AN INTIMATE LITTLE TALK

(A STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES BEFORE ASSUMING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS)

BY

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4TH DISTRICT
JANUARY 9, 1978

THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US TONIGHT. THIS WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO BE AN INTIMATE LITTLE TALK TO SHARE WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND COUNTY STAFF MY PERSONAL GOALS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. THEN WE DECIDED TO HAVE THE "SHARING" OCCUR AT A NIGHT MEETING TO BE CONVENIENT FOR THE PUBLIC, AND NOW WE ARE BEING TELEVISED LIVE. SO MY "INTIMATE LITTLE TALK" IS TO BE SHARED WITH THE 1.2 MILLION-PLUS FRIENDS WHO CALL SANTA CLARA COUNTY HOME -- AND ISN'T THAT REALLY THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

MY COMMENTS ARE VERY PERSONAL THOUGH. MOST OF THESE OBJECTIVES ARE NOT COUNTY POLICY AND WILL NOT BE UNTIL AT LEAST TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONCUR AND OFFER THEIR VOTES IN SUPPORT. WITH THAT THOUGHT, LET ME INTRODUCE THE OTHER FOUR MEMBERS OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. ON YOUR FAR LEFT IS THE SENIOR MEMBER OF OUR BOARD, COMPLETING HIS 16TH YEAR, FROM GILROY, REPRESENTING THE FIRST DISTRICT, SUPERVISOR SIG SANCHEZ. SIG REPRESENTS GILROY, MORGAN HILL, SOUTH SAN JOSE, LOS GATOS AND MONTE SERENO. ON YOUR RIGHT IS THE NEXT SENIOR MEMBER WITH OVER EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE -- SUPERVISOR DOM CORTESE, REPRESENTING THE CENTRAL AND EAST SIDE OF SAN JOSE WHICH MAKE UP THE SECOND DISTRICT. THE THIRD DISTRICT, INCLUDING SUNNYVALE, MILPITAS AND NORTHEAST SAN JOSE, IS REPRESENTED BY SUPERVISOR DAN MCCORQUODALE, ON YOUR FAR RIGHT. DAN IS IN HIS FIFTH YEAR OF COUNTY SERVICE AND IS THE IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION BOARD. SUPERVISOR GERRY STEINBERG REPRESENTS THE FIFTH DISTRICT

AND IS THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND NEW TRANSPORTATION BOARD CHAIRPERSON - THE FIRST AND ONLY WOMAN TO BE ELECTED TO THIS BOARD AND TO HOLD THOSE POSITIONS. THE FIFTH DISTRICT INCLUDES CUPERTINO, LOS ALTOS, LOS ALTOS HILLS, MOUNTAIN VIEW AND PALO ALTO. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO REPRESENT SANTA CLARA, CAMPBELL, SARATOGA AND THE WEST SIDE OF SAN JOSE, WHICH MAKE UP THE FOURTH DISTRICT.

UNIQUELY, OUR BOARD IS CHARTERED BY THE STATE AS A COMBINED LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BODY, AND WE PERFORM EACH OF THOSE FUNCTIONS ON OCCASION. BUT WE DELEGATE MUCH OF OUR EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE BILL SIEGEL AND HIS STAFF. BILL AND ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE BRIAN RAPP ARE TO YOUR LEFT AND HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING THE POLICIES ENACTED BY THE BOARD. COUNTY LEGAL COUNSEL, SELBY BROWN, AND HIS STAFF OF ATTORNEYS KEEP THE BOARD OUT OF OUR JAIL BY ADVISING ON POINTS OF LAW.

THESE ARE A FEW OF THE KEY PLAYERS ON A TEAM THAT HAS OVER 300 PHYSICAL FACILITIES, AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF OVER 570 MILLION DOLLARS, AND HAS MORE DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES THAN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT UNIT. FROM SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE BUSES, FROM HEALTH AND HOSPITALS TO JUDGES AND THE JAILS, ANIMAL CONTROL TO PARKS AND RECREATION, COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS REACHING OUT TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO YOU THROUGH OVER 40 DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS AND OVER 12,000 EMPLOYEES.

WHILE OVER 80% OF OUR PROGRAMS AND BUDGET ARE MANDATED BY THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, THE BOARD MUST IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR THOSE AND MANY LOCALLY-ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS. OUR 10 TO 15-HOUR DAYS INCLUDE BOARD MEETINGS ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY FOLLOWED BY COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, WHILE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY FIND US CONCENTRATING ON CONSTITUENT REQUESTS. THE DAYS BEGIN EARLY AND END LATE AND, ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES FRUSTRATING, OFFER A PROFOUND SENSE OF SATISFACTION FROM BEING OF SERVICE.

NOW THAT YOU'VE MET SOME OF THE KEY INDIVIDUALS AND HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT THE COUNTY IS ABOUT, LET ME SHARE WITH YOU MY PLANS, HOPES, DREAMS, FOR A PROGRESSIVE, VIGOROUS AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR.

MY FIRST OBJECTIVE AND MAIN THEME IS TO TAKE THE LID OFF COUNTY GOVERNMENT SO THAT ALL MAY SEE AND BE INVOLVED WITH THE CONTENTS. OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BEFORE, BUT THIS YEAR I INTEND, WITH THE HELP OF THE BOARD, AND THE CITIZENS, TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE. THE FIRST STEP HAS TAKEN PLACE WITH THE REESTABLISHMENT OF OUR TELEVISED NIGHT MEETINGS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. YOU'RE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN OUR NEW "TELEPODIUM" PROCESS BY CALLING THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FLASHED ON YOUR TELEVISION SCREEN. CALL 299-2323, TO ASK A QUESTION OR OFFER A COMMENT ANYTIME DURING THE MEETING. STAFF IS AVAILABLE AND WE'LL TRY TO RESPOND TO YOUR COMMENTS BEFORE ACTION IS TAKEN ON THE ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION. I'LL BE TAKING TEN MINUTES AT THE END OF MY TALK TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE VIEWERS AND DEMONSTRATE THE TELEPODIUM CONCEPT.

ANOTHER DEVICE TO CLARIFY BOARD VOTING ACTION WILL BE THE INSTALLATION OF A YES/NO LIGHT SYSTEM. THIS SYSTEM WILL SPEED UP THE ACTION OF THE BOARD AND REVEAL VISIBLY TO THE AUDIENCE EACH VOTE BY EACH BOARD MEMBER. COSTING LITTLE BUT TELLING MUCH, THIS SYSTEM HAS ALREADY BEEN DESIGNED BY THE COUNTY STAFF AND WILL BE INSTALLED WITH THE CONSENT OF THE BOARD IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

FRIDAY MORNING NEWS MEDIA BRIEFINGS ARE BEING REESTABLISHED TO DISCUSS THE COMING WEEK'S AGENDA. HOPEFULLY BY THAT PROCESS, THE PUBLIC WILL BE AWARE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEMS BEFORE, RATHER THAN AFTER, THE MEETINGS ARE HELD. IN ADDITION, LET ME ENCOURAGE THE NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART, NOT JUST AT PRESS BRIEFINGS BUT ALSO AT OUR REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS. ASK QUESTIONS AND BE FULL PARTICIPANTS IN THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS.

SOMETIMES THE PUBLIC HAS DIFFICULTY COMING DOWNTOWN TO BOARD MEETINGS, AND SO I WILL BE TAKING THE BOARD TO THE PUBLIC. I'LL BE ASKING THE BOARD TO MEET IN LOCAL CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD CHAMBERS FOR WORKSHOPS ON ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN. I STRONGLY URGE OUR MANY COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, SUCH AS PLANNING, TRANSIT, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT, PARKS AND RECREATION, AND OTHERS, TO DO THE SAME, PARTICULARLY ON ITEMS OF HIGH PUBLIC CONCERN.

THE POLICY OF OPEN PRE-BUDGET BRIEFINGS BEGUN BY SUPERVISOR STEINBERG SHOULD CONTINUE AND BE EXPANDED. THE FIRST CITIZEN BRIEFING FOR THE AUGUST 1978 BUDGET HEARINGS WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 21, WITH THE SECOND TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 11 IN THIS COUNTY BUILDING. THE CITIZENS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE BUDGET PROCESS BECAUSE COUNTY PRIORITIES ARE SET AT BUDGET TIME AND RARELY CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE YEAR. DURING MARCH, APRIL AND MAY WE WILL HAVE CITIZEN BUDGET BRIEFINGS IN EACH OF OUR FIFTEEN CITIES. IN JULY, BEFORE THE BUDGET GOES TO THE BOARD, THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CITIZENS IN ANOTHER SEQUENCE OF WORKSHOPS. EACH CITIZEN SHOULD AND MUST HAVE A VOICE IN THIS PIVOTAL PRIORITY-SETTING PROCESS.

VOLUNTEERISM IS ANOTHER WAY TO OPEN GOVERNMENT TO THE PUBLIC WHILE ALSO REDUCING SERVICE COSTS. WE HAVE RECENTLY INSTITUTED A VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM THAT WILL ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION IN EVERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT, BOTH IN ADVISORY CAPACITIES AND AS SERVICE PROVIDERS. INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT 299-3134 AND BECOMING DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

LET ME SHIFT GEARS NOW FROM TALKING ABOUT THE OVERALL TONE OF GOVERNMENT TO SOME OF MY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR.

THERE ARE MANY ISSUES SUCH AS VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND LAND USE PLANNING WHICH ARE OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN TO THIS BOARD AND THE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, SINCE MY VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS ARE ON PUBLIC RECORD, I WILL DEVOTE MY TIME THIS EVENING TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AHEAD IN 1978.

MY FIRST TARGET WILL BE TO CONTINUE OUR REPUTATION FOR FRUGALITY BY ENCOURAGING ANOTHER MAJOR TAX RATE REDUCTION THIS YEAR TO MATCH OUR 26-CENT TAX RATE CUT OF LAST YEAR. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN OFFER INTERIM PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PENDING A PERMANENT SOLUTION THROUGH PROPERTY TAX REFORM BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR. BUT TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT THE COUNTY AND EVERY CITY, SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND SPECIAL DISTRICT MUST ALSO OFFER A SIGNIFICANT TAX RATE CUT.

TO THAT END AND TO REVIEW AND ENCOURAGE A SPECIFIC PROPERTY TAX REFORM ACTION ON THE STATE LEVEL, I AM ASKING THE BOARD TO CO-SPONSOR WITH OUR STATE LEGISLATORS A PROPERTY TAX REFORM WORKSHOP AND RALLY IN THESE CHAMBERS DURING THE SECOND WEEKEND IN APRIL. SENATOR JERRY SMITH AND ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN VASCONCELLOS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN THIS EFFORT AND ENCOURAGE BROAD AND VOCAL CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT. AT THE SAME TIME I HAVE ASKED THE INTER-GOVERNMENT COUNCIL REPRESENTING OUR CITIES, SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS TO HOLD A WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE PROPERTY TAX REDUCTIONS ACROSS THE BOARD TO OFFER CONSISTENT RELIEF TO OUR TAXPAYERS PENDING TAX REFORM ACTION.

MY TAX RATE REDUCTION OBJECTIVES SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A THREAT TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES. AMONG THE MAJOR COUNTIES, WE RANK THIRD IN ADMINISTRATIVE COST PER RESIDENCE AND SIXTH OR SEVENTH IN SERVICES COST PER RESIDENT. THEREFORE, MY OBJECTIVE IS TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND OFFER A MAJOR TAX RATE CUT WHILE PROTECTING ESSENTIAL SERVICE.

MY SECOND MAJOR OBJECTIVE IS THE SIMPLIFICATION AND STREAMLINING OF GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE COST AND INCREASE VISIBILITY, RESPONSIVENESS AND SERVICE. FIVE SUCH REORGANIZATIONS ARE POSSIBLE DURING THE COMING YEAR. FIRST IS THE SPECIAL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION RECOMMENDED AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF STUDY BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, COUNTY GRAND JURIES, THE NEWS MEDIA, AND NOW, AFTER OVER A YEAR OF DETAILED EVALUATION, BY THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE. THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS THE MERGER OF EIGHT SPECIAL DISTRICTS (TWO OTHERS WERE MERGED DURING THE TASK FORCE STUDY) INTO TWO DISTRICTS, ONE FOR WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND THE OTHER FOR SANITATION AND SANITARY SERVICES. THE SAVINGS ARE ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN $300,000 AND $900,000 ANNUALLY, WITH IMPROVED VISIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY. THIS ISSUE MUST BE SENT TO OUR STATE LEGISLATORS WITH A STRONG MANDATE FROM GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC FOR ENACTMENT INTO STATE LAW. YOU WILL HEAR AND SEE THIS ISSUE DEBATED AS THE NEXT ITEM ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA. PLEASE USE THE TELEPODIUM TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

THE SECOND GOVERNMENTAL SIMPLIFICATION THAT WE SHOULD BEGIN IS TO MERGE THE MUNICIPAL AND SUPERIOR COURTS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY TO ELIMINATE REDUNDANCY, REDUCE THE NEED FOR NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, AND SIMPLIFY PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE COURTS. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE PRESIDING JUDGES OF BOTH THE SUPERIOR AND MUNICIPAL COURTS, AS WELL AS THE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERS, HAVE INDICATED STRONG INTEREST AND GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THIS IDEA. I WILL BE ASKING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ACCOMPLISH AN ANALYSIS OF THE POSSIBLE COST SAVINGS OF SUCH A MERGER. IF THE ANALYSIS PROVES POSITIVE, WE SHOULD PROCEED QUICKLY TO ESTABLISH A COURT CONSOLIDATION PILOT PROJECT IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY VIA STATE LEGISLATION.

THE THIRD GOVERNMENTAL SIMPLIFICATION PROJECT THAT HAS GREAT POTENTIAL IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WEST COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM. THIS IS THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION TO THE FIRE DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION EFFORT SPEARHEADED BY DAN McCORQUODALE AND DOM CORTESE LAST YEAR. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ESTABLISH A DISTRICT, JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, OR SIMILAR STRUCTURE IN THE WEST SIDE TO PROVIDE INTEGRATED FIRE PROTECTION TO LOS GATOS, MONTE SERRENO, SARATOGA, CUPERTINO, CAMPBELL, INACCESSIBLE PORTIONS OF SAN JOSE AND THE CONTIGUOUS UNINCORPORATED AREAS. SIGNIFICANT COSTS COULD BE SAVED, SERVICE IMPROVED AND LIFE ENDANGERING CONFUSION AVOIDED.

THE FOURTH REORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR INCLUDES THE ELIMINATION OF SEVERAL INACTIVE, INEFFECTUAL OR OBSOLETE COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS. A LESSER NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO ACCOMPLISH SPECIFIC TASKS THAT MORE EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT AND RELATE TO THE MODERN COUNTY STRUCTURE AND FOCUS ON PROBLEMS THAT ARE PERTINENT TODAY. THE COUNTY STAFF AND MY OFFICE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROJECT FOR OVER A YEAR AND TOGETHER WE HAVE ELIMINATED 29 COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES LAST YEAR AND WILL PRESENT A FORMAL PROPOSAL ON THE REMAINDER THIS SUMMER.

THE FINAL SIMPLIFICATION PROMOTES THE ONE STEP SHOPPING CONCEPT FOR COUNTY SERVICES. THIS INCLUDES THE AGGRESSIVE PROMOTION OF OUR COMMUNITY LOCATED, MULTI-SERVICED CENTER CONCEPT. NUMEROUS COUNTY SERVICES, SUCH AS JUVENILE PROBATION, SOCIAL SERVICES,

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL, HEALTH, ETC., SHOULD BE HOUSED TOGETHER, ONE IN EACH OF THE TWELVE ZONES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. THIS BRINGS THE SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE IN A MUCH MORE PERSONALIZED AND CONVENIENT FORM. SIMILARLY, WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LONG-OVERDUE CENTRAL PERMIT COUNTER FOR ALL TYPES OF COUNTY CONTROLLED PERMITS.

ANOTHER MAJOR OBJECTIVE IS TO INSURE THAT COUNTY SERVICES ARE EFFECTIVELY, ECONOMICALLY AND CORDIALLY PROVIDED. THESE RESULTS SHOULD BE VERIFIED BY NOT ONLY THE ANNUAL FISCAL AUDIT OF EACH COUNTY PROGRAM, BUT ALSO A PERIODIC PROGRAM REVIEW AND CLIENT EVALUATION OF SERVICE DELIVERED. CLIENT AUDITS ARE RARE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR BUT ARE COMMON PRACTICE IN BUSINESSES THAT COMPETE ON THE BASIS OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION. THE PUBLIC SHOULD DEMAND AND DESERVES NO LESS FROM GOVERNMENT THAN FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

A VERY IMPORTANT TARGET FOR THE NEXT YEAR IS IMPROVED INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS. IN PRIOR YEARS, BEFORE OUR CITIES GREW TOGETHER TO FORM OUR CURRENT MEGALOPOLIS, WE COULD BE ULTRA INDEPENDENT. NOW, AS BACK FENCES IN HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS BEGIN TO MARK THE TYPICAL CITY BOUNDARIES, WE MUST BEGIN CONSIDERING OUR MUNICIPAL NEIGHBOR'S PLIGHT TO BE OUR OWN. INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROBLEMS LIKE THE SALES TAX SHARING DISAGREEMENT, THE HOUSING/JOBS DISTRIBUTION IMBALANCE, LONG-TERM LAND USE PLANNING SQUABBLES, ETC., MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DETRACT FROM COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. IF WE CONTINUE DISAGREEING AND FAILING TO CONFRONT MAJOR PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY IN THE HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS, WE WILL FIND THOSE PROBLEMS ASSIGNED TO A REGIONAL, STATE OR FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY, AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF LOCAL CONTROL. THE UNIT FOR MEDIATING THESE DIFFERENCES IS THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL. IT IS APPROPRIATE HERE TO ONCE AGAIN INVITE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE IN THIS EXTREMELY VITAL COORDINATING COUNCIL. TO THIS END ALSO, I WILL BE CONVENING A SPECIAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS TASK FORCE TO HAMMER OUT AN IGC

ORDINANCE MODIFICATION WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE SAN JOSE TO PARTICIPATE. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION SUGGESTS A STRONG DESIRE FOR COMPROMISE AND POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD DEVELOPING A SERIOUS FORUM FOR MODERATING OUR PERIODIC DIFFERENCES.

SYMBOLISM IS ANOTHER MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPING INTERGOVERNMENTAL RAPPORT AND COOPERATION. THIS BUILDING, WITH ALL OF ITS PROBLEMS, IS THE CENTRAL FOCUS OR "CAPITOL" OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY. WE SHOULD DEDICATE THIS AND OTHERS OF OUR COUNTY STRUCTURES TO GENERAL COMMUNITY USE WHENEVER POSSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, OUR MAIN LOBBY AND HALL BETWEEN THE WEST AND EAST WINGS HAS BEEN LIKENED TO A CAVERN OR WIND TUNNEL. THIS AREA COULD HOUSE FLOOR TO CEILING BOOTHS THE LENGTH OF THE HALL FEATURING CITY AND COUNTY DISPLAYS PRIDEFUL OF OUR SPECIAL INTRACOUNTY RELATIONSHIPS. THE DISPLAY WINDOWS IN THE STATE CAPITOL ARE AN EXAMPLE. EVERY CHANCE WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON OUR HERITAGE AND TO PROMOTE THE IDENTITIES OF OUR FIFTEEN CITIES IS ONE MORE STEP TOWARD BETTER RAPPORT AND COOPERATION.

THERE ARE TWO SPECIFIC REGIONAL PROJECTS WITHIN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION TOPIC WHICH MUST BE CONCLUDED SATISFACTORILY THIS YEAR. FIRST IS THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTLY BEING FORMULATED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS. THIS FEDERALLY MANDATED PLAN MUST BE ADOPTED THIS YEAR. IF THE ABAG-DEVELOPED PLAN IS NOT APPROVED, IN SOME FORM, THE PLAN WILL BE WRITTEN OUTSIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL, BY THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY. THIS BOARD AND OUR STAFF MUST MAKE SURE THAT THE ABAG PLAN BECOMES OUR PLAN. WE MUST ASSIST OUR CITIES AND THE OTHER EIGHT COUNTIES AND 80 CITIES OF THE REGION, MODIFYING THAT DRAFT PLAN TO PROVIDE A STRONG, YET ACCEPTABLE AND AFFORDABLE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO KEEP ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, AND WE DARE NOT FAIL. WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, ASSIST AND COOPERATE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPING A UNIFIED COUNTY POSITION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANGEMENT PLAN. THE FINAL PLAN WILL BE ADOPTED APRIL 6.

ANOTHER VITAL REGIONAL PROJECT IS THE JOINT CORRIDOR STUDY--THAT INFAMOUS TRANSPORTATION AND LAND-USE STUDY IMPOSED UPON US BY THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND ABAG ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO. THIS STUDY IS NOW A YEAR BEHIND SCHEDULE AND MUST CONCLUDE IN JULY OF THIS YEAR WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DO NOT "SHORT CHANGE" OUR COUNTY AND WHICH ADDRESS OUR RAPIDLY EXPANDING TRANSPORTATION NEEDS. THE OVERWHELMING REGIONAL TENDENCY WILL BE TO UNDERESTIMATE OUR NEEDS TO AVOID CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE REGION. WE DON'T WANT BART AND ITS HUGE DEBIT! BUT WE DO DEMAND OUR RIGHTFUL SHARE OF STATE AND FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION AID.

FOUR ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PROJECTS WILL COME BEFORE THE BOARD THIS YEAR, AND SHOULD RECEIVE APPROVAL. THE COUNTY ENERGY TASK FORCE, WHICH I CHAIR, WILL PRESENT AN ENERGY MASTER PLAN WHICH COULD CHANGE THE FACE OF THE COUNTY. THIS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN ELEMENT FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED UNDER STATE ENERGY COMMISSION GRANTS AND WILL RECOMMEND CHANGES TO THE UNIFORM BUILDING CODES TO REQUIRE MORE INSULATION IN NEW HOMES AS WELL AS INSULATION RETROFITTING, ENCOURAGE SOLAR PANEL APPLICATIONS, AND REORIENTING NEW HOMES ON LOTS TO MAXIMIZE ROOF SURFACES, SOLAR EXPOSURE, TO MENTION ONLY A FEW ELEMENTS. THE PLAN, UPON PRESENTATION BY THE TASK FORCE IN MAY, WILL REQUIRE COURAGEOUS AND FARSIGHTED ACITON BY THIS BOARD.

SIMILARLY, THE COUNTY TASK FORCE ON SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT WILL BE PRESENTING RECOMMENDATIONS TO OVERHAUL AND INTERRELATE THE FRAGMENTED CITY AND COUNTY SERVICES RELATING TO THIS FASTEST GROWING VIOLENT CRIME. ALTHOUGH NOT PARTICULARLY EXPENSIVE, THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS TASK FORCE WILL REQUIRE CONCENTRATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AND PROFOUND SENSITIVITY AND GENTLENESS TO A WOMAN AND HER FAMILY CAUGHT IN THE WORST OF SOCIETY'S CONTRADICTIONS.

THE BOARD'S COUNTYWIDE PARAMEDIC SYSTEM MUST BE PURSUED AND IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY. THIS PROGRAM IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR HUNDREDS OF COUNTY RESIDENTS EACH YEAR. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE WILL BE REVEALING THE CURRENT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

WITH THE CITIES ON THURSDAY EVENING BEFORE THE IGC IN THESE CHAMBERS. THE BOARD SHOULD CONSIDER ASSUMING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAM IN SERVICE ZONES WHERE IMPLEMENTATION CONTINUES TO BE DELAYED AND SHOULD PROVIDE THIS VITAL SERVICE DIRECTLY WITHIN THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

FINALLY, A SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM COORDINATION COMMISSION IS LONG OVERDUE IN THIS COUNTY. A FOURTH DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE HAS BEEN REVIEWING THIS POSSIBILITY AND WILL BE RECOMMENDING ACTION IN THE FALL. OUR NUMEROUS PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS NEED A STRONG REVIEW AND ADVOCACY FORCE WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO THIS BOARD.

MY CONCLUSION MUST STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF A THANK-YOU TO THE HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS ON THE FOURTH DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND TASK FORCES. THE WONDERFUL CITIZENS WHO GIVE THEIR TIME AND TALENT TO SERVE ON OFFICIAL COUNTY ADVISORY BODIES. THE COUNTY'S FUTURE SUCCESS DEPENDS PRINCIPALLY ON YOUR WISDOM, TACT AND TENACITY. AND TO MY STAFF AND TO MY FAMILY A VERY SPECIAL "THANK YOU."

AND FINALLY, TO THE CITIZENS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, PLEASE DON'T THINK ME OVERZEALOUS IN ATTEMPTING TO CONFRONT SO MANY DIFFICULT TASKS IN ONE YEAR. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE OBJECTIVES WILL BE REACHED -- TAX REFORM, SPECIAL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION, COURT CONSOLIDATION, BOARD COMMISSION REORGANIZATION, PARAMEDIC IMPLEMENTATION, BUILDING CODE MODIFICATIONS, AND SO FORTH. THESE ARE ALL GOOD AND PROPER ACTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN STIFLED BY CERTAIN NARROWLY FOCUSED SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WHOSE AIMS ARE TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO -- AT YOUR COST.

IN POLITICS YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, OR MAKE MANY FRIENDS, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL CONCENTRATE ON MAKING A LITTLE PROGRESS. PLEASE, THIS YEAR AND IN THE FUTURE, BE INVOLVED, DEMAND THE RESOLUTION OF THESE AND OTHER PROBLEMS, LEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ASSISTANCE AS WE TAKE ON A FEW "SACRED COWS"--AND TOGETHER WE'LL HAVE A GREAT BAR-B-QUE!