

# County DIGEST



AUGUST 1997

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## MEETING FUTURE CHALLENGES TODAY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

Urban planning translates community goals into policies that guide future development. The Department of Regional Planning fulfills this mission by meeting future challenges in its daily work. Established in 1922, the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission was the nation's first County planning agency.

Unincorporated Los Angeles County is vast. Of the 4,083 square miles of Los Angeles County, approximately 2,664 is unincorporated with a population nearing one million. This area includes most of the rural Antelope and Santa Clarita Valleys; urbanized communities of South Central, East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley; the Santa Monica Mountains; and coastal areas of Marina Del Rey and Santa Catalina Island. Responsibility for planning this expansive area falls on the department and the commission.

In 1996, the department processed 2,700 development applications, held 320 public hearings and reviewed 7,400 zoning violations. That same year, the public information counter counseled 9,200 people in its downtown office and responded to 20,000 telephone inquiries.

The department provides a wide range of planning services. It prepares long range plans—blueprints for the County's future development. These plans normally extend up to 20 years into the future. It also evaluates development proposals to ensure that projects comply with zoning, land use and environmental regulations and are compatible with

existing development. Coordinating interjurisdictional planning such as air quality, studies of public transit facilities, airport land use, the Ventura freeway corridor and the recently proposed expansion of Universal Studios is another of the department's responsibilities. Compiling population and housing data, planning for the location and expansion



**URBAN PLANNERS COUNSEL APPLICANTS ON DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, ONE OF MANY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING.**

(PHOTO COURTESY OF LANCE PEYTON.)

of landfills and facilitating citizen participation through public hearings and representative citizen groups are a few more duties. Providing planning information to the public, bringing zoning and subdivision violations into compliance and advancing environmental preservation through the Significant Ecological Areas Technical Advisory Committee and the Environmental Review Board round up

the department's planning services.

Throughout its 75-year history, the department has met future challenges through innovation. The Master Plan of Highways, implemented in the 1930s, provided the framework for the current freeway system and saved taxpayers millions in right-of-way acquisition. The Countywide General Plan, unprecedented in its scope, encompasses all development in the County.

Innovation also applies to technology. The department has been on the cutting edge of technology with a computer generated community plan and zoning maps (Geographic Information Systems), computerized Development Monitoring System, One-Stop counseling center, automated C-track case database (information retrieval system), remote testifying system and a new Internet web site. Planning innovations have earned the department numerous awards.

It is remarkable that a small department can provide a wide variety of functions to such a vast area. This bears testimony that the department is as efficient at managing its own resources as it is at meeting those of the County's.

As we prepare for the twenty-first century, the citizens of Los Angeles County can be assured that the Department of Regional Planning will continue to guide new development and preserve environmental resources for the current and future generations.

Future challenges are being met today.

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

A new name, a new look and a new presence on the World Wide Web marked the beginning of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Originally called the Music Commission, the name was later expanded to include the words "and Performing Arts" to recognize the growth of the arts community. Now, the Commission's title is simply Los Angeles County Arts Commission signifying support of all nonprofit arts.

And for the first time, the Commission has a distinguishing graphic identity. Its new logotype emphasizes the "Arts" part of the Commission's name and notes its founding date of 1947.

The Commission's web site has also undergone renovation.

The redesigned and expanded Internet page now features a database of over 1,000 arts organizations in the County. The Commission's address is [www.lacountyarts.org](http://www.lacountyarts.org)

The official kick-off celebration, however, began in June with a ceremony on the stage of the John Anson Ford Amphitheater's opening event of the "Summer Nights at the Ford" season produced by the Commission. A giant birthday cake bearing the Arts Commission's logo was unveiled.

"Fifty years ago, long before there was a state arts council or a National Endowment for the Arts, the County

performing arts community and for the role it played in local government's support of the arts." The other honor, a



**COMMISSIONERS ADRIENNE HALL, LAUREL KARABIAN AND MARJORIE S. LYTE AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION RODNEY E. COOPER SURROUND THE CAKE COMMEMORATING THE COMMISSION'S 50 YEARS OF ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT.**

Special Recognition from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, acknowledged the Commission for "nurturing the free cultural expression of hundreds of the County's most accomplished artists and organizations which consist of a culturally diverse rainbow of talent that stretches from Lancaster to Long Beach."

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the second oldest public arts agency in California, is an advisory group to the County Board of Supervisors.

The Commission consists of 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. Among the Commission's responsibility is to provide leadership in cultural

Board of Supervisors demonstrated their belief that the arts are an integral part of our community by establishing the Los Angeles County Arts Commission," wrote Commission President Aurelia Brooks in her 50th anniversary message in the Summer Nights program book.

The contributions of the Commission to the community and the arts were recently recognized with two awards. The Dance Resource Center honored the Commission with a special Lester Horton Award for "dedication to the

services of all disciplines for the County, including funding and technical assistance, information and resources to the community, artists, arts organizations and municipalities. Aside from Summer Nights at the Ford, the Commission produces the annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Music Center, the L.A. County-Wide Arts Open House and free concerts to County residents and employees through the Musicians Trust Fund Program.

## AUGUST RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES:** Clara B. Haskin

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Rosiland Brown

**FIRE:** Edward R. McFall, Wally H. Millican, Richard R. Moon, Robert G. Underwood, Kurtis D. Doty, Neal W. Einfalt, Glenn G. Guernsey, Gary D. Poole, Robert A. Weinberger

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Ethel Black, Stanley De Leon, Loretta N. Haberman, George R. McClendon, Beverly Reed, William H. Swanson, Streeter B. Turner, Clyde A. McCown, Henry Lee Wesley

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Richard T. Thomas, Lorenzo Walton

**MUNICIPAL COURTS:** George L. Pugsley, Nancy Holstrom

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Robert Borunda

**PROBATION:** Carl F. Chastang, Jacquelyn H. Gregory, Leroy Jones

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Alyce D. Nichols, Charlyne Webb

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Waldo F. Parravicini, William R. Slavin, Henry L. Taylor, Jr., Willie J. Williams

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Laura H. Loggins, Florence G. Marshall

**SHERIFF:** Rick Dalton, Clyde E. French, Robert J. Hermann, Jr., Rene J. Laporte, Jr., David A. Merchant, Carol A. Painter, Gerard A. Vandoran, Ralph H. Wolf, Stanley A. Burrus, Norma E. Ernstrom, Olivia Wise, Patrick E. Hood, Richard O. Young, Jr.

SEE NEXT PAGE

# BOBBIE ANDERSON...AN INNOVATIVE THINKER WITH A PENCHANT FOR VOLUNTEERISM

Before presenting her with a scroll of commendation for being named **Los Angeles County Employee of the Month for July 1997**, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky thanked her for her innovativeness and "outside the box thinking."

Bobbie Anderson, a County employee for 33 years, was honored for her innovative thinking and her zeal for volunteerism by the County's Board of Supervisors.

Anderson, a Supervising Legal Office Support Assistant with the Pasadena Branch of the Office of Public Defender, serves as secretary to the Head Deputy. She has supervisory responsibility for the secretarial and clerical staff at the Pasadena Branch, as well as four other area offices. She also trains and supervises the workflow and production of the clerical staff.

Realizing the importance of giving inner-city kids work experience and in the face of hiring freezes and staff shortages, Anderson designed a program that brings together a pool of talented young adults to work for the Office of Public Defender. These bright, young secretarial and paralegal students from local high schools and vocational schools were invited to participate in the program to become interns or volunteers for on-the-job training in exchange for school credit.

Furthermore, cognizant of the significance of opportunity, Anderson also established an ongoing relationship with the Summer Youth Employment and Workforce Programs. The program offers deserving people within the community an opportunity to work for the Public Defender's Office. As a consequence, the office meets its short term clerical needs and provides a positive job experience all at no additional cost to the County.

"When I see a need, I want to fulfill it," Anderson said. And that's probably why

she has involved herself with numerous County and civic/community activities



**BOBBIE ANDERSON ACCEPTS THE AWARD FROM SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY.**

that foster the improvement of the quality of life.

She is the Pasadena Branch and Inter-Departmental coordinator of the "Take Your Daughter to Work Day" activities, her department's representative to the Hawthorne Community Center's African American Cultural Module and was a volunteer in the County's Department of Health Services Measles Vaccine Campaign - 1996. Her outside involvement includes being a volunteer at the Jenesse Domestic Violence Center, a member of the National Council on Negro Women, as well as a member of the five member Police Permit Review Panel as appointed by both Mayors Tom Bradley and Richard Riordan.

Anderson considers assisting

someone attain a goal or expressing a comforting word a complete day.

However, she personally considers meeting Bill Clinton, not once but thrice, a truly awesome moment. This is evident as she relates how a 90-minute conversation with then presidential candidate Clinton after the 1992 civil unrest resulted in a program being funded for the community.

Her role as a leader in her community has not gone unnoticed. Earlier this year, she was again privileged to meet the President at his Crime Bill briefing at the White House. She has been a recipient of numerous accolades, including an Image of Excellence Award from the Mu Lambda Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, a Local Champion Silver Rose Award from the Jenesse Domestic Violence Shelter and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Brotherhood Crusade.

"I will give as much time as needed," Anderson said. For the past 25 years, she has been a clerk at the Greater Union Missionary Baptist Church.

During her spare time, she sings with her Church's choir and takes photographs. "I am a picture taker and not a photographer," Anderson emphasizes.

Anderson received an Associate of Arts degree from East Los Angeles Junior College. She also has attended classes at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College, the Downey and Bryan Court Reporting Schools, as well as classes in management and computers to upgrade her skills and enhance her working capability.

In recognition of these and other accomplishments and for her dedication and hard work, Bobbie Anderson was honored as the County's July 1997 Employee of the Month. Her creativity and enormous energy are shining examples for others to follow.

## RETIREES

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the County of Los Angeles and its people for more than 25 years:

- AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Lyman M. Jeung
- CHILDREN'S SERVICES:** Beatrice L. Reyes
- DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Duane R. Mueller

**FIRE:** George L. Merritt, Leroy D. Moore, Paul H. Lampe, Eddy B. Nielsen

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Rosalind Alemany, William A. Baldwin, Charles P. Butler, Mary Cardenas, Carl Charles, Celia M. Guerra, Jeweldine Hart, Edward Hector, Gene C. Holloman, Earnestine McNeil, Lena Smith, Ella Theus, Takae Watanabe, Ruby L. Wortham

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Kenneth McDaniel, Clinton Murdock, Lloyd A. Picker, Diana L. Viveros

**MUNICIPAL COURTS:** Kathryn Fletcher, Nancy J. Mittelman

**PROBATION:** Johnetta A. Marigny

**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Dorthy J. Nichols

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Olga L. Parente, Raymond V. Dalton

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Angel F. Rosales, Gladys R. Stout

**SHERIFF:** James W. Davis, Warren G. Harding, Basil J. North, Sally J. Fynan, Robert T. Catalano, Sylvia L. Church, Lee E. Taylor, Ronald M. Thomason

**SUPERIOR COURTS:** Carolyn Hinzo

# A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT PROVES SUCCESSFUL THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE FIGHTER WRITTEN EXAMINATION

For the first time since 1990, the County of Los Angeles accepted applications for fire fighter trainee from April 10 through 12, 1997 at six designated locations throughout the County. More than 19,000 applications were received. This successful recruitment was attributed in part to widespread outreach and advertisement.

For eight consecutive working days, thousands of men and women assembled at the Pomona Fairplex for a chance to vie for one of Southern California's most desired civic jobs — Los Angeles County Fire Fighter Trainee.

More than 11,000 applicants took part in a written examination administered by the Department of Human Resources (DHR) at the request of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACOFD). With the assistance of workers from many County departments, retirees and Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program participants, the planning, logistics and implementation of this

examination have been labeled a huge success.

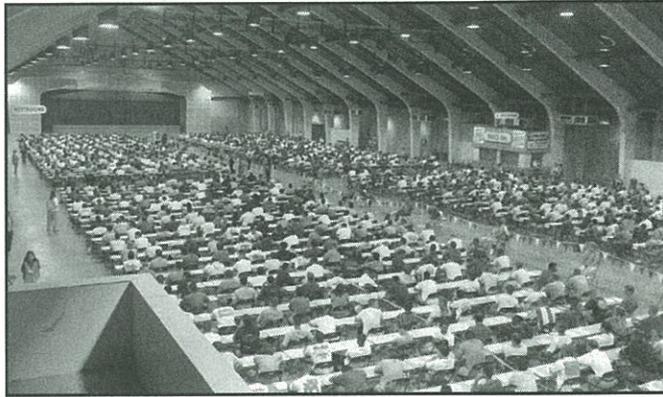
Teamwork and collaboration with the

Freeman wrote, "The acceptance and processing of over 19,000 applications and the administration of the written test to over 11,000 candidates were successfully managed by your department despite the enormous logistical and technical issues involved in opening the examination to all eligible individuals."

The role of DHR is far from over. Once the scoring of the examination has been completed, an eligibility list will be made available for the Fire Department's use. The list may be used by the Fire Department for several years.

"We anticipate an eligibility list of very high quality candidates that will effectively serve the residents of Los Angeles County for many years to come," Freeman said.

"To my knowledge, this was the largest open competitive examination ever conducted by the County of Los Angeles," Henry said. "The experience gained from this examination is invaluable."



**AN AERIAL VIEW OF APPLICANTS PREPARING TO TAKE THE FIRE FIGHTER TRAINEE EXAMINATION IN THE POMONA FAIRPLEX DURING ONE OF EIGHT DAYS OF EXAMINING.**

entire Los Angeles County family proved key to the successful outcome.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman conveyed his compliments to Director of Personnel Michael J. Henry.

## SPECIAL BULLETIN ELECTIONS FOR LACERA'S BOARDS

The terms of office for the Third Members of the Board of Investments and the Board of Retirement of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) will expire on December 31, 1997. In addition, a special Safety Member election will be conducted to fill the offices of the Fourth Member of the Board of Investments as well as the Seventh Member of the Board of Retirement. The elections will be held on **Wednesday, October 15, 1997.**

General Safety Members interested in running for these offices need to obtain nomination packets from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. Nominating petitions must be signed by at least 50 county employees (as of July 1, 1997) of the same membership. Petitions must be filed with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk before 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, August 20, 1997.**

For more information, contact your departmental election coordinator.



### Members of the Board

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Chairman  
Third District

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
Second District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

**Michael J. Henry**  
Director of Personnel

**Sandra A. Hoodye**  
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

**John S. Mina**  
Staff

**SEND US...  
YOUR COMMENTS, STORY IDEAS OR QUESTIONS!**

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90012



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