

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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To: Board of Supervisors
From: Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator
Date: January 22, 2013
Subject: Biweekly Update of Significant Issues

1. County Administrator's Update on Contracts

The County Administrator signed the following contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues update.

- Resource Management, a contract modification with Design, Community & Environment (effective February 28, 2011 to June 30, 2013) to extend the contract six months due to delays on the Solano County Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Strategy as a result of changes in the submission schedules and number of housing units assigned by the Association of Bay Area Governments, for a total of \$49,950.

2. Women's Reentry Achievement Program Evaluated for Nationwide Replication

Solano County's national demonstration project, the Women's Reentry Achievement Program (WRAP), is a collaborative partnership between Health and Social Services, the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, District Attorney's Office of Family Violence Prevention, Public Defender, the Reentry Council and community partners to assist women who re-join our communities after release from jail or prison. The Department of Justice chose seven programs, including WRAP, out of more than 40 demonstration projects to evaluate how lessons these models could be rolled out nationally in the coming years. WRAP is a unique model that uses gender-based risk assessments and trauma-informed case management, resulting in a current recidivism rate of 21 percent. Federal evaluators visited Solano County from January 14, 2013 to January 18, 2013 and interviewed staff from all partnering agencies as well as attended the graduation of current clients at the Solano County Events Center.

- Contact: Stephan Betz, Health and Social Services Assistant Director, 784-8500

3. Workshops on Electronic Reporting of Hazardous Materials Information a Success

Beginning January 1, 2013, all businesses and government agencies with reportable quantities of hazardous materials were required to submit their inventory, site map and other pertinent information electronically using the state's California Electronic Reporting System (CERS). The use of CERS will assist emergency responders in quickly gaining useful information on hazardous materials at an incident.

To assist Solano County businesses and government agencies in complying with the use of CERS, the Department of Resource Management, acting as the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), is providing free training workshops to businesses through a contractor, Accent Communications, funded by a grant from CalEPA. To date, approximately 130 individuals from Solano County businesses and government agencies have attended one of the four workshops held in Fairfield and Vallejo. Surveys after the workshops show that participants found the training to be very helpful and were appreciative that the County sponsored the workshops. Additional workshops are scheduled for February 1, 2013 in Vallejo and on March 8, 2013 in Vacaville. It is anticipated that an additional 100 individuals will attend these training sessions.

The CUPA is also offering individual assistance to businesses on using CERS through a contract with Pacific Management Services, also funded through a grant from CALEPA. Solano County businesses can contact the Department of Resource Management for information on attended future workshops, or obtaining individual assistance with CERS.

- Contact: Terry Schmidbauer, Resource Management Environmental Health Manager, 784-3308

4. Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing Programs

The California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) sponsored CaliforniaFIRST program is up and running in Solano County for commercial properties. Currently, there are three potential projects from interested businesses in Dixon, Fairfield and Vallejo. The projects are at various stages of the application and feasibility analysis process, with early indications that the combined total funding would be approximately \$700,000. Each of the projects is for the installation of photovoltaic generating capacity. More specific details regarding the projects and scopes will be available once the feasibility and negotiation processes are complete.

The residential portion of the CaliforniaFirst program is not running at the current time. The Federal Housing Finance Authority (FHFA) has issued a preliminary ruling indicating that they will not provide financing for any property with an attached PACE lien; and further that any homeowner with an FHFA jurisdiction loan who signs a PACE assessment contract will be deemed in breach of contract and subject to immediate foreclosure action. Given the FHFA's direct jurisdictional control over more than 50 percent of all residential mortgages, these rules, when in final effect, are deemed likely to forestall any residential PACE programs for the foreseeable future. This includes the CaliforniaFirst residential program, as well as programs based on the Sonoma County PACE model. A final ruling is expected in May 2013.

- Contact: Charles Lomeli, Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk, 784-3419

5. Solano County Code Compliance Provides Abatement of a Dangerous Building

Over the last few years, the Department of Resource Management's Code Compliance Section has been successful in most cases in achieving voluntary compliance for sub-standard buildings, vehicle abatement, land use violations, and illegal dumping. There are, however, those few that are non-responsive and the Department is compelled to obtain a court order to abate the violations.

In this case, a fire occurred at a Vallejo residence that rendered the dwelling substandard and dangerous. All attempts to have the property owner either rebuild or demolish the building

voluntarily were unsuccessful. On November 22, 2011, the Board of Supervisors authorized County Counsel to file a civil action to abate the public nuisance. The Court provided additional time, from that already provided by the Department, for the property owner to achieve voluntary abatement. Over a 13-month period attempts by the Court and the Department to provide assistance to the property owner went unanswered and a final judgment for demolition was awarded to the Department.

A contract was awarded to a demolition team through the Request for Proposal process. In the last week of December 2012 and the first week of January 2013 the substandard dwelling was demolished and all violations abated. The property owner will be billed for the cost of abatement. If not paid, a lien against the property will be levied.

Before Photos



After Photo



- Contact: David Cliché, Resource Management, Building Official, 784-4705

6. First Department Goes Live with Automated Payroll System

On the January 11, 2013 payday, the Auditor-Controller's Office successfully implemented the IntelliTime Time and Attendance System for their office. Staff in the ACO used the IntelliTime System to electronically report time worked, leave taken, overtime worked/taken and the system correctly applied the various Memorandum of Understanding rules of the employee groups.

The County is currently in parallel with the following departments: Board of Supervisors, County Administrator, County Counsel, Veterans Services, Agriculture Commissioner and Human Resources. These departments are expected to "Go Live" on the February 22, 2013 payday. The successful implementation is the result of the hard work and determination of the IntelliTime team members from the Auditor's Office, Sheriff's Office, Department of Information Technology, and IntelliTime.

- Contact: Simona Padilla-Scholtens, Auditor-Controller, 784-6287