



DIGEST

Around and About

THE NEW department of beaches will go into business May 1. The Board of Supervisors also voted last Tuesday (March 25) to transfer 115 employees, mostly lifeguards and grounds maintenance men, from the parks and recreation department into the new organization. The board's ordinance gives the director of beaches (still unnamed) jurisdiction over "all public beach and shoreline areas bordering the Pacific ocean owned, leased, operated, or controlled by the County." The director also will be given four additional employees for his office staff.

NEXT MONDAY (April 1) will be the birth date of another new County department—the department of data processing. The Board of Supervisors voted last Jan. 28 to give it separate existence after a brief gestation period (since October 1968) as a division of data processing services in the CAO's office. Gordon Milliman is to be acting department head.

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BUILDINGS -- WHO NEEDS WHAT?

CAO LIN HOLLINGER, taking a six-year look into the future, has advised the Board of Supervisors that County departments should have \$391 million in new buildings and building improvements by 1974.

Biggest projects would be in civic center, the hospitals, the sheriff's and probation departments.

Hollinger emphasized that his report, titled *Six Year Capital Projects Program 1968-1974*, is "an inventory of construction needs" rather than a list of projects assured of approval and financing.

He estimated that almost two-thirds of the \$391 million might come from federal, state and other outside sources, leaving some \$145 million to come from the County general fund.

Hollinger said he based his cost estimates on present prices with no attempt to allow for future inflation or deflation.

The Board of Supervisors, which had requested the long-range plan for capital projects, voted March 18 to receive and file the Hollinger report.

A condensed department-by-department breakdown follows:

APCD—Present six-story building is adequate. For air conditioning and elevator improvements, \$181,000.

AIRPORTS—Brackett field, \$1.9 million for an additional runway and other improvements; Compton airport, \$953,000 for development; El Monte airport, \$1.6 million for land and development; Fox airfield,

\$657,000 for additions and improvements. Total \$5 million.

ANIMAL CONTROL—\$1 million, mostly for animal shelters near Castaic and Calabasas.

ARBORETA AND BOTANIC GARDENS—\$4.5 million, primarily for Descanso gardens (\$889,000), state and County arboretum (\$1.6 million), and South Coast botanic garden (\$1.7 million).

CIVIC CENTER—Mall and underground parking, \$9.8 million; Hall of Justice remodeling, \$16.4 million; Criminal Courts building, \$34.1 million; Education building remodeling, \$2.2 million; new Municipal Traffic Court building, \$15.5 million; new Engineering building, \$17.5 million; and other projects. Total \$97 million.

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER — New building at County-USC medical center, \$3.3 million.

COMMUNICATIONS—\$2.1 million, mostly for an electronics complex on Eastern avenue.

COMMUNITY SERVICES — \$132,000 for converting two former fire stations into south L. A. community centers.

COUNTY BRANCH OFFICES AND COURTS — Compton, \$7.2 million; Newhall, \$3.9 million; South Bay, \$3 million; Whittier, \$3 million addition; Alhambra, \$2.7 million; Santa Monica, \$2.1 million addition; Long Beach, \$2 million addition; Citrus, \$1.5 million; El Monte, \$783,000 addition; Van

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Around and About

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TWENTY MILLION records in the sheriff's office—fingerprints, arrest reports, mug files—will be transferred from tons of paper to rolls of magnetic tape under a computer system approved by the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday (March 25). Sheriff's officers say the new Ampex Videofile will retrieve in less than two minutes records that now require up to 24 hours to find. They also estimate the new system will pay for itself in less than four years by saving \$1.5 million a year in salaries. About 120 filing clerks will be transferred to other jobs in the sheriff's department. The Videofile will feed its information over wires to video-screen terminals in the 15 sheriff stations, the Hall of Justice, and the jail.

THE CAO's office credits its management audits program with saving an additional \$1 million during the 1968-69 fiscal year, most of it in DPSS operations. In a report to the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday (March 25) the CAO said previous activities of the management services division already had resulted in savings of approximately \$5 million a year. The division has finished four management audits, six others are under way in the probation, building services, County clerk, and parks and recreation departments and in the hospital's bureau of medical social services.

Petitions for Units — LACEA Pours It On

LOS ANGELES County Employees association has established itself as the biggest "customer" of the employee relations commission with a barrage of 13 petitions during the past two weeks, asking the commission to approve representation units that would include nearly 28,000 employees. The units would cover at least some staffers in every County department.

Other organizations have filed four petitions during that time.

The new petitions join a backlog of 40 other petitions on which the commission (ERCOM) has yet to hold public hearings.

The commission has concluded hearings on seven petitions and has them under submission. It has rendered a decision only on petition No. 1 (see adjoining story). A consolidated hearing is scheduled April 10 and 11 on six petitions covering mechanical and crafts workers.

New LACEA petitions include:

No. 67 for 460 deputy D-As, public defenders and law clerks.

No. 70 for 803 sheriff's sergeants and lieutenants.

No. 71 for 2,977 deputy sheriffs including 74 senior sheriffs.

No. 72 for 703 supervising engineers and architects in engineering, APCD, real estate, health, road, flood and communications.

No. 73 for 681 engineers, assistants, chemists and others in engineering, APCD, real estate, parks, road, flood, health and communications departments.

No. 74 for 1,410 supervising clerical and administrative employees in nearly all departments.

No. 75 for 4,910 social workers, welfare assistants, investigators and others in DPSS, hospitals, and seven other departments.

No. 76 for 697 medical and psychiatric social workers, child welfare workers and others in DPSS and nine other departments.

No. 78 for 1,017 supervising social service and medical case workers and others in DPSS, hospitals, health, and veteran affairs.

No. 79 for 12,319 clerical and office machine workers, appraisers, storekeepers, telephone operators, EDP employees, inspectors, library assistants, weight inspectors, museum employees, golf starters and others in all County departments.

No. 80 for 338 supervising engineers, inspectors, surveyors, planners and technicians in 13 departments.

No. 81 for 1,278 inspectors, engineering employees, artists, planning employees and technicians in 21 departments.

Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers association filed two petitions: No. 82 for 3,463 deputy sheriffs, marshals and D-A investigators I, and No. 83 for 1,177 supervising officers in the sheriff, marshal and D-A departments.

The Association of Los Angeles County Dental Personnel petitioned (No. 68) for a unit of 120 dentists, assistants and technicians in five departments.

California Property Consultants association's petition (No. 69) covers 60 property investigators in DPSS.

First election coming

SOME 170 superior court clerks apparently will have the first opportunity to cast ballots in an election to choose a negotiating representative under the 1968 employee relations ordinance.

The employee relations commission by a 2 to 1 vote (Neely Gardner dissenting) approved the clerks as a representation unit. Local 575 of AFSCME had asked for the unit in the first petition filed with the commission last January. Los Angeles County Employees association intervened to compete for the unit.

Representatives of AFSCME, LACEA and the County personnel department are conferring at 1 p.m. today (March 28) with commission executive secretary Les Rothenberg to discuss election arrangements. The commission later will issue an election order as to form of ballots and polling places.

Commissioner Gardner, dissenting, said a representation unit of only 170 employees is too small.

How the System Works

SOME COUNTY employees, uncertain as to how the employee relations ordinance may affect them, have telephoned and written *The DIGEST* with questions such as "Who will set up a representation unit in our office?" and "When will somebody tell us what representation unit we are in?" and "What if I don't want to belong to a certain unit?" The following step-by-step summary answers some of the more common questions on the ordinance and how the employee relations commission is putting its provisions into effect:

STEP 1: A petition to form a unit.

Any old or newly formed group, union or association of employees may file a petition with the employee relations commission (ERCOM) proposing that certain employees be designated as an appropriate representation unit. The petition must specify the classes and number of employees and the departments they are in, and it must be accompanied by a "show of interest" from 30 percent of the employees in the proposed unit. This show of interest may be in the form of signed cards, or signatures on a petition list, or a list showing payroll dues deductions for the petitioning organization.

ERCOM had received, as of press time, a total of 83 such petitions (but 17 have been withdrawn, leaving a net of 66 active petitions).

STEP 2: A petition to intervene.

If another employee group disagrees with the proposed makeup of a representation unit, or if it wishes to compete with the original petitioner to become the majority representative of the proposed unit, the second group may file an "intervenor" petition with ERCOM. This petition must be accompanied by a "show of interest" from at least 10 percent of the employees in the proposed unit.

ERCOM has received 50 intervenor petitions, most of them from Los Angeles County Employees association.

STEP 3: The public hearing:

ERCOM schedules a public hearing at which the petitioner and any intervenors may present arguments and evidence to support their cases. Other employees or organizations also may appear and speak as interested parties. After the commission hears all parties, it closes the hearing and takes the petition under submission while it weighs its decision.

ERCOM presently has under submission petitions for units of x-ray technicians (petition No. 6), hospital pharmacists (No. 7) and deputy probation officers (Nos. 4, 23, 47 and 50 which were heard in a consolidated hearing).

STEP 4: Deciding the unit.

ERCOM issues its ruling as to what classes of County employees should be grouped into a proper representation unit.

As yet ERCOM has issued only one such ruling affecting superior court clerks.

STEP 5: Electing a majority representative.

The employee relations ordinance gives ERCOM authority to decide by what procedure it wishes to "certify" an organization as the majority representative for a unit—that is, the representative with power to negotiate agreements with County management as to pay and working conditions within that unit of employees. The ordinance, however, also gives County management and other parties the right to demand a secret election in choosing the majority representative. Director of personnel Gordon Nesvig has said the County will insist on secret elections in every unit. The ordinance provides that the ballot must include a choice of "no representative."

At present plans are pending to hold the first election among the 170 superior court clerks.

STEP 6: Negotiating.

If an organization wins an election and ERCOM thereupon certifies it as the majority representative of a unit, it may enter into negotiations toward reaching agreements with County management on pay and working conditions. If the agreement involves the spending of County funds or other matters placed by law with the Board of Supervisors, the Board must review and approve the agreement.

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THUS: A County employee will find himself within a designated representation unit only if, first, a group or organization has filed a petition with ERCOM including his job within a proposed unit; second, ERCOM has held a public hearing on the petition; third, ERCOM has ruled that such a unit, which includes his job, should be formed. Once the unit is approved, there still remains the secret election to decide what organization, if any, shall be the majority representative of the unit.

BUILDINGS

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Nuys, to finish seventh floor, \$420,000; Downey, \$370,000 addition; Las Virgenes, \$250,000; and others. Total, \$29.2 million.

FORESTER-FIRE WARDEN — \$7.3 million for 32 fire stations, two forestry camps, warehouses and other improvements.

HEALTH—Aside from the new administrative building on Figueroa at Temple and district health centers in Pomona, Hollywood-Wilshire and the west district, projects are proposed for a Canoga Park health center, \$810,000; an Inglewood health center, \$660,000; a San Fernando health center, \$735,000; and new subcenters or additions to subcenters at Downey-South Gate (\$1,840,000), Florence-Firestone (\$205,000), Hawaiian Gardens (\$173,000), La Mirada (\$142,000), La Verne-San Dimas (\$148,000), Pico Rivera (\$378,000), and Wilmington (\$285,000). Total all health department projects, \$6 million.

HOSPITALS—Improvements for Antelope Valley rehabilitation centers at Acton (\$4.3 million) and at Warm Springs (\$505,000); Harbor General additions, \$21.6 million; John Wesley improvements, \$584,000; El Cerrito improvements, \$326,000; Long Beach General additions, \$732,000; County-USC medical center for acute unit elevators, additions and improvements to children's clinic and psychiatric unit, diet kitchen, and development of master plan, \$4.5 million; Martin Luther King, Jr., General, \$11.8 million; Mira Loma, clinical unit, \$3.2 million; Olive View, to complete 800-bed hospital, children's mental health center, conversion of rehabilitation facilities and other projects, \$5.5 million; Rancho Los Amigos, 210-bed chronic-care addition (\$10 million), stroke center (\$6.7 million) and other improvements bringing Rancho total to \$25 million.

Total for all hospitals, \$78 million (of which \$58 million may be available from federal and state sources).

Additional plans for the medical center and John Wesley hospital are under study.

MECHANICAL — New central shops and administrative complex at Biscailuz center, \$7.3 million; new service garage on North Spring street, \$1.9 million; service shops for northwest county, \$1.6 million; west county service shops, \$895,000; Antelope valley service shops, \$745,000. Total, \$12.7 million.

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS — \$92,600 for elevator and emergency power generator at Patriotic hall.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY — New paleontology museum at Hancock park, \$4.6 million; a taxidermy wing and other expansion at present museum, \$750,000.

OTIS ART INSTITUTE — \$1.6 million for an auditorium, more classroom, library and gallery space.

PROBATION — Area offices in Canoga Park, Gardena and Hollywood, and transportation offices on Zonal avenue, \$2.8 million; new Dr. Vierling Kersey boys' camp, \$1.4 million; improvements at other boys' camps, \$363,000; Los Padriños juvenile hall, \$3.9 million; new MacLaren hall, \$6.9 million; South Bay juvenile hall, \$7.4 million; boys' medical unit at main juvenile hall, \$2.5 million; other improvements at main juvenile hall, \$630,000; expansion and improvements at San Fernando valley juvenile hall, \$1.2 million; new school for girls, \$3.6 million. Total for probation department, \$30.7 million.

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES — Expansion of Metro East and South Central district offices, \$191,000; cottages for dependent children at the medical center, Harbor General,

Olive View, and Rancho Los Amigos hospital. \$743,000. Plans for additional DPSS offices are under study.

PURCHASING AND STORES— Replace present building with new 400,000 square foot complex of offices and storage space. \$5.7 million.

SHERIFF—New stations at Carson (\$1.3 million), Montrose (\$1.2 million), Norwalk (\$1.1 million), Palos Verdes (\$772,000), Pico Rivera (\$552,000), and Walnut-Brea canyon (\$1.2 million), plus improvements at other stations; improvements at Wayside Honor Rancho, \$13.4 million; expansion of central jail, \$21.8 million; improvements at Sybil Brand institute, \$149,000; detention camp improvements, \$1.2 million; new enforcement bureau headquarters in East Los Angeles. \$615,000; air conditioning for main academy classroom, \$46,300; plus other projects. Total for sheriff, \$44.2 million.

SMALL CRAFT HARBORS — Launching facility at Topanga creek, \$2.9 million; harbor refuges at Catalina island, Malibu, Portuguese bend and Paradise Cove-Point Dume, \$164,000.

VETERINARIAN — Comparative medicine buildings at Harbor General and Rancho Los Amigos hospitals, \$2.9 million.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES— New administration building, \$410,000; relocation of calibration and meter testing facility to South County branch office, \$366,000.

County of Los Angeles

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