

NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

www.sbcounty.gov/Biane

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Chairman Biane asks cities to adopt “green” concept

SAN BERNARDINO – The Green County San Bernardino programs adopted on Tuesday represent a first step toward more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly development, but the county needs partners to make a bigger impact, Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane said.

“We are trying to lead on these issues, but we can’t do it without the help of our cities,” Biane said. “You have to do a lot of little things to have a lot of impact.”

Biane made the comments shortly before Supervisors approved four Green County San Bernardino programs in a 4-0 vote, with Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales absent. The approved programs:

- Require new county buildings and major renovations of existing county facilities to comply with U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards (County-supported library projects in Fontana and Highland are currently being built to LEED standards);
- Provide priority plan processing to homebuilders who use California Green Builder standards to build energy-efficient and water-saving homes;
- Waive building permit fees when residents or business owners install solar or wind energy systems, tankless water heaters, and highly energy-efficient air-conditioning and heating systems;
- Authorize the county to create a Website, www.greencountysb.com, that provides residents and businesses tips on how they can “go green” And information on how to take advantage of Green County San Bernardino programs.

California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. commended the measures: “It is great that San Bernardino County has embraced so many worthwhile initiatives to make the county more sustainable.”

Biane said he looks forward to implementing further initiatives that protect the environment and promote sustainable development and that he hopes others will follow the county’s lead.

“This is really a Southern California issue that needs to be attacked on a regional basis,” he said.

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