



CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

The Board of Supervisors on June 22 approved a Final Budget for FY 2012-13 that calls for eliminating 37 vacant positions and other reductions in order to close a funding gap of \$88.1 million. The funding gap shows that Alameda County continues to be squeezed financially as a result of a protracted economic slump, with demand for safety net services remaining unusually high and the resources to pay for these services diminished. But there is cause for some optimism: the budget gap is under \$100 million for the first time in four years, which suggests that our concerted efforts to lower costs are having a positive impact. We recognize the sacrifices of employees and community based organizations in helping to stabilize our finances. We continue to be concerned about the potential for further cuts by the State that could impact County programs. If the Governor's ballot initiative, which includes proposed tax hikes, is not approved by voters in November, a new package of additional cuts will be implemented. The tax initiative also includes constitutional protections for realignment funding, which is of critical importance to counties. Realignment is the State's transfer of responsibility for many public safety, and health and human services programs to counties, and we are still working vigilantly to make sure the County will receive adequate funding to pay for realigned services. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep you updated as new developments emerge.

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Richard Valle District 2 Supervisor

The Board of Supervisors on June 11 appointed Richard Valle to serve as the County Supervisor for District 2. Richard replaces Nadia Lockyer, who resigned as District 2 Supervisor in April. Valle, a former City Councilman for Union City, took the oath of office immediately after the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 in favor of his appointment. Alameda County Registrar of Voters Dave Macdonald administered the oath of office. Valle said he was eager to get started in his new post. "We are going to do some great things in District 2," Valle said. "And we are going to carry that faith and that effort throughout Alameda County, to do the very best we can." Valle will serve as District 2 Supervisor until the November 6 General Election, when voters will be asked to elect a candidate to serve out the existing term through 2014. District 2 includes the cities of Hayward, Newark and Union City; the northern portion of the City of Fremont; and a portion of the unincorporated community of Sunol.



Photo by Teofie Decierdo

Dig Deep Farms Expands

Dig Deep Farms & Produce (DDFP), Alameda County's latest venture to provide jobs to at-risk youth and healthy food to the community, expanded its reach in May with the addition of an 8-acre farm and orchard space in the San Leandro hills. The new space more than quadruples DDFP's capacity to employ local youth and grow nutritious food. Sheriff Greg Ahern said innovative programs such as DDFP address the root causes of crime by opening doors for young people and steering them away from less productive activities. A social enterprise of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL), DDFP was launched in 2010 and already is generating nearly \$6,000 a month in revenue. As a result of its increased capacity, Dig Deep Farms & Produce is providing fruits and vegetables to meal programs in Alameda County. This is addition to DDFP's restaurant deliveries and more than 150 weekly customers for its produce boxes. "We



Sheriff's Sgt. Marty Neideffer speaks at dedication of new Dig Deep Farms growing space

are creating a sustainable community," said Marty Neideffer, Alameda County Sheriff's Office sergeant and DSAL executive director. "Residents are tilling the soil nurtured with compost made from Alameda County food scraps, to produce fruits and vegetables that will nourish our community. It is a closed loop environment that will hopefully help break the cycle of violence and serve as a model for others."

Accreditation for Public Works

The Alameda County Public Works Agency has been officially accredited by the American Public Works Association, an honor that was bestowed after a lengthy review and onsite evaluation process. A plaque celebrating the accreditation and the agency's commitment to the highest professional standards was presented to Daniel Woldesenbet, Alameda County Public Works Director, at the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 22. The accreditation came after a lengthy process in which a team from the APWA toured County facilities, reviewed documents and conducted numerous interviews with public works staff. "The Public Works Agency is dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the residents of Alameda County," said Nate Miley, President of the Board of Supervisors. "It's great to see them get this outstanding recognition."

New Look for County Website

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA
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More than a year of painstaking effort by the Information Technology Department resulted in the unveiling in May of a newly redesigned Alameda County website that aims to expand public access to vital resources and the latest news involving Alameda County. The newly designed ACGOV.ORG places updated County News in a prominent spot on its front page, along with the latest information on the County Budget and results from recent elections. A schedule of Board of Supervisors meetings is accompanied by a link to the Webcast feature that makes live Board meetings accessible to everyone via computer. The redesigned site aims to keep things simple, while providing a multitude of information about each and every County department and initiative to those interested in learning more.

"Topping Out" Ceremony as Ashland Youth Center Nears Completion

Alameda County continues to find exciting new ways to meet the needs of local youth and help steer them toward productive lives. In April a special "Topping Out" ceremony was held to celebrate the soon-to-be-completed Ashland Youth Center in the unincorporated Ashland-Cherryland area. The ceremony involved the last 30-foot iron beam being set into place in the Center's 2-story frame, with workers and community members signing the beam to express their hopes and wishes for the new building. The 31,500 square-foot Youth Center will open in December and is currently the largest facility of its kind being built in the country. One of the last projects to be funded by the Alameda County Redevelopment Agency, the Youth Center is being managed by the County's General Services Agency, constructed by Clark & Sullivan and will be operated by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. For more information about the project go to: www.ashlandyouthcenterproject.org.



Local youth and community members write positive messages on a 30-foot steel beam erected at the Ashland Youth Center site in April.

County Recognized as Climate Leader

In April, Alameda County was awarded the 2012 Green California Leadership Award in the category of "Pioneer" for our program of Comprehensive Climate Action for Government Operations and Services, recognizing the efforts of many departments and individuals.

In January, Alameda County Sustainability was selected by the Institute of Cultural Affairs as a **Technology of Participation Champion**, recognizing broad staff engagement such as the 14 agencies implementing Countywide climate initiatives.

- Want to get involved? Visit alcoweb.acgov.org/sustain to learn about climate action and being green at work.
- Want to share a green project you're working on? Fill out the questionnaire at alcoweb/climate/actionsurvey.htm

Congratulations to all of us who make green choices on the job!



Carolyn Bloede, GSA; Matt Rodriguez, Cal/EPA Secretary; Emily Sadigh, GSA

Photo: John Decker for Green Technology

Bilingual Poll Workers Needed for November 6 Election

The Registrar of Voters Department needs Bilingual Poll Workers to work at polling places for the upcoming November 6, 2012, Presidential Election. The Registrar is looking for poll workers fluent in English as well as one of four other languages: Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog (Filipino) and Vietnamese. All poll workers will be paid to attend a mandatory training class prior to Election Day. For an application and more information please contact the Registrar of Voters via email rov_pollworker@acgov.org or phone (510) 272-6971.

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**Demetrious N. Shaffer —
Appointed to Interim Fire Chief**

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors in June appointed Demetrious N. Shaffer as the Interim Alameda County Fire Chief. The appointment followed the resignation of longtime County Fire Chief Sheldon Gilbert. Shaffer is former Fire Chief for the City of Newark and a former President of the California Fire Chiefs Association. He was serving as Deputy Fire Chief for Alameda County prior to his appointment. Nate Miley, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, said the County was fortunate to be able to turn to someone with Shaffer's impressive professional experience following Gilbert's departure. "Demetrious is well prepared to step into the role as Interim Fire Chief," Miley said. The Board of Supervisors plans to conduct a recruitment process for the permanent Fire Chief.

**Appeals Court Upholds County
Firearms Ordinance**

Alameda County earlier this month won its long-fought court battle in *Nordyke v. King*, successfully defeating a gun show operator's challenge to its ordinance regulating firearms possession on County-owned property. The ordinance was challenged in 1999 by the Nordykes, who claimed the ordinance infringed on their constitutional rights because of its impact on their gun shows at the County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. A eleven-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the Court found that "[n]o matter how broad the scope of the Second Amendment – an issue we leave to another day – it is clear that, as applied to Plaintiffs' gun shows and as interpreted by the County, this regulation is permissible."

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

Published by the County of Alameda
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County Administrator
Susan S. Muranishi

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Alameda County Board of Supervisors <http://www.acgov.org/board/>
Lookup/pay Property Taxes <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>
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Alameda County Superior Court <http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/>

For a calendar of Alameda County events, visit the County website at <http://www.acgov.org/calendar>. Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).