

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2006

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4082
dwert@sbcounty.gov

Postmus speech highlights many county accomplishments

ONTARIO, Calif. – Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus outlined a record of bold promises fulfilled by even bolder accomplishments during his annual State of the County Address today at the Ontario Convention Center.

Speaking to approximately 1,000 county residents, elected officials, business leaders, and community leaders, Chairman Postmus detailed the county's accomplishments in achieving open and honest government, promoting prosperity, and ensuring public safety.

"The state of our county is strong, and getting stronger," Chairman Postmus proclaimed during his address today. "Our superior quality of life is attracting the kind of economic development that will transform our region into an even better place to live and work."

Chairman Postmus opened his address by outlining the county's efforts to assist the public in obtaining information about the county and in making sure that the county provides honest and ethical service.

He pointed to the county's recent efforts to make additional data and services available free-of-charge on the Internet, including:

- County campaign disclosure reports
- Statements of economic interest
- Facts about county contractors and vendors
- Competitive proposal information
- Streaming video and audio of county meetings
- Searchable database of Board of Supervisors actions
- E-mail updates

-MORE-

State of the County

April 12, 2006

Page 2

Chairman Postmus also highlighted actions aimed at making county government more accountable and service-oriented, such as the revamping of the county management team, policies prohibiting county employees from purchasing surplus county land, disclosure statement filing deadlines and fines for violators, the impending appointment of a county ethics and compliance officer, and recently launched mandatory customer service training for all of the county's 18,000 employees.

"All of these efforts are part of our plan to become a model county that cities and other counties can look to as an example of excellence," he said.

Last year's State of the County Address emphasized Chairman Postmus' call for a renewed focus on county economic development efforts. This year, Chairman Postmus outlined how those efforts have come to life, and how the county's growing prosperity is creating the revenue needed to fully support important public safety measures.

He pointed out that the home-building industry continues to serve as the life-blood of the county's economy with three straight years of assessed valuation growing in double digits. To support those efforts, he pointed to the county's establishment of a one-stop Land Use Services office in the High Desert in July.

Expanding revenues have allowed the county to provide the level of public safety needed and deserved by the county's growing population. Chairman Postmus highlighted many of the county's public safety accomplishments, including:

- Significantly increased funding for firefighting personnel, facilities, and, equipment
- The addition of 37 patrol deputy positions in the unincorporated areas
- Creation of an Identity Theft Prosecution Unit in the District Attorney's Office
- Increased funding to fight gangs
- Creation of an Illegal Alien Identification Unit for county jails
- Purchase of a new county jail in Adelanto
- Formation of a Sex Offender Supervision Unit
- Continued progress in removing trees destroyed by bark beetles

"We need to continue to be creative in our approach to the challenges of growth," Chairman Postmus said. "And we need to work cooperatively among our local, state, and federal agencies and community organizations. If we do that, the state of our county will get even stronger."