

August 24, 2009



FLEET AUDIT ILLUMINATES PATH TO SAVINGS

In June, the Board of Supervisor's Management Audit Division released a report identifying waste in the County's vehicle fleet and outlining ways to save money. I am happy to inform you that some of those recommendations are already underway, and the Board is poised to approve the rest of them next month.

In progress at this moment is the reduction of the overall fleet size. Too many cars have been underutilized or sitting idle. Already, 29 cars have been auctioned off with more soon to follow. Over the next year, County staff will draw up detailed plans to better measure vehicle needs and cut the fleet size even further. I believe we can substantially reduce the number of cars in our fleet.

Management is also creating new policies that will tighten controls over employee use of County vehicles and reduce out-of-county trips. In these tough economic times, when our residents are losing access to county services, we cannot afford to waste any of our resources. Every penny counts.

We have to look past mere employee convenience toward what is the best use of our vehicles as a resource. We don't want to

impede the efficacy or efficiency of our staff, but resources are becoming more scarce. We need to be more thoughtful before we use vehicles. Strong policies and controls will reinforce that.

An intriguing item under consideration by the Board is a pilot program using telematics in our County vehicles. Telematics utilizes monitoring technologies such as GPS, mapping software, and emissions monitors to track data related to vehicle usage, engine idling, smog emissions, and more.

Telematics is especially exciting because it could also help us achieve part of our environmental goals by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. I whole-heartedly support government finding creative new techniques, practices, or technologies to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

An issue that still needs to be resolved is how to deal with unpaid parking citations accrued by employees. The audit revealed nearly 3,000 unpaid parking tickets totaling almost \$105,000 in unpaid fines. Adequately enforcing employee responsibility for them represents a matter of maintaining public trust.

Large numbers of unpaid and untraceable citations suggest to the public a flippant attitude toward the law. We must reduce these numbers. County staff have committed to resolving this problem, and will spend time creating a system that is not overly burdensome on time and resources.

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The Board also needs to resolve the issue of take-home vehicles. County vehicles are currently assigned to 144 employees with take-home authorization. Although the County Ordinance Code prohibits assignment of county vehicles to employees living out of the County, the average commute distance of employees with take-home privileges is 99 miles at a cost to the County of at least \$89,000 annually just for fuel. We must figure out how to bring policies and ordinances into alignment to save money.

Thanks to this audit, there are many improvements underway. Briefly, the work includes:

- Centralizing all vehicle purchasing and maintenance policies into one governing document;
- Providing more information to departments about vehicle and fuel use so they can adopt greater internal controls;
- Renegotiating any contracts that provide non-need based vehicle assignments;
- Implementing new employee training to reduce accidents while making departments more responsible for their employees' actions;
- Revising rules for some inter-departmental lease agreements to save general fund money; and
- Purchasing leased land used for vehicle maintenance to save money over time.

I am heartened by the work that is getting done. I am thankful to the Management Audit Division for performing this audit and to County staff for their commitment to fulfilling its recommendations. As plans become finalized over the coming year, I am hopeful that we will find even more savings.

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.

REMINDER: BAY BRIDGE CLOSED OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Starting Thursday, September 3 at 8 p.m., the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge will be closed for four days. As part of seismic upgrades, crews will be replacing a section of the bridge east of the Yerba Buena Island Tunnel, to connect the bridge to a temporary detour.

Plan Ahead:

Go to
www.BayBridgeInfo.org
for ongoing updates
and visit
www.511.org
for transit options.

A 300-foot double-deck section of the bridge, 150 feet over Yerba Buena Island, will be cut and moved out of the way during the closure. A new double-deck section will be moved into place, allowing traffic to flow for the next few years on a half-mile long detour connecting the East Span to the Yerba Buena Island Tunnel. This traffic shift will allow crews to demolish a portion of the original bridge, and to build a new connection from the tunnel to the new East Span.

Residents and visitors will have numerous alternatives for getting around the Bay Area while the bridge is closed. Motorists should allow extra time for travel and use of other bridges, including the Golden Gate Bridge, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, the Hayward-San Mateo Bridge and the Dumbarton Bridge.

When the bridge reopens to traffic on Tuesday, September 8 at 5 a.m., motorists will experience a slightly different drive. The roadway will curve to the south, requiring drivers to slow down while approaching or leaving the Yerba Buena Island Tunnel. On the detour, the speed limit will be reduced from 50 mph to 40 mph.

All Bay Area bridges (except the Golden Gate) are owned by Caltrans, but the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) is responsible for oversight of day-to-day operations, including the funding and joint oversight of capital improvements. BATA shares the same commissioners and governing structure as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the transportation planning and financing agency for the nine-county Bay Area region. I serve on MTC—and therefore BATA—representing Santa Clara County. BATA is using revenues from a seismic surcharge on bridge tolls to fund the Bay Bridge upgrade and other seismic safety projects.



SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES FOR COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

As small businesses are a major part of this country's economic engine, they will be critical in fighting climate change. Part of the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) strategy in implementing California's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) involves outreach to small businesses.

To that end, ARB has created a toolkit for small businesses called CoolCalifornia. The kit provides cost-effective strategies to assist small businesses in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving money. It offers a menu of options for cost-effective actions, funding opportunities, success stories, and a carbon calculator.

This year, ARB is also taking nominations for its new CoolCalifornia Small Business Award program that will recognize small businesses from across the state that demonstrate climate leadership. California businesses with fewer than 100 employees who demonstrate and promote a commitment to climate-friendly practices are eligible for awards. Measures may include energy efficiency, clean vehicle fleets, green purchasing and water conservation.

Nominations can be made through September 3, and more information can be found at <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/article/small-business-award-program>.

Efforts to curb global warming are coming from the private sector as well. The Business Alliance for a Green Economy and the Green Chamber of Commerce are reaching out to businesses across the state to

build support for a clean energy future in California. They believe that solutions to climate change will keep more money in our local economy and drive economic growth.

Learn More:

Find resources at <http://greenchamberofcommerce.net/>.

STIMULUS FUNDS GET PAVING PROJECT UNDERWAY

This July, Santa Clara County started construction on the third phase of the Montague Pavement Project. This is the first County road project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which is commonly referred to as the federal stimulus bill.

Approximately 290,000 vehicles travel on Montague Expressway each day, according to the 2001 traffic data collected by the County Roads and Airports Department. This project includes removal and repair of damaged pavement areas followed by a new surfacing overlay of rubberized asphalt.

Construction zones included in the project are the area between US-101 and Mission College Boulevard in Santa Clara, the area between Zanker Road and I-880 in San Jose, and the area between Capitol Avenue and Dempsey Road in Milpitas. The \$3 million project is slated to end in September.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Joining one of the County's many advisory boards and commissions is a great way to get involved with local decision-making and give back to your community. If you are interested in seeking an appointment, or know someone who is, please contact Megan Doyle for more information and an application. She can be reached in my office at 299-5040 or at megan.doyle@bos.sccgov.org.

The following County board and commission openings are available for appointment by my office:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Hepatitis B Screenings and Vaccinations

What: Hepatitis B is a serious infection of the liver and the leading cause of liver cancer. Asian and Pacific Islanders account for over half of the 1.3 million chronic hepatitis B cases and half of the deaths resulting from hepatitis B in the United States. Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) along with the Asian Liver Center will be conducting a series of Hepatitis B screenings and vaccinations.

When: Select Saturdays through the end of the year from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: AACI, 2400 Moorpark Avenue, Suite 111, San José

More Information: Visit <http://www.aaci.org/events.htm>.

Clean Air Plan Public Workshop

What: The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is presenting a workshop to seek public review and comment on their draft 2009 Clean Air Plan. The control strategy aims to reduce ozone precursors, while also addressing particulate matter, air toxics, and greenhouse gases. The control strategy will include measures to reduce emissions from both mobile and stationary sources.

When: September 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: Mountain View City Hall, 500 Castro Street

More Information: Visit <http://www.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Planning-and-Research/Plans/Clean-Air-Plans.aspx>.

Labor Day Run for a Healthy World

What: This 5K run/walk and 10K run benefits education of young women in Africa, microfinance in Central America and The Health Trust's Meals on Wheels Program. Register at <http://www.worldrunners.org/dp/?q=node/39>.

When: September 7 at 8 a.m.

Where: Sunnyvale Baylands Park, 999 E. Caribbean Drive

More Information: Call 978-0203 or email BobLord@worldrunners.org.

Dancing with the Cars

What: Dancing with the Cars is a gala event benefitting the VMC Foundation and Valley Medical Center. Catered by Parsley Sage Rosemary & Thyme, the event features world class circus performers, fantastic cars, race car simulators, a unique live auction, and dancing to David Dumont's Lil' Big Band. Tickets are \$149 per person.

When: September 12 at 6 p.m.

Where: Club Auto Sport, 521 Charcot Ave, San José

More Information: Visit www.vmcfoundation.org or call 885-5299.

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.