



Tuesday, July 12, 1983

Supervisors open budget hearings, save fireworks for today

By BILL ROGERS

SAN BERNARDINO — Facing the largest potential service and staffing reductions in the county's history, the Board of Supervisors began hearings on a 1983-84 county budget of \$116 million Monday but reserved most of the fireworks for today and Wednesday.

During their first brief session on the budget, the supervisors heard Justice Douglas McDonald of the Fourth District Court of Appeal voice protests against one of the most drastic cost-cutting proposals — a plan to close the Probation

Department's three youth correctional facilities, now housing nearly 120 boys and girls.

The hottest debates may come during a 1:30 p.m. session Wednesday, when the board will review budgets of law and justice departments and consider such cutbacks as elimination of Superior Court sessions on the High Desert, closure of the Crest Forest Justice Court at Crestline and a 15 percent cut in the district attorney's prosecuting staff.

At the same session, the board is scheduled to wrestle with an \$1.7 million funding shortage in the Sheriff's Depart-

ment that is interpreted as potentially requiring elimination of as many as 230 of the department's 860 sworn officer positions.

In all, county departments are asking the board to restore some \$17 million to their budgets to avoid program cuts, but the supervisors are expected to have little more than \$4 million to satisfy such requests unless they "borrow" from funds committed to paying off long-term building bonds.

County Administrator Officer Robert Rigney, administering the fiscal problems to cuts in state and federal aid combined

with recession-related declines in local revenues, said he is recommending that till late August. This will provide time for a full analysis of the funding that will be available from state and federal sources.

At the same time, for much the same reason, the supervisors agreed until they had proposed a decision until then on whether to contract with a private firm to operate 20 of the county's dump-

They also delayed, until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, any decision on whether to

increase the basic charge at valley landfills and to boost the disposal fee levied annually on haulers to account for property owners. For the valley landfills, the current proposal is to increase the charge to rubbish haulers from \$1.25 per ton to \$6.53 if the county continues operating the sites or to \$5.85 if a private contractor handles them.

Today's hearing schedule calls for the board to consider the proposed expenditures and to vote on the recommendations of the General Services and Environmental Pub-

(Please see Budget, B-4)



Pauline Sanchez, left, braves the sun while her daughters Maria, 5, and Griselda, 7, take refuge from the midday heat while waiting for

a bus at the corner of Second and L streets in San Bernardino.

Outlook hot until weekend

SAN BERNARDINO — It may not have been hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk Monday, but temperatures here were definitely sizzling.

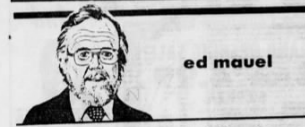
San Bernardino's high soared to 107 degrees, the warmest July 11 since 1971, when it was 108.

Most Inland Empire areas recorded highs well above 100 Monday, with Fontana and Elwinds at 106, Ontario and Riverside at 105, Redlands at 104 and Colton and Hiltop at 103.

National Weather Service forecasters said there is only a little relief in sight. Instead of 107 today, it may be just 102 or 103. Strong levels will be about the same, or perhaps a little worse, South Coast Air Quality Management District officials said.

The heat could be slightly more uncomfortable today, since relative humidity levels are expected to increase, said meteorologist Harold Corfield of the U.S. in Riverside. After afternoon humidity levels are expected to be around 25 percent later in the week, he said.

Corfield said he expects daytime temperatures to remain around the 100s at least until the weekend.



ed maul

By JOHN WHITEHAIR

SAN BERNARDINO — The man described as the "driving force" behind the proposed Southern California Regional Airport Authority said Monday that it's too early to predict the effect of Orange County's withdrawal from the group.

Clifton Moore, secretary and administrator of the Joint Powers Committee for a Regional Airport Authority, said Orange County's decision not to join will not prevent the agency from being formed.

"It would be nice to have them but I don't think it is absolutely necessary," said Moore, who is also the Los Angeles Department of Airport's general manager.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors voted 41 last week not to join the proposed agency because of feelings that the Regional Airport Authority would adopt a Southern California Association of Governments draft as a basis for a new regional airport, said spokesman Ken Hall. In 1982, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties, as well as the city of Los Angeles, overrode the Los Angeles Department of Airports, created a committee to look into the regional airport authority concept.

El Toro Naval Air Station is in Orange County and the Board of Supervisors wants complete authority over any airports in its jurisdiction, Hall said.

Last fall, SCAG announced that after study-

ing new airport sites in Southern California, El Toro Naval Air Station and the Marine Corps Camp Pendleton near Oceanside would be the focus of further study, said SCAG spokesman Tim Merwin.

The aim of the regional airport authority is to improve aviation coordination and to expand airport facilities to keep abreast of growing passenger and cargo traffic in the Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Moore's committee has proposed that, among other things, the authority have the power to allocate commercial air carrier service among airports in the area. It would also have the potential for acquiring and operating most or all airports in the four-county

(Please see Airport, B-4)

Offensive words in The Sun

Carl Waelder of San Bernardino hit The Sun hard in his letter published in Saturday's Fullpage Voice of the People. He was amused by the paper's standard request that letters conform to standards of fairness and good taste and vigorously unamused by publication of two words that offended him.

He had a point and he missed a point. That put him dead even with us.

Before we get down to cases, let's get the disclaimer out of the way. I'm not the official spokesman for The Sun but Waelder's letter struck me as one we should answer and nobody else was working on a reply. So I volunteered, may all my old first sergeants forgive me.

The reason for feeling a need to reply is based in a belief that, as well as newspapers explain what all the rest of the world is doing, we do not do as good a job explaining ourselves. By simply publishing Waelder's letter, we can be interpreted as signaling readers that he's totally right, or that we'll

publish critical letters no matter how off the wall — just to show we can take criticism, the worst of all, that here's a criticism and we don't care enough to answer it.

The first word to offend Waelder was one of seven letters applied to City Councilman Ralph Hernandez by Mayor W. R. Holcomb at a public meeting. The parlor version is anal splinter.

The circumstances of the utterance and words from both parties before and after were reported. Without dashes for some of the letters or otherwise heating around the bush.

The deciding factor was the public's right and need to know about the public, official behavior of its elected leaders. The word in question was an essential element in that report to San Bernardino's citizens.

Using it as it was used originally made the report as neutral as possible. Euphemistic expression, no matter how careful, would have carried for some readers some hint of disapproval.

Signals of approval or disapproval.

(Please see Maul, B-4)

Airport authority pullout affect unknown

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Pioneertown water system OK'd

SAN BERNARDINO — The county Board of Supervisors Monday approved a long-stalled \$475,000 property assessment program to finance replacement of the deteriorated water system at Pioneertown, north of Yucca Valley.

The action came after a hearing three weeks ago in which a property owners group expressed concern that improved water service would stimulate development that could destroy the community's Old West character. The group has since agreed to form an association to keep a close watch on development.

The project will require assessments which, for every 1.25 acres,

will amount to \$1,829 for those directly served by water lines; \$1,129 for those from 300 to 600 feet from the nearest water line and \$500 for those farther away.

The owners of the 330 parcels in the square-mile area can pay their annual installments in lump sums or in advance on a 36-year period to pay off a long-term loan by the state Department of Water Resources.

The supervisors authorized the award of three project contracts for \$179,960 to Desert Pipeline of Inland to install the water lines, or \$65,270 to HTI Superior Inc. of Santa Fe Springs to construct a 200,000-gallon reservoir.

or \$43,904 to Desert Pipeline to drill and equip three wells.

The total project is expected to be completed by October.

In another action, the county board postponed a decision until July 25 on the zoning required for the 3,386-unit housing project proposed by Joshua Tree Properties after the board's John Torrey said he wants more time to consult with community groups and the developers.

The project is proposed on a 640-acre site extending south from Twenty-nine Palms Highway and east from Yucca Mesa Road, between Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley.

Victorville woman gets state water position

SACRAMENTO Bureau

SACRAMENTO — Victorville City Councilwoman Peggy Sartor was named to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board on Monday by Gov. George Deukmejian.

Sartor said she was "very happy" about her appointment.

"Water has been one of my primary concerns for years," she said, adding that her family has been involved in water issues for five

generations.

Sartor, a Republican, replaces Wilma Muth of Bishop, who was appointed by former governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. whose term expired last year.

The quasi-judicial board makes decisions on water rights and water quality control in what is known as the Lahontan watershed on the eastern side of the Sierra stretching from the San Bernardino County north to Lake Tahoe.

The councilwoman said that it is important for the board to "look right now at the issues and plan ahead." She said that includes both the quantity and quality of future water source. Sartor, who has been active in the opposition to the planned new state prison in Adelanto, will be paid \$50 a day when on official business for the agency. She was named to a term that expires Sept. 18, 1986.

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