

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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To: Board of Supervisors
From: Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator
Date: December 10, 2013
Subject: Biweekly Update of Significant Issues

1. County Administrator's Update on Contracts

The County Administrator did not sign any contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues update.

2. County Awarded \$2.6 million in Safety Grants for Road Improvements

The Department of Resource Management recently received news that it received three new safety grants, totaling \$2.6 million by competitive award. The projects include:

- \$677,000 for 4-foot paved shoulder additions to 1 mile of Lake Herman Road,
- \$934,000 for 4-foot paved shoulder additions to 2.5 miles of Hartley Road and 1 mile of Rockville Road, and
- \$972,000 for 4-foot paved shoulder additions to 2 miles of Putah Creek Road and 2 miles of Dixon Avenue West.

Substantial nationwide safety data has shown that widening rural roads, to allow a safer driver recovery zone, creates significant safety benefits with lower accident rates and reduced accident severity rates. The benefits of widening these roads with shoulder improvements made them competitive statewide, which resulted in these awards.

- Contact: Matt Tuggle, Public Works Engineer, Resource Management, 784-6072

3. CDCR Cancels Substance Abuse Treatment Funding as of June 30, 2014

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) announced on October 14, 2013 that the Parolee Services Network, which includes the Bay Area Services Network (BASN), will no longer be funded. Solano County receives approximately \$464,000 per year of BASN funding to pay for substance abuse treatment for state parolees residing in the county. Treatment services have been provided to an average of 100 state parolees per year by Solano County contractors.

The reason for the program cancellation has to do with the criminal justice realignment of 2011. The target population for BASN parolees was non-violent offenders, which as a result of AB109 are under County Probation Department supervision and resulted in fewer state parolees every year who qualify for BASN services. Consequently, treatment funds have gone unspent or have been returned to the (CDCR) to use in other counties.

CDCR plans to offer an RFP that is open to all area providers interested in serving parolees. It is not anticipated that parolees who need substance abuse treatment will go untreated because of the increased insurance coverage offered by the Affordable Care Act. There will be no financial burden for the County.

- Contact: Andrew Williamson, Substance Abuse Administrator, Health and Social Services, 784-2226

4. Drug Medi-Cal Fraud Unit Visits Solano County Providers

As part of a statewide fraud detection effort, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) sent teams of investigators with California Highway Patrol escorts to all Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) certified substance abuse treatment providers that contract with the County. The investigation teams appeared without notice at the providers and requested to inspect all aspects of the programs related to DMC certification requirements, e.g. group sign-in sheets, client charts, counselor certification information, routine financial and organizational paperwork. The teams also interviewed DMC-funded clients. The investigations usually were concluded in four to five hours. The investigators copied sizeable amounts of documents and left the facilities without any indication as to what might come next. Only a few minor chart errors were found, e.g. unsigned treatment plans. The investigators said the errors were nothing to worry about.

DMC audits, like the ones described above, are probably the result of stories appearing on CNN about DMC fraud perpetrated by several Los Angeles based providers. DHCS (and the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs before it) routinely conducts audits of DMC certified programs to ensure that charts are kept to the standards of Title 22. County providers have had very low disallowance rates over the years as the result of those audits. There is no reason to believe that any Solano County providers are involved in DMC fraud.

It appears that certification for DMC programs will become a county function in the near future. Because of that, Substance Abuse Services and Mental Health staff are working to create a robust quality improvement plan that will assure compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

- Contact: Andrew Williamson, Substance Abuse Administrator, Health & Social Services, 784-2226.

5. ALUC to Consider Items Affecting Travis Plan at Dec. 12 Meeting

The Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) will be considering the scope of work for the update of the 2002 Travis Air Force Base Land Use Compatibility Plan at its regular meeting on December 12, 2013. The scope of work will assist staff in finalizing a contract for the expert services required to accomplish the update to the Travis Plan. Afterwards, staff will be bringing a professional services agreement forward in January for the Board of Supervisors consideration.

Additionally, the ALUC directed staff at its November 14, 2013 meeting to bring forward an amendment to the Travis Plan that would establish an Assault Landing Zone Training Area and impose a height limitation of 200 feet within the training area. The ALUC is scheduled to consider this amendment at its December 12, 2013 meeting.

- Contact: James Leland, Principal Planner, Resource Management, 784-6765

6. Sale of Surplus County Real Property

On October 22, 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution authorizing the sale of the County-owned surplus real property located at 444 Alabama Street in Vallejo (former Veterans Memorial Building) to Edward A. Boydston for \$320,000. The sale was a result of a public bid process, which generated \$318,400 in one-time revenue for the County General Fund. The transaction closed escrow on December 6, 2013.

- Contact: Keith Hanson, Real Estate Manager, General Services, 784-7906