



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GREG COX
First District

DIANNE JACOB
Second District

PAM SLATER
Third District

RON ROBERTS
Fourth District

BILL HORN
Fifth District

DATE: May 22, 2001

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: **SHELTERING SENIORS FROM THE SUMMER HEAT** (District: 2)

SUMMARY:

Overview

The County is experiencing an influx of calls from fixed-income seniors who fear for their health and safety during California's on-going electricity crisis. Utility rate increases have discouraged the use of air-conditioning. Seniors, particularly those in our region's inland areas, are worried about the medical effects of summer heat. These effects include dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat cramps and in extreme cases, brain damage and death. Several seniors already admit to sacrificing prescription medication and groceries to compensate for high utility bills.

The California Public Utilities Commission reports that barely half the state's low to moderate income ratepayers who are eligible for rate assistance programs, which includes many seniors, have enrolled in such programs. State regulators blame the low figure on less-than-diligent outreach efforts by the utilities.

The County must take steps to ensure the health and safety of this most vulnerable population. Today's action will create countywide "cool zones" at senior centers and community centers where seniors can escape summer heat without running up expensive utility bills. Also, today's action will urge San Diego Gas and Electric to enhance its efforts to enroll seniors in utility payment assistance programs and develop a County plan to improve outreach to seniors. Additionally, today's action seeks to bring energy efficiency programs to the region's fixed and low-income residents.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR JACOB:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to identify and prepare "cool zones" at libraries, community and senior centers and private sector and faith-based facilities throughout the County to offer respite from summer heat and to use CTN and other County media resources to develop a public education campaign to make older adults aware of such "cool zones" and utility payment assistance programs.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter to San Diego Gas and Electric, urging the utility to increase utility payment assistance program

SUBJECT:

awareness efforts to the public, especially seniors, and to work with seniors to ensure their service is not terminated this summer.

3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to investigate ways to bring energy efficiency programs to San Diego County's fixed and low-income residents. Return to the Board in 30 days with an implementation plan and possible funding sources.

Fiscal Impact

These actions can be performed within the existing budget.

Advisory Board Statement

[Click [here](#) and type statement, or type N/A if not applicable]

BACKGROUND:

San Diego residents and businesses are struggling to withstand the state's worst power crisis in history. Light rainfall, tight power supply, the high price of natural gas and unscheduled generator maintenance have compromised the state's unsteady electricity market.

Summer heat is upon us and the County is now experiencing an influx of calls from fixed-income seniors who fear for their health and safety during the summer power crunch. Utility rate increases have discouraged seniors from using air-conditioning, risking dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat cramps and in extreme cases, brain damage and death. Several seniors already admit to sacrificing prescription medication and groceries to compensate for high electricity bills.

San Diego County has been working diligently to help the region withstand the state's power crisis. In anticipation of the summer power shortage, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a massive conservation effort which includes the elimination of unnecessary lighting and the installment of cost-effective and motion-sensitive lighting in County buildings.

The Air Pollution Control Board also directed APCD staff to locate and help permit all back-up generation sources countywide. Also, The Board of Supervisors approved a project to convert landfill gas into electricity by installing microturbines at the Jamacha Landfill in Rancho San Diego.

Despite these efforts, our region is experiencing high utility bills and rolling blackouts. In an effort to shelter our vulnerable senior population, we must link older adults with utility assistance programs which will help them manage electricity bills and keep their electricity on. We must provide places where seniors can gather to avoid high temperatures. These "cool zones" can be sited at community and senior centers, libraries and private sector and faith-based facilities.

By creating "cool zones" for seniors to escape dangerous heat, urging our region's utility to increase utility payment assistance outreach efforts to seniors and helping seniors weatherize their homes to deflect intense heat, the County strives to protect our region's most defenseless residents.

SUBJECT:

Sincerely,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor 2ND District

SUBJECT:

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written disclosure per County Charter § 1000.1 required?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
No		
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Other Concurrence(s): [Click here and type, or type N/A if not applicable]

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Dianne Jacob, District Two

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Mike Kulis	[Click here & type, or space bar to delete]
_____ Name	_____ Name
(619) 531-5522	[Click here & type, or space bar to delete]
_____ Phone	_____ Phone
[Click here and type]	[Click here & type, or space bar to delete]
_____ Fax	_____ Fax
[Click here and type]	[Click here & type, or space bar to delete]
_____ Mail Station	_____ Mail Station
[Click here and type]	[Click here & type, or space bar to delete]
_____ E-mail	_____ E-mail

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: _____
[Click here & type]

SUBJECT:

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET
(continued)

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

[Click **here** and type action(s), or type N/A if not applicable]

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

[Click **here** and type applicable policies, or type N/A if not applicable]

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

[Click **here** and type required statement(s), or type N/A if not applicable]

CONTRACT NUMBER(S):

[Click **here** and type numbers, or type N/A if not applicable]

SUBJECT:

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT: [Click here and type]

PROGRAM: [Click here and type]

PROPOSAL: [Click here and type]

**FUTURE YEARS
ESTIMATED
BUDGET OF PROPOSAL
IF ADOPTED**

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budgeted Amount For Proposal	Proposed Change in Budgeted Amount	Proposed Revised Current Year Budget (a+b)	1st Subsequent Year	2nd Subsequent Year

Direct Cost

Revenue/Other
Offset

**NET GENERAL
FUND COST**

Staff Years

Sources of Revenue/Other Offset for Proposed Change and Subsequent Years:

Space-Related Impacts: Will this proposal result in any additional space requirements? Yes
 N/A

Support/Other Departmental Impacts: Yes N/A

Remarks: Yes N/A