



From The Desk of **Tom Mauk**

January 9, 2009

OCEA Proposes Additional Layoffs of SSA Employees

As some of you may have heard, we have been advised that Orange County Employees Association (OCEA) will be going to court to ask a Judge for a temporary restraining order stopping the layoffs in the Social Services Agency. That is supposed to occur today – Friday. Of course, the County will oppose the temporary restraining order. As OCEA is well aware, the more we delay responsible action on budget reductions, the greater the number of layoffs there will be later in the fiscal year. That is because we have a shorter period of time in which to create the savings that are needed as a result of the lack of revenue from the State of California (i.e. a larger number of layoffs will be required in that shorter period of time).

The feedback I am getting on the budget savings webpage indicates a substantial majority of our employees prefer furloughs to layoffs. Also, people that I've talked to directly have strongly expressed a desire to retain their jobs. They are not pleased with the prospect of a furlough, but they prefer it to losing their jobs entirely. OCEA's action to stop the layoffs that began to occur on Monday, if successful, will surely increase the number of employees at risk. That, of course, is across the board but includes many OCEA members themselves. Nick, are you listening to your own members as respects to support the County's efforts to preserve jobs rather than have additional layoffs? Have you listened to the Board comment and our notices to employees as it relates to the intense effort to preserve as many jobs as possible? Why would you want to delay the action, as difficult as it is, and create more potential layoffs for the employees of the County and members of OCEA?

As I said to the *Orange County Register* yesterday, I believe OCEA needs to begin to pay attention to the real financial issues and difficulties of the County of Orange and support not only its members but the taxpayers of Orange County. If there was ever an example of OCEA's total lack of regard for the overall budget situation, the taxpayers of Orange County and our employees, this is it!

Thank you,

Thomas G. Mauk
County Executive Officer



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