



Ask the CEO



Q. Years ago the County used to give more recognition to significant milestones in employees' County service. The (previous) newsletter listed employees passing their anniversaries of 20 or more years of service. Service pins were given to employees for 25+ years by the Board of Supervisors during Board meetings. The County seems to have redirected its recognition efforts to volunteers as I was reminded in your last newsletter. Will the County begin again to recognize significant years of County service in a higher profile manner?

A. As *County Connection* continues, you will see various recognitions of members of the County family such as volunteers and the Sheriff's Department Medal of Valor recipients (March). Thank you for suggesting yet another way that this newsletter can do that. We are now working with Human Resources to begin listing that important milestone information in the newsletter. Human Resources is looking into other

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Employees Help County Meet Energy Goals

Although summer temperatures recently caused Southern California Edison to warn of potential brownouts, the County of Orange has reduced our reliance on Edison and is holding costs stable due to energy initiatives and employee cooperation through conservation.

The summer temperatures of 2001, rising electricity costs and Edison's first-time enactment of rolling blackouts through County facilities caused leadership to re-think energy planning and to develop a strategic energy program.

Since the development of the program, the Resources & Development Management Department

(RDMD) has made great strides toward cost containment for the County.

- ☑ Retrofitted 28 buildings with energy-efficient lighting.
- ☑ Installed full backup power in Building 12 and partial backup power at three other facilities.
- ☑ Converted seven buildings to digital temperature control.
- ☑ Added lighting controls and motion sensors in four buildings.
- ☑ Replaced 12 hot water boilers in six buildings.

In addition, the County is moving forward toward self-sufficiency. Eight micro turbines have been installed at the



Central Utility Facility will become co-generation site.

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ways to recognize these long-term employees. Great idea!

If you have questions about the future of the County, a suggestion about providing service more efficiently or an idea that improves customer service, send it along to this regular feature in your new, online County employee newsletter.

All questions and suggestions will be reviewed by CEO staff and shared with the appropriate department. CEO Jim Ruth will respond in this newsletter to the most representative

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County Operations Center on South Grand. These micro turbines generate electricity for the Operations Center and by year's end will reduce the amount of electricity that must be bought from Edison to run the Data Center.

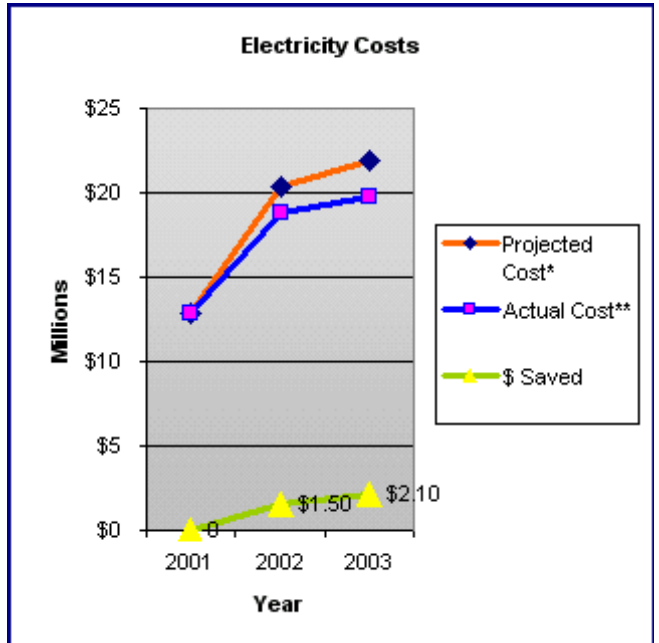
Currently the Central Utility Facility (CUF) provides heating and cooling to all buildings in the Civic Center. The plan calls for adding two natural gas-fired turbines to the facility to generate enough electricity for all the County buildings in the Civic Center. Natural gas is now used to run the equipment that manufactures steam and chilled water for heating and cooling. Under co-generation, the natural gas will be transferred to run the generators and the heat that develops from that generating process will be captured and used to run the equipment for heating and cooling. Co-generation will provide the County with a reliable, self-sufficient source of electricity in the Civic Center.

"Employees in the Civic Center go to and from work every day and never even notice the CUF on Flower," said Bob Boehme, Division Manager in RDMD's Facilities Operations. "Although the facility may be invisible to most, it will make a big difference in our energy savings."

"Lighting is the number one cause of energy waste," said Boehme. "Keeping our energy usage constant could not have happened without employee support. These results prove that we can make an important difference when we work together."

What you can do in your workplace to conserve energy:

- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms throughout the day. This includes offices when you are attending a meeting. Any time you are away from you office for more than 15 minutes, shut off the light.
- Eliminate personal appliances.
- Talk to your custodians about turning off lights and major appliances (i.e. copy machines, printers, etc.)
- Set energy saving features on your computer to put them into "sleep mode"



Initiatives plus conservation produce savings

Sheriff, DA Anticipate Impacts From Prop 172

Petitions have been presented to the Registrar of Voters regarding an initiative that would affect distribution of Proposition 172 revenues. If successful, the

\$350 million.

Potential impacts include a reduction in public safety personnel and resources. Following are

- Delaying the determination of cause of death reviews
- Eliminating the County's participation in Regional Narcotics Suppression Program
- Reducing basic training, range qualification, mandated perishable skills training and Reserve Officer training
- Limiting access to other law enforcement organizations despite revenue offset.



District Attorney Office

- Currently functioning at a reduced staffing level with frozen positions for 12 prosecutors and 10 investigators
- Reduction of an additional 20 prosecutors or Investigators
- Rise in already excessive caseload levels
- Inability to staff courts
- Reduced time to prepare cases for trial
- Increased number of continuances resulting in a slow-down of trial proceedings
- Greater reliance on plea bargaining

A detailed report on the impacts of the initiative is being prepared at the direction of the Board. That report will become available upon its completion.

initiative would appear on an upcoming ballot. County departments have identified preliminary impacts anticipated from the proposition's potential passage.

preliminary responses from the Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office about their anticipated losses. Impacts would include, but not be limited to, the services below.

The proposed initiative would divert a share of tax money that Supervisors have split between the Sheriff and District Attorney since statewide voters approved the measure in 1993. If passed, 10 percent of the revenue from the half-cent sales tax would, by 2008/09, mean an estimated annual loss of \$30 million to the Sheriff's and DA's departments. Over an 11-year period, the loss would climb to an estimated

Sheriff Department

- Closing jail facilities and transferring inmates to already overcrowded facilities
- Shutting down portions of the crime lab
- Eliminating toxicology and DNA analysis services for active criminal cases
- Reducing crime scene responses
- Increasing the number of unsolved cases

County Connection is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer James D. Ruth. The newsletter is published by CEO Media Relations. All suggestions and comments may be emailed to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com or faxed to 714.796.8426.