

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2006

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

Board increases public's access to county information

The Board of Supervisors took action today to make several types of county government information easily accessible to the public.

The Board today approved recommendations that will soon make county campaign disclosure reports, statements of economic interest, facts about county contractors and vendors, and competitive proposal information available on the Internet. The Board also took action to create an on-line searchable database of Board of Supervisors meeting agendas and Board actions, and to create a hosted e-mail subscription service that will allow Internet users to receive free e-mail notifications of county website updates.

"This action is a major step toward our goal to make San Bernardino County the most publicly accessible local government agency in the nation," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus.

"I'm looking forward to seeing these measures implemented first in the county, and eventually all levels of local government," said Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt.

Chairman Postmus and Supervisor Ovitt developed the information access plan and on Oct. 4, 2005 led the Board of Supervisors in directing county staff to develop recommendations that would make the elements of the plan a reality. County staff explored how to implement the recommendations and brought the plan to the board today.

The Board of Supervisors today directed staff to:

- Implement a system for electronic filing of campaign financial disclosure reports, and develop for Board of Supervisors consideration an ordinance that would require candidates for county offices to file their reports electronically. When implemented, Internet users will be able to see the source and amounts of donations to candidates.
- Implement a system that would allow the public to view statements of economic interest for county elected and appointed officials. Internet users will be able to view information on property, other holdings, and income sources of key county decision makers.

-MORE-

Access to Information

February 14, 2006

Page 2

- Develop a searchable Internet database of Board of Supervisors-approved service contracts, including contract dates and amounts, contractor name and location, and the department overseeing the contract.
- Develop a searchable database of Board of Supervisors agendas and actions, allowing Internet users to search for items by type, date, district, and recommendation.
- Create a hosted e-mail subscription service that will allow Internet users to sign up, free-of-charge, for automatic e-mail updates whenever updates are made to the county's website, www.sbcounty.gov. Users will be updated on press releases, public meetings, available county contracts, county jobs, and other information.
- Enhance the county Purchasing Department website to include information on those who submit proposals for county contracts and contract recipients.

In most cases, staff will return to the Board of Supervisors for the contracts necessary to implement these services. The cost to launch these initiatives is estimated at \$313,000 to \$453,000, and the annual cost to operate them is estimated at \$147,800 to \$172,800.