ARMC has achieved the highest national standards to provide the best care available for patients suffering a stroke.

SEPTEMBER

Prison Realignment Summit – The San Bernardino County Reentry Collaborative (SBCRC) hosted a Partnership for Safer Communities Summit on September 20 at the San Bernardino Hilton. The

purpose of the summit was to provide information to the public, law enforcement and policy makers on national, state, and local levels about the re-entry efforts brought forth by the collaborative to make San Bernardino County communities safer. Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, Health Officer; Dr. Teresa Frausto, Medical Director, Department of Behavioral Health; Veronica Kelley, Deputy Director, Department of Behavioral Health; and Gary Madden, Director, 2-1-1 San Bernardino County represented the Data, Gaps and Resource for Reentry Population Panel and discussed the health care needs of the reentry population and the gaps that exist in accessing services. Phyllis Morris, Interim Director, Public Defender; Michelle Scray-Brown, Chief Probation Officer; Robert Fonzi, Undersheriff; and Michael Fermin, Assistant District Attorney represented the Public Safety Panel and discussed some of the ways to protect our neighborhoods and reduce recidivism.



Public Defender Phyllis Morris, Chief Probation Officer Michelle Scray, Undersheriff Robert Fonzi, and Assistant District Attorney Michael Fermin.

Project of the Year – Cucamonga Basin #6 in Upland received the Project of the Year award from the Inland Empire Chapter of the American Public Works Association. The basin is truly a multi-purpose facility that provides flood protection for thousands of residents in the cities of Upland and Rancho Cucamonga. The basin also provides recreational use via the system of trails open to the public.



Cucamonga Basin #6

Recovery Happens – More than 1,000 participants received resources and education at Recovery Happens Month Events hosted by the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and its contracted Alcohol and Drug Service (ADS) partners. DBH and its ADS partners are proud to continue the tradition of observing September as Recovery Happens Month in celebration of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. 2012's theme was a call to action, "Join the Voices for Recovery, It's Worth It." Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of treatment for substance use and mental disorders, celebrates people in recovery, acknowledges the contributions of treatment providers and promotes the message that recovery, in all its forms, is possible. Furthermore, Recovery Month spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective and people can and do recover.

OCTOBER

National Fossil Day – The San Bernardino County Museum celebrated National Fossil Day on October 17. Museum paleontologists and geologists showcased recently discovered fossils from the Tule Springs area north of Las Vegas as well as from Joshua Tree National Park. Museum visitors got up-close and personal with fossilized remains of extinct mammoths from the Ice Ages. Mammoths were the official mascots for National Fossil Day in 2012 and represent a huge proportion of the Museum's paleontology collections. County Museum scientists were eager to participate, since mammoths have proven to be critical discoveries in multiple ongoing paleontologic investigations. Extensive fieldwork in the upper Las Vegas Wash has produced abundant and well-preserved fossil remains of Columbian mammoths, *Mammuthus columbi*, that date to the Pleistocene Epoch, or "Ice Ages".

Domestic Violence Awareness – At a press conference in October 2012 held in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and 17-year-old murder victims Tania Villalobos and Willie Wiltz, District Attorney Michael Ramos and San Bernardino Police Chief Robert Handy reaffirmed their commitment to fight domestic violence. Ramos and Handy stood at the gravesite of Tania Villalobos, who was murdered by her husband, Alejandro Hernandez Villalobos, in 2010, as the result of a domestic violence dispute in the City of San Bernardino. In July 2011, Alejandro Villalobos was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 50 years in state prison. In 2011, the District Attorney's Office filed 3,062 misdemeanor and felony domestic violence cases in San Bernardino County. Nine of those cases involved murder. In order to further educate the public about domestic violence, the District Attorney's Office and the San Bernardino Police Department have also partnered with the Mexican Consulate of San Bernardino to produce a 15-minute educational video focusing on myths in the Hispanic community regarding domestic violence.

One Million Served – In a little more than a year since it opened, the Transitional Assistance Department's (TAD) Customer Service Centers have assisted more than 1 million customers. There are two Customer Service Center sites, one in San Bernardino and one in Hesperia. There will soon be a small satellite Customer Service Center unit in Ontario. The Customer Service Center handles all the customer calls for continuing CalWORKs (cash aid), CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps), and Medi-Cal cases. The Eligibility Workers who work at the Customer Service Center work with a "One and Done" philosophy and attempt to complete all the casework related to the phone calls. Tori Fredieu, the Eligibility Worker who handled the 1 millionth call was surprised with a cash prize that was donated by the TAD Director and Center Deputy Director. The TAD Customer Service Center continues to be a model for other counties to follow. The center has hosted visits from 15 California

Counties, the State of Kansas, USDA Food and Nutrition Services, California's Health Benefit Exchange Board, and various San Bernardino County departments.



TAD Director Nancy Swanson, millionth call EW Tori Fredieu, and CSC Deputy Director June Hutchinson.

Great California ShakeOut – Millions of Californians participated in the Great California ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill in history, which happened at 10:18 a.m. on October 18, 2012. The ShakeOut is organized to inspire Californians to get ready for big earthquakes and practice how to protect themselves when it happens. The educational epicenters of ShakeOut-related activities were held at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands as well as in the high desert at the Victor Valley Museum. During this educational and fun-filled event, students participated in the Drop Cover and Hold On Drill, joining nearly 9.4 million Californians in the largest earthquake drill in the world. They were also treated to an Earthquake Preparedness fair, complete with emergency equipment, emergency responders, and earthquake preparedness educational activities.

NOVEMBER

Adoption Event – On November 14, 2012, at the Ontario Convention Center, approximately 77 foster children formalized their adoption. Children and Family Services facilitates approximately 200 adoptions per year. The Annual Adoption Event honors both the children and their adoptive families, as they legally become one. The families legally united in ceremonies performed by San Bernardino County Judges: Honorable Gregory S. Tavill, Honorable Barbara A. Buchholz, Honorable Cheryl C. Kersey and the Honorable Christopher B. Marshall. Every year, CFS renews and strengthens its commitment to keep siblings together. All of the children at the event were living with their caregivers, relatives or prospective adoptive parents for some time. There were sibling sets consisting of two (2) to six (6) children adopted together into their permanent families. There were children of all ages joining families.



Probation Achievement – The County Probation Department’s efforts to cope with State Prison Realignment were hailed as one of the top programs in the state by the California State Association of Counties and one of the top programs in the country by the National Association of Counties. October 2012 marked the first full year of Assembly Bill 109 operations for the County Probation Department. AB109 had the effect of realigning certain offenders who had not been convicted of serious, sexual, or violent felonies from state to county jurisdiction. For the Probation Department, this meant that a projected 6,700 additional offenders may fall under probation department jurisdiction. In response to state prison realignment, the department hired and trained 107 additional officers, added several probation units and programs, and opened three adult day reporting centers countywide, all of which contributed to a reduction of the overall county recidivism rate from 82.5 percent to approximately 7 percent.



The County promotes its regular pet adoption efforts and campaigns during its monthly television segment on NBC affiliate Telemundo 52. Pictured above is Cynthia Turk, Health Education Specialist, along with her four-legged companion "Amigo", a 3-year-old Chihuahua mix, informing viewers about the many homeless pets available at County animal shelters. This segment aired on Tuesday, November 20, 2012.

Senior Outreach – The CalFresh Senior Outreach Partnership is a collaborative effort between the San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department and the Department of Aging and Adult

Services. This program provides dual services of education and application assistance to the senior population of our County. Nutrition is essential to the health and well being of our senior populations. This partnership informs seniors of the CalFresh program and assists them in applying for nutritional assistance. Aging and Adult staff visit Senior Centers, Assisted Living Facilities, Community Centers and other facilities/agencies to assess the needs of seniors, including their nutritional needs, and assist senior citizens in completing CalFresh applications. After one year of this project, participation in CalFresh by seniors had increased 25.6%. DAAS and TAD jointly won two awards in 2012, a NACo Achievement Award and a CSAC Merit award for their "CalFresh Senior Outreach Partnership" project.

Community Center – County Preschool Services also received a 2012 Challenge Merit Award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) in recognition of the partnership between the PSD and City of San Bernardino in a joint venture to re-open the Nicholson Park Family and Community Resource Center. The center provides a wide array of classes and tutoring for children and adults and other vital services to the community.

Trauma Center – ARMC's trauma center was verified for a third time by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), a unique distinction that demonstrates it has met the highest national standards for the treatment of injured patients. ARMC's trauma center remains the only trauma center in the County of San Bernardino verified by the ACS.

DECEMBER

New Supervisors – Supervisors Josie Gonzales, Robert A. Lovingood and James C. Ramos began new four-year terms on the Board of Supervisors following Oath of Office ceremonies at the County Government Center on December 3. "We now have a board that can communicate, that can discuss, that can disagree, and can arrive at a consensus by which thought has been processed and opinions have been shared and that the conclusion will be of benefit to the people," Supervisor Gonzales said.



New Supervisors Robert A. Lovingood and James C. Ramos

New Sheriff – On December 18, the Board of Supervisors unanimously appointed Assistant Sheriff John McMahon to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff Rod Hoops, who plans to retire on December 31. The appointment was supported by the county's police chiefs and other law enforcement leaders, officials from communities that contract with the Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services, and other community leaders and groups.

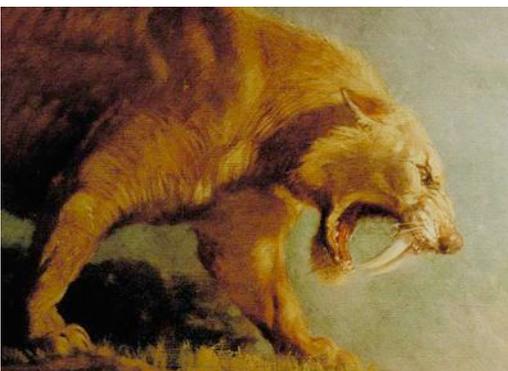


Sheriff John McMahon

Political Reform – Under a contract unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 18, the state Fair Political Practices Commission will enforce the County of San Bernardino Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance, which goes into effect on Jan. 1. The county is the first local government agency to contract with the FPPC for enforcement of a local reform ordinance. The revolutionary concept of utilizing the FPPC stemmed from the need to find a cost-effective and objective means of enforcing the ordinance, free from the possibility of local influence or political bias. Other counties have expressed an interest in following San Bernardino County's lead.

Homes for Pets – The Animal Care and Control Division of the Department of Public Health increased dog and cat adoptions by 8% in 2012 (from 7,538 pets placed in 2011 to 8,142 pets placed in 2012). County operated animal shelters currently have one of the highest pet placement/live release rates at 63.5% and one of the lowest euthanasia rates at 35% when compared to the other shelters in the region. Other pet dispositions amounted to 1.5% as of December 18, 2012.

Sabre-Toothed Cats – The San Bernardino County Museum announced it had found sabre-toothed cat fossils in Las Vegas, a first-of-its-kind discovery that makes headlines across the nation. "We're ecstatic," exclaimed Kathleen Springer, Senior Curator for the San Bernardino County Museum and lead scientist for studies in the upper Las Vegas Wash. "We've been saying for years that these critters were out here, somewhere. It was just a matter of time until we found one." The new discoveries date to approximately 15,000 years ago, according to radiocarbon analyses. "We're establishing a tight radiocarbon chronology for the entire Tule Springs region," says Springer, "and that work allows us to place individual fossils into our temporal framework. This is essential for understanding how living communities responded to environmental changes through time."





Arrowhead ARTS ASSOCIATION

2013, Volume I

The Mountains Are Alive With the Sound of Music

Welcome to the first edition of our online newsletter. We hope to bring you, our members, news of the Arrowhead Arts Association on a quarterly basis so that you can see all that is happening in our efforts to bring "the magic of music to the mountains."

Board for 2013

Sharon McCormick - President
George Tucker - Vice-President
Barbara Douth - Treasurer
Susie Stuart - Recording Sec.
Merle Jenkins - Corresponding Sec.
Jim Atwood - Director
Ken Camarella - Director
Bob Gladwell - Director
Pat Jongerius - Director
Lori Pearson - Director and AAA
Auxiliary representative
Jo Bonita Rains - Director
Chyrl Russell - Director



The string students participated in the Blue Jay Christmas Parade with the marching violins and violas and a truck full of cellos.

Upcoming Events

PolaRotary Bear Plunge February 2, 2013

Lorna Polley and John Connor (and Bob Gladwell, not pictured) took a delightful dip in Lake Arrowhead last February to raise funds for Arrowhead Arts Association and Rotary. Their costumes as “American Gothic” were a huge hit and the efforts of the three “plungers” raised \$1,635 for AAA! If you’d like to support our four jumpers this February, (Lorna and John, and Bob and Diane Gladwell) please contact Barbara Doutt at 909-336-4796..



Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra February 10, 2013 Our Lady of the Lake Church 2:00 PM

Come and enjoy this wonderful FREE concert as the PYSO treats us to pieces such as Stravinsky’s “Firebird Suite,” and Tchaikovsky’s “Symphony No. 5.” Families are welcome.



Arrowhead Arts Association Auxiliary



Through putting on the annual Gala, hard work volunteering year-round at the Blue Jay Thrift Shop and preparing beautiful baskets offered at the Summer Music Festival, the AAA Auxiliary is kept busy and raises much-needed funds to support scholarships and string instruction. A wonderful check for \$27,000 was presented to the Association at the Auxiliary's end-of-year party. Thrift Shop workers in attendance are pictured above. (l-r: Merle Jenkins, Christi Schneider, Barbara Samuels, Barbara Carbajal, Hortensia Jurado, Pat Jongerius)



Board for 2013

Lori Peterson - President

Chyrl Russell - 1st Vice-President
Youth Enrichment Program

Barbara Carbajal - 2nd Vice-President
Ways and Means

Pat Jongerius - 3rd Vice-President
Membership

Merle Jenkins - Treasurer

Diane Batman - Recording
Secretary

Marsha Meech - Corresponding
Secretary

Hortensia Jurado - Parliamentarian

STREET SMART



Newsletter and Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

www.sanbag.ca.gov

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276

JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA:

The complete SANBAG Board of Directors Meeting Agenda is online at:

 www.sanbag.ca.gov/about/agenda.html

► SANBAG Appoints New Director of Legislative Affairs

SANBAG President Rutherford announced that a new Director of Legislative Affairs will join the agency in January. Wendy Villa Strack comes to SANBAG from Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) where she has served as the State Relations Manager. Wendy has many years of government and legislative affairs experience and is highly regarded in this field.



Wendy Villa Strack

► Community Advisory Group Applications still being accepted

Three Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) are still being formed to study the concept of utilizing Express Lanes in the future along the I-10 Corridor from Ontario to Redlands and along the I-15 Corridor between State Route 60 north through the Cajon Pass. The CAGs will meet quarterly for the next several years. Anyone interested in participating in one of the three CAGs should contact SANBAG Public Information Officer Jane Dreher to have the application forms e-mailed:

jdreher@sanbag.ca.gov

SANBAG BOARD BRIEFS:

► “Iron Horse Café” to open in Santa Fe Depot

The SANBAG Board approved a lease agreement with owners of the Iron Horse Café, Inc. to open a café/snack shop in 714 sq. ft. of the main floor lobby of the Santa Fe Depot located at 1170 W. 3rd St., San Bernardino. SANBAG currently occupies the entire second floor of the Depot for its offices. The café will serve a variety of gourmet sandwiches, salads, beverages, and snacks to people utilizing the depot to board the Metrolink and Amtrak train services, business people for lunch, or visitors who come to look at the historic building. The depot is also home to the San Bernardino Historic Railroad Museum, located adjacent to the café. The Museum will provide historic railroad items to enhance the décor of the new café. The Iron Horse Café will operate a mobile food and beverage cart near the Metrolink platform located west of the Depot building. The cart will be a welcome sight to Metrolink commuters as they rush to board the train early in the morning.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

► Countywide Regional Plan Discussed

Efforts by SANBAG and the County to achieve the Countywide Vision are now including talk of a Countywide Regional Plan. SANBAG Board members heard a presentation from County Chief Executive Officer Greg Devereaux on how a Countywide Regional Plan would benefit all of the county’s communities and assist in the realization of the Vision. Mr. Devereaux suggested the plan should be the product of SANBAG in its role as a Council of Governments. It would later be considered and adopted by the County and the county’s 24 cities and towns.

Mr. Devereaux also presented an example of the type of product that could be used in the production of such a plan – a County-commissioned study of the county’s remaining developable land. Although this study is not yet complete, it has already yielded some interesting data: Less than 2,000 of the county’s more than 20,000 square miles remain available for development, after protected state and federal land, earthquake zones, and other constraints are factored in.

JANUARY 2013

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JAN 16	General Policy Comm.	9:00 am
JAN 17	Board Study Session	9:00 am
JAN 24	Commuter Rail / Transit	10:00 am
JAN 25	Mountain/Desert	9:30 am

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS

JAN 11	I-15/Ranchero Road Interchange Groundbreaking Hesperia	10:00 am
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Interstate 215 Widening Project - A Countdown to Completion



For the past six years, SANBAG and Caltrans have been working collaboratively on the \$723 million Interstate 215 (I-215) Widening Project near Downtown San Bernardino – currently the largest freeway construction project in the Inland Empire.



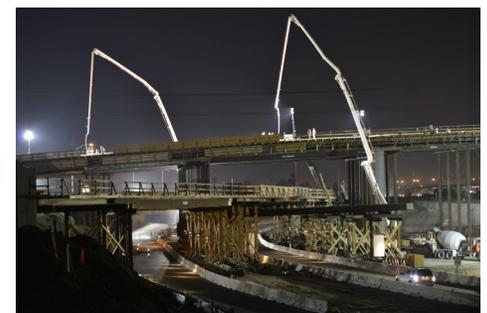
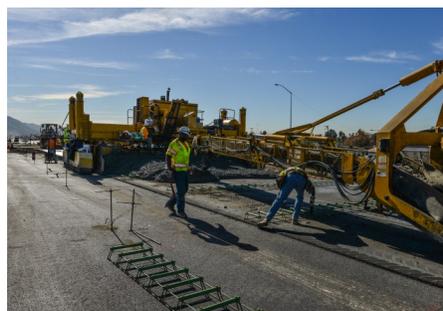
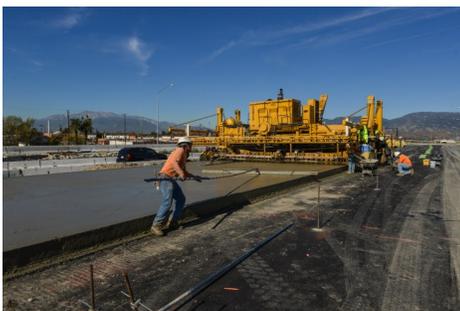
The 7.5-mile project, which consists of four phases, spans from Orange Show Road to University Parkway. To date, three phases have been completed with the last phase entering the final year of construction and approximately 85 percent complete. Project improvements include rebuilding 15 bridges and 34 ramps, widening the freeway from six to 10 lanes with one carpool lane in each direction, building sound walls through residential areas, and constructing new freeway connectors between State Route 210 and I-215.



Thanks to collaboration among project partners and support from the community, project completion is expected this summer - many months ahead of schedule. Here are the major elements remaining on the project:

- I-215 mainline between 2nd and 3rd Street
- Northbound I-215 5th Street Off-Ramp
- Baseline Street On- and Off-Ramps
- 16th Street Bridge Reconstruction
- SR-259 to I-215 Connectors

As you can see from the box above, SANBAG will deliver a series of major milestones during the upcoming spring and summer that will benefit motorists and greatly improve mobility efficiency through the area. This is a result of solid partnerships among transportation agencies, which includes the Federal Highway Administration and \$128 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, Caltrans, the City of San Bernardino, and the team from Skanska-Rados for their work on this complicated final phase of construction. We look forward to announcing a completion ceremony date this summer to celebrate another significant transportation improvement in San Bernardino County.



2013	SPRING	SUMMER	Estimated Completion FALL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ NB I-215 5th Street Off-Ramp Opening ▶ 16th Street Bridge Opening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ I-215 2nd Street and 3rd Street Underpass Completion ▶ I-215 to SR-259 Connector Completion ▶ SB I-215 Baseline Street On- and Off-Ramp Opening ▶ NB I-215 Baseline Street On-Ramp Opening 	<p>Estimated Completion of \$723 M Project</p>



YARD SALE!



To Benefit The Animals

Saturday - February 16th

6:00 AM 3:00 PM



**Upland Animal Shelter
1275 San Bernardino Rd.**

Upland, CA 91786

**For Information, Call
909-931-4185**

**Donate Your Used Items
Save Lives**



San Bernardino County Association of African American Employees Presents...

*20th Annual Black History Month
and Scholarship Recognition Celebration*
"Honoring Our Heritage - Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"

Celebrate with us in an Evening of Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction, Networking and Fellowship

Thursday, February 28, 2013 • 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

The National Orange Show Events Center - 689 South "E" Street, San Bernardino CA 92408

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Terrance Roberts

Member of the Famed "Little Rock Nine"

Ticket Price

\$45 Per Person

\$360 Event Table (seats 8)

Price includes sit-down dinner

Make check payable to: SBCAAAE

Mail to: PO Box 11734, San Bernardino CA 92423

Honorees

Wilmer Amina Carter

Former Assemblywoman

Thelma Moore-Guillary

Founding Officer and Past President

Patricia Nickols

Community Action Partnership, CEO

Reggie Webb

Webb Family Enterprises, Owner Operator

Wanda Wells

Former Business Owner, Wanda's Upholstery

Click Link to Purchase Tickets: <http://sbcaaae.eventbrite.com>

Media Contact: Media Relations, (626) 302-2255

Southern Californians Bundle Up as Freeze Warnings Issued Southern California Edison Offers Tips During Cold Spell

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Jan. 14, 2013 — As the [National Weather Service](#) issued a freeze warning and frost advisory throughout Southern California until tomorrow morning, Southern Californians are doing their best to stay warm during this surprising cold spell.

SCE reminds its customers to stay safe when using electricity during cold weather spells, especially around portable heaters and electric blankets. For more information, go to: www.sce.com/staysafe.

Customers can also report unplanned outages on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), via our mobile “SCE Outages” app, online at www.sce.com/outages and via phone at 1-800-655-4555.

Other safety tips for cold weather include:

- Candles, charcoal and any open flame indoors can pose a safety hazard. Make sure you are well prepared for an outage, especially if you rely on electric heat.
- Keep your children at least three feet from your furnace, fire place, wood stove or portable heater.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- If you are using space heaters, try to keep one room warm at a time. It’s safer and will help to keep your electric bill lower. Remember to turn your portable heater off when you leave a room or go to bed.
- Make sure your electric blanket is in good working condition and turn it off when you are not using it.
- Plug portable heaters directly into electrical wall outlets and do not use extension cords.
- Never use equipment designed for outdoor cooking and heating indoors because it releases toxic fumes.
- Check on elderly and medically fragile neighbors to make sure they are safe during an outage.

For more tips and updates on outages, follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/SCE), and like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SCE).

About Southern California Edison

An Edison International (NYSE:EIX) company, Southern California Edison is one of the nation's largest electric utilities, serving a population of nearly 14 million via 4.9 million customer accounts in a 50,000-square-mile service area within Central, Coastal and Southern California.

###

US Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

602 S. Tippecanoe Ave San Bernardino, CA 92408



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Miller 909-382-2788

Bald Eagles Seen In Local Mountains

San Bernardino, Calif., January 12, 2013 – On Saturday January 12, 2013 the second bald eagle count of the winter was conducted by local Federal and State biologists and volunteers around lakes in the southern California.

Despite frigid temperatures, almost 200 hardy volunteers turned out to help count our magnificent national birds. The count helps tally the bald eagles that spend their winter vacations at local lakes. During the winter, our numbers of bald eagles in southern California increase as the resident eagles are joined by eagles that have migrated south to find food.

A grand total of twelve eagles (9 adults and 3 juveniles) were observed at the lake areas during the 1- hour count. Five eagles (3 adults and 2 juveniles) were observed in the Big Bear Lake; Two adult eagles were observed at Lake Arrowhead. No eagles were seen at Lake Gregory. One adult eagle was seen at Silverwood Lake. A pair of adult eagles was observed adding to their nest at Lake Hemet. Two eagles (1 adult and 1 juvenile) thrilled observers at Lake Perris). Juvenile eagles are distinguished by a brown head and tail; adults are recognized by the famous white head and tail - it takes 4-5 years to acquire full adult coloration. Juvenile eagles are the same size as the adults.

Approximately 183 observers participated in the 1-hour eagle census (29 at Big Bear Lake, 8 at Lake Arrowhead/Lake Gregory, 22 at Lake Hemet, 66 at Silverwood Lake, and 58 at Lake Perris). The count coordinators from the Forest Service and State Recreation Areas would like to thank those volunteers for their dedication in getting up early and participating in the eagle census. The success of the eagle counts are entirely dependent on the volunteers!

Cold temperatures did not deter eagle activities. Quite a few volunteers saw their very first bald eagle! Volunteers had to bundle up due to the recent cold spell. During the count period, volunteers in Big Bear braved the single-digit temperatures after it “warmed up” after hitting zero degrees overnight. Even though much of Big Bear Lake was covered with ice, eagles were seen around the pockets of open water where ducks were clustered. Bald eagles forage on ducks and fish.

The remaining bald eagle counts for this winter are scheduled for the following Saturday mornings: February 9 and March 9. No experience needed. Signing up ahead of time is unnecessary – just show up at the designated time and location, dress warmly, bring binoculars and a watch.

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AT YOUR SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 24, 2013

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4717
dwert@sbcounty.gov



Ground broken for new Spring Valley Lake fire station

VICTORVILLE – After 20 years of working out of a single-wide trailer, the San Bernardino County Fire Department will soon have a permanent home in the Spring Valley Lake area.

Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood, County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig and other dignitaries today broke ground on what will be a state-of-the-art permanent fire station serving Spring Valley Lake and helping the county to fulfill its contract responsibility to the City of Victorville.

“This will shave one to two minutes off of our response times and be a great service to the schools that are nearby,” Supervisor Lovingood said. “On Day One this station will be fully staffed and fully equipped.”

Supervisor Lovingood commended his predecessor, Brad Mitzelfelt, for working to obtain the funding and support for the station’s construction.

The 6,300 square foot facility will include an apparatus bay for housing two engines, as well as sleep rooms, restrooms, an exercise room, lobby, kitchen, and dining areas. There will also be an additional 600-square-foot equipment storage building constructed adjacent to the main facility.

“This is really the community station,” said Chief Hartwig. “This is your place. This is your house.”

The \$3.15 million largely federally-funded station will be located at 12398 Tamarisk Road in the City of Victorville. Much of the funding comes from a federal program aimed at reimbursing local government for the costs of providing services to tax-exempt federal land.

Spring Valley Lake Fire Station #22 will save taxpayers money by serving as a design template for future fire stations.

- **Big Bear Lake** area volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Forest Service's Big Bear Discovery Center on North Shore Drive for orientation. Contact Robin Eliason (reliason@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2832) for more information. Contact the Discovery Center (909-866-2789) for information about Eagle Celebrations.
- **Lake Arrowhead/Lake Gregory** volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Skyforest Ranger Station for orientation. Contact Robin Eliason (reliason@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2832) for more information.
- **Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area** volunteers should plan to meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. for orientation. Contact Kathy Williams or Mark Wright for more information about volunteering or taking an eagle tour (760-389-2303 between 8:00 and 4:00; or email: khwilliams@parks.ca.gov).
- **Lake Hemet** volunteers should plan on meeting at the Lake Hemet Grocery Store at 8:30 a.m. for orientation. Contact Anne Poopatanapong (apoopatanapong@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2935) for more information.
- **Lake Perris State Recreation Area** volunteers should plan to meet at the Lake Perris Regional Indian Museum at 8:00 for orientation. Contact the office for more information at 951-940-5600.

See websites for additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/>) and the California State Recreation Areas (www.parks.ca.gov).

###

Background

The best time of year to see bald eagles in Southern California is during winter months when there is an influx of eagles. Migrating eagles typically begin arriving in the area in late November and leave in late March or early April.

Bald eagles are usually found close to water because their diet is primarily made up of fish and ducks. As winter approaches in those northern regions, lakes freeze over and waterfowl fly south. For bald eagles, that means that the food they eat has become scarce. So, they head south looking for areas with abundant food supplies and end up wintering in sunny southern California!

During the winter, southern California bald eagles are typically found at many of the lakes, including Big Bear Lake, Baldwin Lake, Silverwood Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Green Valley Lake, Grass Valley Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains and Prado Dam, Lake Perris, Lake Hemet, Lake Skinner, Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Matthews, and the Salton Sea to the south.

Through radio-tracking bald eagles, biologists learned that some of the same individual eagles return to the San Bernardino Mountains year after year. We also determined that there is a lot of movement of eagles between the different mountain lakes and that the lakes do not have distinctive separate populations—the eagles regularly move between the mountain lakes.

Radio-tracking and/or banding also revealed that the eagles that winter in the San Bernardino Mountains migrate to Southern California from Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Canada. Those regions are likely where most of our migratory bald eagles nest in spring and summer. Some of our San Bernardino Mountains' eagles were tracked all the way to Alberta and the Northwest Territories in Canada - that is about 2,000 miles one-way! For more information regarding bald eagle migratory routes for these and other California eagles go to the University of Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group's web site at (<http://www2.ucsc.edu/scpbrg/baeamigration.htm>). While the evidence suggests a northern interior migration for most of the bald eagles, some of our southern California eagles have traveled fewer miles, moving over from the Channel Islands.

Breeding populations of bald eagles in Southern California were extirpated by the late 1950s. Until reintroduction efforts began in the 1980s on Catalina Island, the southern-most nest site known in California was in Lake County. Since 2003, several pairs of bald eagles have decided that our southern California neighborhoods were too nice to leave – they built nests and have successfully raised families. Nesting bald eagles can now be found at Lake Hemet, Lake Skinner, Lake Matthews, and Big Bear Lake. As the populations continue to grow, more bald eagles are in our future.

This is exactly what happened at Lake Hemet in Riverside County. The female eagle with orange wing tags “02” hatched at San Francisco Zoo in 2000, and was released on Catalina Island as part of the reintroduction efforts. In 2004, she arrived at Lake Hemet and decided to take up year-round residence with the male bald eagle that was already there. Together, the pair has raised successful nests ever since then. In 2012, the first successful bald eagle nesting ever recorded in the San Bernardino Mountains happened in Big Bear Lake!

As bald eagles raise families in southern California, it is now possible to see bald eagles year-round (not just during winter migrations). Because of the influx of migrating bald eagles during the winter, the easiest time to see eagles is still between December and March.

The bald eagle is a success story of the federal Endangered Species Act – through protection under that law, its populations have recovered from the brink of extinction. Captive breeding programs, reintroduction efforts, the banning of DDT, and public education have all helped in the recovery of this species. There are over 10,000 breeding pairs in the United States and they now breed again in all 49 of the continental United States (they have never bred in Hawaii).

Because of the population rebound, bald eagles are no longer in jeopardy of going extinct. While bald eagles are no longer protected under federal Endangered Species Act, they still have full protection under the Bald Eagle Protection Act and under the State of California's Endangered Species Act. These laws make it illegal to harm or harass bald eagles. It is also illegal to possess bald eagle parts, even a feather.

Catching a glimpse of our breath-taking national symbol is relatively easy during winter months. There are some fantastic opportunities for excellent close-up photographs too. Just look in the tallest trees around the lake near open water for perching eagles. Or, if the lake is partly frozen, look for eagles perched on the ice near small groups of ducks using the open water.

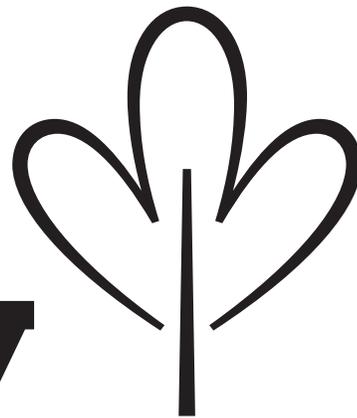
If you want to look for eagles in the Big Bear area, stop by the Forest Service's Big Bear Discovery Center (on North Shore Drive, 1-1/2 miles west of Stanfield Cutoff) and pick up a handout on eagles. Also, join us for one of our free public talks and other Eagle Celebration events on January 19th and February 9th.

If you are in Garner Valley and want to see the resident pair, stop by the Forest Service's Lake Hemet Day Use Area and just look across the lake. The birds are often flying overhead fishermen and or sitting in trees above the picnic area.

Remember that human presence may distract or disturb the eagles - so, try to limit your movements and don't make loud noises when they're nearby. If possible, remain in your car while looking at eagles - the car acts as a blind. Stay a respectful distance of at least 200-300' away from perched bald eagles. Do not get closer than 1/4 mile away nesting bald eagles – trying to get a closer look may result in eagles becoming agitated and knocking eggs or chicks out to the nest. It is illegal to harm or harass bald eagles. Please do your part to help protect our national bird!

COME CELEBRATE

National Arbor Day



With an Urban Tree Planting Event:

March 7th - April 26th

Giving away

FREE TREES

including fruit trees



- SCHOOLS 
- SENIOR CENTERS 
- NURSING FACILITIES 
- CHURCHES 
- COMMUNITY CENTERS 
- URBAN HOUSING COMPLEXES 

Plant a Tree in Honor of:

-  Family
-  Birth
-  Death
-  Graduation
-  Marriage
-  Military Service

*CERTIFICATE OF HONOREE PROVIDED
suggested donation \$5.*

WE WILL HELP YOU!!

▲ PLANT IN THE GROUND!

▲ PROVIDE A YOUNG TREE IN A CONTAINER FOR YOUR TERRACE!

▲ TEACH YOU HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TREE!

Email or Call Mary Petit | mary_petit@yahoo.com | ☎ 941-276-1150
*make your tree reservation now | limited supply
(west end of San Bernardino County)*

