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## COUNTY OF SONOMA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 30, 2009

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### Sonoma County Time Off Program Saves \$4.3 Million Many County Offices Will Close Dec. 24 thru Jan. 4

**SANTA ROSA, Calif.** - Many Sonoma County offices will be closed between December 24, 2009 and January 3, 2010. Certain services, such as law enforcement, water delivery, transportation and some health services will continue without interruption. The closures are due to a Mandatory Time Off (MTO) program adopted by the county to save money and to help balance the county's budget. Nearly all county employees will take five unpaid days off of work during this fiscal year. The majority of these days off will occur during the December closure. The MTO program, which is expected to save the county \$4.3 million, enabled the Board of Supervisors to preserve many important programs and services that would otherwise have been cut from the county's budget.

The dates of the MTO closures are December 24, and the week of December 28 through January 1. County offices will reopen January 4, 2010. This time period was selected for MTO because it typically has a lower demand for services than other times of the year.

The following is a summary of Sonoma County departments and agencies showing whether they will be open, closed, or offering reduced services during the MTO closure period. Additional information about the MTO closure may be obtained from individual department web sites, or at: [www.sonoma-county.org](http://www.sonoma-county.org).

(more)

Department	Status	Services Available
Agriculture Commissioner	Reduced	Animal Care & Control
Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District	Closed	
Auditor/Controller/Treasurer	Closed	
Tax Collector	Closed	
Board of Supervisors	In Recess	Marriage Licenses Birth & Death Certificates Recording of Land Documents
Clerk of the Board/ Assessment Appeals	Closed	
Clerk/Recorder/ Assessor	Reduced	
Community Development Commission	Closed	Court Attendance Access for Law Enforcement Agencies
County Administrator	Closed	
Dept. of Child Support Services	Closed	
District Attorney	Reduced	
Economic Development Board	Closed	Fire Services Hazardous Materials Response
Emergency Services	Reduced	
Fairgrounds	Reduced	Golf Course Jockey Club
General Services	Reduced	Energy Independence Program
Health Services		
Alcohol & Other Drug Services	Open	All
Mental Health Jail Services	Open	All
Mental Health Med Clinic	Reduced	Medication Services
Public Health HIV Clinic	Reduced	HIV Support Services
Public Health WIC Program	Reduced	Support for New Mothers
Public Health Laboratory	Reduced	Laboratory Services
Public Health Vital Statistics	Reduced	Birth and Death Certificates
Human Resources	Closed	
Human Services		
Child Protective Services	Closed	Emergency Hotline Response
Adult Protective Services	Closed	Emergency Hotline Response
Public Administrator/Guardian/Conservator	Closed	Emergency Hotline Response
Economic Assistance/Employment and Training	Reduced	Emergency applications for MediCal, CMSP, General Assistance, Food Stamps, and TANF
Valley of the Moon Children's Center	Open	All
Information Systems	Closed	
Local Agency Formation Commission	Closed	

(more)

Department	Status	Services Available
Permit & Resource Management	Closed	
Probation	Open	All
Public Defender	Reduced	Mandated court services
Regional Park		
Administration	Closed	No camping or vets reservations
Parks	Open	All
Spud Point Marina	Open	All
Veterans Buildings	Reduced	Booked events only
Sheriff	Open	
Transportation & Public Works	Open	
Univ. of CA Cooperative Extension	Closed	
Water Agency	Reduced	Water Delivery Sanitation Flood Control

As Sonoma County headed into fiscal year 2009-2010, it faced a general fund budget deficit of more than \$20 million. Initial five percent across the board cuts were made in March 2009, which helped to mitigate the problem. Nevertheless, the county was faced with the prospect of cutting an additional five percent or more from its budget. A series of cost savings measures were instituted, including MTO, which brought the budget into balance. As a result, a substantial number of county services were preserved. Sonoma County is grateful for the understanding and support of our residents as we make these efforts to maintain essential services.

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The County of Sonoma is comprised of 26 departments and agencies that provide a full range of services to the community. It encompasses over 1600 square miles and is home to almost 500,000 residents. Sonoma County government has a history of providing excellent and responsive public service while operating under sound fiscal principles.

Located less than one hour north of San Francisco, Sonoma County combines in one location the beautiful Pacific coastline, award-winning wineries, majestic redwoods, historic towns, fine dining, and a wide variety of entertainment and cultural activities.

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