



To: Board of Supervisors
From: Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator
Date: February 25, 2016
Subject: Significant Issues Update

1) County Administrator's Update on Contracts

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

- Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, a contract amendment with The Solano Coalition for Better Health, to help facilitate the completion of a Community Health Needs Assessment, \$14,300, in addition to the \$35,562 original contract amount, totaling \$49,862, from August 15, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
- Department Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, a contract Area Agency on Aging Serving Napa and Solano Counties, to provide training and support to staff for the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), \$48,840, from January 1, 2016 to September 29, 2016.

2) Status Update: Solano County Water Reduction Projects and Water Reduction Savings

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared the drought a State of Emergency and requested voluntary reduction of 20 percent in statewide water consumption. Through Executive Orders, the Governor directed the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt mandatory emergency regulations for water conservation to achieve a 25 percent statewide water reduction and extended the emergency declaration through October 31, 2016 if drought conditions persist.

On August 11, 2015, the Board received a presentation on the County's continuing water conservation efforts and approved \$500,000 to implement 16 recommended water reduction projects. The recommended projects included 12 landscape projects for irrigation system improvements and building-related projects for plumbing fixture upgrades at 4 locations.

Solano County's ongoing commitment to reducing water consumption at County facilities remains strong. The most recent water audit, which includes the March through October 2015 growing season, shows water savings of 8,922,000 gallons from 2014 compared to 2015 at County facilities; a 44 percent reduction, significantly exceeding the State's mandated 25 percent. Staff continues to monitor and evaluate methods to achieve additional reductions in water consumption.

Work is progressing for the 16 water reduction projects, which are projected to culminate in June 2016.

The project status updates are as follows:

- Installation of smart controller equipment at 4 County Campuses (Fairfield, Vallejo, Vacaville and Rio Vista) and Veterans Buildings: Includes installation of internet infrastructure connected to smart controllers. **Projects 30% complete; awaiting backlogged equipment delivery.**
- Installation of automated weather monitoring stations at the Vacaville and Claybank campuses: **Projects 50% complete; awaiting backlogged equipment delivery.**
- Replacement of 35 year old irrigation system at former Annex lawn in downtown Fairfield: **Design complete; construction will begin in spring after rainy season subsides.**
- Nut Tree Airport landscaping: Water audit has been incorporated into County's reporting system; Airport staff purchased a Smart Controller with a weather monitoring station to timely and efficiently water there landscaped areas. **Project 60% complete.**
- Lake Solano and Sandy Beach Parks: Both are serviced by non-metered wells; coordinating with Resource Management to purchase smart controllers/weather monitoring stations. **Project 60% complete; awaiting backlogged equipment delivery.**
- County Administration Center Plaza and Events Center turf replacement: Bids to replace 36 grass areas with artificial turf escalated above market standards and were double the estimated cost despite competitive bid process. Staff is now considering other water reduction strategies for those areas. **Project 25% complete.**
- Parking lot landscape areas at 4 campuses (Fairfield, Vallejo, Vacaville, Rio Vista); Installed water efficient spray heads and efficient drip irrigation systems. **Project 40% complete; construction activities to resume following rainy season.**
- Replace inefficient plumbing fixtures at 4 locations (Fairfield, Vallejo, Vacaville, Rio Vista): Design complete; fixture selection underway. **Project 50% complete; fixture purchasing to commence in February 2016.**

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3) Auditor-Controller Whistleblower Program Status Update

The Auditor-Controller's Internal Audit Division operates the County's Whistleblower Program. The Program includes a special hotline number (866) 384-TIPS and a website for submission of reports. The reports received were reviewed by the Internal Audit Division in cooperation with Appointed and Elected Department Heads and the County Administrator as deemed appropriate.

From July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, the Auditor-Controller's Office received 60 contacts through the Whistleblower Program. Thirty two were reports of perceived incidence of fraud, waste and abuse, or violations of County policy or law. Twenty eight were determined not to be County Whistleblower matters because the complaint failed to provide sufficient information, or the statements made were not matters within the scope of the County's whistleblower program. In addition, there are six complaints from our last report, of which four were closed and two remain open with investigations in progress, bringing the caseload to 38.

Reports of valid whistleblower matters were received in the following categories:

- 10 Violations of Law and/or County policy
- 5 Welfare fraud
- 2 Timesheet fraud
- 3 Management conduct
- 2 Environmental nuisance
- 16 Other

Of the 38 complaints:

- 6 were substantiated and found to have merit
- 6 were found to not have merit
- 8 remain open with investigation in progress
 - 3 Reported Violations of Law and/or County policy
 - 1 Management Conduct
 - 4 Other
- 8 were closed due to insufficient information
- 10 were referred to appropriate outside agencies and were closed

Details about the complaints found to have merit are as follow:

<i>Complaint Allegation</i>	<i>Resolution</i>
A County employee brought his/her child to work during office hours.	The complaint was investigated by the department. The employee was counseled and advised of County policy.
A County employee was sleeping or lying down in his car during work hours.	The complaint was investigated by the department. The employee was on probation and was released from County employment.
One of the volunteers of the Solano County Historical Records Commission (SCHRC) removed some historical maps displayed at SCHRC's office without authorization.	The complaint was investigated by General Services. The maps were retrieved from the volunteer and returned to the County.
Five complaints of alleged welfare fraud were referred to H&SS Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) for investigation.	The complaints were investigated by SIB. Three complaints were found to have merit while two complaints were found to not have merit.

The Whistleblower Program continues to demonstrate success in the identification of County-related matters in potential fraud, waste, and abuse. The Program continues to improve controls and promotes accountability and oversight throughout the County by providing a process for employees and other County citizens to report perceived incidence of fraud, waste, and abuse.

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4) Update on the Five Keys Charter School

On August 25, 2015, the Sheriff's Office provided an informational presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the MOU the Sheriff's Office had developed with the Five Keys Charter School. Five Keys would become the educational provider for the jail because the Solano County Office of Education had ended their contract with the Sheriff's Office on June 30, 2015. This report is an update regarding the progress of the Charter School in the Solano County jails.

Five Keys is a full-service high school that has provided classroom based learning, independent study, English as a Second Language (ESL) and special education since beginning service delivery in September of 2015. Currently, the charter school is serving 29 classroom based learners and 89 independent study students at the Claybank Detention Facility; 8 independent study students at the Stanton Correctional Facility, and 13 students at Probation's Center for Positive Change. Thus, they are serving 139 individuals at this time. During the months of February and March, Five Keys will be enrolling students at the Justice Center Detention Facility, the largest of the three county jails.

Most notable, regarding the progress of the Five Keys Charter School, is the high school graduation ceremony that was held on Friday February 5, 2016, at the Claybank Detention Facility. This high school graduation was the first to be held in the history of the Solano County Sheriff's Office. Prior to this time, the jail had never had an inmate receive a GED or a high school diploma.

On Friday February 5, 2016, four inmates received high school diplomas in the presence of family members, Sheriff's Office staff, Five Keys staff, and staff from other jail programs. It should also be noted that two additional individuals who were released prior to the graduation ceremony also earned high school diplomas through Five Keys. Thus, six individuals in total have earned high school diplomas, in jail, since Five Keys began delivering educational services in September of 2015.

Please see the attached articles from the Daily Republic and the Vallejo Times Herald regarding the graduation ceremony. *(See PDF scans at end of document)*

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