

# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
**AT YOUR SERVICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2011

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## Board meeting videoconferencing begins on Tuesday

Starting on Tuesday, being in Victorville will be the next best thing to being in San Bernardino for those interested in participating in Board of Supervisors meetings.

A videoconferencing system linking a meeting room in Victorville to the Board of Supervisors chambers in San Bernardino will go live for the board's September 13 meeting, allowing public testimony from a remote location for the first time in county history. The system will also operate during a special redistricting session at noon on Sept. 16, and during subsequent board meetings.

"As America's largest county, it makes sense to create an opportunity for residents to take part in board meetings without having to drive such long distances and cross mountains," said Board of Supervisors Chair Josie Gonzales.

The videoconferencing effort is a one-year pilot program. One year from now, the county will evaluate the effectiveness of the program and determine whether to continue or expand it.

"This is a great opportunity for High Desert residents to participate in Board of Supervisors meetings without having to drive down the Cajon Pass to San Bernardino," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the High Desert. "A vibrant, healthy democracy requires that elected officials listen to our constituents and this pilot program will make it more convenient for residents to make their voices heard."

The location for the videoconferencing will be the County Transitional Assistance Department building, 15010 Palmdale Road, Conference Room A/B, in Victorville. The room may be accessed through the outer door west of the main lobby entrance on the front of the building.

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"Getting the public engaged with their County government has always been a goal of mine. In 2006, I launched an effort to make board meetings more accessible by holding them in Chino and Victorville," said Supervisor Gary Ovitt, who began preparations for the videoconferencing pilot program when he served as board chairman in 2009 and 2010.

"The ability to use this video conference equipment is a natural progression from that initial push for greater inclusion of the public. This is a cheaper and more efficient way to make Board meetings open to residents in the High Desert," Supervisor Ovitt said.

The meeting on Tuesday will begin at 10 a.m. Staff from the Clerk of the Board's Office will be on hand to assist the public.

People who plan to participate in meetings from the Victorville location who also want to submit documents for the board's consideration must submit them to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130, no later than 5 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting or hearing. Any documentation submitted at the Victorville site shall become part of the official record for the matter, but will not be disseminated to the Board prior to the Board's action.

Videoconferencing from the Victorville location may be canceled due to inclement weather or technical difficulties. If the site is closed due to inclement weather, a notice will be posted by 9 a.m. the day of the Board meeting.

Board meetings can also be viewed live on the Internet at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/main/countyvision.asp>. Past meetings can also be viewed at this site.