



Ask the CEO



Q. What's happening with the OCERS vs. CalPERS comparison?

A. Your question is very timely. CEO staff will take an agenda item to the Board of Supervisors within the next few weeks to address this issue. Let me provide some background.

In 2004 the Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS) changed its actuary. The new actuary, The Segal Company, produced an updated actuarial study at the end of that year which substantially increased the County's unfunded actuarial liability for employee pensions. (An actuarial study projects future liabilities and assets of the retirement system and is used to determine future rates.)

In July 2004 the Board of Supervisors directed CEO Finance and Budget staff to review several options to OCERS, and one of those was CalPERS, which emerged as the most likely option among the other systems studied. As the review continued, however, staff concluded that there was very little difference in the costs of the

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Underage kittens at Animal Care Services require foster caretakers so they can grow to suitable adoption weight requirements.

Foster Caretakers Give Animals a Better Future

Animal Care Services (ACS) takes in more than 26,000 animals each year. Many of them are underage kittens and puppies who require one-on-one attention outside the shelter to be able to thrive and grow. Foster caretakers offer this opportunity to the too-young kittens and puppies who enter the shelter.

"We've found that many people want to make a commitment to an animal, but just don't have the ability to commit to the long-term requirements of adoption," said ACS Volunteer Program Coordinator Natalie Silva. "Fostering an underage animal gives them a chance to provide service for a shorter period of time while also

knowing they helped raise, socialize and care for the animal."

With the vital assistance provided from foster caretakers last year, more than 600 underage kittens and puppies were nurtured until they reached weight requirements suitable for adoption.

"Each year our mission is to increase the number of foster caretakers, so that more animals have the opportunity for adoption," said ACS Community Outreach Supervisor Ryan Drabek.

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two plans. The Board will soon be discussing this issue in greater detail.

To pose a question or comment, email ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com. Questions of broad, general interest may be answered in County Connection.



Teen Tutors Honored with National Volunteer Award

Teenage volunteers at the La Habra Public Library were awarded the Daily Point of Light Award on April 18 for their notable contributions in tutoring younger students who struggle with their school assignments. The teens offer peer assistance with homework, academic resources and encouragement to underserved and at-risk children.

The Homework Help Teen Tutor program began in 2003 from the vision of high school student Teresa Chan. Today, approximately 130 tutors have acted as academic mentors and role models for more than 250 children in the program.

The Daily Point of Light Award is a national honor presented by The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. The award honors individuals and organizations making a commitment to help meet the critical needs, especially those of children, in their communities.

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A typical foster experience lasts two to four weeks. The caretaker is responsible for all expenses, such as food and shelter, while the animal is under their charge.

An underage kitten is the primary animal that requires and thrives from the foster caretaker experience. When kittens are younger than eight weeks old they are more susceptible to disease, especially upper-respiratory infection. By experiencing a low-stress environment in those important weeks, kittens have a better chance at survival and ultimately finding a loving home.

Most of the young kittens available for foster care are past the bottle-feeding stage, are easily trained with the litter box and generally don't require as much attention as puppies.

"Foster caretakers often grow attached and fall in love with the animal," said Drabek. "The main goal is that the experience is beneficial to the animal and rewarding to the animal and the caretaker in the long run."

Those foster caretakers who grow attached to their animals and wish to adopt will receive

first priority. Standard adoption fees of \$60 - \$90 for a kitten and \$95 for a puppy still apply. These costs include spay/neuter fees and the price of microchip identification.

To learn more about the foster caretaker program or to receive an application, contact Natalie Silva at 714-935-6194 or nsilva@ochca.com.



Ryan Drabek, Community Outreach Supervisor for Animal Care Services, plays with a young kitten who needs a foster caretaker.

Katella Yard

RDMD/Public Works Open House at Katella Yard honoring National Public Works Week

May 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Katella Yard Facility

1750 S. Douglass Road, Anaheim

Collector Car and Motorcycle Show

Equipment Exhibits, Displays, Games and Food

For more info: 714.567.6300

**CAN'T WAIT TO
GET HOME?**



Foster a child, foster hope. **1-888-871-KIDS**
oc4kids.com



Parenting Fosters Hope

With the approach of Mother's Day, families pause to express appreciation for the guiding hand and sacrifices made by mothers from all situations and all walks of life. Unfortunately, hundreds of children here in Orange County aren't so lucky. They are children in need of foster or adoptive parents.

Many of the children who need foster care are filled with fear, confusion, anger or a sense of powerlessness at having been removed from the only home they have ever known. Foster parents help to fill this very special need. They provide a temporary, safe home for children in crises. They are a vital part of the child's support and care programs.

In Orange County, more than 1,700 children entered the foster care system in 2005. Approximately 595 of these children needed a foster home. Sadly, there are more children in need than there are foster homes available.

The Social Services Agency (SSA) is working diligently to bring attention to the needs of these children, especially the need for more foster and adoptive parents. As a part of this effort, SSA recently placed four billboard ads, funded through a State grant, adjacent to the 22, 55 and 57 freeways. In addition to the billboards, the recruitment campaign is also placing community newspaper and radio ads to raise awareness of the need.

"My husband and I are so happy with a very full life," said Martha who adopted a girl and a boy approximately two years ago. "We are so happy that we're now in the process of adopting a third child, the two-year-old younger brother of our son." The Anaheim resident said that her life is now filled with lots of love, ice-skating lessons and school activities.

"Placing children with a foster family in their same community is of the utmost importance," said Dr. Michael Riley, Division Director of SSA's Children and Family Services. "Foster parents can make a real difference in the future direction and development of these children. We are hoping County employees can help spread the word about the need for more foster parents or even consider being foster parents."

The need for foster families is especially high in Anaheim and Santa Ana since the majority of children consider these cities their communities. Bilingual foster parents are also especially needed.

For more information on how to become a foster or adoptive parent, call 1-888-871-5437 or visit www.oc4kids.com to see photos of adoptable children.

Get The 411 On OC Integrated Waste Management Department (IWMD)

1. Orange County's three million residents generate more than four million tons of refuse a year. That's about seven pounds per person per day or enough trash to fill a major league stadium every five months.

2. According to a recent California Integrated Waste Management Board Study, sales of household batteries this year in Orange County will be nearly 50,000,000 – that's 5,000,000 pounds – all of which are now banned from disposal into our landfills and must be collected through recycling programs or at one of the County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. Even singing greeting cards are

now banned from landfill disposal because of the battery used to operate them.

To get more of the 411, visit www.oclandfills.com.



Surf the OC



Useful information and handy services are available on many of the County's re-vamped web sites. Here's a sample of a few sites you should check out:

- Online transactions including call-in jurors' check-in, online payment of property taxes and tickets, pet adoption, and ask a librarian.
<http://www.ocgov.com/onlineservices.asp>
- Latest News features topical County news items that change weekly
<http://www.ocgov.com/>
- Recent inspection reports on your favorite restaurants.
<http://foodinspections.oc.gov.com/foodinspections/>

- Download best selling audiobooks 24/7 to your PC
<http://ocpl.lib.overdrive.com/8379E76D-0833-4518-BDA7-4B07E5599544/10/200/en/Default.htm>
- Review available County jobs.
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oc/>
- Check out a variety of info topics at the News Room.
<http://www.ocgov.com/news.asp>

OCGOV.com is your entry to the volumes of information available about the County of Orange.



Stan Bengtson
Resources & Development
Management Department

Edward Malkassian
Resources & Development
Management Department

Susan Miller
Sheriff-Coroner

Shawn Dyball
Sheriff-Coroner

Lee Tran Nguyen
Social Services Agency

Candace Smith
Social Services Agency

Dennis Hookum
Resources & Development
Management Department

Becky Hernandez
Resources & Development
Management Department

Rick Castro
Resources & Development
Management Department

Jose Marquez
Public Library

30 Years

Debbie Fyvie
Child Support Services

John Morales
Social Services Agency

Michael Chicklo
Integrated Waste
Management Department

Manson Collins
Resources & Development
Management Department

Robert Young
Resources & Development
Management Department

David Martinez, Sr.
Resources & Development
Management Department

Raymond Osuna
Resources & Development
Management Department

25 Years

Teresa Torres-Smutz
Auditor-Controller

Susan Riezman
District Attorney

Mark Paszkiewicz
Registrar of Voters

Emma Martinez
Health Care Agency

Clair Storts
Probation

James Davis
Sheriff-Coroner

Bill Vining
Sheriff-Coroner

Cullen Ellingburgh
Sheriff-Coroner



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