



DIGEST

Around and About

LATEST ESTIMATES are that the County Criminal Courts building will be completed and ready for occupancy next May.

FOLLOWING A City of Los Angeles turn-down of the County's offer to consolidate the City and County library systems, the Board of Supervisors voted (Nov. 30) to form a nonprofit corporation that will float bonds to finance a new County library headquarters building on North Spring street—a project that was cancelled last January during the County's cash pinch.

THE BOARD of Supervisors elected Warren Dorn (Dec. 7) to serve another year as its chairman . . . And Thelma Mahoney will wield the gavel as president of the Civil Service commission for 1972. . . Liston Witherill takes over as director of hospitals next month from retiring William Barr . . . From Washington, word that President Nixon has nominated John Buggs as director of the federal Civil Right commission; he moves up from deputy director. Buggs formerly was director of the County human relations commission.

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MILEAGE RATES INCREASED

AN AGREEMENT granting an extra one or two cents a mile to the 17,000 County employees who use their cars on County business is expected to go into effect Jan. 1.

The permittees also will become eligible for reimbursement if they incur occasional parking expenses while on errands of County business. Parking reimbursements will not begin until early in 1972 after the auditor-controller can establish a claims-handling system.

Approval of the new agreement has been requested from the Los Angeles office of the federal wage stabilization program.

Under the new mileage rates, a permittee will receive 14 cents a mile for the first 300 miles; 13 cents a mile for driving 301 to 850 miles; and 7 cents for each mile over 850.

Present mileage rates are 13 cents a mile for the first 250 miles; 11 cents a mile for 251 to 750 miles;

and 6 cents for each mile over 750.

The average permittee reportedly drives about 330 miles a month on County business.

The new agreement, which the Board of Supervisors approved (Nov. 30), makes no change in the present \$10 a month minimum for permittees.

County management negotiated the agreement between Aug. 31 and Nov. 8 with representatives of five employee organizations—Los Angeles County Employees association, California Association of Professional Employees, Service Employees International Union, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and California Nurses association.

These five groups represent approximately 54,000 of the 64,000 County employees who belong to negotiating units. The memorandum of understanding they negotiated applies, however, to all County permittees.

State Tax Withholding Starts Jan. 1

AUDITOR - CONTROLLER Mark Bloodgood has announced a withholding system of California state income taxes will go into effect for County employees starting with the Jan. 10 paycheck.

The new system is part of the \$501 million tax bill passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Reagan (Dec. 8). By their action California became the last state with an income tax to adopt withholding.

County employees will find the state income tax deduction listed on their paycheck stubs under the

heading "state tax" next to the box showing the federal income tax deduction.

A single employee claiming no exemptions and receiving the minimum County wage of \$440 a month will have a deduction for state income taxes of roughly \$6 a month; if he is in the \$10,000 a year bracket, his deduction will be around \$25 a month; and if he earns \$15,000 a year, he will have about \$55 a month withheld.

A married employee taking no
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WITHHOLDING

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exemptions will pay around \$4 a month if his salary is at the \$440 a month minimum, \$13 a month if he earns \$10,000 a year, and \$30 a month if he is in the \$15,000 bracket.

A married worker taking two exemptions will pay no tax at the minimum pay level, about \$6.50 a month in the \$10,000 bracket, and \$22 a month in the \$15,000 bracket.

(See table below for more detailed examples.)

The new legislation provides that when a taxpayer files his 1971 state income tax payment next April he will be "forgiven" 20 percent of the 1971 tax in recognition of the fact he will be paying both 1971 and 1972 taxes during 1972.

State officials point out, however, that the taxpayer eventually will get a break because, when he retires, he will not have a state income tax payment hanging over him the following April.

FICA again

County employees will note also on their Jan. 10 checks the customary return of social security deductions (FICA). The tax rate will be the same as last year, 5.2 percent, but Congress has raised the maximum taxable income from the present \$7,800 a year to \$9,000 a year.

Thus, a worker who earned more than \$7,800 in 1971 paid \$405.60 in social security tax deductions. In 1972, if his salary is \$9,000 or more, he will pay \$468.

Vacation checks

Bloodgood issued a reminder that in 1972 a County employee who is taking a vacation of ten days or more may request and get a vacation paycheck along with his last regular check before leaving on vacation. This system will go into effect beginning with the Jan. 25 paycheck.

Bloodgood said the vacationer's department must request the advance from the auditor-controller's office in accord with the regular payroll deadlines of the 3rd or 18th of the month.

The In-Basket

To THE DIGEST:

Each month, and especially around this time of year, we receive several calls from County employees who are worried about the possibility of developing infectious hepatitis through personal contacts at work. They often mention concern about fellow employees who cough or sneeze or bring holiday food to the office.

The virus causing infectious hepatitis is not spread by coughing or sneezing. It can be transmitted through direct contact with the feces or urine of an infected person, or through an infected person who fails to wash his hands thoroughly after toilet and then handles food or drink that another person then eats or drinks. No other means of transmission is known.

The obvious preventive is personal cleanliness.

Gamma globulin injections will not prevent this disease; in some cases, however, they may reduce its severity.

Jean S. Felton, M.D.
Director
Occupational Health Service
Department of Personnel

THE TABLE below shows the approximate deductions that will be made from County employees' paychecks under the new state income tax withholding system. The exact amount of each employee's monthly deductions will depend upon his precise salary and the number of exemptions he has claimed on his federal income tax W-4 form.

Monthly Salary	Single, No Exemptions	Married, No Exemptions	Married, Two Exemptions
\$ 440 to \$ 460	\$ 6.40	\$ 4.00	\$ —
500 to 520	8.30	5.20	—
600 to 620	12.30	7.20	1.40
700 to 720	17.20	9.60	3.40
800 to 840	23.40	12.90	6.30
880 to 920	28.40	15.30	8.70
1,000 to 1,040	37.00	20.00	12.50
1,080 to 1,120	43.40	23.20	15.70
1,200 to 1,240	54.00	28.50	20.50
1,280 to 1,320	61.70	32.50	24.20
1,360 to 1,400	69.70	36.50	28.20

County of Los Angeles

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