

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2005

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

Supervisors address county needs in budget adjustment

Buoyed in part by San Bernardino County's strengthening economy, the Board of Supervisors today added 12 patrol deputies to the Sheriff's crime-fighting forces, funded sidewalks for children to use while walking to school, and helped address the county's need for additional nurses as part of the county's mid-year budget adjustments.

At the same time the Board of Supervisors was able to increase the county's reserves to a record \$141.4 million, ensuring the county will be prepared to address any unforeseen needs in the months to come.

"This is a prime example of government at its best," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus. "We've been able to address key needs in the areas of public safety, health care, and quality of life while protecting the county's fiscal health."

Greater-than-anticipated growth in property values, an unexpected reimbursement of vehicle license fees from the state, and wise budgeting decisions by the county created an opportunity for the county to make significant investments in public services. These investments will leave the county with a healthy funding surplus for future needs while improving the quality of life in San Bernardino County, further enhancing property values and attracting high-quality jobs.

The funding approved today reflects countywide priorities established by the public and the Board of Supervisors – public safety, culture and recreation, health care, and responsive government. It also reflects only a 1.3 percent increase in spending above what the Board initially approved for the 2005-06 budget cycle that began on July 1.

-MORE-

Public safety was addressed by the county's "safe routes to school" initiative, which will provide \$5.3 million for sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and other pedestrian safety improvements to communities throughout the San Bernardino valley.

Public safety was also the goal behind the addition of 29 positions to the county's law and justice team, including 12 patrol deputies and 10 Public Defender jobs.

Funding was also provided to build new fire stations in Hesperia/Oak Hills and Baker.

To address additional jail needs, the Board of Supervisors earlier this year maintained a \$7 million fund to serve as seed money for the eventual construction of a new jail in Apple Valley.

Funding proposals approved today created cultural and recreational opportunities for the county's growing population, enhancing the region's quality of life. \$2 million was placed in reserves to help provide funding needed to complete the Hall of Paleontology at the County Museum in Redlands.

Funding was also provided to support neighborhood parks near Fontana and Colton, improvements at County Regional Parks at Lake Gregory and Glen Helen, an equestrian trail in Devore, and a skate park in Crestline, among other projects.

Funding was also set aside to aid county libraries in Fontana, Highland, and Crestline and to fund agreements to support libraries in Rancho Cucamonga and Upland.

In the health care arena, the county will invest \$4 million in an agreement to help build a planned \$10 million health science building at Chaffey College's Chino Campus to expand the institution's nursing program and serve as a training ground for nurses who will serve the entire county at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

"The budgetary decisions made by the Board of Supervisors today will pay dividends to the citizens of this county for years to come," Chairman Postmus said.