

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 5/30/06
Department Name: County Executive
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 06/06/06
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Executive Office

STAFF Lori Norton
CONTACT: Analyst, 568-3421

SUBJECT: 2006 California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Award Entries

Recommendation:

That the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Executive Officer to sign and submit the attached letter of endorsement for the following three (3) Santa Barbara County entries for the 2006 CSAC Challenge Awards:

- 1) Public Works Department – Landslide Repair on San Marcos Road
- 2) Probation Department – My Story : The Drama Kings Speak Out
- 3) Alcohol Drug & Mental Health – Financial Impacts of Homelessness Report

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal #1, An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

We request your Board concur and endorse the 3 Santa Barbara County entries to be submitted for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2006 Challenge Awards Program. These annual awards recognize the innovative and creative spirit of California county governments for finding new and effective ways of providing programs and services to their citizens.

A panel of county and private sector officials will evaluate the entries. Two levels of award will be presented: Challenge Award Trophies and Merit Award Certificates. CSAC will notify winners in

September and will present Challenge awards to recipient Counties at the CSAC Annual Meeting which will be held in Orange County from November 28 – December 1, 2006.

A brief overview of the County's 2006 entries follows:

1. On January 31, 2005, a landslide blocked San Marcos Road, which is located 1.9 miles from Cathedral Oaks Road, just outside of Santa Barbara. Another slide which occurred at about the same time blocked State Highway 154. In combination, these major arteries connect the Santa Barbara area with six separate communities totaling approximately 480 homes to the north as well as the Santa Ynez Valley. The County used an innovative repair technology using a new wire reinforcing system. There has not been any slope failure since the repair.
2. In February 2005, the Drama King Theater program at Los Prietos Boys Camp was introduced. The theater program promotes social change by providing male delinquents a forum to share personal experiences, fears, hopes, and dreams with their audience, as well as exposing viewers to the personal challenges they face. Under the guidance and leadership of accomplished playwright Barbara Lebow, the actors (6-8 Los Prietos wards) are able to explore their own life experiences as they collectively develop a dramatic production through improvisation, role-playing, dream sharing, and visual expression.
3. The cost of homelessness is tremendous from both a personal and social perspective. Four county departments: Alcohol Drug & Mental Health, Public Health, Social Service and Housing & Community Development agreed to come together and jointly hire an individual to assess their working relationship and establish a baseline on the financial impact the homeless have in Santa Barbara County. This study would serve as a multi-dimensional framework to organize and streamline resources addressing the diverse needs of the homeless.

We are proud to add our innovative, cost-effective programs to CSAC's ongoing recognition effort. We thank the department heads and staff who have submitted entries, all of which deserve an award.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Participation in the CSAC Challenge Award Program is an optional activity. The program provides for statewide recognition of exemplary Santa Barbara County programs. The Challenge Award Program is also an opportunity for examining new and best practices around the State.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

A total cost of \$105.00 (\$35.00 per entry) is being paid for by the County Executive Office.

cc: All Department Heads