



DIGEST

Around and About

April 27 has been set tentatively as unveiling day for CAO Harry Hufford's much-awaited 1976-77 County budget.

Incidentally, CAO Hufford is wearing two more hats these days — as director of personnel (replacing Gordon Nesvig, who retired March 17) and as director of the new department of community development. The Board of Supervisors named him to the added jobs (March 2) on an acting basis without extra compensation.

New civil service commissioner Frank Alston Work was an operating engineer with County mechanical (1955-1970) before getting his UCLA law degree (1971), working in the UCLA chancellor's office, then heading out on his own last year as a Beverly Hills educational and management consultant. The Board of Supervisors (March 23) appointed Work, 40, to succeed Emmet Sullivan.

Frances Kreiling, executive officer of ERCOM since 1969, left (March 31) to become regional director in Los Angeles of the newly formed state Educational Employment Relations board, headed by former ERCOMmissioner Reginald Alleyne.

The Board of Supervisors has ordered another CAO study of whether the County should withdraw from the federal social security system. The Board action followed New York City's recent announcement it will drop out of SS after the required two-year wait.

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ROAD LAYOFFS AVERTED — FOR NOW

MORE THAN 450 road department employees, after a close brush with layoffs and demotions, have been assured their jobs are safe at least until next July 1.

A shortage of road building funds had threatened 110 civil engineer assistants and aides, survey technicians, and construction inspectors with layoffs effective last Wednesday (March 31). The shakedown would have led to reductions for another 346 road employees.

Road commissioner I. L. Morhar rescinded the layoff order as directed by the Board of Supervisors (March 16), after Board members said they believe more road building money will be available in the new fiscal year starting July 1.

Morhar said, however, that he will continue to reduce his staff of 1,800

permanent employees as retirements and resignations occur. In the past two months, 81 road employees have left County service or have transferred to other County departments.

The flood control district also has gone into a program of attrition as it approaches the end of storm-drain construction financed by voter-approved bond issues in 1952, 1958, 1964, and 1970. The district has laid off 21 construction inspectors and will phase out approximately 290 more engineering and construction positions during the next three years. The district also will eliminate 38 jobs in its operation and maintenance division by 1979. Chief engineer A. E. Bruington said he hopes that attrition in the O-M division will avert the need for more layoffs.

Warnings Sounded on County Finances

LAYOFF AND money problems now plaguing the flood control district and road department (see above story) are just part of a murky County financial picture. Other parts of the picture include:

—An estimate by CAO Harry Hufford that the County general fund will run \$60 million short by July 1. Hufford said that, with cooperation of Governor Brown's administration and the legislature, this shortage may be reduced to \$25 million.

—Board of Supervisor's decision (March 25) to freeze further action on nearly \$150 million in large capital projects, including the Rancho Los Amigos hospital "stroke center," the sheriff's administration building, the Bellflower civic center, new Eastlake juvenile courts, West Los Angeles municipal courts expansion, and Crescenta Valley coun-

ty park in Glendale. The Board voted to move ahead with the John Wesley, East Los Angeles and El Monte comprehensive health centers and a new purchasing and stores warehouse.

—Disclosure that the health services department is overspending its 1975-76 budget by \$16 million and faces possible shutdown of some services.

—A warning from treasurer-tax collector H. B. Alvord and auditor-controller Mark Bloodgood that the County's policy of borrowing money for long-term capital projects through such devices as joint powers authorities and nonprofit corporations is making private financiers uneasy. Alvord and Bloodgood indicated the County could lose its triple-A bond rating unless it switches to a policy of borrowing through general obligation bonds approved by the voters.

Retirements — a Vintage Year

COUNTY RETIREMENTS are running at record levels so far in 1976. While retirements are always heavy in the January-February-March quarter (preceding April 1 when annual cost of living increases in pensions go into effect), board of retirement staffers placed the 1976 three-month total at 1,500 as of March 31.

This outflow well exceeds that of early 1974, the previous record quarter, when the mandatory retire-at-65 law went into effect.

Among longtime County employees now retiring are DPSS director Ellis Murphy, County clerk and acting probation officer Clarence Cabell, personnel director Gordon Nesvig, Rancho Los Amigos hospital administrator Eugene Erickson, weights and measures director Maynard Becker, mental health chief Harry Brickman, and County insurance manager Gunther Dumalski.

Two departing employees have more than 40 years service — Edwin Bamford of health services and J. F. Beach of mechanical department.

Those with 35 to 40 years service include Paul Sherick and Harry Simons of superior court; Ilona Back and Mildred Clark, DPSS; Doris Bernhagen, Ronald Sims, George Sultan, Katherine Allen, Adelaide Dominguez, Philip Samuelson, health services; Milner Clary, Wesley Hicks, Irvin Gottlieb, Orey Shrogin, Jack Smith, and V. C. Smith, probation; Jack Jensen, fire; Cecil Ballinger, Jr., flood control; Morris Robinson, purchasing; Ray Driscoll, C. W. Morgan, and Warren Porter, road; Donald Ferrell, agricultural commissioner; Ralph Hall, Joseph Galli and John Edwards, engineer; Walter Nelson, data processing; John Anderson, mechanical; Edwin Nicholson, beaches; Charlotte Becker, district attorney; Betty Kirby, Otis art institute.

Among those with 30 to 35 years service are:

Sheriff — Argus Dilbeck, Albert Le Bas, William Carlberg, Joseph Seitz, Claude Cooper, James Montgomery, Jr., Thomas Frawley, Max Shotts, Stuart Avery, Philip Katz, Kenneth Hays, Algy Landry, Albert Montague, Ray Spratt, Edgar Vestey, Harold White, and Tom Pinkston, Jr.

Fire — Robert Clarke, Everett Wright, Ralph Kingsland, Willard Major, Fay Prather, Ross Barb, Richard Bird, Carroll Thompson, and P. W. Wechselberger.

Health Services — Adelane Anderson, Seymour Barfield, Earl Crandell, Stella Burleson, Norman Costello, George Curtis, Kenichi Kurihara, Kenneth Campbell, William Deckeraw, Moring Douglas, Hughes Logan, James Marshall, Olimphis Spencer, John Hembury, Clayton Stensbol, Jerry Justice, Azzie Lee Hackett, Louise Leyva, Ruth Armstrong, Stanley Berggren, Robert Bufton, Ann Marie Dixon, Virgil Gammell, Jack Rogers, Norman Thaxter, Irwin Schwartz.

Probation — Evelyn Cromell, Emerald Moon, Catherine Nelson, Thomas Meeks, Philip Morentin, John Bryson, William Doutre, Julius Brooks, Reva Dozier, Mary Torres, Dorothy Mershon.

Flood Control — K. D. Gookin, Oren Mulanix, Richard Roche, Jr., John Zeman, Jerome Kastel, Robert Mullin, Wilson Ledford, George Stinson, Frederick Treat, Alfred Raya, Walter Thomas.

Mechanical — Ralph Jacobs, Homer Miller, Allan Bennett, A. J. Clarich, Clair Heximer, S. Keener, William Frost, Harold Sherer, Allan Bennett, Jack Ferneau, William Rhoads, Fred Wright, Robert Vanderpol.

DPSS — Geraldine McConico, Carmen Kay Charles, Columbus Bell, Charles Weaver, Aurora Rivas.

Assessor — Gordon Whittington, Clinton Evans, Alan Altman, Richard Thronson, James Sorrentino.

Engineer — William Berg, Gordon Ludvickson, Milton Sundin, Joseph Maldonado, Elmer Berg, Melvin Hoig, John Lytle, Joseph Menne, Edward Patlian, Walter Slavin, Arnold Graham, William Radulovich, and Gilbert Zambrano.

Road — William Bongardt, Lester Ingerson, Anderson King, Frank Ambler, Jr., Charles Cuber, George Thomas, Robert Irwin, Tony Hamming, Roy Yurich.

Parks — Julius Clopton, Hector Gomez, Thomas Orsat, and Paul Palmer.

Municipal court — Bernard Byrne, Robert Howard, and William Young.

Also: Clinton Bee, building services; Howard Johnson, Notable Vines, and Bethany Malin, APCD; William Dyer and Orman Tucker, agricultural commissioner; Robert Walker, purchasing; Tillman Halm, Kathryn Moskowitz, and Lavonia Scott, data processing; Leonard Bessom, Jr., Daniel Nash, and Gretchen Sibley, museum of natural history; Carl Beamer and Robert Bishop, marshal; Maurice Smith, facilities; Helen Cleavinger, public defender; Richard Dickson, auditor-controller; Bernard Gross, district attorney; Mary Haffner, library; Albert Botalico, communications; and Angelina Gurule, County clerk.

Department Head Status on Ballot

LOS ANGELES county voters will decide June 8 whether future County department heads should be removed from civil service status.

The proposed County charter amendment, as approved for the ballot by the Board of Supervisors (March 25), would not apply to present department heads.

The Board delayed action on two other proposed amendments — to create a County mayor and to enlarge the Board to nine Supervisors, as urged by the county bar association's study commission on County government.

The Board agreed to discuss the mayor and enlarged board amendments between now and July 15, then decide whether to put one or both of them on the November ballot.

Three other amendments failed to win Board approval for the June 8 ballot. They would have removed the prevailing-wage clause from the charter, would have authorized contracting for County services, and would have limited veterans credit on civil service examinations to servicemen applying for entry-level jobs within five years after completing their active military duty.

Some Supervisors indicated these amendments will be reintroduced for consideration on a later ballot.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

THE ANNUAL Good Friday prayer breakfast is set for 6:30 a.m. April 16 in the Courthouse cafeteria. Principal speaker will be retired air force colonel Heath Bottomly. The \$2 tickets may be purchased at the door or at room 203 or 428F, the Courthouse.

County of Los Angeles

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