

May 7, 2009



NEW FUEL STANDARDS WILL IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT AND CREATE JOBS

I recently wrote to you describing a proposed regulation called the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), a policy that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from California's transportation fuels by ten percent by 2020. I am pleased to report the California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted the LCFS at its last meeting.

The LCFS requires providers, refiners, importers and blenders to measure and reduce the "carbon intensity" of their fuels. The carbon intensity is determined by the sum of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, transportation and consumption of a fuel over its entire lifetime. The reduced carbon intensity standards will be phased in over time.

According to analysis by ARB staff, this new regulation will not only improve the environment, but boost the economy and create jobs as well. The LCFS will drive up the demand for alternative fuels such as biofuels. ARB estimates that 1.5 billion gallons of biofuels will be needed to meet the new standards. To meet that need, over 25 new biofuel facilities will have to be built, creating more than 3,000 new jobs.

The LCFS regulation leaves it up to industries and market forces as to how to find the most cost-effective low carbon intensity fuels. This should spur creativity and competition, providing Californians with a wide variety of fuel options. The LCFS is also expected to increase the availability of plug-in hybrid, battery electric, fuel-cell, and other clean technology cars. Furthermore, the State will provide \$120 million a year over seven years to assist in the early development and deployment of the most promising low-carbon fuels under the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program passed in 2007.

After reviewing extensive reports and listening to nearly six hours of public testimony, I was happy to be able to support this exciting new measure. I look forward to sharing the progress with you over the coming years. If you would like to learn more, you can watch a brief video at http://www.arb.ca.gov/videos/low_carbon_3.wmv.

As always, I encourage you to contact my office if you have any concerns or are interested in additional information. You can reach me at 299-5040 or via e-mail at Supervisor.Yeager@bos.sccgov.org.

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BIKE TO WORK DAY

Next week marks the 15th Annual Bay Area Bike to Work Day. On Thursday, May 14, I hope you will consider joining me and hundreds of other Silicon Valley commuters in ditching your car for the day.

Bike to Work Day is a community event that encourages local residents to try bicycling as their mode of transportation to help relieve traffic congestion and ease motor vehicle emissions. In the Bay Area, nearly 40 percent of people commuting to work live fewer than five miles away from their jobs, making biking an easy alternative.

Riders of all levels can take part in Bike to Work Day. Dozens of Energizer Stations sponsored by local organizations and businesses will be placed around the County to offer encouragement and refreshments to any bicyclist in need of a boost.

After the workday ends Thursday, don't forget to join the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition for its annual "Bike Away from Work Bash" from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Plant 51 at 734 the Alameda in San José . The event will feature food, refreshments and music by Open Space Project.



Learn more about Bike to Work Day at <http://bikesiliconvalley.org/btwd>.

H1N1 INFLUENZA CONCERNS EASING

Although we should each do our part to continue controlling the spread of viruses, local and nationwide concerns about the H1N1 influenza virus (commonly referred to as the swine flu) have eased. As of today, Santa Clara County has seven confirmed cases and ten probable cases. Under new federal guidelines, schools formerly closed due to exposure concerns are now open.

As this outbreak unfolded over the last two weeks, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department took a cautious approach to ensure the public's health, while working to better understand this new virus. I applaud the calm and efficient work our Public Health staff continues to provide.

Going forward, please remember to continue to take preventive measures for protecting yourself and others from transmission of the flu. Cover your cough and wash your hands to stay healthy. It is important to remember that healthy people, who are not ill, injured and/or in need of medical care, should stay away from medical offices, clinics and hospitals.

For ongoing information, you can call the County Public Health Information Line at 885-3980. The most recent information about H1N1 for our County will be posted at <http://swineflu.sccgov.org/>. You can also get up to the minute updates on this and other news by following the County on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/sccgov>.

BUDGET WORKSHOPS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT

This week the Acting County Executive released his recommended budget. It includes proposals for one-time funding solutions and reductions to programs and staff to close a \$273 million shortfall in next year's budget.

Next week, the Board of Supervisors will be holding three days of public workshops to review and take public comment on the proposals. Although final decisions about the budget will not be made until June, these workshops are an important part of the public vetting of the spending plan.

The financial picture at both the State and local levels continues to deteriorate. The Board of Supervisors will have a lot of tough decisions to make about programs and services that impact the lives of Santa Clara County residents. I encourage you to attend these workshops and give us your input.

Time	Session Topic
May 12 1:30 p.m.	Health and Hospital (Alcohol/Drug Services, Community Health Services, Valley Health Plan, etc.)
May 12 6:30 p.m.	Health and Hospital (Public Health, Mental Health, Valley Medical Center)
May 13 6:30 p.m.	Finance and Government Operations (County Library, County Communications, Assessor, Registrar of Voters, etc.)
May 13 1:30 p.m.	Children, Seniors and Families (Child Support Services, In Home Supportive Services, Social Services, etc.)
May 14 1:30 p.m.	Public Safety and Justice District Attorney (Sheriff, Public Defender, Department of Correction, Probation, District Attorney) Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (Planning, Environmental Management, Parks, Roads, Airports, etc.)

BOARD AND COMMISSION OPENINGS

The following County Board and Commission openings are available for appointment by my office:

- Certification Appeals Board (current or retired deputy probation officer or parole agent)
- Correctional Industries Advisory Board (adult education representative)
- Hsinchu County, Taiwan Sister County Commission (general member)
- Moscow Sister County Commission (general member)
- Florence, Italy, Sister County Commission (general member)
- Health Advisory Commission (nursing representative)
- Historical Heritage Commission (general member)
- HIV Health Services Planning Council (affected community member)
- Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee (target population representative)
- Juvenile Hall Advisory Board (former Juvenile Hall probationer)
- Mental Health Board (family member of a consumer of mental health services)
- National Guard and Veterans Affairs Commission (general member)
- West Valley Flood Control and Watershed (North Central Zone representative)

To learn, more got www.SupervisorYeager.org and click on the Boards and Commissions tab.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Guided Bike Ride to Alviso Marina County Park

What: Join avid bay area cyclist Sheri Suomela along with her husband Erik as they guide you on this moderately paced bike ride from the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens Visitor Center to Alviso. The 17-mile round-trip ride will use the trails of the Guadalupe River Park and levees along the Guadalupe River the entire length. The event is presented by the Friends of Guadalupe River Park and Gardens. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

When: May 16 at 8:45 a.m.

Where: 438 Coleman, San José

More Information: To register, please call or e-mail Friends of Guadalupe River Park and Gardens at education@grpg.org or 408-298-7657

Electronic Waste Recycling

What: This is a free event sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley. Simply drive through and drop off your unwanted computer-related items, home and office electronic items, and small appliances. No freezers, air conditioners, batteries or anything with motor oil.

When: May 16, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Evergreen Community Center Parking Lot, 4860 San Felipe Road, San José

More Information: Contact Steve Ramona at 943-9943 or stever@earthcarerecycling.com.

Health Insurance Sign-Up Day

What: Come to this event to apply for free or low-cost health insurance for children. Bring proof of residence (such as a utility bill), proof of income (such as your last pay stub), and your child's birth certificate and social security number.

When: May 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Camden Community Center , Activity Room B, 3369 Union Avenue, San José

More Information: Call 874-1828.

Boogie on the Bayou

What: This two-day event is a premier festival attracting between 50,000 - 60,000 people. "Boogie On The Bayou" takes place in Historical Downtown Campbell and brings thousands of people out to enjoy a day in the sun while mixing and mingling with the local Campbell community. The event features music, arts, crafts, and food.

When: May 16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Historic Downtown Campbell

More Information: Visit www.campbellchamber.com.

Health Care Reform Forum

What: The Santa Clara County Health Advisory Commission will host a forum on Health Care Reform. Dr. Claudia Chaufan of the University of California , San Francisco will discuss "Learning from the International Experience: A Framework to Analyze Current Proposals for Health Care Reform."

When: May 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 70 West Hedding Street , San José

More Information: Call Dr. Ken Horowitz at (650) 464-8959.

This is an informative newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on issues that I am working on, local updates, events in District 4, and County resources. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please send an e-mail to jim.weston@bos.sccgov.org with the subject: Remove me from your mailing list. To receive a text-only version of the newsletter, please send an e-mail to jim.weston@bos.sccgov.org with the subject: Text-only version of the newsletter. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an e-mail to jim.weston@bos.sccgov.org with the subject: Add me to your mailing list.