

# NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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## Videoconferencing in Joshua Tree starts Tuesday

Participating in Board of Supervisors meetings will become much easier for Morongo Basin residents starting on Tuesday, May 7, when the board begins videoconferencing from the Bob Burke Joshua Tree County Government Center.

Through videoconferencing, the public can testify before the board, make presentations, or simply watch meetings without having to travel to San Bernardino. People addressing the board from Joshua Tree will appear on the screen in the board chambers in San Bernardino and be able to see the board while offering their comments.

"Tuesday will be an exciting day for the residents of the Morongo Basin," said Third District Supervisor James Ramos. "The residents will have greater access to their government, which they have lacked for far too long. I am pleased my colleagues supported this much-needed project and that we were able to have it up and running so quickly."

The board initiated videoconferencing in the High Desert in September 2011 to allow residents to participate in meetings without having to commute to San Bernardino. In February, the board decided to extend that service to the Morongo Basin.

"We are expecting great use of this site as Morongo Basin residents have been very vocal on recent issues affecting the desert communities," Supervisor Ramos said. "We welcome their participation and strongly encourage the use of the new video conferencing site in Joshua Tree."

The videoconferencing center is located on the first floor of the newly opened Bob Burke Joshua Tree County Government Center at 63665 Twentynine Palms Highway in Joshua Tree. The building also contains Supervisor Ramos's Morongo Basin field office as well as

offices for the Sheriff-Coroner, Land Use Services, the Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk, and Probation.

The public portion of Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting begins at 10 a.m. The board welcomes comments from the public on all items being considered by the board throughout each meeting as well as general comments at the end of each meeting.

Meeting agendas can be viewed at <http://cob-sire.sbcounty.gov/sirepub/>. Live and archived meetings can be viewed through CountyDirect at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/main/countydirect.asp>.

Meanwhile, the county is moving the High Desert videoconferencing location from Victorville to Hesperia in an effort to increase participation. High Desert residents will briefly be unable to remotely participate in Board of Supervisors meetings during the transition period. Videoconferencing is expected to return to the High Desert in July.