

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2004

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County offers free e-mail updates on news and events

Anyone with an e-mail address can now automatically receive timely updates on San Bernardino County news, events, and services completely free of charge through a new service offered by the county.

The county recently launched an e-mail update service through the county website at www.sbcounty.gov allowing anyone with an e-mail address to "subscribe" to portions of the website and receive e-mail notifications when information is added to selected web sites. For example, those who sign up for County Press Releases will receive an e-mail with a web link each time a new press release is issued by the county. Subscribers to the Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda site will be notified whenever a new board agenda is posted and when agenda items are added or changed. And businesses hoping to provide services to the county can arrange to be automatically notified whenever a Request for Proposals is issued.

Currently, visitors to the county website can also sign up for updates from each member of the Board of Supervisors, election information from the Registrar of Voters, and information on new county services and upcoming events posted on the county Internet home page. The county will constantly add to the list of information and services available for e-mail updates.

Earlier this year the Board of Supervisors adopted a comprehensive plan to improve the public's access to county information. The e-mail update service is the first element of the plan to be implemented.

"We're very proud to be one of the few counties in the state and one of the very first local government agencies in Southern California to offer this kind of service to the public," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus, who along with fellow Supervisor Gary Ovitt proposed the overall plan to improve the public's access to San Bernardino County information.

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"This fulfills a promise I made along with the rest of the Board of Supervisors to make county government more open and accessible," Chairman Postmus said.

"The county's e-mail update service will make it much easier for the public to stay up-to-date on county news and events," Supervisor Ovitt said. "I encourage everyone to visit our website and sign up."

County staff is working to implement the remaining elements of the board's information access plan, which includes making county campaign disclosure reports, statements of economic interest, facts about county contractors and vendors, and competitive proposal information available on the Internet. The county is also working to create an on-line searchable database of Board of Supervisors meeting agendas and Board actions.

On a related project proposed by Supervisor Paul Biane, county staff is working to implement the web casting of Board of Supervisors meetings, which would allow the public for the first time to view board meetings live without having to attend in person.

Signing up for e-mail updates is free, easy, and risk-free. Visitors to the county website can click on the red envelope "E-Mail Updates" icon at the top of the homepage to sign up and see what pages are available for subscription. The only information that's required is an e-mail address, which the county will keep confidential. Subscribers can change the pages to which they subscribe or cancel the service at any time.