

April 23, 2015



COUNTY TO REPLACE GREEN LAWNS WITH DROUGHT-RESISTANT PLANTS

In an ongoing effort to address California's water crisis, Supervisor Dave Cortese joined me in proposing a new policy to reduce the impact of County landscaping on the local water supply. On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to replace decorative lawns and other water-intensive landscapes with drought-tolerant plants.

Currently, there are numerous green grass lawns on County-owned land that require regular maintenance and watering. Those properties include the Civic Center and the Main Jail as well as the office buildings at Berger Drive and Charcot Avenue in San Jose.

The new policy requires County staff to identify such properties, including those along County roads, and create a xeriscaping—or sustainable landscaping—plan that utilizes drought-tolerant or native plants instead. Lawns that are maintained for recreational purposes such as parks and sports fields will be exempted from the policy.

There is no time to waste in mitigating the effects of this drought. The federal Environmental Protection Agency estimates that up to 50% of landscape water use goes to waste because of evaporation, wind, or runoff caused by overwatering. Converting to a sustainable landscape through careful plant selection and design can eliminate that lost water. This new policy is great way for the County must lead by example when it comes to water conservation.

Some of the new landscaping standards will be incorporated into existing capital projects. The County will also seek state and local water conservation grants to fund the cost of other landscape conversions. County staff will also seek opportunities to collaborate with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the California Conservation Corps, and certified community conservation corps to achieve mutually beneficial goals.

In addition to converting existing lawns, the new policy places a 10-year moratorium on installing any new water-intensive landscaping at County-owned facilities. This would include grass lawns that are heavily reliant on water and decorative fountains that use water.

Recently, the Board adopted an ordinance establishing permanent mandatory conservation for residents in unincorporated areas of the County. A similar measure for businesses will be considered soon. Additionally, all County Departments are currently putting 25% water reduction plans into place.

The County's new lawn conversion policy is in line with other recent water-saving efforts, some of which have been recognized with Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards. Those projects have included utilizing recycled water for landscape irrigation and installing low-flow shower heads at County detention centers.

While the new policy was instigated by the drought at hand, it is being implemented with an eye toward systematic and permanent changes. The long-term effects of climate change across the region are being considered as well. We are entering a new era of mindfulness in water consumption. Conservation and smart resource management have to be the new normal.

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 (408) 299-5040 or via email at Supervisor.Yeager@bos.sccgov.org.



Members of the San Jose Conservation Corps are currently performing a turf conversion at the County Roads & Airports Maintenance Office on Shallenberger Road in San Jose. Under the new policy, more projects like this will soon be underway at County properties.

MEGAN DOYLE APPOINTED AS CLERK OF THE BOARD

I am happy to announce that the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint Megan Doyle as its next Clerk of the Board. Megan is currently serving as my Chief of Staff and has been with me for the last 12 years, since my days on the San Jose City Council. While I will miss having her as part of the day-to-day operations of my office, I know that she will make a fantastic Clerk of the Board.

As Clerk of the Board, Doyle will have oversight of the office's five divisions, including Board Operations, Assessment Appeals, Boards and Commissions, Records Management, and Administrative Services, as well as the supervision of 32 employees and a \$6.5 million budget. The office provides administrative support to the Board of Supervisors as-a-whole, and advisory commissions.

Over the last eight years, Megan has gained first-hand knowledge of the County and how the Board functions. In addition to serving as my Chief of Staff, she has worked on issues related to transportation, housing, and land use. She has also built extensive relationships with regional organizations including Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Caltrain, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) and the Association for Bay Area Governments (ABAG) that will be of great service to her in this position.

Megan’s public service career began in 2000, shortly after she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies at Fordham University and an Urban Fellowship in the City of New York. She went on to work on teacher credentialing issues with the New York City Teaching Fellows program and the New Teacher Project in Los Angeles. In addition to her time in my office, she ran the transitional offices of San Jose City Council District 6 and Santa Clara County District 2 while special elections were being held to fill vacancies.

Megan was born and raised in this County and has deep ties to the community. I have every confidence of Megan’s ability to lead the Office of the Clerk of the Board. Her analytical skills and her knowledge of the County will serve her well in this new role.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT ACADEMY CELEBRATES GRADUATES



For the third year in a row, Santa Clara County held its SCC GOV 101 Academy. The Academy is a 10-week program that provides residents a comprehensive overview of County government, its role and responsibilities, as well as the programs and services offered by the County. Ten participants from each of the five Supervisorial Districts are chosen to participate each year. Classes feature presentations from County Departments and field trips to County facilities. At the most recent Board of Supervisors meeting, I was happy to present graduation certificates to the participants from District Four.

BIKE TO WORK DAY COMING ON MAY 14

Thursday, May 14 is National Bike to Work Day. 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 curb motor vehicle emissions. In the Bay Area, more than one million people commuting to work live fewer than five miles away from their jobs, making biking an easy alternative. Register and pledge to ride at the official Bay Area Bike to Work Day website (<http://www.youcanbikethere.com/>) to be eligible to win prizes and nominate someone you know as Bike Commuter of the Year.

Riders of all levels can take part in Bike to Work Day. It is the perfect time to see if bicycle commuting is right for you. Thousands of other riders will be out in force that day to help cheer you on. There will also be energizer stations throughout the County—including one I'm sponsoring at 70 W. Hedding (at the main entrance to the County Government Center near the corner of First and Hedding) —open from 6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to provide food, refreshments, and goodies to those travelling on two wheels instead of four.

You can visit the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition website at <http://bikesiliconvalley.org/btwd> to plan your route and find energizer stations along the way, or you can map a route by using a website like Google, Bing, Mapquest, Yahoo!, or others. In addition, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) website provides a comprehensive bikeways map at <http://www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/planning/bikes-bikeways-map-effective-april-2011> that details trails and bike lanes throughout the county.

Make this year the year you join thousands of local residents who ditch their car for a healthier commute. I look forward to seeing you out there.

CALTRAIN CELEBRATES SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Caltrain is committed to supporting a more sustainable San Francisco Bay Area. In my role as member of the Caltrain Board of Directors, I have long touted the environmental benefits of riding public transit. I am also proud of the work the organization has done to incorporate sustainability practices into its operations. In honor of Earth Day, Caltrain is getting the word out about sustainability.

Caltrain celebrates Earth Day each April with public and employee activities. Earth Day this year was April 22. Caltrain used that day to launch its new sustainability website for the public at <http://www.caltrain.com/about/Sustainability.html>. In addition, visual message signs at stations showed the message “Every Day is Earth Day When You Ride Caltrain” all week.

Caltrain promotes sustainability by providing affordable, accessible, environmentally friendly mobility options to move people where they live, work and play. Customers that ride Caltrain promote sustainability in many ways that benefit the community, including:

- Reducing fuel consumption;
- Saving households money;
- Mitigating traffic congestion;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and related climate change impacts; and
- Improving regional air quality.

Caltrain's sustainability website has a Commute Calculator that can help you estimate how much money you would save by taking Caltrain instead of driving. A Carbon Savings Calculator estimates how taking transit can reduce your carbon footprint.

Caltrain is also committed to incorporating sustainability in its standard operating procedures, programs, and initiatives. The Sustainability Program regularly evaluates the agency's operational impacts on communities and the environment, and finds ways to lessen those impacts.

At Caltrain's Central Equipment Maintenance and Operations Facility (CEMOF), the maintenance team recycles oils and lubricants while its train wash system recycles 80 percent of the water used. A recycling program has been instituted at every Caltrain station. Caltrain also conserves water at stations by using "smart" irrigation controllers that adjust watering schedules based on local temperature and rainfall. Caltrain also uses drought-tolerant vegetation in new plantings wherever possible, and covers plant beds with mulch to reduce evaporation of water.

Sustainability is a key component of Caltrain's vision for the future. There is a continuous process in place to improve sustainability in operations. The electrification project now underway will greatly improve Caltrain's environmental impact and reduce commuter's carbon footprints ever more. I am proud of the work Caltrain has done and will continue to do in this area.

COUNTY RAISES SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time when community members and advocates work to prevent and promote awareness of this widespread crime. The County is making significant efforts to educate our communities about the pervasiveness of sexual assault, and the ways in which we can all make a difference.

Sexual assault is any forced, coerced or unwanted sexual contact. It is a form of sexual violence that can exist in many forms, from the subtle to the extreme. In the United States, nearly one in five women have been raped at some point in their lives, including 1.3 million women in the past 12 months. Nearly half of all women have experienced some form of sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime.

Because of its nature, sexual assault is also one of the most underreported crimes in the world. At least one of every three women globally will be beaten, raped or otherwise abused during her lifetime. In many cases, the abuser is a member of her own family. Likewise, over half of all women who are sexually assaulted in the U.S. are raped by a current or former partner.

While women of all ages are often the targets of sexual assault, young women are particularly threatened. Women between the ages of 20 and 24 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault, followed by those 16 to 19 years. Sexual assault is a threat to men as well. In the United States, one in five men have experienced sexual violence victimization other than rape in their lifetime.

Over the past several weeks, the County has hosted a number of public forums and events aimed at promoting awareness of sexual violence in our communities. There are several upcoming events in which residents can participate. I encourage you to visit the County Office of Women's Policy website at owp.sccgov.org, browse the events calendar, and take part in any of the events and activities listed.

I am proud of the County's efforts to help end sexual violence. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, help is available. Survivors and their friends and loved ones can call one of the 24-hour crisis lines below, or reach live help online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

YWCA Rape Crisis Center Hotline

408-287-3000

www.ywca-sv.org

Community Solutions Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Hotline (South County)

1-877-END-SADV (1-877-363-7238)

www.communitysolutions.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

<https://rainn.org/>

National Sexual Assault Online Hotline

<https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>

Men who have had unwanted or abusive sexual experiences in childhood, and their friends and loved ones, can contact RAINN's 1in6 online hotline, which is reached through <https://ohl.rainn.org/1in6/> for support, information, and resources.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Estate Planning for Life

What: In this workshop by the Financial Planning Association of Silicon Valley, participants will learn what basic estate planning documents are required during life changing events. Plan ahead and help your family avoid costly court and attorney fees. This event is free and all are welcome.

When: Saturday, April 25 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave, Campbell

More information: Visit www.sccl.org/campbell.

Silicon Valley Bikes! Festival

What: In honor of National Bike Month, History San Jose and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition are hosting the First Annual Silicon Valley Bikes! Festival and Bicycle Show. Come celebrate the Santa Clara Valley's rich bicycling history and culture. The event will include food trucks, vendors, riding demonstrations, kids activities, a racing area, and much more. Free bicycle valet parking will be provided. The cost is \$5 at the gate. Children ages 10 and under are free.

When: Sunday, May 3, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: History Park at Kelley Park, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose

More Information: Email siliconvalleybikes@historysanjose.org.

When Mom or Dad Has Cancer

What: Cancer CAREpoint is offering a new program to help parents with cancer communicate with their children ages 8-13. Social workers Laura Crutchlow and Amy Goldsbury will lead the three sessions of the program, the first of which is for parents only. Space is limited, and registration is required by April 30.

When: Tuesdays, May 5-19, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: 2505 Samaritan Drive, Bldg 400, Suite 402, San Jose

More Information: Email laura@cancercarepoint.org or call 408-402-6611.

Water-Wise Landscaping Course

What: Guadalupe River Park Conservancy and Master Gardeners Dee Brown & Lisa Strand invite residents to learn water-saving landscaping techniques. Participants in this 3-week course will learn about the many beautiful low-water plants that thrive in our climate with minimal water usage. The cost is \$35 for GRPC members, \$45 for non-members. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited.

When: Wednesdays, May 6-20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: GRPC Visitor & Education Center, 438 Coleman Avenue, San Jose

More Information: Call 408-298-7657 or visit <http://www.grpg.org>.

History Happy Hour: The Peninsular

What: Campbell's Ainsley House is hosting a discussion with Saratoga historian Ray Cosyn on the Peninsular, Santa Clara Valley's original public transportation system. For railroad enthusiasts, public transportation advocates, and anyone with a love of history, this lecture will be an entertaining and informative experience. The cost is \$15 per person, and attendees must be at least 21 years of age.

When: Friday, May 8, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Campbell Historical Museums, 51 N Central Ave.

More Information: Call 408-866-2104 or visit www.cityofcampbell.com/museum.

Willow Glen 5K Run/Walk

What: Willow Glen Elementary School invites serious runners and casual walkers alike to its annual 5K Run/Walk in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood. Following the event is a post-race festival, which will include a pancake breakfast, music, games, and much more. Proceeds from the race will benefit local after-school programs.

When: Saturday, May 9 at 9 a.m.

Where: Willow Glen Elementary School, 1425 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

More information: Visit www.willowglen5k.org or email info@willowglen5k.org.

Kids Tree Safari

What: Our City Forest invites children of all ages to join the Kids Tree Safari and discover the great urban outdoors of San Jose. In this expert-led tour, participants will learn about the unusual and wonderful plants living in our region's biggest city. RSVP is required. Bilingual services are available.

When: Saturday, May 9 and June 20, at 2 p.m.

Where: Our City Forest Community Nursery, 1000 Spring Street, San Jose

More Information: Email treetours@ourcityforest.org or call 408-998-7337.

Armed Forces Day Run/Walk and Fun Fest

What: The Veterans Support Services Agency presents a day of family fun in honor of Armed Forces Day. In the morning there will be a 5K run as well as a 1 mile walk, with award categories for each. After the race, the Family Fun Fest will begin, offering live music, a classic car display, local artists, food, and more. Pre-registration is required. Organizers are offering \$5.00 off the registration price with the code "newsletter".

When: Saturday, May 16 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Lake Cunningham Park, 2305 S. White Road, San Jose

More information: Visit www.vssainc.org/afd/.

Prevent Obesity 5k Run/Walk

What: MED-X Sports and Fitness Center in Campbell is hosting the Fourth Annual Prevent Obesity 5k Run and Walk. This event is a fun, healthy way to engage with the community. All proceeds will benefit the Campbell Union School District and the Child Obesity Prevention Association. The cost is \$30 for teens, \$40 for adults, and \$150 for teams of five people. Children ages 12 and under are free. Online signups are recommended, as the prices go up on the day of the event. Pre-registration begins at 7 a.m. on the morning of the event.

When: Sunday, May 17 at 9 a.m.

Where: Campbell Park, Gilman Avenue at Campbell Ave, Campbell

More Information: Visit www.preventobesity5k.org or email info@fitmedx.com.

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 hit the "reply" button and put the word "remove" in the body of the email. To receive a text-only version of the newsletter, please hit the "reply" button and put the words "text only" in the body of the email. To change the email address where you receive your newsletter, please hit the "reply" button and indicate the old and new email addresses in the body of the email. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an e-mail to supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org with the subject: "Add."