



DIGEST

Around and About

A LOS ANGELES firm, WS & Y Consultants, has begun a 60-day search for a possible successor to resigned CAO Arthur Will. The Board of Supervisors (Sept. 3) ordered the firm to make a nationwide hunt for candidates.

EVEN WITH escalators running and elevators and air conditioning partially restored, County buildings are still using about 25 percent less electricity than they did a year ago. Mechanical director Robert Sudduth says major savings result from cutting nearly all power in many buildings at night and on weekends.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES having marriage problems, or even heading for divorce, have been offered free, confidential counseling service by the County conciliation court. For further information, go to room 241, County Courthouse, or telephone 974-5524.

ANNUAL REMINDER: AID contributors who want their donations to go to a favorite charity should fill out a designation form at their departmental payroll office during September.

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HEALTH PLANS SIGN-UP TO OPEN

AN OPEN enrollment period for all County-sponsored health plans—the first open period in two years—will begin Sept. 30 and close Oct. 11.

During these two weeks, any permanent, fulltime County employee may enroll himself or his dependents in any of the five plans without "evidence of insurability"—that is, without filing a health statement.

Available plans are Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Kaiser, Ross-Loos, and the Hospital-Only plan.

Two of the plans—Kaiser (which has approximately 28,000 County employee subscribers) and Ross-Loos (5,000 County subscribers)—are group-practice systems with their own doctors and medical facilities.

The two other comprehensive plans—Blue Cross (18,000 County subscribers) and Blue Shield (7,300 subscribers)—permit the enrollee to select his own doctor and hospital, with the plan picking up the tab for most of his expenses.

Some 1,300 County staffers are enrolled in the Hospital-Only plan, using it largely as back-up or supplemental coverage to one of the four comprehensive plans.

Director of personnel Gordon Nesvig estimated that during the Sept. 30-Oct. 11 open period some 5,000 County employees will sign up for health plan coverage for the first time. Another 2,000, he said,

may take advantage of the period to switch health plans.

Nesvig said that employees already enrolled in a health plan who do not wish to make any changes in their coverage need take no action during the open membership period.

The four comprehensive plans—Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Kaiser, Ross-Loos—all provide for hospital care, surgery, and other medical benefits, but with varying arrangements.

Details and folders about each plan are available in each County department's personnel or payroll office. The same offices also have enrollment forms and payroll deduction authorization cards.

Those who enroll during the open period will have first deductions for the new coverage from their Dec. 10 paychecks. Benefits will begin Jan. 1.

A summary of each health plan's cost appears on the next page.

New facilities

THE Ross-Loos medical group has opened three new facilities—a hospital at West Temple street near Belmont avenue, and medical centers in West Covina and Torrance.

The Kaiser Foundation is opening its new West Los Angeles hospital near La Cienega boulevard and Santa Monica freeway.

What Health Plans Cost

THE TABLE below shows the monthly premiums charged by the County-sponsored health plans. These rates run until next Aug. 31. The county contributes up to \$31 a month toward the premium of one health plan per employee. The employee pays any amount over \$31 through payroll deductions, shown in the righthand column. "Code" refers to the code number on an employee's paycheck stub identifying what the deduction is for.

	<u>Total premium</u>	<u>Employee pays</u>
BLUE CROSS (Code 09)		
Coverage for employee only	\$22.41	Nothing
Plus one dependent	\$46.48	\$15.48
Plus two or more dependents	\$51.83	\$20.83
BLUE SHIELD (Code 44)		
Coverage for employee only	\$23.	Nothing
Plus one dependent	\$41.66	\$10.66
Plus two or more dependents	\$46.87	\$15.87
ROSS-LOOS (Code 19)		
Coverage for employee only	\$24.07	Nothing
Plus one dependent	\$46.80	\$15.80
Plus two or more dependents	\$61.03	\$30.03
KAISER (Code 10)		
Coverage for employee only	\$21.89	Nothing
Plus one dependent	\$43.78	\$12.78
Plus two or more dependents	\$62.22	\$31.22
HOSPITAL-ONLY (Code B-3)		
Coverage for employee only	\$ 5.98	Nothing
Plus one dependent	\$14.71	Nothing
Plus two or more dependents	\$21.34	Nothing

Public Employees' Car Pools Planned

SPURRED BY a transit strike and high gasoline prices, a renewed drive for car pools among 10,000 County employees in Civic Center got under way this week.

Car pool coordinators in each department were distributing questionnaires to all employees, asking those interested in car pooling to return the forms with information about home and work locations and working hours.

Similar information is being gathered among 22,000 city, state and federal employees in Civic Center, and from some private firms in the area.

The data from all agencies will be fed into a computer, operated by the Commuter Computer organization, to match up potential car

poolers. Each interested employee will receive a computerized list of possible car pool partners who live near him (generally within one mile).

Employees will organize their own car pools from the lists.

6,000 Get Pay Hikes

HIGHER SALARIES went into effect Sept. 1 for nearly 6,000 County employees following Board of Supervisors approval of seven negotiated memoranda of understanding.

The new 1974-75 agreements affect 1,550 building trades craftsmen, 210 blue-collar supervisors, 690 appraisers and supervisory appraisers, and 3,450 engineers, technicians, and related classes.

Sexist Titles Changed

"MAN" IS scheduled to become an extinct word in County job titles next Dec. 1. So are "waitress" and "housemother."

These are among 170 title changes approved by the civil service commission (Sept. 4) to comply with recent court decisions and laws relating to sex discrimination in employment.

The new titles will affect 6,000 County employees in 41 departments.

Patrolmen will become "patrol officers," foremen will be "supervisors," firemen "fire fighters," maintenance men "maintenance workers," housemothers "house parents," and waitresses "dining room servers."

The title changes reflect County action two years ago removing sex restrictions from nearly all County jobs.

Lifeguards Merged

THE BEACHES department has taken another spurt of growth by absorbing the City of Santa Monica lifeguard service.

The Board of Supervisors (Aug. 8) approved the agreement adding the 16 permanent and 85 seasonal Santa Monica lifeguards to the County payroll.

Since 1933 the County has taken over beach protection from the cities of Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Avalon, and El Segundo.

Talks are under way for possible County takeover of the Los Angeles City force of 46 fulltime and 165 recurrent lifeguards at the City's five saltwater beaches.

Possible consolidation of County and City airports also is under discussion.

County of Los Angeles

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