

Downie, Chelsea

From: Bruce <Bruce@seiulocal620.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 3:34 PM
To: SupervisorCarbajal; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve; Wolf, Janet
Cc: sbcob
Subject: 2012 / 2013 Budget hearing June 15, 2012 - Letter to the Board
Attachments: Letter to the BOS - Budget June 15.pdf

Honorable Board Members,

The attached documents is being provided to you at your request and the request of our members. Local 620 appreciates your willingness to gather all the facts prior to you making the decision to eliminate much needed frontline staff. We again request that you reject the proposed cuts to positions that are vital to the success of the County mission to serve the public.

Regards,

Bruce Corsaw
Executive Director
SEIU Local 620
Phone: (805) 963-0601 Ext: 14
Fax: (805) 614-7620

SEIU LOCAL 620



June 14, 2012

Supervisor Doreen Farr, Chair
Supervisor Salud Carbajal, Vice Chair
Supervisor Joni Gray
Supervisor Janet Wolf
Supervisor Steve Lavagino

Honorable Supervisors:

We, like you, strive to serve the public to the best of our abilities every day. We serve the County as nurses, office workers, rangers, maintenance workers, election assistants, caseworkers, x-ray techs, mental health workers, appraisers, accounting assistants, system analysts and in many other jobs. Like you, we are dedicated to quality public service.

Friday, June 15, 2012 you will be determining the County budget for fiscal year 2012 / 2013 which is proposed to reduce front line staff further. **Per your request I am sending several potential impacts from our frontline staff, as well as the rate sheet from one of the vendors who have been request to quote on the duties of the individuals that the Parks department is proposing to cut. Please see attached documents.**

Whereas many of the proposed changes impact vacant unfilled positions, several do not. Impacts to filled positions in Public Health, Community Services and ADMHS will continue to increase workload on remaining frontline staff, which is already burdened with increase need for service and reduced resources. These proposed reductions will actually result in higher cost due to increased requirements to farm out work, increased Workers' Comp claims and uncontrolled further erosion of existing infrastructure requiring major attention / cost in the future.

Whereas many of your Department Heads, along with Special Interest Groups, have constantly taken the position that utilizing outside vendors save money due to benefit cost; nothing could be further from the truth. Please realize that when you use outside sources for work that should be done by loyal County employees, you are also paying for the profit to that vendor as well the salaries of their management, HR Departments, Workers Comp, equipment and actual frontline staff that they hire at reduced wages & low, if any benefits. The end result is increased cost and substandard work being done. The best example I can provide is the 4 Janitors that you cut 4 years ago in Public Health; since then the fee has steadily increased, existing County staff has been directed to do many of the duties previously done by the County custodian staff that was laid off and the cleanliness of the facility has diminished. I ask you, is this the best use of our tax dollars or are we wasting money based on misconception provided companies and special interest groups that hoping to rob the public coffers.

For the past 4 years Local 620 members working for the County has sacrificed our wages and benefits to balance the budget of Santa Barbara County, protect our members jobs and provide quality service to the public. Instead of laying-off trained employees, we should be hiring additional much needed staff to fill vacant positions. Instead of balancing the budget on employees we need to create revenue by various means such as incorporating minimal park fees to offset cost, increasing the utilization of existing facilities for profit and seriously working with oil companies to expand offshore oil drilling which is taxable. We need to balance our budget with revenue and cost effective cuts, not just by slashing our lowest paid frontline staff and

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Local 620 request that the Board of Supervisors reject all proposed departmental budgets that cuts frontline staff and send Department Heads back to work to develop a departmental budget that protects existing filled positions. Local 620 members have done our part, now it is time for the County Administration to do their part.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Corsaw', written in a cursive style.

Bruce Corsaw, Executive Director

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

I am the Chief Plant Operator at Cachuma Lake responsible for Water and Wastewater treatment operations at Lake Cachuma and a Local SEIU 620 member that is concerned about the current CSD Budget proposal. My concerns are outlined below along with a Description of the water/sewer operator position that is proposed to be eliminated,

Water/Sewer Operator

This position is located at Cachuma Lake

The following is a brief description of the position of water/sewer operator position that the Community Service Department has proposed to eliminate for the 2012/2013 Budget. Following the description are service level impacts that are directly related to this position,

The Water/Wastewater operations at Cachuma Lake consist of 2 full time positions, One Chief Plant Operator and one Water/Sewer Operator 11. Our operations are a 24hour/7 day wk/365 day/yr operation with one operator on standby at all time after normal duty hours for responding to emergency calls related to water/wastewater treatment to include the three sewage liftstations located throughout the park. All time off (vacations, holidays, sick time, etc... must be coordinated to make sure we have an operator on site at all time, both operators can not be off at the same time. Water/wastewater treatment requires state certification to operate our water plants (cachuma and live oak plants) and wastewater treatment plant. We are the only operators in the department that can legally perform our operations. It is CRITICAL for the protection of the south coast water supply to be able to respond to emergency calls regarding our sewage liftstations, All of our liftstations are located close to the lake and if pumps fail or other problems happen that force a station to go down and it is not caught in time these stations will overflow and sewage will flow into the lake. In the course of our operations two personnel are required for safety reasons. Currently our work schedules overlap three days a week. During these three days a week is when safety sensitive operations work is completed.

As you can see from above it is crucial to have at least two water/wastewater operators for accomplishment of water and wastewater treatment at Cachuma lake and for timely response to afterhours emergency calls. If this Position is eliminated it will have to be backfilled by a contractor certified in water and wastewater operations. A recent quote from a local contractor was obtained by the former mid county operations manager and the parks deputy director. The quote indicated that the cost just for covering the Chief Plant Operators days off would amount to \$50,000. This figure does not include vacations, holidays or sick time. This quote is also just for operations 4 hours a day (basic minimum) and does not include maintenance of our 50+ year old plants that need more maintenance every year.

Below is a list of duties and responsibilities that we are tasked with:

- Operation and maintenance of Cachuma lake's Domestic Water Plant
- Operation and Maintenance of Live Oak water filtration plant
- Operation and Maintenance of one 200,000 gal and one 250,000 gal water storage reservoirs
- Operation and Maintenance of three sewage Liftstation
- Protection of south county water supply
- Operation and Maintenance of Cachuma's Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Operation and Maintenance of water distribution system at Cachuma
- Operation and Maintenance of waste water collection system at Cachuma
- Operation and Maintenance of water distribution system at Live Oak
- Keeping up on ongoing reoccurring training required for operator certifications
- Ongoing training on confined space entry training required for entry into liftstation wet wells, manholes and storage tanks.
- Assist in the design and construction of water/wastewater related facilities. 11/12 accomplishments are the construction of a above grounds steel 250,000 gal reservoir, reroofing and lining of the old 200,000 reservoir, pump and controls upgrades at Liftstations,
- Operation and Maintenance of leach field system for the shower facility at Live Oak camp ground.
- We also assist in the operation of other water/wastewater systems located at Jalama and Goleta beach.
- Reviewed the design and requested revisions for the Goleta Beach liftstation. Liftstation is currently out for bid

As you can see there is a lot that that needs to be accomplished on a daily basis for providing our customers and staff safe drinking water and treatment of wastewater. We have one of those jobs that nobody thinks about until there are problems. We do have problems from time to time and they are dealt with as fast and efficiently as possible. If we did not do our jobs, you would here about it very quickly, Without competent and highly trained operators the county could not operate a camp ground.

I noticed at the hearing on the 11th that the service level impacts of the proposed manpower cuts were not mentioned. Here is how I see it

- Water/Sewer Operator:
 1. Will have to be replaced by contract operator costing more money
 2. Increased emergency response time
 3. Possible full park closer
 4. possible sewage spill into lake due to increased response times to emergency calls from contractor
 5. possibility of no operators available from contractor if Chief operator fall ill or is injured
- Mechanic/welder:
 1. increased contractor cost to fix mowers, patrol boats, small engines (weed eaters, chainsaws, etc...)
 2. Fabrication/welding of parts not available of the shelf will have to be contracted out
- Plumbers (2 personnel)
 1. The dept. only has two certified plumbers one in north county and one in south county.
 2. facilities will have to be shut down until contractors could make necessary repairs.
 3. They run small water systems: will have to have contract operators to operate systems
 4. Also do electrical work. All future electrical work will have to be contracted

I would also like to add that the board has a very good crew here at the lake. The water/sewer operator job is very important along with the two plumbers (one from Santa Maria and one from Santa Barbara) and the Mechanic/welder that are proposed to be eliminated in the CSD's 12/13 budget. I have been with the County for 7 years with over 25 years of management experience with the County, Santa Barbara County Schools and the U S Air Force and I just don't understand the management decision to eliminate specialized jobs. I have discussed my concerns with our Deputy Director and from what I witnessed at the hearings on the 11th it looks like our department is going forward with the proposed cuts. If these jobs are eliminated, the work will not get done and we will have to use contractors for accomplishment of duties. Like I said before, you have a great crew, but we are stretched pretty thin now with all the cutbacks of the past. We could really use a couple more full time positions.

There are a lot of things that we could do to increase revenue at the park and to make our customers stay more enjoyable. Here are a few, We are going on 5 years since we had a restaurant/café in the park. It seems to me that it would pay for itself in a couple of years with only 10% of the take. I have never been to a camp ground without a least a café. Another way to attract visitors would be to lower rates a little, offer military and senior discounts. If we then advertise this as a way of the county giving back to the community we would have an increase of visitors and the revenue would increase and we would gain a lot of points with the tax payers. Just a thought.

I would like to close by saying. I hope that the board really looks at these proposed cuts in personnel and the impacts that they will have on health and safety and customer service at our county parks.

Please call me with any further clarification or questions

Thomas F, Drewes
Local SEIU member
Chief Plant operator
Cachuma Sanitation
Santa Barbara County
Community Services Department
805-540-4508

Possible impacts with the loss of Plumber,

Our plumbers do a very large variety of jobs for the dept. Many help us comply with state and federal regulations for water and waste water operations. Here is a list of park operations our plumbers are dedicated too.

Operates and maintains multiple domestic water systems. Including three wells and all the chlorine injection systems variable speed drives and equipment used on them.
Maintains and monitors nearly a dozen leach fields requiring reporting to the state.
Operates and maintains the irrigation systems for all parks and open spaces. And monitors systems to insure best water usage.
Tests and records the testing of over 70 backflow devices throughout the dept.
Maintains the waller pond and pumps associated with them.
Maintains the Betteravia government center ponds.
Maintains and repairs no less than 5 lift stations for sanitary sewer operations.
Maintains and repairs all restroom facilities.
Maintains and repairs all hose bibs and drinking fountains in all parks and open spaces.
Find and repairs leaks to keep water costs down.
Our plumber maintains a grade one water license required by the state.
Maintains a class A drivers license for transporting equipment.
Maintains certification for backflow testing as required by the state.
Maintains CPO certification for pool operations

Here is a list off the numbers we are dealing with

.....North County Parks.....23 Restrooms, 65 toilets, 25 urinals, 56 sinks, 7 host sites, 11 septic tanks and leach fields, 2 sewer lift pumps, 45 drinking fountains.... There are 45 Irrigation control clocks, 530 station valves, 3,815 sprinklers, 4 water producing wells, 2 booster pump stations
CACHUMA ...8 host sites, 8 restrooms, 46 toilets, 16 urinals, 32 sinks, 2 sewage dump stations, 24 coin operation showers, 5 drinking fountains, 168 hose bibs, IRRIGATION.....6 control clocks, 36 station valves, 210 sprinklers.....

LIVEOAK.... 1 host site, no restrooms, 24 portable toilets, 18 showers, 10 wash sinks, 2 kitchen sinks, 5 septic tanks, 1 leach field, 22 hose bibs, water well, pump, 2..10,000 gal. storage tanks, chlorine injection pump, filters.

JALAMA... 4 host sites, 5 restrooms, 16 toilets, 5 waterless urinals, 7 sinks, 10 coin operation showers, 2 sewage dump stations, 17 septic tanks, 12 leach fields, 4 sewage lift pumps, 14 hose bibs, 2 booster pumps, chlorine injection pump, filters, 2 wells, one with pump, 3 storage tanks, 100,000 gal. total, 1...10,000 gal. Chlorine and water contact tank,

SOUTH COUNTY.....3 resident rangers, 7 host sites, 14 restrooms, 60 toilets, 14 urinals, 30 sinks, 2 septic tanks, 2 leach fields, 4 sewage lift pumps, 1.. 10,000 gal. water storage tank, 46 hose bibs, 23 drinking fountains, IRRIGATION.....36 control clocks, 360 station valves, 2,100 sprinklers, 22 backflow devises,

CACHUMA ...8 host sites, 8 restrooms, 46 toilets, 16 urinals, 32 sinks, 2 sewage dump stations, 24 coin operation showers, 5 drinking fountains, 168 hose bibs, IRRIGATION.....6 control clocks, 36 station valves, 210 sprinklers

As you can see the impacts can be huge. Without our plumbers we would be contracting out in many specialty fields. They are responsible for restrooms that work, drinking water, waste water, and the repair and operation of our three public pools.

Affects of losing a welder mechanic.

In the community services/parks dept we only have one mechanic welder position for both north and south county .the position is centrally located at Cachuma lake The loss of this position would have drastic impacts As a parks dept we have thousands of acres to mow, weed, prune, landscape and maintain. We have many gas, diesel and electric powered tools we use every day to complete these jobs. Most of our equipment is old do to the lack of funds to purchase new. As such we have a high rate of repair on the mowers and other high use equipment. We rely heavily on our mechanic to keep equipment moving. We have many hosts and seasonal employees that check in with this position daily to keep some of the smaller equipment operating. Having to contract out these repairs would be very cost and time prohibitive.

He is also responsible for the maintenance on our boats at the lake this includes two emergency response patrol boats, the tour boat and a couple of work boats. Again having someone on site greatly reduces the amount of down time for these important boats.

He is also responsible for the repair and fabrication of all steel items in our parks, such as gates, fire pits well over 600 of them

The loss of this position could really affect the safety and appearance of our parks. With the weed and lawn mowers down for extended periods we could be creating fire hazards and other problems. The patrol boats are equally important with the need for emergency access to kayakers or boaters.

As a mechanic, I am the only person in the Community Services Department with the knowledge to work on the tour boat and three patrol boats. This includes routine maintenance and service, along with troubleshooting and repair.

The new patrol boat has been out of the park three times for warranty work. Who will work on this boat when warranty is over???

The tour boat is a pontoon boat with 115hp outboard and is used to take the public (approx. 35 persons) on the lake for Nature Cruises. These cruises are done Tuesday thru Sunday, 2-3 times a day at approximately \$12 per person. If this breaks down for an extended period, this would be a loss of revenue and possibly long delay to get repaired. The motor now has over 900 hours and has periodic problems.

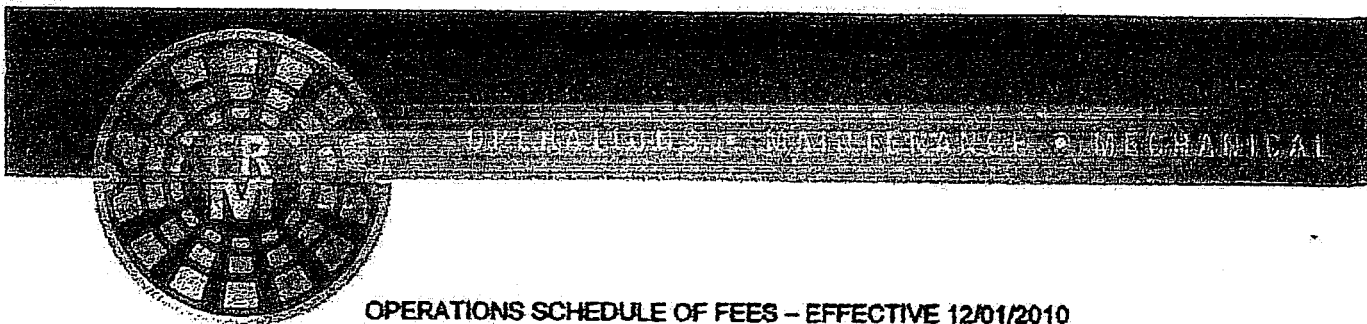
I am the only person with the knowledge and that does the constant repair of our large mowers, that are over 24 years old. These mowers need some type of repair almost daily.

I receive phone calls every other day from staff at other parks regarding problems with equipment. I then have to troubleshoot over the phone and then travel to the site to do repairs. When mowing equipment breaks down in South county, that takes away time from keeping open spaces from looking the way public expects. And when these areas start looking bad, the public notices and complains.

All this equipment must also be kept operational and safe to operate. This means performing routine maintenance, not just when something breaks.

We are losing two extra help next week, with no one to replace them.

The parks department is very short staffed, and that is and **understatement!**



OPERATIONS SCHEDULE OF FEES – EFFECTIVE 12/01/2010

Personnel Hourly Compensation:

Director of Operations	\$135
Sr. Operations Consultant/Sr. Maintenance Mechanic	\$115
Operations Manager	\$110
Systems Supervisor	\$95
Operator	\$85
Compliance Specialist	\$70
Electrical Tech/Millwright	\$95
Maintenance Tech.	\$80
Maintenance Assistant	\$65
Administrative Assistant	\$50
Vector Truck and Operator (includes mileage)	\$190
Vacuum Truck and Operator (includes mileage)	\$135
Mileage – Light Truck	\$1.00/mile
Mileage – Service/Gang/Heavy Truck	\$1.40/mile

*Note- Add 33% to above rates for prevailing wage work

After hours (4PM - 7AM), Weekends, Holidays and Emergency Callouts are billed at 1.5 times the rates shown above with a 2 hour minimum.

Direct Expenses:

Reimbursement of direct expenses incurred in connection with the project scope-of-work will be invoiced to the client including a handling charge of 20%. Direct expenses include, but are not limited to the following:

Sub-Consultants/Sub-Contractors	Materials/Equipment Rental
State/County/City Fees	Postage/Delivery Service
Copies/Outside Reproduction	Communication Charges

Invoicing and Late Charges:

Invoices will be submitted monthly on an accrued cost basis in accordance with the then current Schedule of Fees. Invoices are due and payable within 30 days of the invoice date. A finance charge of 1.5% per month (18% per annum) will be added to the unpaid past due balance.

Fee Revisions

FRM reserves the right revise this Schedule of Fees at any time