

**Holiday Message
2008**



CEO's Message



At this time of year, I always want to believe in miracles and successful "Hail Mary" passes. But unfortunately, we are now going through gut-wrenching national, State and County financial realities.

All of us are being touched by the economic meltdown in one way or another. And some of our County agencies, such as Social Services Agency, Health Care Agency and Probation, are already experiencing painful layoffs. Unfortunately, we will have to face more pain as the State continues to pass more budget shortfalls to us.

During these tough times, I want to remind you that we are a County family – a family that bands together when the going gets tough. As we go through the holidays with severe challenges, this is a time for us to grow together, reach out beyond ourselves and rebuild our unity. Also, this is a time to look at new ways to cut costs and submit ideas to <http://budgetsavers.ocgov.com>.

I am continuously impressed with the dedication and expertise of County employees. Your hard work is making a difference in people's lives and is most appreciated. My best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy New Year.

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer

Vol. V, December 2008

Employees Respond to Two Emergencies

November was a very busy month for the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and employees involved with emergency response to the largest wild land fire in Orange County since 1948. Employees also responded ten days later to the subsequent threat of mudslides in the fire-impacted area. Once again, County employees provided untiring response and support in a period of great need.

The Freeway Complex Fire started in the early morning of Saturday, Nov. 15 and the EOC was activated at 11 a.m. County staff from more than 16 agencies/departments then started their emergency assistance 24 hours-a-day until the EOC was deactivated at 7 p.m. on Nov. 17.

Approximately 30,305 acres were burned during the fire, 190 residential structures were destroyed and 123 residential structures were damaged. A Local Assistance Center (LAC) for residents impacted by the fire was opened on Tuesday, Nov. 18th, at the East Anaheim Gymnasium in Anaheim. County employees were involved with setting up the LAC and also provided assistance at

the facility.

On Nov. 25, the EOC was activated once again due to the threat of mudslides in the City of Yorba Linda. Approximately 948 single family homes and 38 apartment/condo homes were placed under mandatory evacuation orders.

"A few short days after County employees staffed the EOC during the ShakeOut earthquake drill, we found ourselves right back there in an actual emergency for the Freeway Complex Fire and rain event," said Chairman John M. W. Moorlach. "The dedication and perseverance of County employees is evident time and again in how we respond to emergencies."

(Continued on page 2)



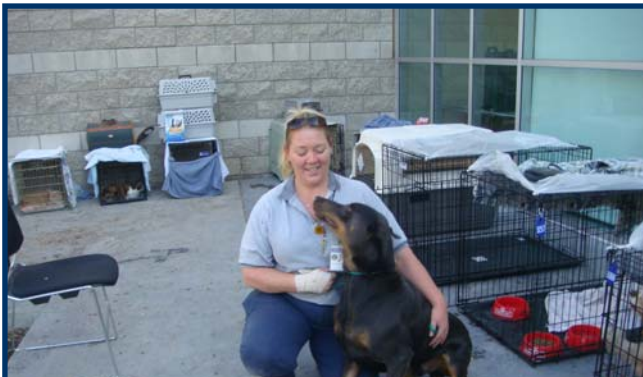
The Freeway Complex Fire started near the 91 Freeway on November 15 and burned more than 30,305 acres.



Chairman John M.W. Moorlach (upper right) visits the Emergency Operations Center during the Freeway Complex Fire.

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Representatives for the following agencies/ departments provided assistance during activation of the EOC: the Assessor's office, Child Support Services, Clerk of the Board, Clerk-Recorder, County Counsel, County Executive Office, District Attorney, Health Care Agency, Human Resources, OC Community Resources, OC Public Works, OC Waste & Recycling, Probation, Public Defender, Sheriff's Department and Social Services Agency.



Kennel Attendant Sheri Cochran comforts a dog at the kennel area of the Brea Community Center during the evacuations.



Staff from 16 County agencies/departments provided assistance during the activation of the Emergency Operations Center.

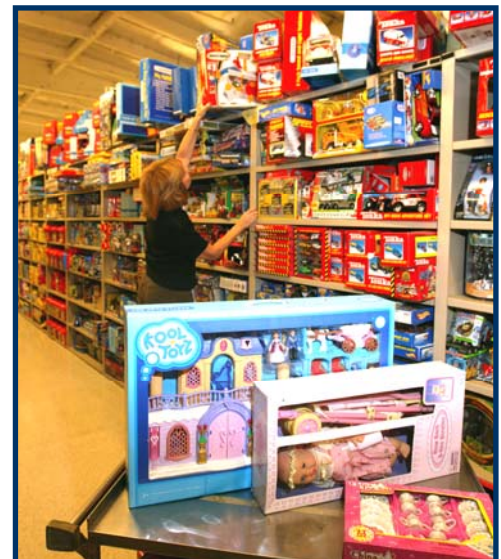
Operation Santa Claus Gift Drive Underway

Adding one more present to your shopping list can make holiday dreams come true for a needy child or teen, an impoverished senior citizen or a low-income family.

The 2008 Operation Santa Claus and Senior Santa & Friends annual gift drive began Nov. 17 and will continue through Dec. 23.

Last year, County donations ensured that children who were abandoned, neglected, abused, needy, or placed in foster care received approximately 43,475 toys. The holidays were also made more cheerful by the 2,662 gifts that were provided for elderly and disabled adults.

To learn how you can help brighten someone's life this season, click here (http://bos.ocgov.com/fromthedesk/OSC_08.pdf) or call (714) 679-2438.



A volunteer helps to sort gifts at the Operation Santa Claus Holiday Store.

Jan Sturla Appointed Director of California Department of Child Support Services

On Nov. 21, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Jan Sturla, Director of Child Support Services (CSS) for the County of Orange, as the new Director of the Department of Child Support Services for the State of California.

Jan has been an integral part of the County family for 31 years and has spent more than half of that time heading the CSS system. He served as the lead attorney on child support cases while employed with the Office of the District Attorney from 1992 - 2002, at which point Orange County CSS was officially created and Jan was named director.

"From our commitment to customer service to our insatiable need for performance measurement and research, Jan's guidance and vision are the primary reasons that Orange County CSS is the agency it is today," said Chief Deputy Director Steven Eldred.

Jan will be leading the 650-person State staff located in Rancho Cordova, as well as 8,000 local child support agency child support professionals. He assumes

management of the state program just as California receives federal certification of its single statewide automation system.

"The state child support program represents a very important lifeline for more than one million children and families in California," said Jan. "I am honored to have been chosen by Governor Schwarzenegger to direct this important work."



Jan's transition is scheduled for the mid-January '09.

County Investment Pool First in Nation to Receive AAAM Rating



The Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector's \$3.6 billion money market funds were awarded the prestigious AAAM rating by credit-rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) Dec. 1.

According to S&P, the AAAM rating is reserved for market funds with the highest level of principal and stability protection, and reflects the fund's extremely strong capacity to maintain principal losses due to credit, market, and/or liquidity risk.

Under the management of Treasurer-Tax Collector Chriss W. Street, the County's investment

portfolio has been restructured to concentrate on ultra-conservative investments backed by the U.S. government.

"During these times of economic challenge, Orange County taxpayers must be assured that their hard-earned dollars are being invested in a prudent and thoughtful manner by a team of well-trained professionals," said Treasurer-Tax Collector Chriss W. Street. "This validation by Standard & Poor's gives taxpayers yet another layer of comfort."

The office currently manages \$5.7 billion on behalf of the County, school districts, cities and agencies. Its investments returned \$13.9 million for the month of October and earned more than \$317 million during the 2007 calendar year.

Whale Fossil Airlifted to OC Parks' Warehouse

Portions of a whale skull fossil weighing several tons were airlifted from Aliso Creek in the City of Lake Forest to the OC Parks' archeological/paleontological warehouse facility for safekeeping Nov. 21.

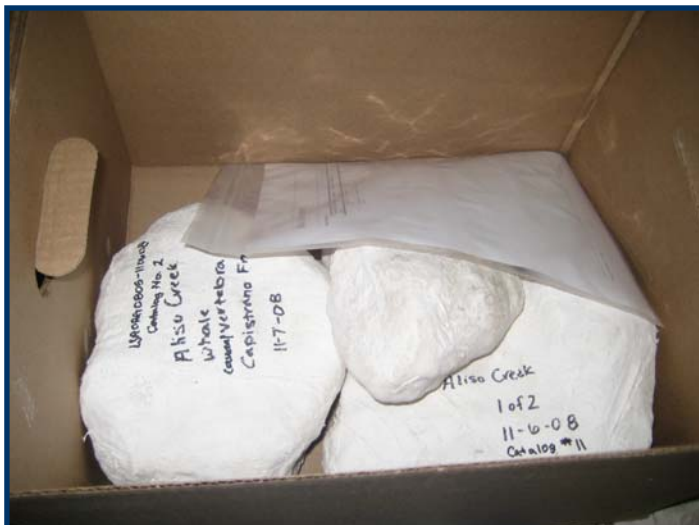
In 2006, an amateur paleontologist found the fossils in a streambed on OC Flood Control District property. OC Public Works retained a certified paleontologist to assess the fossil discovery and provide recommendations to protect the specimen. The resulting paleontological assessment found four partial fossil specimens: right whale skull, baleen whale jaw, whale vertebra, and fish vertebra.

Based on the surrounding geological information, the fossils were estimated to be 6 to 9 million years old. The paleontologist's report strongly recommended

excavation to protect the specimens from weather, erosion and vandalism.

Environmentally sensitive methods were employed to remove the fossils while minimizing impact on the streambed. Staff from the OC Sheriff's Dept. and Lake Forest Police Dept. worked together to close surrounding streets, enabling a safe helicopter pick-up and landing. The pilot flew solo and used less fuel to reduce the aircraft's weight and successfully lift the heavy fossils off the ground.

"Our priority right now is keeping the artifacts secure and preserving them for future preparation and curation," said Mark Denny, Director of OC Parks. "We look forward to working with California State Fullerton, which will be managing these finds on behalf of the County."



Fossil specimens are placed in plaster jackets to protect them during transport and storage.



After being moved via helicopter, this fossil was driven by truck and transferred by forklift into the OC Parks warehouse in Santa Ana.

Treasurer-Tax Collector Holds Holiday Book Drive

The Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office will be holding a book drive to collect new or used children's books for donation from Dec. 16 – Jan. 16.

Books appropriate for young children (Pre-K through Third Grade) will be collected and distributed to several organizations, including the Santa Ana Unified School District and the Raise Foundation. No text books, please.

Donation boxes are located at the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office, 11 Civic Center Plaza, Rooms G-58 and G-76 as well as within the Hall of Administration, 333. West Santa Ana Blvd., 1st floor lobby.

Get The 411 On OC

Orange County Sheriff's Department

- In 2007, the average daily population of all Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) jail facilities was 6,571. Approximately 65,987 individuals were booked into Orange County jails throughout the year.
- The Orange County Coroner investigated 12,944 deaths in 2007, 90 of which were homicides.
- OCSD provides police services for 12 contract cities, the Orange County Transportation Authority, John Wayne Airport, Orange County courts, harbors, the coastline and unincorporated areas; serving a population of nearly 750,000.
- The Sheriff's DNA laboratory matched DNA in 1,243 unsolved cases to persons whose DNA was included in the California Department of Justice data base last year.
- *Congressional Quarterly* ranked Mission Viejo, one of the Sheriff's contract cities, the safest city in the country based on an analysis of FBI crime statistics.

To get more of the 411, visit <http://www.ocsd.org/>.



40 Years

David Paredes
Probation

35 Years

Robin Mattocks
Social Services Agency

30 Years

Rebecca Fischer
District Attorney

Lisa Schulz
Child Support Services

Doug Witherspoon
OC Public Works

Mary Hanania
Sheriff-Coroner

Patricia Welch
Child Support Services

Doug Wilson
OC Public Works

25 Years

Laurie Sachar
County Executive Office

John Acevez
OC Community Resources

Michael Mullen
Sheriff-Coroner

Susan Attinger
Health Care Agency

Marilyn Eldridge
Health Care Agency

Katherine Harvey
Health Care Agency

Vicky Humphrey
Social Services Agency

Francisca Robles
Child Support Services

Felipe Villalobos
Sheriff-Coroner

Hazel Barnes
OC Public Works

Sandra Corder
Health Care Agency

Shirley Schroeder
Sheriff-Coroner

Joye Deutsch
Social Services Agency

Diana Mendoza
Health Care Agency

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20 Years

Laurie Aaker
Sheriff-Coroner

Larry Adams
OC Waste & Recycling

Shelly Barber
District Attorney

Eltha Dee
District Attorney

Eric Dixon
Health Care Agency

David Dworakowski
Public Defender

Rick Kopps
Social Services Agency

Karen Ngo
Social Services Agency

Eileen Norleen
Sheriff-Coroner

Sylvia Velasquez
Social Services Agency

Don McPeck
OC Public Works

Gloria Camarena
OC Public Works

Walter Daniels
Treasurer-Tax Collector

Christopher Lovato
Probation

James McAnally
OC Public Works

Doreen Partida
Social Services Agency

Sunita Prabhu
Health Care Agency

Greg Ohannesian
Social Services Agency

Juanita Alvarado
Social Services Agency

Christine Bishop
Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Chavez
Marshal

Bill Daher
Sheriff-Coroner

Bradley Dew
Sheriff-Coroner

Andy Dolan
Social Services Agency

Javier Garcia
OC Waste & Recycling

James Hahn
OC Community Resources

Kimberly Milewski
Sheriff-Coroner

Susan Rhein
Social Services Agency

Michael Wallace
Sheriff-Coroner

Paul St. Peter
Sheriff-Coroner

Anthony Pond
Public Defender

County Connection

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