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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMINDER: Santa Barbara County Furlough Program Begins Monday, December 22; Regular Operations Return January 5, 2009

The public is reminded that County of Santa Barbara employees are taking a 64-hour pay cut as part of a furlough program approved by the Board of Supervisors to help balance the County's budget and protect key programs and services during the rest of the fiscal year.

As a result, most business offices and non-emergency services provided by the County will be closed beginning Monday, Dec. 22, 2008 and will re-open on Monday, January 5, 2009. The furlough period includes eight (8) business days and, during this time, the County will also be closed Christmas Day, December 25, and New Year's Day, January 1, 2009.

"The public's safety was first in our minds as we developed the furlough program," said County Executive Officer Michael F. Brown said. "Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services will not be impacted. Our Sheriff's deputies will be on patrol. Firefighters will be there to put out fires and paramedics will be responding to medical emergencies."

The County's Public Health Department and the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department will operate on modified schedules for various public services and clinics. The County's Animal Shelters will also be on modified schedules and the Public Works Department's recycling and refuse stations will remain open to serve the public.

A complete list of closure information by department is on the County's website at www.CountyofSB.org and included with this press release. The information is also running on the County's government cable television Channel 20 (Cox and Comcast) and is being streamed on the County's website.

About 80 percent of the County's 4,200 employees are participating in the pay cut and furlough program, according to Assistant County Executive Officer Susan Paul. Brown and Paul, as well as all of the County's executives and managers, are participating in the furlough, she noted.

Paul, the County's Human Resources Director, and her team have been working for the past several months with union leaders and department directors to finalize the details for a successful program that was approved by the Board of Supervisors in October.

Santa Barbara County Furlough Program

Emergency services, law enforcement, fire, paramedic, legal, public health clinics, mental health evaluation and crisis intervention services, including psychiatric inpatient services, and public works services will continue to be provided during this time.

The following list of planned closures, modified schedules and availability of critical services during the furlough period is provided to help you plan your business with the County accordingly.

All County departments will be posting signs prior to closures and will be communicating with their respective clients prior to the closure period.

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Continuing County Services Open

In the interest of public health and safety and to comply with legal mandates and obligations, the following County Departments will remain open to the public for the entire period from December 22, 2008 through January 4, 2009:

Clerk-Recorder-Assessor (minimal staffing in Elections and Assessor's Office)

District Attorney

Fire (business offices will be closed)

Parks (business offices will be closed)

Probation

Public Defender

Sheriff

Closures

All offices for the following departments will be closed to the public from December 22, 2008 through January 4, 2009. Business will resume as usual on Monday, January 5, 2009:

Auditor-Controller

Child Support Services

Clerk of the Board

County Counsel (staff available for service of process only)

County Executive Office

County Executive Office/Human Resources

First Five

General Services

Housing and Community Development

Information Technology

Planning and Development

Redevelopment Agency

Retirement

Treasurer-Tax Collector (property taxes can still be paid online)

Partial Public Service Closures

The following departments will be closed some of the days from December 22, 2008 through January 4, 2009, or portions of these departments will be closed for some or all of that time:

Agricultural Commissioner will be closed to the public:

December 24 – December 28

December 31 – January 4

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department (ADMHS) will be closing the following services throughout the furlough period December 22, 2008 through January 4, 2009:

Administrative Offices

300 N. San Antonio Road, Building 3, Santa Barbara

Children's Clinics

429 N. San Antonio Rd., Santa Barbara

117 N. B St, Lompoc

500 W. Foster Rd., Santa Maria

Adult Clinics

Adult Services
4444 Calle Real
Santa Barbara

Adult Services
500 W. Foster Rd.
Santa Maria

Adult Services
401 E. Cypress
Lompoc

(Crisis services will be available 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, December 22, 23, 29 and 30)

ADMHS evaluation, crisis intervention and acute psychiatric hospital services will remain open throughout the entire furlough period. Child, Adolescent and Adult Services provided by Community-Based Organizations will continue their scheduled operations. The ADMHS Santa Barbara ACT program will also remain open.

The public can access ADMHS emergency evaluation and crisis intervention services by calling:

- **CARES Crisis North (805) 739 – 8700**
- **CARES Crisis South (805) 884 – 6850**
- **Lompoc Adult Services (805) 737 – 7715**
Crisis services Mondays and Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. , December 22, 23, 29, and 30
- **ADMHS Emergency Hotline (Available 24/7)1-888-868-1649**

The following **Public Health Department** services will be closed to the public December 24, 2008 – December 28, 2008, and December 31, 2008 – January 5, 2009. (IMPORTANT NOTE: Please also see the companion press release issued by the Health Department with more detailed information about its staffing operations.)

Santa Barbara Clinic
345 Camino Del Remedia, Bldg 3 and 4
Santa Barbara

Carpinteria Clinic
931 Walnut Avenue
Carpinteria

Franklin Clinic
1136 E. Montecito Street
Santa Barbara

Santa Maria Clinic
2115 S. Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria

Santa Maria Women's Center
116 S. Palisade Drive
Santa Maria

Lompoc Clinic
301 N. R Street
Lompoc

California Children Services
1111 Chapala
Santa Barbara

All Animal Services facilities will be closed according to the following schedules:
December 24, 2008 – close at noon
December 25, 2008
January 1, 2009

Animal Services, Santa Barbara
5473 Overpass Road
Santa Barbara

Animal Services, Lompoc
1501 W. Central Avenue
Lompoc

Animal Services, Santa Maria
548 W. Foster Road
Santa Maria

Most of the **County Public Works Department's** offices or services will be closed to the public from December 22, 2008 through January 4, 2009, with the following exceptions, which will be open as noted below:

Tajguas Landfill - open to franchise haulers and account customers only

Laguna County Sanitation – open to water softener companies only

South Coast Recycling Center and Transfer Station

Santa Ynez Valley Recycling Center and Transfer Station

Cuyama Transfer Station

Ventacopa Transfer Station

The County's Department of Social Services will be closed to the public:

December 24, 2008 and December 25, 2008

December 31, 2008 and January 1, 2009

The following important information comes from the Social Services Department to help explain its emergency services available during the furlough period. (Spanish translation follows).

During the two week mandatory County Furlough, from December 22, 2008 through January 2, 2009, the Department of Social Services will have minimum staffing levels to meet regulatory defined "emergency" situations for our public assistance programs. Emergency response to reports of abuse in Child Welfare Services and Adult Protective Services will be in place 24/7 as usual.

Examples of "emergency" Social Services public assistance programs situations include:

- Families seeking CalWORKs assistance due to homelessness, or imminent homelessness (eviction from current residence), less than three days' food for the family, utility service has been terminated or a notice of termination of utility services has been received, inability to meet essential transportation needs (to access food, medical care, or job opportunities), lack of essential clothing (such as diapers or clothing needed for inclement weather), or other emergencies of similar importance to the family's immediate health and safety; or
- Households seeking Food Stamps assistance with less than \$150 in monthly gross income and liquid resources of \$100 or less, or households whose combined monthly gross income and liquid resources are less than the household's monthly rent or mortgage, and utilities.
- Existing recipients of Medi-Cal will be served if they are being refused medical services or prescription services due to a problem with their eligibility to Medi-Cal (erroneously showing not eligible even though eligibility has been established).

All other situations will be handled as quickly as possible after the mandatory County furlough period, when the Department of Social Services resumes regular business hours, on Monday, January 5, 2009, with full staffing levels.

During this critical time, community residents are reminded of the local emergency shelters and numerous community-based organizations that can provide immediate assistance to people needing social services. Please call 2-1-1 if additional details are needed.

Durante la licencia temporal de dos semanas obligatorio del condado, a partir del 22 de diciembre de 2008 hasta el 2 de enero de 2009, el Departamento de Servicios Sociales tendrá niveles mínimos de personal para resolver las situaciones regulatorias definidas como “emergencias” para nuestros programas de ayuda público. La respuesta de emergencia a los informes del abuso en Child Welfare Services (los Servicios para el Bienestar del Niño) y Adult Protective Services (los Servicios de Protección para Adultos) estará en lugar 24/7 como de costumbre.

Ejemplos de situaciones de “emergencia” de los programas públicos de Servicios Sociales incluyen:

- Familias que buscan la ayuda de CalWORKs (Programa de California de Oportunidad al Trabajo y Responsabilidad hacia los Niños) debido a la falta de vivienda, o la falta de vivienda inminente (desahucio de la residencia actual), menos que una fuente de tres días de alimento para la familia, se ha terminado el servicio de utilidades públicas o se ha recibido un aviso de terminación de los servicios de utilidades públicas, inhabilidad de cubrir las necesidades esenciales de transporte (tener acceso al alimento, asistencia médica, o a oportunidades de trabajo), falta de la ropa esencial (tal como pañales o ropa necesario para el tiempo inclemente), u otras emergencias de importancia similar a la salud y seguridad inmediata de la familia; o
- Familias que buscan la ayuda de Food Stamps (Estampillas para Comida) con menos de \$150 de ingreso bruto mensual y recursos líquidos de \$100 o menos, o familias cuya combinación de ingreso bruto mensual y los recursos líquidos son menos que su renta o hipoteca mensual, y las utilidades públicas.
- Se servirá a los recipientes existentes de Medi-Cal si sean negados de los servicios médicos o servicios de las prescripciones debido a un problema con su elegibilidad a Medi-Cal (erróneamente demostrando que uno no es elegible aunque se ha establecido la elegibilidad).

Lo demás de las situaciones serán manejados lo más rápido que sea posible después de la licencia temporal de dos semanas obligatorio del condado, cuando el Departamento de Servicios Sociales reasume las horas de oficina regulares, el lunes, 5 de enero de 2009, con los niveles completos de personal.

Durante este tiempo crítico, los residentes de la comunidad deben de recordarse de los refugios locales de emergencia y las organizaciones numerosas basadas en la comunidad que pueden proporcionar la ayuda inmediata a la gente que necesita los servicios sociales. Llame por favor al 2-1-1 si Ud. necesita más información.

Be sure to check the County's website www.CountyofSB.org for additional information.

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