

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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Supervisors Ovitt and Rutherford take Oath of Office

SAN BERNARDINO – Supervisors Gary C. Ovitt and Janice Rutherford began new four-year terms on the Board of Supervisors following Oath of Office ceremonies at the County Government Center today.

Supervisor Ovitt, who currently serves as Board of Supervisors Chairman, will continue to represent the Fourth District, which includes the cities of Ontario, Chino, Chino Hills, and Montclair. Ovitt has been on the board since 2004 and previously served as the Mayor of Ontario. He was re-elected in June.

Supervisor Rutherford represents the Second District, which includes the cities of Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, and a majority of Fontana. The district also includes the unincorporated communities of Crestline, San Antonio Heights, Lytle Creek, Devore and Mt. Baldy. Rutherford, who until today served on the Fontana City Council, was elected to the Board of Supervisors in November.

"We are more open and transparent as to how we conduct the public's business. We are more efficient and accountable. We are better managed and administered. We have a better road map as to what we need to be doing, why and when. We have the right leaders in the right positions, and we are fiscally solvent and will remain so," Chairman Ovitt said today. " We are doing our best to sustain the most favorable economic climate possible in these troubled times."

"I look forward to building a collegial and professional relationship with my fellow supervisors so we can work together to develop regional solutions and a shared vision for the County of San Bernardino," Supervisor Rutherford said. "We also must work to restore the public's faith in their elected officials by embracing openness and transparency at every level of County government and by ensuring that officials are held accountable for their actions."

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Supervisors Ovitt and Rutherford join Vice Chair Josie Gonzales and supervisors Brad Mitzelfelt and Neil Derry in leading a dynamic public service organization of more than 18,000 employees working in 40 departments that provide a diverse array of vital public services. Those services include law enforcement, prosecution and defense, fire protection, economic development, aid to the needy, road and flood control construction and maintenance, elections, parks, museums, libraries, and a variety of healthcare services.

The board faces the difficult task of leading the county through a fiscal crisis brought on by a sharp downturn in local property values, stagnant sales tax revenues, and a seriously unstable state budget. The county is projecting budget shortfalls of \$37.2 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2011 and \$135.2 million over the next five years, most of it attributable to contracted employee salary increases and retirement costs.