



# DIGEST

## *Around and About*

Final touches are being applied by Registrar Leonard Panish, his staff, and other involved County departments to assure that the June 3 primary election is handled smoothly. Along with major federal and state issues and contests, three supervisorial seats and that of the District Attorney will be voted on. Incumbent supervisors who are being challenged include Kenneth Hahn in the Second District, Yvonne B. Burke in the Fourth District, and Baxter Ward in the Fifth District. DA John Van de Kamp is also seeking return to office. Over 30 news-gathering services have been booked to cover the important vote. For the first time, the press operation will be headquartered at the registrar's new offices in the City of Commerce . . . . .

Appointment by the Board of Supervisors of Howard H. Haile as chief engineer of the County Flood Control District in April assures continuity in the agency's operations. Haile, 59, has been acting chief engineer since the departure of predecessor Art Bruington last fall. He is a 30-year veteran of CFCD and has risen through the ranks to the top job. Holder of a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Michigan State University, Haile is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Public Works Association. He and his wife, Polly, reside in West Covina. They are parents of three grown children, two boys and a girl . . . . .

Civic Center employees took part of their lunch hour on Friday, April 25, to join in a brief memorial service for American servicemen killed in the abortive attempt to free the hostages held in Iran. The event, coordinated by Supervisor Hahn, was also designed to lend support to the hostages . . . . .

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### GRIM 1980-81 OUTLOOK

## **CAO Submits Budget Recommendations to Board of Supervisors**

"I have the duty to present the Board with a set of grim budget recommendations."

This opening sentence in Chief Administrative Officer Harry L. Huford's budget recommendation letter filed with the Board of Supervisors on April 29 sets the tone for what follows.

For the first time in three years, a local government financing statute, AB 8, and special district financing, through the Flood Control benefit assessment, are in place and enable the County to plan the level of budget programs and set the stage for the future.

The recommendations essentially adjust the County's spending level through significant program curtailments to put the County in a better position to accommodate future change, the CAO said.

The recommendations total \$4,453,052,630, up \$263,561,431 from the 1979-80 spending program. Percentagewise, this is an increase of 6.3 percent, considerably below the annual inflation rate of 17 percent. The major item of increase in the General Fund is nearly \$100 million for 1980-81 increases in salary and employee benefits negotiated with employee groups. Because of shortfalls in local revenues, the additional requirements must, in part, be financed through further reductions in programs and personnel.

The recommended budget in many ways is not adequate to meet the County's needs. Expenditures are up, due principally to inflation, but are still well below the level

needed to maintain current programs. To balance the budget, significant program cutbacks are necessary, the CAO said.

It was noted, a most important fact is that the County presently lacks the necessary funds to make investments in the future.

The message points out that the proposed budget does not include financing for unfunded liabilities, adequate equipment replacement and maintenance programs, or needed capital construction. However, the proposed 1980-81 spending program is designed to provide the County with a sound financial undergirding. Such a base is essential because of the potential approval of Proposition 9 at the June 3 election, federal efforts to balance the budget which could reduce State and local assistance, and the present state of the economy with double-digit inflation and rising unemployment.

The recommendations call for net dollar reductions in Health Services of \$29.8 million; \$16 million in the Sheriff's department; \$8.6 million in Probation; and \$4.2 million in Mental Health.

The recommendations are based on a number of assumptions that could be changed by events at the State and national levels. These include maintenance of local government financing legislation to continue the present property tax allocation formula and State buy-outs of welfare, etc.; maintenance of all other State revenues to support locally administered programs

(Continued on Next Page)

# BUDGET

including Medi-Cal, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Adoptions, and Justice System Subvention; continuation of federal revenues including Revenue Sharing, CETA, the Housing and Community Development Act, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, health planning grants, and highway construction acts.

Also assumed are continuation of past policies to exempt from major program curtailments small departments, courts and related departments, and mandated costs; continued inflation; and a California unemployment rate below the national average.

The CAO projects an overall increase of 14.1 percent in net taxable assessed valuation. Based on this projection of assessed valuation and including a tax levy decrease for debt service, the 1980-81 property tax levy is expected to be \$851.1 million—a \$109.8 million increase over 1979-80.

Turning to federal revenue sharing, the CAO pointed out that it is distributed on the basis of taxing effort and the counties suffered a proportionately greater loss of taxes than cities under Proposition 13. This means that these dollars will be shifted from California counties to cities in 1980-81. To prevent this, the County is proposing legislation, but its chances for enactment are gloomy.

The proposed budget calls for a decrease of 1,378.4 budgeted positions. Included in these are 578.5 in the health system, 734.9 in the justice system and 132 in social services. It recommends adding 57 positions, primarily additional fire control aids to provide adequate watershed protection and various positions which are 100 percent revenue offset.

Implementation of staffing curtailments will require continuation of the managed work force reduction program initiated by the Board prior to passage of Proposition 13. Such action will minimize layoffs or demotions, which cannot be ruled out, especially if an eco-

nomie slowdown cuts back on outside job opportunities.

Capital projects are proposed at a gross cost of \$65.7 million, offset by \$61.4 million in revenue. They are limited to work necessary to correct health and safety deficiencies at existing County facilities, new high-priority projects, and carry-over jobs offset by revenue.

Recent heavy storms have heavily damaged the flood control network, and the proposed budget recommends a \$12.5 million or 63 percent increase in the Flood Control District benefit assessment. Such funds are needed to repair and restore facilities to their pre-1980 storm conditions.

1980-81 funding of Garbage Disposal Districts will be through a combination of property taxes and anticipated augmentation funds. However, this is a short-term solution and a permanent answer must be addressed through State legislation.

The CAO noted that his budget recommendations are \$270 million below the allowable limit set by Proposition 4, the Gann Initiative

## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

715 HALL OF ADMINISTRATION, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
STATION



April 29, 1980

HARRY L. HUFFORD  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Hall of Administration

Dear Supervisors:

### 1980-81 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

I have the duty to present the Board with a set of grim budget recommendations. The recommendations are based on Proposition 13 and the long-term financing plan developed in July of 1979 by the Legislature--Assembly Bill 6--and present a series of grave fiscal problems for your Board to consider.

This marks the first time in three years where a local government financing statute, AB 8, and special district financing, through the Flood Control benefit assessment, are in place to enable us to plan the level of budget programs and to set the stage for the future. The recommendations, summarized below, essentially adjust our spending level through significant program curtailments to place us in a better position for accommodating future change:

	Total Requirements		
	All Budgets Under Control of the Board		
	1979-80	1980-81	Change
Total General Fund	\$2,054,340,286	\$2,265,699,937	\$211,359,651
Federal and State Subvention Funds (pass through)	1,426,757,007	1,409,962,009	(-16,794,998)
Special Funds	141,012,981	137,443,714	(-3,569,267)
Special Districts	247,168,810	295,093,647	47,924,837
Hospital Enterprise Funds	320,212,115	344,853,323	24,641,208
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,189,491,199</b>	<b>\$4,453,052,630</b>	<b>\$263,561,431</b>
Budgeted Positions	77,108.7	75,730.3	(-1,378.4)

which was passed last November.

Presented for Board consideration during its deliberations were a series of high-priority needs not included in the proposed budget and potential financial alternatives which could lead to some fiscal relief during 1980-81. Underscored was the need for the Governor and legislature to address the major issues of public fiscal policy.

State officials must not only evaluate and set priorities for existing programs and provide funds, but must decide whether it is best to seek alternative revenues rather than discontinue some existing services.

Not included in the 1980-81 budget recommendations are several significant requirements which cannot be met because of a lack of funds. These include program curtailments recommended for the next fiscal year; additional needs by the Sheriff for a three-year plan to upgrade services to an acceptable level; long-term funding of Olive View Medical Center and El Monte Comprehensive Health Center; and investment in cost-effective

tive new data processing and communications systems.

Also, adequate motor vehicle replacement; additional funds to provide preventive County facilities maintenance; reserves to finance potential increases in welfare case-loads; added court requirements of an expanded warrant program and increased jury service; and an annual accumulative reserve for unfunded liabilities.

To meet some of these unmet needs, the Board could consider General Fund charges to the Marina Fund; further accounting changes in the Social Security payment system; diversion of underexpended 1979-80 Vehicle Code fines from the Road Fund to the General Fund; financing the net cost of capital projects and fixed assets from Accumulated Capital Outlay Funds and/or sale of property; charge watershed fire protection to the Flood Control District; and a countywide and/or unincorporated territory-only assessment program for countywide and local services such as law enforcement. The latter would require a local election ordered by the Board.

Proposition 9 confronts local government, and particularly the County, with a more complex set of problems than Proposition 13. Unlike Proposition 13, the amount of revenue reduction is not known nor are those programs that would be affected.

Judging by past experience, however, local government, and particularly County government, will not be able to avoid being impacted by its passage.

In a special press briefing on the budget, Hufford summed up his view of this year's effort as "the other shoe of Proposition 13 being dropped."

## LIBRARIAN TO RESIGN

County Librarian Carol E. Moss has announced that she will resign from County service in September to accept a position as chief operating officer for the law firm of Melveny & Myers. She said her early seven years with the County have been challenging, exciting, pleasurable and professionally rewarding.

## Nostalgia of Craft Heritage to be Shared at County Museum

The nation's rich craft heritage will come alive at the County's Natural History Museum on Sunday, June 8, when expert artisans from throughout the Southland will show and demonstrate their artwork.

Beginning at 10 a.m. and lasting until 4:30 p.m., Craft Heritage Day 1980 will be observed at the museum's facilities in Exposition Park.

During this year's all-free fifth annual festivity, artisans will demonstrate skills of the past through the arts of woodcarving, sheep-shearing, basketry, decorative wheat-weaving, dinosaur bone casting, making long rifles, bookbinding, candles, spinning wheels, and stained glass.

Exhibits and demonstrations will also include blacksmithing and silversmithing, hand-crafted stoneware pottery, treadle sewing, creative crochet and Swedish twist-stitch embroidery, porcelain decorating, tatting, Japanese paper

dolls, metal sculpture, and scrimshaw.

Square dancing called by Bronco Wise will be held at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2:30 p.m., and a concert of folk and gypsy music will be provided by Murray Korda and the Monseigneur Strings at 2 p.m.

Costumed docents will lead tours at 11 a.m., noon, and 1:30 p.m. to show major museum exhibits featuring life under the sea, fossils, American Indians, animals that led to the opening of the west, exotic mammals and antique autos.

Other museum attractions will feature living exhibits, cleaning fossil bones, model making, puppet making and applehead dolls, quilting, wood engraving, scientific illustration, and other museum displays.

All County employees and their families are invited, and parking will be available adjacent to the museum on Menlo Avenue.

## Retirees - -

*The Digest* salutes the following people who have retired in recent months after accumulating more than thirty years of dedicated service for the County:

**Sheriff:** James O. Chick, Richard Gill, Richard C. Hubbell, Max E. Krukow, Robert William Lewis.

**Fire:** Delbert E. Cook, Paul Fox, Harry W. Harlow, Jr., David W. Robertson, Ralph J. Smith, Robert H. Yuill, Edwin Truitt.

**Health:** Maggie E. Clayton, Melvin D. Douglas, Jane E. Drescher, John E. Fuschetti, Charles L. Hunter, Velma Morris, Lawrence Nowlin, Thelma Palmer, Mary Romero, John E. Smyth, Vera Tallerino, Marietta Chamblee.

**DPSS:** LaNell Bolden, Cora R. Bynum, B. Omega Greene, Ruth T. McDaniel, Fred Randolph.

**Engineer:** Chester Falicki, Shinobu Iguichi, David Poster.

**Road:** Arthur Hulet, Leonard T. Stubbs, Lawrence Vejar, Eldon M. Paquette.

**Probation:** Jacob Wesley, James R. Wright, Ruth M. Coine.

**Also:** Robert G. Krug, Marshal; Ray M. Jones, Treasurer/Tax Collector; Irving Sherman, Flood; and Bonnie Jenkins, Parks.

The following have retired with over twenty-five years of County service:

**Sheriff:** George W. Broadley, John T. Chisholm, Donald E. Forsyth, Lawrence P. Gandsey, Leon A. Mayfield, Robert Sims, Jack D. Truitt, Peter Chamousis, Richard A. DeMasi, Kenneth A. Pollock.

**Health:** Guy Brooks, Alma Bush, Marshall W. Dollarhide, Alexander Kolker, Walt T. Powell, Anne H. Sax, Eloise Williams.

**DPSS:** Hubertine Dyer, Norma M. Edge, Victor E. Fesing, Geraldine T. Goodman, Imogene S. Jones, Eleanor L. Mitchell, Phyllis Watts.

**Fire:** Jack B. Munger, Roderick W. Selby, William B. Ward, Roland H. Williams.

**Mechanical:** Norman R. Funk, William H. Jacobs, Andrew L. Peterson.

**CAO:** Warren A. Schmuki, William A. Leone, Robert A. Stringer.

**Engineer:** Frank L. Gallego, Beatrice Gordoa, Milton Tynan.

**Probation:** Dora Holliday, Gerald H. Leavitt, Dorothy M. Reed.

**Also:** Alfred F. Muir, Assessor; Joseph W. Carroll and Irwin H. Hamman, Road; Charles A. Johnson, Arboretum; Herman Clements and Joe A. Caballero, Parks; Harold V. Boisvert, Superior Court; William L. Dunlap, Regional Planning; Alfonso S. Duran, SCAQMD; Dora B. Halstead, County Clerk; Leo Joseph, Purchasing & Stores; Buell O. Merrill, Personnel; and Yoshiko Taketa, Community Development.

## Seats on Two Boards Open for Nominations

The retirement of Norman Shaffer from County service has opened seats on the County Board of Retirement and the Board of Investments.

Nominating petitions for election to the two general member seats held by Shaffer, a long-time member of the boards, may be obtained from the office of the Registrar-Recorder.

Deadline for filing the petitions with the Registrar-Recorder, 5557 Ferguson Drive, Commerce, is closing time, 5 p.m., on June 9.

Ballots for employees eligible to vote will be distributed in July and the election will be on August 8, after which the Board of Supervisors will ratify the results.

For those wanting specifics on election procedures, copies of the election resolution may be obtained from the Registrar-Recorder, departmental personnel offices, or the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors in the Hall of Administration.

## Nurses' Workshops Held

Workshops for nurses and health professionals on The Art of Healing—The Art of Living were conducted by the Olive View Medical Center in April and May to assist those persons in County service desirous of obtaining Board of Registered Nursing Education credit.

A new series of the workshops will be offered in the fall and information about them may be obtained by telephoning 997-1800, Ext. 375.

County of Los Angeles

### DIGEST

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## Return-To-Work Techniques Studied

Return-to-work coordinators and personnel officers representing virtually every County department recently attended a one-day training session on effective return-to-work techniques, Personnel Director Herb Kaplan reports.

The seminar covered new laws and provided additional knowledge and skills directed at aiding County employees in their recovery from illness or injury and return to productive employment.

The keynote speaker of the session was Gwen Hampton, Information and Assistance Officer from the State, who briefed the return-to-work coordinators on the services she and her colleagues provide to injured workers, employers, attorneys, and physicians involved in workers' compensation cases.

The Information and Assistance Program was developed by the State to reduce the need for litigation in such cases, and its officers are informed objective sources who the injured worker can contact for information about workers' compensation laws, Hampton said. Workers who request help will be counseled on their rights and benefits and may receive assistance in resolving problems with their employers without the need to consult an attorney, she added.

There is no charge for these State-provided services, and the employee still has the right to engage an attorney at any point in

the process, she noted.

Any County employee who wishes to contact a State I and C Officer for advice can obtain the phone number from their departmental return-to-work coordinator or check the telephone directory under: "California State of: Industrial Relations Department; Information and Assistance on Workers' Compensation Benefits."

## County Managers Hold Spring Conference

The Los Angeles County Management Council conducted its spring conference in April in the Antelope Valley where a series of discussions were held on the subject of "Getting Set for the '80's."

Purpose of the Council, composed of about 1700 upper-level administrators and executives, includes the goals of providing the most efficient management possible in all areas of the County's activities and to enhance communication among managers at all levels within departments and between departments.

This year's Council officers are: president, Stephen J. Koonce, County Engineer; vice president, George Tice, acting assistant director of Department of Communications; secretary, Leon Arnold, assistant director of the Natural History Museum; and treasurer, Jack Davis, director of administrative services for the Assessor.

## Savings Bonds Drive Launched

The Board of Supervisors has designated May and June for its 1980 United States Savings Bonds Drive and urges County employees to Take Stock in America by purchasing the government securities through convenient payroll deductions.

Board action, adopted by resolution, called for the purchase of the bonds as an effective way to save for such things as education, travel, and retirement.

It was also noted that the bonds, replaceable at no charge if lost or stolen, are safe and sound invest-

ments backed by the United States Department of the Treasury. And, the bonds which are easily redeemable, work like insurance against unforeseen financial emergencies.

During the Board meeting of April 29, John MacKenzie, deputy director of the U. S. Department of the Treasury, was presented the Board's resolution that officially launched the current bond sale drive.

Payroll deduction cards are available through departmental payroll and personnel offices.