

# COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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COUNTY OF SOLANO

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To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator  
Date: June 28, 2011  
Subject: Biweekly Update of Significant Issues

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## **1. County Administrator's Update on Contracts**

The County Administrator has not signed any contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues update.

## **2. Resource Management Awards Robinson Road Bridge Contract**

Bids were opened on June 9 for the replacement of the bridge on Robinson Road at the Big Ditch, located northwest of Rio Vista. The project consists of replacing the existing structurally deficient bridge, constructing the gravel road approaches, regrading the channel and installing metal beam guardrails. The contract was awarded to the low bidder, R. A. Nemetz Construction Company of Galt, with a bid of \$568,455. Construction is scheduled to start in mid-July. The project is fully funded with federal Highway Bridge Program funds.

- Contact: Paul Wiese, Resource Management, Engineering Manager, 784-6072

## **3. Sheriff Terminates Praeses Contract for Inmate Telephone Auditing and Mgmt. Services**

The Sheriff entered into a contract with Praeses, a Louisiana-based management and consulting company, on August 1, 2010 after obtaining approval from the Board of Supervisors. The contract provided for the auditing of inmate telephone commissions paid by the vendor, Global Tel Link (GTL), as well as management services over the inmate telephone system. Praeses' total compensation for their services was 10.74% of commission revenue paid monthly. Praeses' guarantee was that 18 months of inmate phone commission revenue to the Inmate Welfare Fund would at least equal that received during the prior 18 months, even after deducting their management fees.

The contract was terminated effective May 20, 2011 without cause by the Sheriff after more than nine months of experience with Praeses. The Sheriff and his staff began to assess the cost-benefit of Praeses' services after six months of experience. Praeses auditing of monthly telephone commissions paid by the vendor did not yield any irregularities. Praeses was helpful in negotiating a two-year renewal of the contract with GTL. However, the Sheriff's custody staff generally resolved any inmate phone issues directly with the vendor, as they have done over the years, and therefore Praeses' management services were being underutilized. Staff felt comfortable dealing directly with GTL.

Additionally, Praeses wanted to implement pre-paid phone cards in the jail, which would have increased commission revenue. The Sheriff's Office chose not to go with pre-paid cards, because the cards could be used for bartering, they could cause fights, they could be lost or stolen, etc. The Sheriff believed that the cost of having correctional staff resolving these types of issues would exceed the revenue gained by use of the cards.

Finally, in April Praeses informed the Sheriff's Office that they considered their guarantee void due to low inmate population. At that point in time, the Sheriff determined that while Praeses had been helpful in several areas, going forward there did not appear to be a sufficient cost-benefit advantage to continue the contract.

County Counsel advised the Sheriff on the termination. It was handled amicably. Praeses offers valuable services to a number of California Sheriff's Offices, but for the reasons stated above, Sheriff Stanton did not find sufficient ongoing benefit for Solano's Inmate Welfare Fund.

- Contact: Mike Medvedoff, Sheriff's Office, Director of Administrative Services, 421-7048

#### **4. Status of Green Valley Agricultural Conservancy Formation**

The adopted Middle Green Valley Specific Plan contemplates that a nonprofit organization, the Green Valley Agricultural Conservancy, will play an important stewardship role in the area by developing programs for resource management planning, agricultural business planning, and community design review.

Consistent with this role, the Conservancy is promoting a farmer's market to showcase local agricultural and artisan products, which is scheduled to take place on a series of Saturdays from July 2 through October 1.

In April 2011, the IRS approved the Conservancy's status as a tax exempt 501(c)(4) organization. The Conservancy also provided copies of its organizational documents to County Counsel for review, and the Conservancy has satisfactorily addressed County Counsel's questions. A report on the Conservancy's organizational documents will be placed on a Board agenda in the near future.

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