

# NEWS

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## County creates new unit to assist Board offices

Staff members from various Board of Supervisors offices will transfer into the County Administrative Office to form a new unit aimed at assisting the entire board on projects, duties with other government organizations, and legislation.

The unit was approved by the board today as part of the 2010-11 budget, which goes into effect Thursday.

"This function will take a significant amount of burden off of the Board of Supervisors and allow the board to focus squarely on policy and constituent services," said County Administrative Officer Greg Devereaux.

The five positions that staff the board's Office of Legislative Affairs, First District Field Representative John Richardson, Fourth District Chief of Staff Mark Kirk, Fourth District Analyst Michael Delgado, Fifth District Chief of Staff Bob Page are among those who have been identified to serve in the CAO's office. Land Use Services Director Dena Smith will also play a key leadership role in the new organization.

"Exceptionally talented individuals like Bob Page deserve the wonderful opportunity that forming this new unit brings. I am very proud of him and will support him in his new capacity assisting the entire board on projects. My office will miss his wisdom and leadership. However, creating this office is part of the major change that I support and I know it is a necessary step in making sure this county stays focused on its mission. Bob is destined to accomplish great things in this county," said Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales.

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"Mark Kirk and Michael Delgado are very talented and experienced people of the highest caliber who have served my constituents well. They will be a great asset as we reshape the county's administration to provide better service to the Board of Supervisors and the public," said Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt.

"John Richardson has been a tremendous asset to the people of the First District who has provided great service to our communities and our residents," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. "By taking advantage of this opportunity, John will now become a great asset to the whole board and the administration as we make ourselves into a better, leaner, and more efficient organization."

In total, the Board of Supervisors is reducing its budget by \$2.5 million. The CAO is balancing his reduced budget in part by transferring positions into other departments to strengthen their analytical capabilities.

"The people coming into my office from the board are all top-notch professionals who have served the county well and will continue to do so on a broader scale," Mr. Devereaux said.