



# DIGEST

## Around and About

STARTING NEXT year, 1972, County employees taking a vacation of ten days or more may request and get a vacation paycheck along with their last regular check before leaving on vacation—a custom widely followed in private industry. The vacationer's department must request the advance check from the auditor-controller in accord with regular payroll deadlines of the 3rd or 18th of the month.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT hopes to wipe out almost two-thirds of the waiting list for employee Civic Center parking spaces during the next few weeks. The list now totals nearly 1,600. Two developments are expected to cut it to around 630. First, and most important, the underground garage beneath Phase II of the Mall will open next week, providing close to 600 spaces. In addition, health department employees will complete their move into their new administration building on West Temple street, which has space for several hundred cars. First call on the new beneath-the-Mall space will go to

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## Welfare Blamed for Squeeze

### CAO PROPOSES '71-72 BUDGET

CAO ARTHUR Will recommended to the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday (April 27) a 1971-72 budget reflecting what he called "uncontrollable welfare cost increases, state underfunding of health care commitments, inflationary trends, and general economic decline."

For County employees, Will's recommendations implied no drastic shakeups or layoffs. He also included an item of \$48 million for increased salaries and employee benefits.

Will proposed raising the number of positions in 16 departments, notably DPSS, hospitals, fire, and registrar-recorder, which must run major elections in 1972. The CAO recommended fewer employees in 20 departments with the sharpest cuts in mental health (127) and probation (104). In 18 departments Will suggested negligible or no changes in the number of jobs.

A detailed breakdown of the recommended number of positions and departmental appropriations appears on pages 3 and 4.

For the taxpayer, the CAO's budget would mean an estimated increase in the County general fund tax rate of 75 cents—from this year's \$4.09 per \$100 of assessed value to \$4.84 per \$100. For the owner of a \$24,000 home this would mean a County general fund tax of \$254 next year compared with \$215 this year.

Will said in estimating this increase he anticipated only a 2 per-

cent increase in the assessment roll that assessor Philip Watson will release this summer. In recent years the assessed value of taxable property in the County has been growing at a rate of 5 to 6 percent annually, but Will said that because of general economic conditions and decreased value of earthquake-damaged property, he does not expect more than a 2 percent growth for 1971-72. A greater increase, of course, would result in a lower tax rate on each piece of property.

Will's proposed budget calls for general fund spending of \$2.359 billion, a rise of \$426.5 million, or 22 percent, over the current year's \$1.93 billion.

The Board of Supervisors adopted the proposed budget for publication purposes and scheduled public hearings to begin June 7. Most supervisors indicated they will seek cuts in Will's figures. A motion by Supervisor Frank Bonelli to reject the proposed budget and readopt the 1970-71 budget for the coming year lost by a 4 to 1 vote.

Will's budget letter, in a section discussing possible future curtailments in services, said:

"Due to deletion of large numbers of positions in most departments, any further reductions will almost certainly entail layoff of employees. If this is to be done, full functions should be eliminated or curtailed to avoid the crippling effect of partial cuts which always

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employees working in the New Hall of Records who now are parking at more distant lots in Civic Center.

PINK-COVERED booklets listing the nearest doctors, emergency hospitals, and ambulance services are being distributed among County departments—to be held ready for any time an employee is hurt on the job. The booklets, entitled "1971 Directory of Physicians and Medical Facilities for Industrial Injury," are expected to get considerable use. The department of personnel's branch of workmen's compensation and occupational health estimates that approximately 8,000 workers will be injured this year while on duty, or an average of one out of every nine employees. The directory also gives instructions on how to report injuries and obtain benefits through the County's workmen's comp program.

SUPERIOR COURT will hold an open competitive examination for a new position—Head, Staff Services—paying \$16,116 to \$20,076 per year. Executive officer Frank Zolin says they are looking for a college graduate who is familiar with computer operations and has at least five years experience, including two years or more as a supervisor. Applications close May 10. Fuller information is available in room 226-A County Courthouse, phone 625-3414 extension 61528.

THE EMPLOYEE relations commission tallied the votes Wednesday morning (April 28) and announced that a joint council of LACEA, County Employees Union, Local 434, and three public health associations had won an 81 to 2 victory to represent a unit of Supervisory Nonprofessional Paramedical-Health Employees . . . 133 were eligible to cast ballots.

## BUDGET

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result from flat across-the-board changes."

### The Squeeze

Will, in his budget message to the Board of Supervisors, zeroed in on welfare costs as chief cause of the County's financial woes. He said: "The double effect of burgeoning welfare caseloads and the severe state revenue cutbacks in health care services is literally squeezing out all other County services. Welfare alone moves from 47.5 percent of the current budget to occupy 59 percent of all projected (1971-72) County general fund expenditures."

Will added that among the 2,933 additional general fund jobs he is recommending, 91 percent of them are allocated to welfare, 9 percent to all other departments.

## Many Units Reach Agreements on Pay

DIRECTOR OF personnel Gordon Nesvig has predicted most County employees will be covered by negotiated agreements on pay and working conditions that he will include in the 1971-72 salary recommendations he will send to the Board of Supervisors May 14.

Nesvig announced last Tuesday (April 27) that County negotiators had arrived at signed or tentative agreements with 17 units of employees totaling 35,800 employees. Negotiations or mediation still were in progress with representatives of another 26 units having 22,500 members.

Nesvig said two units of 1,370 fire fighters and 470 supervisory fire fighters had signed their agreements.

Tentative agreements had been reached with:

— units of 16,000 clerks and office employees and 1,420 supervisory clerks and office employees

— three hospital units including 4,900 paramedical technical employees, 2,430 institutional support employees, and 80 pharmacists

— units of 2,030 registered

"The welfare growth rate in caseloads," Will told the Board, "has been accelerating so fast over the past two years we have almost doubled and redoubled the annual net increases in people receiving cash assistance. . . The total number of people receiving aid from the County increased from 485,000 in January 1968 to 907,000 at the beginning of this year, and will shoot up to an estimated 1.2 million in 1971-72. This will result in moving from a current ratio of 1 in 8 persons in Los Angeles county on welfare to 1 in 6 during 1971-72 for a net cost increase of \$100 million. The net County share (in addition to federal and state aid) will increase from \$185 million to \$285 million, requiring a 57.8 cent property tax rate increase. As in the past, by far the fastest growth areas are in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children category,

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nurses and 920 supervisory registered nurses

— a unit of 2,840 artisan and blue collar employees

— a unit of 1,160 administrative and technical staff service employees

— 990 supervisory peace officers

— 770 attorneys

— 190 superior court clerks

— 160 psychiatric social workers

— 50 agricultural inspectors

— 30 public defender investigators.

Principal groups among those still negotiating, as of last Tuesday, were five units of social service workers, four units of engineers and engineering technicians, building custodians, deputy probation officers, blue collar supervisors, appraisers, sanitarians, corrections officers, guards, automotive and equipment maintenancemen, and a unit of professional paramedical-health employees.

Negotiations with the 1,480-man unit of County building trades and skilled craftsmen will not begin until their customary time in the summer.

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due to family breakup, increase in unemployment, increased awareness of welfare eligibility, further liberalization of the system through court action, and many other factors."

The CAO said the County's only hope to escape from its financial bind is for action in Congress and the state legislature to change the welfare system.

Will added:

"I believe we have seen the last year where we can get by without completely shutting down major services to continue to support these uncontrollable mandatory functions. All of our efforts should be directed to securing passage of reforms in these areas by the legislature and the Congress."

## Medical, Mental Health

The CAO declared that the County's medical and mental health programs present "very serious service problems due mainly to underfunding of the state commitments . . . Lowered service levels are inevitable throughout the system and . . . experience this year clearly shows that to increase services is at our own hazard, since state funding can be removed or substantially modified at any time. Legislative reform in this area is critical to put these programs on a predictable and equitable basis."

## Capital Projects

The proposed 1971-72 budget includes \$53.8 million for new County buildings, parks, and other capital projects, nearly \$20 million less than the \$73.3 million included in the present year's budget. Actual spending on pay-as-you-go capital projects this year, however, apparently will run only \$29 million, principally because of the freeze imposed last January.

The proposed budget, however, shows a \$7 million rise in "rent costs" from \$26.7 million to \$33.7 million. These rents cover County payments on long-term leases for buildings that were constructed

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# The Recommended Budget

THE TABLE below shows, in approximate numbers, the net appropriations and number of positions in the 1971-72 County budget which CAO Arthur Will recommended to the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday (April 27). The amounts shown are before deducting revenue that departments receive from non-County sources (such as federal and state aid to welfare, hospitals, mental health, probation, and others). The table compares the CAO's recommendations with the net appropriations and number of positions provided in the 1970-71 budget. An asterisk (\*) indicates a special district or special County funds, rather than a County general fund department. Figures have been rounded for easier reading. A dash indicates negligible change.

Department	FUNDS		POSITIONS	
	<i>(millions of dollars)</i>			
	<i>Recom- mended for 1971-72</i>	<i>Increase over 1970-71</i>	<i>Recom- mended for 1971-72</i>	<i>Increase over 1970-71</i>
Public Social Services	\$1,336	\$430.	17,775	2,679
Hospitals	\$227.4	(—\$90.)	18,825	325
Sheriff	\$ 92.4	\$ 5.6	6,803	—
*Road	\$ 84.6	(—\$14.)	2,348	—
*Flood Control	\$ 83.7	(—\$10.)	1,858	(—21)
Fire and *Fire Protection Districts	\$ 58.5	\$ 6.5	2,187	111
Probation	\$ 50.4	(—\$.3)	4,239	(—104)
Health	\$ 30.5	(—\$.1)	2,436	(—34)
Mental Health	\$ 30.	(—\$5.3)	507	(—127)
Mechanical	\$ 25.2	\$3.1	1,764	(—24)
Municipal Courts and Marshal	\$ 23.4	\$ 1.3	1,885	37
Assessor	\$ 20.3	\$ .76	1,635	(—43)
Superior Court	\$ 17.4	\$ 2.4	777	32
Parks	\$ 16.1	\$ .6	1,559	(—4)
Engineer	\$ 16.	\$ .5	1,549	(—35)
District Attorney	\$ 15.7	\$ 1.1	1,074	24
*Library	\$ 14.4	\$ .3	919	(—10)
Communications	\$ 14.1	\$ .2	589	(—1)
Building Services	\$ 10.2	\$ .8	1,452	11
Registrar-Recorder	\$ 9.	\$ 1.	575	84
Public Defender	\$ 8.6	\$ .2	514	19

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# The Recommended Budget

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Department	FUNDS		POSITIONS	
	(millions of dollars)			
	Recom- mended for 1971-72	Increase over 1970-71	Recom- mended for 1971-72	Increase over 1970-71
County Clerk	\$ 8.4	\$ .35	861	19
Auditor-Controller	\$ 7.7	\$ .9	592	(-8)
Personnel	\$ 5.5	\$ .35	462	55
Air Pollution Control District	\$ 5.	—	303	(-9)
Adoptions	\$ 4.8	\$ .4	445	(-2)
Treasurer-Tax Collector	\$ 4.	\$ .1	307	(-7)
Music and Performing Arts	\$ 3.6	\$ .2	1	1
Regional Planning	\$ 3.	(-\$2.)	185	(-25)
County Counsel	\$ 3.	\$ .2	204	7
Purchasing and Stores	\$ 2.6	—	259	(-7)
Urban Affairs	\$ 2.6	—	156	(-3)
Administrative Office	\$ 2.5	—	166	(-4)
Data Processing	\$ 2.5	\$ 1.	842	57
Schools	\$ 2.4	(-\$3.)	219	(-31)
Museum of Art	\$ 2.3	—	180	(-4)
Board of Supervisors	\$ 2.3	—	148	(-4)
Museum of Natural History	\$ 2.	—	167	3
Medical Examiner- Coroner	\$ 1.8	\$ .1	126	(-1)
Beaches	\$ 1.8	\$ .2	162	16
Animal Control	\$ 1.2	—	126	(-5)
Real Estate Management	\$ 1.2	(-\$1.)	168	7
Community Services	\$ 1.	—	90	(-2)
Agricultural Commissioner	\$ 1.	(-\$1.)	83	(-15)
Weights and Measures	\$ .86	—	71	(-3)
Human Relations	\$ .76	—	55	(-2)
Otis Art Institute	\$ .52	—	28	1
Veterinarian	\$ .37	—	24	—
Senior Citizens' Affairs	\$ .3	—	28	(-1)
Veterans' Affairs	\$ .2	—	21	(-1)
Justice Courts	\$ .1	—	12	—
Employee Relations Commission	\$ .1	—	4	—
Public Welfare Commission	\$ .1	—	—	—
Farm Advisor	\$ .1	—	12	—

## BUDGET

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with money provided by the County retirement fund or revenue bonds floated by County-created nonprofit corporations or joint powers authorities. The County is legally bound to repay such loans through long-term leases.

### Continuous Control

Will said his office intends to keep a critical eye year-around on County spending, just as it has been doing in the current economy drive.

"We will be budgeting year-around and will take whatever action is necessary on any changes which may occur in revenue receipts or budget expenditures," Will said. "This will obviate one of the biggest problems which the County had this year when certain expenditure overruns went undetected for the first critical months of the fiscal year.

"Long-term budgeting is needed to forecast County requirements beyond the traditional 12-month cycle. . . Management audits in County departments and acceleration of the work measurement program will continue, and we will make our first efforts in implementing the 'agency plan' form of organization of County operations."

The agency plan involves grouping related County departments into an agency whose head will report to the CAO.

County of Los Angeles

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