



## CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,  
County Administrator

On June 24, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Final Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-2012 that included the elimination of more than 100 County jobs while reducing some key services to close a \$137.9 million funding gap. Most of the eliminated positions were vacant and we are hopeful that the remaining job reductions will be accomplished through retirements and other means so that layoffs will not be necessary.

But the tough times are not behind us. Five days after the County budget was adopted, lawmakers in Sacramento approved a State Budget that includes significant reductions to social services, law enforcement, education and health care programs. The State's actions are bound to impact many residents we serve in Alameda County and may be followed by even deeper reductions if financial projections included in the State Budget – which many feel are overly optimistic – do not materialize.

Our Final Budget was adopted as Alameda County continues to grapple with rising demand for its services and diminishing resources. Unemployment in the County remains stubbornly high as a slow economic turnaround provides limited financial relief to the County, while rising employee benefit and retirement costs and reductions in State and federal spending continue to drain local resources.

Given these difficulties, it is remarkable that the County continues to maintain vital services to its residents. We can be proud of the way we continue to provide excellent service, and of the partnerships and other innovative methods we employ to get the most out of the resources we have.

We cannot underestimate the positive impacts of the financial discipline of our Board of Supervisors and Department heads, as well as the spirit of shared sacrifice demonstrated by our employees who continue to forego salary increases. We will keep you posted as we learn more about budget moves in Sacramento and other factors that will affect our financial picture here in Alameda County.

## Alameda County Breaks Ground on Highland Hospital Acute Tower Replacement Project, June 3, 2011



*From left to right: Patrick O'Connell, Auditor-Controller; Supervisor Scott Haggerty, District 1; Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator; Supervisor Nadia Lockyer, District 2; Aki Nakao, Director, General Services Agency; Nate Miley, President, Board of Supervisors; Supervisor Wilma Chan, District 3*

Alameda County officials gathered in early June for the groundbreaking of the \$668 million Highland Hospital Acute Tower Replacement project, a rebuild of the historic hospital's main facilities that marks the County's largest-ever construction project.

The Acute Tower Replacement project is an unprecedented investment of resources during difficult financial times that will preserve for future generations the County's key public hospital with state-of-the-art facilities that meet all seismic safety standards. The upgraded hospital ensures top-line health care will be available to area residents – regardless of their ability to pay – for decades to come.

The multi-phase project is slated to be completed by 2017, and will be anchored by a new 9-story, 169-bed Acute Care Tower. The project will also include the construction of a new 3-story Specialty Care Clinics Building and 176 underground parking spaces.

Learn more about Alameda County government at:

[www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org)

# Lori Jones Appointed County Social Services Agency Director

The Board of Supervisors has appointed Lori Jones Director of the Alameda County Social Services Agency. Lori was appointed Interim SSA Co-Director in January 2011 while the Board conducted a national search for the permanent replacement for Yolanda Baldovinos, who retired as SSA Director after 28 years of distinguished County service. Lori worked with SSA for 5 years in the mid-1990s before moving on

in 2000 to become Deputy Director of the John H. Boner Community Center in Indianapolis. She returned to Alameda County in 2001 and was promoted to SSA Division Director in 2004. "I look forward to strengthening our current partnerships, creating new collaborations and working with staff to develop services that meet the growing needs of our community," she said.



## ASK YOUR GREEN GUIDE?

**Q. Dear Green Guide:** I packed up to move to a new home and am left with a pile of old belongings I don't need. Is there anywhere they can go besides the dumpster?  
—*Too Much Stuff*

- A. Dear Too Much:** Absolutely! Before you throw something in a landfill, take a second look. Ask yourself:
- **Reuse:** Can you reuse any part of your old belongings? Perhaps an old frame on an unwanted painting still has a place in your home.
  - **Donate:** Sort out those belongings which are in good condition and donate! From clothing to computers, there are plenty of places that accept used household items. Some will even pick them up from your home.
  - **Recycle:** Separate those items or parts that can be recycled.

Visit StopWaste.Org (<http://bit.ly/recyclingwizard>) for reuse and recycling options for specific items.

Have a question for the Green Guide? Email [recycle@acgov.org](mailto:recycle@acgov.org)

## KUDOS—GSA Wins Art Deco Award

Alameda County GSA was honored on May 7 at the Art Deco Society of California for its outstanding upkeep of five Veterans Memorial Buildings, each of which displays Art Deco features typical of this unique style of the early 20th Century.

The buildings were among 10 Veterans Memorial Buildings commissioned and constructed by Alameda County between 1927 and 1935. All

were designed by noted local architect Henry Haight Meyers.

The five buildings still owned and operated by Alameda County – in Albany, Fremont (Niles), Hayward, Livermore and San Leandro - are each "maintained in splendid condition," the Art Deco Society stated in presenting the award to GSA at the 2011 Art Deco Preservation Ball at the Berkeley City Club.

Congratulations to GSA for preserving each of these architectural gems!

## Emergency Preparedness Fair Draws Hundreds

Alameda County Public Health Department hosted a Get Ready! Disaster Preparedness Fair May 25 at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum. The event encouraged County residents and vulnerable populations (including those who are homeless or disabled) to prepare for large- and small-scale disasters. Given the recent international and national flurry of earthquakes, tornados, floods and fires, Public Health wanted to remind the public that planning for disasters is necessary to ensure you have the resources and ability to care for yourself and family until help arrives. Attended by roughly 1,000 people, the fair brought together emergency preparedness suppliers (Grainger, Inc.), responders (Red Cross), public agencies (Easy Bay MUD), and community agencies (CARD - Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters) to promote emergency preparedness for schools, businesses, community groups and others. CARD and Alameda County's 2-1-1 information line sent invitations through their database of 1200 organizations. Generous giveaways, disaster training, vendor demonstrations, raffles, and more were available to those who attended.

### COUNTY CONNECTIONS

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**Brega Appointed DCSS Director**

**Matthew Brega** has been appointed Director of Alameda County's Department of Child Support Services (DCSS). The Deputy Director of DCSS since September 2009, Matt replaces Maureen Lenahan, who retired after 41 years of distinguished service with Alameda County. Prior to joining Alameda County DCSS, Matt worked for San Diego County's Department of Child Support Services for almost nine years after receiving his law degree from the University of San Diego. Since joining Alameda County, Matt has been involved in the DCSS' strategic planning, restructuring and Call Center projects. "My staff and I are committed to maintaining the respect and dignity of the public we serve while we establish and enforce child and spousal support orders," he said. Upon announcing the appointment, Nate Miley, President of the Board of Supervisors, said, "We are pleased to welcome Matt as the new Director and we look forward to working with him on the many challenges ahead." Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator said, "Matt is assuming responsibility as DCSS Director at a critical time and is committed to continuing to work with all stakeholders, staff and the County's leadership team."



For a calendar of Alameda County events, visit the County website at

[http://acgov.org/calendar\\_app/DisplayDailyServlet](http://acgov.org/calendar_app/DisplayDailyServlet).

Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).

*County Links*

- Alameda County Government <http://www.acgov.org/government.htm>
- Alameda County Board of Supervisors <http://www.acgov.org/board/>
- Lookup/pay Property Taxes <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>
- Traffic Tickets [https://www.acgov.org/mvp\\_app/CitationServlet](https://www.acgov.org/mvp_app/CitationServlet)
- Awards won by Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/awards/>
- Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies <http://www.acgov.org/departments.htm>
- Employment with Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/employment.htm>
- Alameda County forms <http://www.acgov.org/formcenter.htm>

**A**lameda County needs poll workers for the November 8 General Municipal Election in Emeryville, Newark and Livermore. Earn between \$95 and \$180 for the day. Bi-lingual poll workers are especially needed. Registered Alameda County voters can apply online at <http://www.acgov.org/rov/workers.htm> or call (510) 272-6971.

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