



To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator  
Date: August 11, 2014  
Subject: Significant Issues Update

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

The County Administrator did not sign any contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues Update on July 28, 2014.

### **2) Solano County's Actions to Reduce Water Use**

On January 17, 2014 Governor Brown declared the drought a State of Emergency and requested voluntary reduction of 20 percent in statewide water use. In April the Governor directed the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt mandatory emergency regulations for water conservation, which were approved on July 15. These regulations were adopted to ensure water agencies and residents increase water conservation in urban areas.

The Department of General Services manages 50 water service accounts, including 30 building accounts, 8 irrigation accounts, and 12 fire meter accounts. In fiscal year 2012/13, water usage for the accounts managed by General Services totaled 82,878,400 gallons of which 16,844,960 gallons were used for landscape irrigation. In FY13/14, water usage was reduced to 73,737,840 gallons (11 percent reduction) of which 12,511,048 gallons were used for irrigation (26 percent reduction).

The water usage reductions are attributable to operational adjustments implemented by the department over the past year. The following list highlights some of the actions that General Services has taken to reduce water use in County operations and support water conservation efforts and awareness:

- Implementing landscape changes to install drought tolerant plants where feasible. Landscaping irrigation spray nozzles have been/are being replaced with drip systems to the extent possible. Automated sprinkler control systems have been updated to reduce watering durations in lawn/landscaped areas. Water audits are being performed to validate/track water reduction.
- The County Administration Center water fountains are recirculating and self-contained, and do not drain into the storm system. Reduced hours of operation have been implemented.
- Paved areas are swept unless washing is required to protect health and safety. If maintenance washing of exterior paved surfaces is needed, shut-off nozzles on hoses are required.
- Installation/adjustment of low-flow plumbing fixtures with run-time control in County buildings. Detention facilities have or are being retrofitted with water management systems that allow remote shut-off of plumbing fixtures. The Cogeneration Plant serving 11 buildings in Downtown Fairfield uses recirculating water to provide air conditioning.
- Light equipment vehicles are washed offsite at car washes that use recycled water.

- Produced a Water Conservation Guide to assist employees and the public in reducing water use in County buildings and at home. The brochure is posted on the County's web page at the following link: <http://www.solanocounty.com/> and includes additional links to local and state water conservation resources.

General Services will continue to monitor water use and implement additional reduction measures as necessary to support responsible water conservation actions.

**Contact:** Perry A. Sauro, Facilities Operations Manager  
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### **3) Solano County Department of Child Support Services Implements Comprehensive Quality Assurance / Compliance Program**

Solano County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) has implemented a comprehensive assessment program to ensure compliance with federal, state and departmental policies and legal mandates related to child support case management.

With assistance from a consultant, DCSS developed tools and related policies and procedures for conducting ongoing, systematic review of casework on an individual, team, and department level. Supervisors and lead workers were involved extensively in the process of creating and testing each tool and developing the policy and procedures. After conducting a six-month pilot to introduce the program and assess the impacts on the Department, the program was deemed successful by all parties.

The tools will be used in case reviews for all nine units and classifications with a working role in the life cycle of a case; specifically, Child Support Specialists (Establishment, Enforcement, Interstate), Attorneys, Paralegals, Legal Secretaries, Account Technicians, Accounting Clerks, and Office Assistants. Currently, six of the nine assessment tools have been fully implemented. The remaining three are scheduled for implementation in the fall of 2014.

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