



CEO's Message



One of the themes I often receive in the way of feedback is that it is important and helpful to receive information from me regarding the budget and labor relations. This is especially true since all you see in terms of publicity, reports or blogs generally is focused on the negative ... so here's what is going on.

First, several of our recent labor contracts call for pension and overtime reform. The first is critical in that long term costs could be dramatically affected. We have a new lower 'tier' retirement option for civilians (1.62% @ 65) for both new and existing employees (pending an IRS ruling on the latter). The incentive for employees to opt into the new system is twofold - 1) smaller payroll deductions (i.e. more take home pay) and 2) it is complemented with a County match to a deferred

(Continued on page 2)

Chief Probation Officer Bids Adieu After 35 Years

After having held just about every job possible in the Probation Department over her 35 year tenure with the County, Colleene Preciado humbly notes that what she received from working with offenders each day and the committed staff devoted to assist them has been much more than she could ever have given. Preciado began her college studies with a major in Marine Biology at Cal State Long Beach, but eventually changed to Social Welfare with an emphasis on Corrections after volunteering with the L.A. County Probation Department for a school project.



Chief Probation Officer Colleene Preciado is retiring after 35 years with the County and 33 years with the Probation Department.

"Seeing people fall on hard times and how the grave consequences of one decision can destroy lives served as a tremendous contribution to my life," said Preciado. "There are so many people our department comes in contact with who need guidance and someone to steer them in the right direction or even let them know another way of life is possible. It's these people who inspire me."

Preciado recalls an especially impactful time with the department was her role as Director of Juvenile Hall. Serving in Juvenile Hall allowed her to witness, up close, the nature of the lives the Probation Department is charged with rehabilitating. "Many backgrounds of the youths in custody include tragedy and disparaging life circumstances where they are brought to ground zero of humanity," said Preciado. "By catching these youth at a young age and triggering a new mindset there is a greater chance they will change and lead productive lives into adulthood."

(Continued on page 3)

(CEO'S MESSAGE: Continued from page 1)

compensation program (Defined Contribution). In public safety, we have reached agreement on a lower tier system for all new employees (3% @ 55). Over the years, this should be significant. Almost all employees have the potential to benefit from these changes.

As it relates to the overtime, we are changing from 'hours earned' to 'hours worked'. So, basically, an employee is eligible for overtime pay after they've actually worked 40 hours in a week or 80 hours in a pay period. This was the right thing to do and should save over time a significant amount of money. The importance of this issue was highlighted in a review of Sheriff overtime by the Performance Auditor's Office in 2008.

Budget

The progress here continues to be tough. The Board has recently authorized the following actions which are critical to remaining solvent:

- **HIRING FREEZE** – a hiring freeze has been in effect for over a year. During that time, the actual bi-weekly payroll has declined from an average of over \$60 million to the current payroll of \$56 million - \$58 million; a significant actual reduction to County costs. The freeze applies to all Departments and operations, with exceptions requiring CEO approval. This approach has also helped to reduce the number of layoffs since some employees, whose positions have been eliminated, have transferred to vacant positions in enterprise operations.
- **EXECUTIVE PAY CUT** – All elected officials and all executives had their salary reduced by 5% effective July, 2009. This action is also reflected in the actual payroll cost reduction mentioned earlier. We are not aware of any other City or County organizations that have taken this kind of across the board reduction by elected and executive officials.

In response to the General Fund revenue declines and the continued uncertainty related to impacts of the current recession, a mid-year budget action was implemented to reduce the Net County Cost allocation by 5%. This reduction is the progression of a difficult but necessary process to align spending to the new lower level of revenue. In addition, earlier actions were taken to implement budget controls and drive cost savings in order to preserve public safety and other core services. These actions include:

- Hiring Freeze
- Deletion of vacant positions
- Reduced overtime costs
- Deferral and elimination of non-critical capital projects
- Multi-year financing of critical capital projects
- Restrictions on contract cost growth
- Monitoring and restriction of Services & Supplies
- Restructuring the Retiree Medical program
- Collaboration with labor to restructure retirement programs
- Board of Supervisors Public Safety Subcommittee
- Targeted Net County Cost reductions
- Across the board Net County Cost reductions
- Furloughs and layoffs

(Continued on page 3)

(CEO'S MESSAGE: *Continued from page 2)*

Part of both current and prospective budget balancing efforts unfortunately include layoffs and/or furloughs. I have been a staunch supporter of furloughs rather than layoffs because it preserves jobs – ours and fellow employees. I am also committed to not implementing these drastic actions affecting our fellow employees unless absolutely necessary.

This recession, though, is not over. It's beginning to reach bottom and perhaps stabilize, but we have a ways to go. So please bear with us. As I read about the County of Los Angeles eliminating 4,000 jobs and the Boeing Corporation laying off 10,000 employees, I am at least grateful that the County of Orange employee population is not even more dramatically affected. We must say to ourselves what Sheriff Hutchens said to 14 of her Managers two weeks ago, which basically was (paraphrasing) “you are being asked to do more work with no increase in pay, but with a corresponding increase in responsibility”; and the men and women involved said “Yes”.

And, so must the rest of us. We will need to continue to reduce expenses and increase responsibilities. I know Orange County employees and they (we) are up to the task!

There will be more to follow in the weeks ahead – Hang in there everybody – and support your fellow employees. ■

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer

(Chief Probation Officer Bids Adieu After 35 Years: *Continued from page 1)*

There have also been many difficult times in the County and the Probation Department over the years; the current budget situation is one of the greatest challenges the department has experienced as it is currently undergoing its third strategic downsizing. Preciado is staying on in the post of Chief while working through the budget impacts so that the new chief may enter with the goal of moving the department forward. The budget reductions have caused a tremendous loss that is felt throughout the department. Through all of this, however, Preciado notes that the commitment and resiliency of Probation Department employees is apparent.

“The Probation Department is made up of career corrections people who value community safety, believe people can change and work everyday in a relentless effort to rehabilitate offenders,” said Preciado. “It takes tons of courage and our employees are extremely resilient and hold a deep sense of commitment to knowing that what they do matters. These people have shaped my work ethic and I am so grateful to have been a part of it.”

There are more than 20,000 offenders on supervision with the Probation Department and on any given day, approximately 3,000 probationers are contacted face to face, which creates a safer lifestyle for the community.

“Thirty-five years seems like a day,” said Preciado. “I’d do it again and I’m glad I did it.”

Preciado’s retirement plans include refocusing on volunteer efforts related to beach and ocean restoration activities and fitness training with people recovering from serious illness, such as breast cancer. ■

What's Your 10%?

In 2008, the average Orange County resident generated five pounds of waste per day. With more than three million residents countywide, that number adds up to approximately *15 million pounds* of solid waste per day.

OC Waste & Recycling (OCW&R) has launched a new, interactive campaign – *Waste Free OC. Save Room for Tomorrow* – to help community members reduce everyday waste from entering local landfills. The campaign's call to action is realistic and attainable: *Reduce waste by ten percent in 2010.*

"The time is *now* for us to take action and realize that if we don't urge people to make behavioral changes; our landfills will be filled to capacity," said Supervisor Janet Nguyen, Chair of the Board of Supervisors. "We cannot afford *not* to take action."



Everyone has habits. And the simple ones like drinking coffee out of paper cups can be the source of up to 10% of what we throw away. But you don't have to give up the things you love. There are a lot of ways to lighten up on our landfills.

5 EASY WAYS TO START REDUCING WASTE TODAY

1. **Pay bills electronically and put a stop to junk mail.**
2. **Bring reusable bags with you to the grocery store.**
3. **Start composting.**
4. **Reduce packaging waste by buying in bulk.**
5. **Avoid contaminating recyclables to be sure they stay out of the landfill.**

"The 10% in 2010 Challenge means producing less waste to begin with, reusing items as many times as possible and recycling even more," said OC Waste & Recycling Director, Mike Giancola. "In doing so, we can reduce 1.5 million pounds of waste from going into our landfills in a single day." Residents can take the *10% in 2010 Challenge* at www.WasteFreeOC.com. ■

New Public Finance Director Welcomed

The County of Orange welcomed a new Public Finance Director in December with the appointment of Colleen Clark, who brings extensive public and private sector finance experience to the job. Prior to joining the County of Orange, she served for 16 years with the Transportation Corridor Agencies and four years with the Orange County Great Park, where she was involved in developing the financial structures needed to guide those organizations.

One of the main challenges for the County's Public Finance Director is to ensure the County has

sufficient cash flow to fund operations through times of lower revenues. Each year, the County may issue millions of dollars in Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes, or TRANS, which cover the County's bills until property taxes are paid and other revenues are received. This typically occurs during the summer months, so the County's Public Finance staff is hard at work to ensure the County maintains a good financial rating that results in lower interest costs on the notes.

A graduate of California State University Fuller-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ton, Colleen worked for several years with one of the “Big 4” international accounting firms before entering the public sector. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the California State Municipal Finance Officers Association. In her new role, Colleen sees her office as a resource that allows the County to move projects ahead by ensuring adequate financial support. At the same time, forecasting the County’s revenue picture presents its own challenges, such as the difficulty of predicting how the State’s possible solutions to its budget crisis may impact funding for County programs. She has already learned that the established County financial systems will serve her well in her new role. “The data available about the County’s cash flow is amazing. Everyone here has a good understanding of the County’s financial situation,” said Colleen.

As the local economy and the County’s financial outlook improves, she looks forward to working

with County agencies and departments to identify opportunities to finance new projects and is already involved in examining how Federal Recovery Act (stimulus) bonds might be used for the development of County facilities.



The Public Finance team front row from left: Gloria Yang (Auditor-Controller), Susan Munoz (A-C), Stephanie Chen (A-C), Colleen Clark (CEO), Thomas Beckett (CEO), Laurie Sachar (CEO), Susie Ortiz (A-C), Faye Watanabe (CEO). Second row from left: Louis McClure (CEO), Suzanne Luster (A-C), Mark Finley (A-C) and Richard Mendoza (CEO).

2010 Census – Completing the Count

While April 1, 2010 is Census Day, the month of March is the critical time for the Census effort in Orange County and in all of California. That’s because Census questionnaires will be mailed to households this month and Census organizers hope for a high response rate to the first mailing.

Orange County is home to one of the largest populations of “hard-to-reach” individuals in the state, adding to the challenge of ensuring a high rate of return. By focusing on just ten basic questions and by providing materials and assistance in dozens of languages, Census officials are working hard to inform the public of the importance of the Census to local communities. They estimate that millions of dollars can be saved by just increasing the initial response rate a few percentage points. This is because the Census will mail follow up questionnaires and send Census takers to those addresses from which they do not receive completed forms.

When your Census form arrives, fill it out as soon

as possible and follow the instructions for returning the form. You can also help by encouraging family, friends, neighbors and clients to fill out and return their Census forms. Make sure they include everyone living at the residence, including infants and foster children. Census forms can accommodate up to twelve people living at a single address so make sure everyone in the household is counted!



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

In addition to the role of Census data in the distribution of Federal funding, Census information is vital to Congressional redistricting and may help to determine if California retains or loses one seat in the House of Representatives for the next ten years. Closer to home, population information from the Census is used in the redistricting of the California Legislature and the Board of Supervisors. By taking part in the 2010 Census, you are taking part in an important American tradition that dates back to 1790. Here in the Golden State, the motto for the 2010 Census is “Be Californian. Be Counted.” ■

OC Parks Debuts New Nature Center

NATURE CENTER SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



The new nature center at Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park includes wildlife exhibits and items from the 2007 Santiago Fire.

NATURE CENTER SLIDESHOW: [CLICK HERE](#)



At this time, the nature center does not have set opening hours. Please contact the park at (949) 923-2245 for visitor information.

Just one and a half years after the wilderness park reopened to the public following extensive damage caused by the Santiago Fire, a new nature center was celebrated at Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Feb. 7th.

The center features interpretive displays and local wildlife exhibits, including photographs and objects from the blaze that damaged 90% of the park in 2007. Located inside the McFadden Ranch House, the facility is only accessible along the Aliso Creek Bike Trail and offers a welcome rest stop to visitors with a shady porch and comfortable Adirondack chairs to enjoy.

Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park encompasses approximately 4,300 acres of riparian and oak woodland canyons, rolling grassland hills and steep slopes of coastal sage scrub and chaparral. Three intermittent streams meander through the park, which is also highlighted by scenic rock formations including the beautiful Red Rock Canyon. Remnants of former cattle ranching days can be seen throughout the park.

To learn more, please visit www.OCParks.com or call (949) 923-2245.

County Opens Compressed Natural Gas Station to Public

“Green drivers” of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles have a new fueling station to visit when filling up their tanks. Grand opening celebrations last month marked the site of the first County managed CNG station located at 2023 West Collins Avenue in Orange.

“The County is becoming a driving force in using green, renewable energy” said Vice Chairman Bill Campbell. “We simply cannot ignore the need to find and use alternative, renewable resources to keep our society functioning.”

He explained that his motivation for finding alternative energy was solidified after visiting Easter Island off the coast of Chile, where the consumption of resources had devastating results for the island’s population.

Speakers at the ribbon-cutting event were Vice Chairman Bill Campbell and OC Public Works Director Jess Carbajal, along with members from the Southern California Air Quality Management District Board, Southern California Gas Company, and several Public Works staff members who worked on the project.

The CNG station is managed by OC Public Works and is located at the County’s Fleet Maintenance Yard, where the department maintains and operates approximately 57 CNG vehicles in the County fleet. The attendant-free fueling facility is open to the public for retail purchases of CNG, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Overall, natural gas is one of the cleanest burning alternative fuels available today. Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs) can reduce nitrogen oxide emissions and reactive hydrocarbons, which form ground-level ozone (the principal ingredient of smog), by as much as 95 percent. NGVs can also reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by as much as 30 percent, carbon monoxide by 85 percent and carcinogenic particulate emissions

[CNG CENTER SLIDESHOW: CLICK HERE](#)



From left: OCPW Director of Administration Carlos Bustamante, Marci LaMantia of So Cal Gas, Vice Chairman Bill Campbell and OCPW Director Jess Carbajal tour the OCPW Maintenance Yard that also houses the CNG facility.

by 99 percent.

Some added benefits of CNG are that it usually costs significantly less than a gasoline gallon equivalent at the pump in the Southern California Gas Company’s service area. In addition, 30 years of experience and millions of problem-free miles driven by NGVs show that natural gas is an extremely safe fuel for vehicles.

NGVs often deliver similar horsepower ratings to their diesel and gasoline-powered counterparts. Natural gas has an octane rating of approximately 130, compared to 91 octane gasolines. Due to the clean burning attributes of natural gas, NGVs generally have a longer engine life compared to most gasoline-powered vehicles.

The CNG Station is a product of state and local government collaboration to build an alternative energy facility for both the County’s and the public’s use. Since the opening of the County’s CNG station, there are now 10 public fueling stations in Orange County. ■

Get the 411 On OC Child Support Services

1. Child Support Services (CSS) staff collects and distributes more than \$180 million in child support on behalf of 120,000 children throughout Orange County annually.
2. CSS was recognized in 2009 by the National Association of Counties with the Achievement Award for Innovation in Human Services for the Gateway Program, which enhances customer convenience and access while decreasing costs and increasing performance.
3. The CSS Call Center receives approximately 240,000 calls from customers each year.
4. CSS Customer Service Center employees interview approximately 38,000 customers that walk through its doors yearly.

To get more of the 411, visit <http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Child%20Support%20Services>.



Service Awards

For the Month of February

35 YEARS

Carlos Rodriguez
OC Public Works

Sandra Brittingham
Social Services Agency

Phyllis Watanabe
Social Services Agency

30 YEARS

Sandra Armstrong
Health Care Agency

Janellyn Hannah
Health Care Agency

Janet Holcomb
Health Care Agency

Donna Pickrell
Probation

Kirk Chaney
OC Public Works

Steven Hendrickson
OC Public Works

Ruth Karp
OC Public Works

Richard Sanchez
OC Public Works

Pamela Andrade
Social Services Agency

Angie Contreras
Social Services Agency

Cheryl Smith
Social Services Agency

25 YEARS

Theresa Sowa
Assessor

Kathleen Thompson
Assessor

Joseph D'Agostino
District Attorney

Dennis Bauer
District Attorney

Nancy Du Pont
District Attorney

Gregory Robischon
District Attorney

Christine Bavaro-Sutton
Health Care Agency

Irene Magana
Health Care Agency

Karen De La Torre
Probation

Margery Dunn
Public Administrator/
Public Guardian

Nancy Achttien
Public Defender

Patricia Bigger
OC Public Works

Marten Miller
Sheriff-Coroner

Rickey Mouze
Sheriff-Coroner

Betty Pena
Sheriff-Coroner

Rosalinda Enriquez
Social Services Agency

20 YEARS

Thong Phan
Assessor

Suzanne Luster
Auditor-Controller

Tiffany Nguyen
Clerk-Recorder

Sylvia Carsey
OC Community Resources

Kathy Williams
OC Community Resources

Rosario Adams
Health Care Agency

Mia Delgado
Health Care Agency

Nga Huynh
Health Care Agency

Hildy Meyers
Health Care Agency

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

**20 YEARS
CONTINUED**

Jeffrey Nottke
Health Care Agency

Felicia Oloashebikan
Health Care Agency

Dawn Robinson
Health Care Agency

Flavia Romero
Health Care Agency

Marilyn Schmidt
Health Care Agency

Marie Woronowicz
Health Care Agency

Christopher Galvin
John Wayne Airport

Evelyn Davis
Probation

Janine Hackwith
Probation

Randi Hartzell
Probation

Edward Eisler
Public Defender

Pedro Castillo
OC Public Works

Mary Ellen De Biase
OC Public Works

David Koch
OC Public Works

John Moore
OC Public Works

John Salinas
OC Public Works

Huong Tran
OC Public Works

Craig Wehrman
OC Public Works

Teresa Baisz
Sheriff-Coroner

Myra Broaddus
Sheriff-Coroner

Kirkland Cummings
Sheriff-Coroner

Qui Dang
Sheriff-Coroner

David Delacruz
Sheriff-Coroner

Thomas Dickan
Sheriff-Coroner

Rosemary Flores
Sheriff-Coroner

Bradley Fowler
Sheriff-Coroner

John Hollenbeck
Sheriff-Coroner

Betty Hong
Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Jacobs
Sheriff-Coroner

Belinda Lee
Sheriff-Coroner

Scott McLeod
Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Mendoza
Sheriff-Coroner

Anna Perez-De Avila
Sheriff-Coroner

Joyce Cocke-Reynolds
Social Services Agency

Teresa Foster
Social Services Agency

Jacqueline Garza
Social Services Agency

Vivian Luong
Social Services Agency

Wilda Monroe
Social Services Agency

Lorinda Mora
Social Services Agency

Hoang-Anh Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Karen Schneider
Social Services Agency

Shawn Robinson
Social Services Agency

Junaidi Tjen
Social Services Agency

Rosemary Vu
Social Services Agency

Mohammad Salam
OC Waste & Recycling

Carmen Saldana
OC Waste & Recycling

Angela Vogel
OC Waste & Recycling

CONTACT US

COUNTY CONNECTION is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer Thomas G. Mauk. The newsletter is published by CEO Community/Media Relations. Call 714.834.6203 or e-mail ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com with any suggestions and comments.

Editors..... Brooke De Baca
Jessica Good
Howard Sutter

Julie Nguyen
Stephen Salcido
Grace Chou