

Quick Notes: YCEA Local #1 Site Representative Meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Yuba County Budget: County projected General Fund revenues are down by \$1.9 mil. This is based upon sales and property taxes collections being down, plus other miscellaneous revenues being lower than projected. General Fund expenses were set at \$46.8 mil, actual YTD expenses are at \$20.8 mil or about 46%. The early retirement program should net the County a General Fund savings of \$342,000, which will help the County achieve their projected ending year balance of \$10.4 mil. If the County is able to maintain their below budget expenditures they may have several million to carry over to next fiscal year, \$10.4 mil is very optimistic. The Highway User Tax is still at risk and it seems likely that CalWorks and In Home Support Services will suffer further reductions this year.

Catastrophic Leave Improvement: Sutter County has offered to reopen negotiations to modify their Catastrophic Leave Policy. After review, the SCEA Board of Directors approved an amendment to our contract, which will provide that employees may contribute up to 40 hours per year, per employee of their sick leave accruals. The addendum agreement should be approved by the BOS on February 16. This could set local precedence to achieve this option when we return to the bargaining table next year in Yuba County.

Political Action: SCEA and YCEA will be conducting joint interviews of candidates running for the Board of Supervisors in each County. Being involved in the political process is critical to ensuring that our voice is heard and that we are treated fairly. This year Hal Stocker, District 5 and Andy Vasquez, District 1 are up for election. Stocker faces a potential challenge from Marc Barnum, Jenny Cavaliere, and Elden Fowler, while Vasquez faces a challenge from Sandy Fonley and Rachel Farrell. If you are interested in serving on the interview committee, contact the Association Office or President, Robin Timoszyk.

Employer Tracking with GPS: The Courts have essentially ruled that there is no legitimate expectation of privacy when an employee drives an employer owned vehicle. However, there is a legitimate expectation of privacy attached to the employee's use of an assigned employer owned cell phone that has GPS capabilities. The employer issuing policies controlling the use of the cell phone, the employer's consistent application of such policies, and advance notification that the employer is using the GPS capabilities to monitor the employee's location can overcome this legitimate expectation of privacy. The expectation of privacy can also be overcome by the employer's "reasonable suspicion" that the employee is engaged in "off the clock" misconduct.

MLA Update: We have completed the MLA and it will go to the Board of Supervisors on February 23. Initially it was planned for the 16th agenda, but because the BOS cancelled their meeting on the 9th everything got pushed forward a week. Once approved by the BOS we will load it on our website and it will be available electronically on the County website as well. The document has embedded hyperlinks that will allow easy navigation to subject matters and to sections that are cross-referenced. We plan to print a limited amount of hard copies for those that do not have easy access to a computer.

Local #1 Crab Feed: The annual Local #1 Crab Feed was this past weekend Saturday, February 6, at the Local #1 office in Martinez. It was a well-attended event and the crab was good and plentiful. Only Terry Barber, SCEA Board Member attended with staff. We hope to have a larger group attend next year.