

# Third District Community Forum

## Accessing Your Government

### Department of Veterans Affairs

Are you a veteran? Are you in need of medical or financial services?

The San Bernardino County Department of Veterans Affairs is a department created to assist veterans and their families in obtaining veterans' benefits.

Services provided include:

- Compensation for service related disabilities.
- Pension for veterans with non-service connected disabilities.
- Education benefits and vocational rehabilitation (application and information).
- Medical treatment at VA Medical Centers (application and information).
- Home loan benefits (application and information).
- Government Life Insurance.
- Burial Benefits.
- Pension for non-service related deaths.
- Proceeds of government life insurance.
- Military Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP).
- Medical benefits.
- Educational benefits including the California College Fee Waiver Program.

For more information, please call 909.387.5516 Monday-Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The Veterans Affairs Administration is located at 175 West Fifth Street, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415.



## Community Highlight

### Adopt a Pet: Meet Goku



Goku is a 5 month old male, Lynx Point Siamese kitten. His ID # is A601273. He is very lovable and is located at the Devore Shelter.

Devore Animal Shelter  
19777 Shelter Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92407  
909.386.9820

### Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:  
10:00 am - 6:30 pm

Wednesday:  
10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday:  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

24 hour help line **1.800.472.5609**



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## Supervisor Ramos Advocating on Capitol Hill

On July 31st, Supervisor Ramos was with Supervisor Josie Gonzales and a group of county officials in Washington, DC to meet with lawmakers on the issue of homelessness in San Bernardino County.

The group held a meeting with Senator Feinstein's office to discuss her new bill, the Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2014 which would expand the definition of homelessness used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This change would allow approximately 900,000 homeless children and families nationwide to access federal assistance programs.

During the development of this bill, Senator Feinstein had reached out to Supervisor Ramos for input from

the county level. Supervisor Ramos chaired an ad-hoc committee to provide such feedback which was included in the final version of the bill.

"Too many homeless children and their families are overlooked by federal assistance programs," said **Senator Feinstein**. "Despite the fact that these children and families are extremely vulnerable, the narrow definition of homelessness used by HUD makes these individuals ineligible for help. Our bill fixes this problem, allowing children and families to access the help they need."

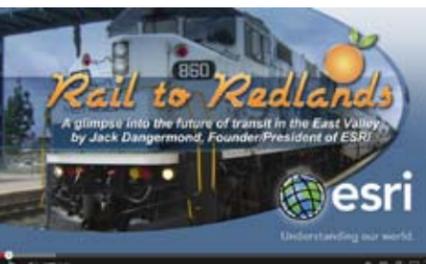
During a meeting with the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice, the **County of San Bernardino Sheriff HOPE Team** was able to discuss the innovative and proactive



HUD Secretary Julian Castro stops for a photo with Supervisor Ramos

approach they take when interacting with the homeless population in the county. The staff was very impressed with the progress the HOPE team has made and will be inviting them back to discuss how the Office of Juvenile Justice can mirror their approach.

"The HOPE Team looks forward to this unique opportunity to change the paradigm of law enforcement's response to homelessness, as well as to bring our county-wide collaboration to the forefront," stated **Deputy Mike Jones of the HOPE Team**.



## A Glimpse into the Future of Transit in the East Valley with ESRI Founder Jack Dangermond

This video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PPrhTxpH1s>.

If you would like to submit a story or event to The Ramos Review, please send an email to [SupervisorRamos@sbcounty.gov](mailto:SupervisorRamos@sbcounty.gov) or call 909.387.4855. Due to limited space, we may not be able to accommodate your request.



San Bernardino Office: 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., Fifth Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110.



## Progress in the Third District

### Rail to Redlands Working Group hears from Riverside County Transit Commission

On July 24th, the Rail to Redlands Working Group held its fifth meeting in a continued effort to bring awareness and build public support for the Redlands Passenger Rail Line project.



Committee members heard a special presentation from the Deputy Executive Director John Standiford of the Riverside County Transit Commission and the lessons they have learned during the expansion of their Perris Valley line. "I wish we had formed a working group like this one before we started our expansion," stated **Standiford**. "Finding champions such as you have found in ESRI founder, Jack Dangermond is crucial in being successful with such a major infrastructure expansion."

Supervisor Ramos was pleased to have RCTC present at the meeting. "I think it is important to collaborate with Riverside County in finding common

## Ramos elected Vice-President of SBIAA

On July 23rd, the San Bernardino International Airport Authority appointed **City of San Bernardino Mayor Carey Davis** as President and Supervisor James Ramos as Vice-President.

"I am honored to take on this leadership role at SBIAA as we continue to move the airport forward as an economic driver in our local economy," stated Supervisor Ramos.



For information on the San Bernardino International Airport Authority, please visit [http://www.sbdairport.com/public\\_mtgs\\_agenda/default.htm](http://www.sbdairport.com/public_mtgs_agenda/default.htm).



## Progress in the Third District

### Angelus Oaks Fire Station Community Room open for use

The Board of Supervisors approved a request from Supervisor Ramos to allocate \$1,500 from the Third District's 2014-15 Board Discretionary Fund Budget to fund one year's insurance coverage for the Angelus Oaks Volunteer Fire Company.

A nonprofit volunteer group in Angelus Oaks, the Angelus Oaks Volunteer Fire Company, has been conducting meetings at Fire Station 98 but has been advised that continued use of the facility will require proof of insurance. After hosting a community meeting in Angelus Oaks, Supervisor Ramos realized the importance of a central gathering point

for these residents.

"The fire station is a vital gathering place not only for social activities but also for emergency preparedness exercises which are crucial for the mountain residents of Angelus Oaks and the surrounding communities to participate in," stated Supervisor Ramos. "I am pleased the Board approved this funding so the community of Angelus Oaks can continue to utilize the station."

Supervisor Ramos and staff will be



working with the community of Angelus Oaks on their efforts to raise funds to cover the cost of insurance on a yearly basis.

More information regarding this item can be found on the July 22nd Board agenda which can be accessed at <http://cob-sire.sbcounty.gov/sirepub/>.

## Ramos, Lovingood oppose massive wind project



San Bernardino County Supervisors James Ramos and Robert A. Lovingood have sent a joint letter to the Bureau of Land Management strongly opposing the North Peak Wind Project planned for 16.4 square miles of mountain ridges overlooking much of the Victor Valley.

In the letter to BLM Director Neil Kornze, Ramos and Lovingood cited the anticipated harm to property values, viewsheds, Native American cultural resources, interference with radar tracking of aircraft as well as environmental concerns. The anticipated impacts on plants and animals are devastating, including the regular and continuous killing of bald eagles, golden eagles, bats and numerous migratory bird species that use the avian corridor along the ridgelines in question.

The project is planned for mountain ridges overlooking Lucerne Valley, Apple Valley and Hesperia.

"San Bernardino County has already borne the brunt of renewable energy projects," **Lovingood** said. "For a wide variety of reasons, this is the wrong location for this project, and I urge the BLM to reject the North Peak Wind Project."

"Due to the damaging impact the North Peak Wind project would cause for the community, their property values and overall quality of life, I am opposing the development of this project," Ramos stated. "San Bernardino County has made great strides to become a leader in renewable energy projects. However, this project would have significant, detrimental effects to the environment and cultural resources that exist in this area. I ask that the BLM take these issues under consideration and reject this project."

The letter from Lovingood and Ramos notes that while the project is on federal land, San Bernardino County retains authority over local roads, including necessary widening of roads for construction crews to access the project site.

ground on ways to address some of our transportation challenges. We need to look at our infrastructure needs from a regional viewpoint and work together to find solutions."

The working group also viewed a short video clip from **Mr. Jack Dangermond** of ESRI where he expressed his strong support of the Redlands Passenger Rail Line. This video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PPrhTxpH1s>. Also in progress is the development of a website for the working group as well as social media outlets.

**Mitch Alderman**, Director of Transit/Rail Programs at SANBAG, provided an update on the status of the rail project. In the upcoming months, public hearings will be conducted on the Environmental Impact Statement and the Environmental Impact Report where public comment will be requested. More information can be found at <http://www.sanbag.ca.gov/projects/redlands-transit.html>.

As always, members of the public were able to provide comments and ask questions at the end of the meeting. **Ryan Berk**, founder of A La Minute in Redlands, was present at the meeting where he offered support for this project. "As local business owners, I feel it is our job to beautify the City of Redlands and bring a sense of uniqueness to attract visitors to our downtown area. I am very much in support of this project and what it will do for our local economy."

The next Rail to Redlands Working Group meeting will be held on November 13, 2014, location TBD. To contact the Rail to Redlands Working Group, please send an email to [rail2redlandsworkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:rail2redlandsworkinggroup@gmail.com).