

County News

National Unfunded Mandates Day - Oct. 27
(see pages 4 and 5)

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Property taxes cannot pay for our nation's health safety net

The list of questions concerning the county role in the Administration's health reform package grows

By Tom Goodman
public affairs director

County officials strongly support many aspects of President Clinton's health reform proposal, although the number of unanswered questions regarding the proposal has grown quickly from single digits to a list of 37. At a news conference, Oct. 4, in Washington, D.C., NACo representatives outlined their reactions.

"We applaud the president for including in his proposal universal access, a broad, basic benefits package and the mandate to employers to provide coverage," said Monterey County (Calif.) Supervisor Barbara Shipnuck. "We need this proposal because property taxes cannot continue to pay for our nation's health safety net."

County governments are the governments of last resort for health care, spending \$30 billion on health

and hospital services, and providing care to 40 million people each year. In more than 30 states, counties are legally responsible for indigent health care and required to pay a portion of the non-federal share of Medicaid in more than 20 states.

"Counties have been providing health services to those Americans who have nowhere else to go," Shipnuck said. "But treating a basic illness in a county hospital emergency room is not efficient or effective. The president's plan, which emphasizes prevention, public health and having the basic benefits package, is the type of reform that is needed."

However, county officials do have concerns with the proposal. The list of 37 questions will be raised with the president and Congress as the proposal moves forward, Shipnuck said.

Two such concerns, Shipnuck

See **HEALTH REFORM**, next page



Photo by Tom Goodman

(l-r) St. Louis County (Minn.) Commissioner Marilyn Krueger, chair of NACo's Health Steering Committee, takes questions from Penelope Lemov, senior writer for *Governing* magazine, after the news conference.

Subtitle D landfill extension finalized

By Diane S. Shea
associate legislative director

EPA has officially promulgated the final rule to delay, for six months, the deadline for compliance with Subtitle D landfill regulations.

INSIDE

□ NACo forms a new public/private partnership to examine waste composting.

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□ Register now for NACo's 22nd Annual Employment Policy and Human Services Conference in San Francisco, Nov. 19-22.

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□ Don't miss *County News*'s special report exploring the latest in new technology and what it will mean to local governments.

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Hundreds of counties throughout the nation had written to EPA urging final adoption of the extension rule that had been proposed in June. (See *County News*, July 5, 1993, page 1.)

Published in the *Federal Register* on Oct. 1, the new rule provides additional time for "small" landfills, those accepting less than 100 tons of solid waste per day, to meet the minimum federal criteria.

To be eligible, such sites must accept on average no more than 100 tons of waste per day, not be listed on the Superfund National Priorities List and be located in a state that has submitted its application to EPA for approval of its permit program. To date, all states except Iowa have submitted an application.

The new rule also extended the deadline for six months for landfills of all sizes in the Midwest flood regions.

This extension is available at the state's discretion if it determines that the time is needed for the landfill to accept flood-related waste from any of the nine states with federally designated disaster areas. States may also provide these same landfills with an additional six months beyond April 9, 1994, to

comply with Subtitle D.

The rule also:

- provides a one-year extension of the effective date of the financial assurance requirements, from April 9, 1994 to April 9, 1995

- requires arid or remote landfills that accept less than 20 tons per day to monitor for ground water contamination, but extends the effective date of their compliance with Subtitle D until Oct. 9, 1995, and

- extends the period of time to install a final cover for landfills opting to close before the relevant compliance date to Oct. 9, 1994.

Because states may have earlier effective dates or other requirements beyond the minimum federal standards, counties should consult with their state environmental agencies to ascertain whether the extension will be helpful. States have been provided significant flexibility to adjust timetables and waive some requirements.

For more information, contact Diane Shea at 202/942-4269. To order a copy of the *Federal Register* notice, contact the RCRA Hotline, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. EST. The national toll-free number is 800/424-9346; TDD (for hearing impaired) is 800/553-7672.

New York state association director dies

Edwin L. Crawford, longtime leader in the movement to modernize and strengthen county government throughout the country, and executive director of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) since 1977, died Monday, Sept. 27, in Binghamton, N.Y., of cancer. He was 68.

After graduating from Binghamton Central High School in 1943, Crawford entered the U.S. Army and served in Europe during World War II. He received the Purple Heart and two battle stars for heroism during the Battle of the Bulge. Upon his discharge from the Army, he entered Cornell University and earned a B.A. degree and a J.D. degree from Cornell Law School.

While serving as Broome County executive, he served as president of NYSAC from 1975-76. He was president of the New York State County Executives Association from 1974-76 and president of the National Council of Elected County Executives from 1974-76. He served as a member of the NACo Board of Directors from 1970-76.

Crawford became the executive director of NYSAC in 1977. In that position, he worked diligently to obtain the legislation and funds needed to enable county governments in New York to operate efficiently and productively.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Dorothy; four children; five grandchildren; a sister; two brothers; and several nieces and nephews. NACo staff members attending the funeral services, held Sept. 30, were NACo Executive Director Larry Naake, Legislative Director Ralph Tabor and Legislative Assistant Brian Lagana.

Donations can be made to the Main Street Baptist Church, 117 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13805, or to the American Cancer Society, 57 Front St., Binghamton, NY, 13905. If you would like to extend your condolences to his widow, her address is: Dorothy Crawford, 608 Midvale Rd., Vestal, NY 13805.

Todd's Travels

N.C. Association of County Commissioners, 100 percent committed

(This is the second in a series on state associations prepared by NACo President Barbara Todd.)

The state of North Carolina appointed all county officials until after the Civil War and the provision for county elections in the 1868 state constitution.

Today, residents in each of North Carolina's 100 counties elect a board of county commissioners, a sheriff, a register of deeds and a clerk of the court.

Judges, district attorneys and clerks of the court are considered state officials as the General Assembly consolidated all county courts into a statewide court system.

Although the boards of county commissioners have the general responsibility of county government, they must share their policy development authority with the other constitutionally elected county officials, and must also approve the budgets of independent boards.

The independent boards have authority to establish policy relating to education, alcoholic beverage control, elections, health, mental health and social services policy. Although many of these boards operate as separate administrative units, none have taxing authority.

The state association for North Carolina's counties is a vibrant and strong organization which was founded in 1908 and has had a full-time staff dedicated to serving all 100 member counties since 1959.

Significant past and future legislative challenges

Through the collective leadership and hard work of county officials and their state association, North Carolina counties attained some significant legislative victories including the following:

- earmarking of local revenue shares of state-collected revenue
- resolution of some economic development finance issues
- relief for low-income and elderly homeowners through the establishment of a higher level of homestead exemption, and
- school bus replacement.

Already, North Carolina county leaders see some substantial concerns with which they will have to deal in areas relating to solid waste management and control of waste flow, land use and growth management issues, health care, and workmen's compensation. County officials will be focusing their efforts on future legislation that will provide alternative revenue sources, local option taxes and general authority for the tourist tax.

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) continues to have substantial influence upon the development of state



NACo President Barbara Todd addresses North Carolina county officials at the Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners in Durham County, N.C. To her left is North Carolina Association First Vice President Betty Lou Ward from Wake County.

policy. County leaders have been consistent in their opposition to unfunded mandates. As a result, the governor has established a Partnership Council which is charged with studying the mandates issue and making specific recommendations for the resolution of this major concern.

Additionally, the association has taken the initiative in developing a proactive relationship with state government officials in resolving problems which impact counties and their constituency.

For example, the state and counties are partners in the development of a human services automation program which will ultimately result in a more effective and efficient delivery system for the state and local governments.

Each of North Carolina's 100 counties agreed to cover upfront the initial costs required for initiating the automation program so that from the onset, the program would be coordinated throughout the state.

Programs and services of the NCACC

The comprehensive legislative program of the NCACC is paralleled by an equally aggressive menu of services which are provided to member counties. "The best money we spend in our county is our membership fee to our state association," says former state association president Bill Owen. "Just by being in the 'county family,' we counties have saved thousands of dollars."

The state association provides financial services, legal assistance, information referral, training and education of county officials, immediate analysis of the impact of state and federal legislation and its impact upon local government, and numerous other programs.

The Institute of Government, for example, is a highly successful train-

ing and educational initiative co-sponsored by the state association and Chapel Hill.

Outstanding county programs

NCACC recognizes counties for their successes in finding innovative solutions to local challenges. Categories for recognition include general government, public awareness, environment and human services. In 1993, a total of 19 counties received special recognition at the annual conference.

In the category of general govern-

ment, Rockingham, Alamance, Catawba and Orange counties were honored for their achievements for programs relating to the introduction of an innovative paralegal intern project, a working prisoners program, a multi-jurisdictional Geographic Information System (GIS) program and a program of integrated E911/CAD/GIS in emergency services.

Recognition in the public awareness category was given to Alamance, Iredell, New Hanover, McDowell and Mecklenburg counties. Each county's program was unique and effective.

Topics addressed included: development of public awareness of the importance of the county's agricultural history; an information referral system which provides a coordination mechanism for public and private agencies involved in the provision of assistance and social service programs; a multi-jurisdictional awareness campaign for elected officials initiated by the county health department; the production of a video by the county to assist fourth grade students in their understanding of county government; and a public awareness campaign which sought to promote understanding of mental illness and available prevention and treatment programs within the county.

Recognition in the environment category was given to Burke, Craven, New Hanover and Randolph

counties for innovative problem-solving in the areas of wetlands management, groundwater protection, integrated solid waste management and anti-littering.

Human services category winners include the counties of Catawba, for its employee sign language skills programs; Wake, for its comprehensive services for substance abusive pregnant women and postpartum women and their children; Robeson, for its program of physician recruitment for the provision of prenatal care to Medicaid-eligible women; Cabarrus, for its pro-active initiative of ensuring child support by assisting fathers to find necessary job skills training and subsequent employment; and Davie, for its prenatal education/incentive program for low-income residents.

The leaders of NCACC are optimistic about the future of county government in their state. Clearly they have forged positive working relationships with state leaders, as evidenced by the presence of most major state officials during the counties' annual conference.

When major state policies are formulated, counties are consulted. When the counties speak, state leaders listen and they listen carefully.

Before I left the conference, I was given a T-shirt which I proudly wear. It is emblazoned with a picture of the great state of North Carolina and its counties and the words, "One hundred reasons why NACo works." I agree.

HEALTH REFORM from previous page

pointed out, are that two major groups are not covered in the plan: jail populations and illegal aliens.

According to the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, the costs of health care in county jails may be as high as \$11.1 billion per year.

More than 90 percent of the funds used to pay for health care in county jails comes from local property tax dollars.

Further, the proposal is couched in a way that suggests that pretrial detainees are ineligible for coverage. These are persons who, under our criminal justice system, are considered innocent until proven guilty.

"This must be clarified so that pretrial detainees are covered and that steps will be taken to assure financing for all incarcerated persons," Shipnuck said.

Regarding illegal aliens, Shipnuck said that immigration policy is a federal responsibility, but the failures of that policy are borne by county governments. "Solutions must be found to relieve local governments of this burden," she said.

Also, county officials are concerned with the structure of the new health system and how counties will fit into it.

"We want to be certain that county governments have a direct role in the new system," said St. Louis County (Minn.) Commissioner Marilyn Krueger, who chairs NACo's Health Steering Committee. "The federal

government must recognize the role county governments currently play in the health care system and the need to be reimbursed for this role."

Krueger said one of the key elements is that counties must be designated as essential community providers (ECP). Having this designation would guarantee that counties receive equitable reimbursement for services provided.

One of the questions on the list of 37 asks, "Why are school-based clinics specifically identified and automatically designated as essential community providers and not county facilities providing similar services to similar populations?"

Krueger said the proposal also states that health plans would be allowed, on appeal to the state, to claim they do not need ECP participation. This puts vulnerable populations at risk and could create a dual system, threaten continuity of access and cause costs to rise, she said.

"The ECP designation must be done at the federal level and must include all public hospitals and other county health facilities and programs on a uniform basis, with equitable funding assistance during the transition," Krueger said.

Concerning governance of the reformed system, Krueger said it must assure operational efficiency as well as political viability. "Consumers, employers and governments at all levels must be involved," she said. "Because counties deliver, purchase

and administer health services, they know that strong local delivery systems are the key to success. It is imperative that local governments — county governments — have a voice in the system."

Other questions raised by county officials include:

- Are counties or groups of counties eligible to create a health plan, to establish regional alliances, or to become involved on regional alliance boards?
- What assurances are there that counties will be consulted on premium inflation factors since counties have a closer view of the actual operation of the system?
- How could a regional alliance or state assure that two tier systems of service will not be created?
- Where does the funding for enabling services for the underserved come from? What happens if the state decides these incentives are not needed?
- How is the maintenance of effort for access grants measured, monitored or collected? What constitutes services to vulnerable populations — hospital, clinic, public health department services?
- Who will make Medicaid eligibility determinations for regional alliances?
- How will the National Health Board implement an increase in payments for low-effort states contributing to the Medicaid Program and when?

County News invites Letters to the Editor

If you have a compliment, complaint or different point of view, let us know. Please include a phone number with your letter. Mail or fax to: County News, NACo, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2080, 202/393-2630.

NACo forms alliance to examine composting

By Naomi Friedman
research associate

NACo, in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the EPA's Office of Research and Development, has formed a research partnership with the National Audubon Society and the Grocery Industry to investigate the viability of source-separated composting. The Composting Research Alliance was established this past summer as an outgrowth of NACo's Municipal Solid Waste Cooperative Project, in the effort to expand local governments' solid waste management options.

Source-separated composting is a waste recovery system in which yard trimmings, food scraps, and soiled and non-recyclable paper are separately collected and composted. Research from Europe, Canada and the United States indicates that source-separated composting, in conjunction with recycling (or "wet/dry" recovery, as the system is also known), can divert from disposal 50 to 70 percent of a locality's municipal solid waste.

The National Audubon Society and the Procter & Gamble Company have conducted research on composting for the last few years, and in 1992, they jointly sponsored a source-separated composting study in Greenwich and Fairfield, Conn.

The success of this pilot prompted the expansion of their research partnership to include the Food Marketing Institute, representing food retailers and wholesalers, and the Grocery Manufacturers of America, the trade organization for food manufacturers and products. This group, known as the Compost for Earth's Sake Program, will sponsor a series of source-separated pilot programs throughout the United States over the next few years.

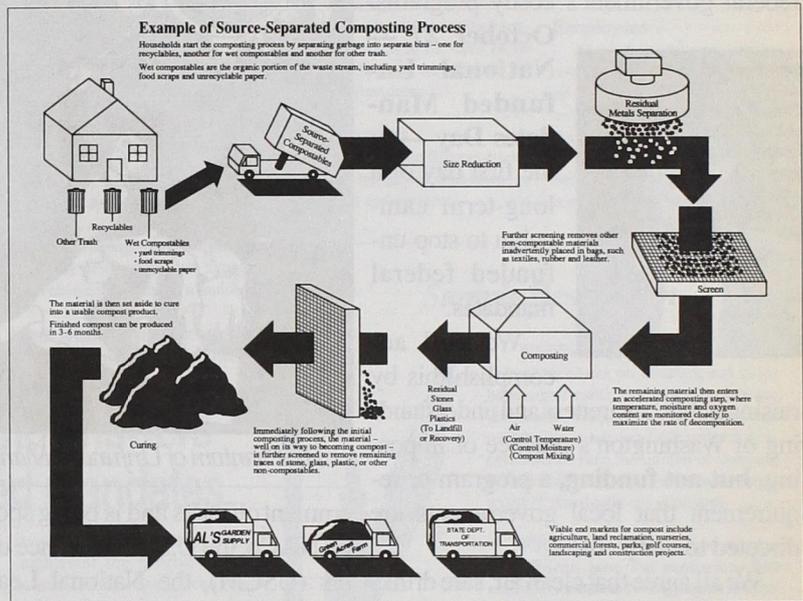
Santa Barbara County, Calif., recently completed a two-month wet/dry pilot project, in conjunction with the Compost for Earth's Sake Program. This waste collection program, which involved 1,400 households, was aimed at determining the most economical method for the county to reach its state-legislated 50 percent waste-reduc-

tion goal. Results from the study will be forthcoming.

NACo, and its public sector partners, will further expand the agenda of this research alliance to

include governmental concerns. Staff time, and in the case of EPA, laboratory assistance, will be devoted to assessing the cost of this recovery system, evaluating appropriate mar-

kets for the compost, tracing the sources of contaminants in the end product, and determining how other counties and municipalities can implement similar programs.



Todd calls for Radon Week participation

Dear Fellow County Officials,

Radon is a natural, radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. According to the EPA, it is the second-leading cause of lung cancer. Between 7,000 and 30,000 deaths a year are attributed to radon-induced lung cancer. Everyone is susceptible to the effects of radon. Therefore, it is extremely appropriate to focus attention on radon in our homes, schools and workplaces. Elevated levels of radon have been found in every state, in many counties and in one out of 15 homes nationally.

Information is one of the most powerful tools we have to fight radon. Among the many activities occurring during National Radon Action Week (Oct. 17-23), I particularly encourage testing for radon. We need to know where it is and where it is not. By testing, we move from the world of statistical estimates to the realm of certain knowledge. We can know the extent of the problem and the distribution of the threat.

As the problem is further defined, if excessive levels of radon are found, then there are successful and economical solutions to it. However, before people fix, they need to test. Before they will test, they need to know. Therefore, a successful role counties can play is to actively promote radon education and testing during National Radon Action Week.

I strongly encourage my fellow county colleagues to actively participate in National Radon Action Week.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sheen Todd
NACo president

ENERGY

NEW Choices for A Changing World!

ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 1993

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Stand with us on National Unfunded Mandates Day, Oct. 27

Dear Fellow County Official,

Enough is enough! We, at the local level, can no longer bear the burden of the federal government's costly programs.



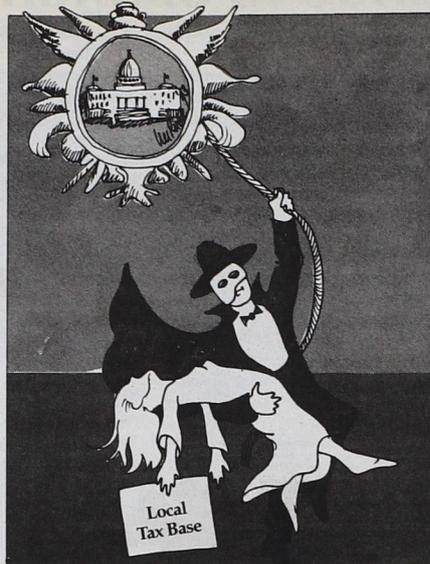
October 27 — National Unfunded Mandates Day — is the first day of a long-term campaign to stop unfunded federal mandates.

We will accomplish this by raising public awareness and understanding of Washington's practice of imposing, **but not funding**, a program or requirement that local governments are directed to carry out.

We all agree that clean air, safe drinking water, fair wages, assisting the disabled and protecting endangered species are commendable national priorities that should be carried out.

However, we believe that the federal government must be willing to pay to support these programs.

National Unfunded Mandates Day (NUMDay) is a joint effort by local gov-



The Phantom of Unfunded Mandates

ernment officials and is being sponsored by NACo, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), the National League of Cities and the International City/County Management Association. At a news conference in Washington, D.C., NACo will release a national survey of 400 counties that details the impact of mandates on counties. USCM will also release a similar survey of cities on that day.

I hope you will join us in this fight. We need all county officials to become ac-

tively involved. Here is what we want you to do:

- Hold local activities to inform the public about the impact of mandates. Coordinate these activities with city, school board and other local government officials. You may also want to coordinate activities with your governor and other state officials.
- Work to get media coverage of this issue.
- Contact members of Congress who represent you, send them your resolutions opposing unfunded mandates and urge them to co-sponsor legislation that stops unfunded mandates.

If you haven't already done so, I urge you to begin planning your activities today. This is a crucial issue for counties. President Clinton has vowed to stop unfunded mandates. Members of Congress have said they are opposed to them as well. We need to turn this rhetoric into reality.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sheen Todd

Barbara Sheen Todd
NACo president

NACo *on the move*

◆ NACo President **Barbara Todd's** latest state association visit was with the New York association at their meeting in Syracuse, Sept. 19-22. Membership coordinator **Susan Parrish** was also there to promote NACo membership.

◆ **Doug Bovin**, NACo second vice president, spoke on behalf of NACo at the Wisconsin Association of counties meeting in Oconomowoc, Wis. the same week.

◆ Associate Legislative Director **Tom Joseph** and Legislative Assistant **Brian Lagana** met with Broward County (Fla.) Commissioner **Lori Nance Parrish** on Sept. 22 to discuss the agenda for NACo's Aging Subcommittee, which she chairs.

Senate action on health reform was the topic of a meeting Joseph and Executive Director **Larry Naake** had with Ken Rynne, staff of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, and coordinator of the bipartisan congressional health workshops.

Joseph also met with Chris Meister on Sept. 24 to discuss health issues. Meister oversees intergovernmental outreach for the national health care campaign, an arm of the Democratic National Committee.

At a meeting of the recently created state and local work group for the Health Care Financing Administration, Sept. 28, **Joseph** voiced NACo's concerns to newly appointed Medicaid Bureau Director Sally Richardson.

◆ In Tahoe City, Calif., Sept. 22, Project Director

Jerry McNeil spoke before the California Conference of Environmental Health Directors on the federal-local partnership in environmental protection.

◆ On Sept. 29 in Wichita, Kan., Associate Legislative Director **Diane Shea** addressed the Kansas Association of Counties on Subtitle D landfill regulations.

◆ Project Director **Sandy Markwood** and Research Assistant **Peter Lane** have hit the road to promote NACo's Volunteerism Project. **Lane** spoke before the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners and the Wyoming County Commissioners Association meetings. **Markwood** will be talking it up at the Idaho and Tennessee association meetings.

◆ At the Work Force Minnesota Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 23-24, Senior Research Associate **Neil Bomberg** gave a legislative update and discussed the future of private industry councils. ... On Oct. 4, **Bomberg** was in Fountain Head, Okla. at the Oklahoma State Employment and Training Conference to give attendees an update on employment and training legislation.

◆ Research Associate **Robin Fernkas** and Legislative Assistant **D'Arcy Philps** traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, Sept. 27-Oct. 1, to speak at a conference for Russian job training professionals. They made presentations on various job training and employment programs in the United States.

County News

"THE WISDOM TO KNOW AND THE COURAGE TO DEFEND THE PUBLIC INTEREST"

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Getting the media to tune in on unfunded mandates

To raise public awareness about the impact of unfunded mandates, you need to work with the media to get your message out. Here are some suggestions for getting media coverage:

News conferences

Hold a news conference on National Unfunded Mandates Day to present information about the cost of mandates for your county and their impact on local services.

Make sure to contact television, radio and newspaper reporters and stress the local angle in this effort.

You may want to choose a site for your news conference that will visually explain the problem — landfill, treatment plant or a local program that you are being forced to cut because of mandates.

Editorial board meetings

Schedule meetings with editorial boards to discuss the problems posed by mandates and provide background that can be used in writing the paper's editorials.

Editorial boards are made up of writers who prepare the newspapers editorials. On larger, daily newspapers they work separately from editors and reporters who write news stories.

For a smaller daily or a weekly, you may want to meet with the publisher or the editor.

TV and radio talk shows

Participate in television and radio talk shows in your county. These could be call-in shows on radio or public affairs programs on television. They may not be held right on

National Unfunded Mandates Day, but that's okay.

Getting on programs before NUMDay can help promote activities and getting on after the day is good follow-up.

Local cable companies

Most cable companies have public affairs programs. Contact your cable companies to ask them to schedule local programming that will address the issue of unfunded mandates.

Opinion articles

Submit op-ed pieces and guest columns to newspapers, magazines and local newsletters that explain the problem of unfunded mandates.

Meet with business leaders

Plan a briefing or luncheon meet-

ing with business leaders to let them know how mandates affect their companies.

Visit high schools

Give presentations to civics or history classes and to student government leaders to let them know that their futures are affected by unfunded mandates.

Public forums

Schedule public forums to explain the impact of mandates on local taxes and services.

Presentations to community groups

Give presentations to community groups, like Rotary, Kiwanis and civic associations.

Employees

Also, through your employee newsletter and staff and departmental meetings, brief your employees on the impact of unfunded mandates.

Remember, your employees can help you explain this issue in the communities in which they live.

Questions you might get ... and answers you might give ... on unfunded mandates

Here are some questions that you may be asked by the media or the public, with some suggested answers.

Q: What is an "unfunded mandate"?

A: An unfunded mandate describes the practice of imposing, but not funding, a costly program or requirement that local governments are directed to carry out. Mandates are usually handed down to local governments by the federal or state government.

Q: Are you questioning the decisions being made by the federal government?

A: No, we are not questioning the decisions being made. What we are trying to say is that when Washington (whether it's a transportation, health care, human service, prison or environmentally related issue) requires local governments to do something within a specific time frame, then they've got to send us the funds to implement the requirements.

We in county government have a finite amount of money, and we have to provide a certain amount of basic services that no one else provides.

For example, if we don't put police on the street, no one else will. If we don't pick up the trash, no one else will. If we don't cut the grass in the park, no one else will.

If a decision at the national level is made by Congress and signed by the president, then they should respond and send us the dollars to implement the programs.

It is time the American public understands the pressures that are occurring at the local level and understands what the federal government is doing to every taxpayer in this country.

In short, the federal government is using our property taxes as its credit card. We get stuck with the bill.

Q: By opposing these mandates, aren't you really opposed to such things as cleaning up the environment, helping disabled people and providing basic health care?

A: No, our aim behind this effort is not to oppose the goals of federal mandates, but rather to stop the federal government from dumping the full cost of implementing these mandates on local governments.

We all agree that clean air, safe drinking water, fair wages, assisting the disabled and protecting endangered species are commendable national priorities that should be carried out.

However, we believe the federal government must be willing to pay to support these programs.

Q: President Clinton has said he is opposed to unfunded mandates, and yet he recently signed the motor-voter bill, which is a mandated program for you. Do you want the president to veto all unfunded mandates?

A: Yes. We wish the president would veto every unfunded mandate. At the same time, we are going to monitor Congress to make sure that the president will not even get a bill on his desk that focuses on an unfunded mandated.

The bill should simply say, "We want the counties and cities to do 'x,' and here is 'y' amount of money to implement it."

Q: Why are mandates a problem?

A: Federal mandates are a problem for three reasons: 1) they are imposed without consideration of

local circumstances or capacity to implement the federal requirements; 2) they strain already tight budgets (forcing increases in local tax rates and fees to pay for mandates), continue to provide local services, and keep local budgets in balance; and 3) they set priorities for local governments without local input.

Q: What is the difference if the taxes have to be levied at the local level or at the federal level, as Congress did with the gas tax? Isn't it the same taxpaying American public that foots the bill either way?

A: They are the same people, but the tax base is quite different. In counties, the main source of revenue is property taxes, and many counties have a cap on how much they can generate.

Counties are limited in the other types of revenue they can generate. The federal government has a much broader base of taxation ability than we do.

Local officials need to be involved in this decision-making process. We feel that if the same people that make the legislation have to pay for it, they will be much more careful in drafting the legislation.

Q: Are you seeking the total amount of money to pay for mandates, or a reduction in the amount of money you are currently paying?

A: Senator Dirk Kempthorne's (R-Idaho) proposed bill says that if Washington is going to impose a mandate, there has to be funds to implement the mandate. We support this. We believe that if you're going to pass something down to the locals, send us the money to implement the mandate, or don't pass the legislation.

Sample Resolution



WHEREAS, the number of unfunded federal mandates on counties and cities have significantly increased during the last decade, while many federal programs, which were made available to local governments to ease the burden of carrying out federal mandates, have been terminated or drastically reduced; and

WHEREAS, such mandates stem from federal laws and regulations that require counties and cities to provide services and programs, and perform certain responsibilities without providing federal funding for such services; and

WHEREAS, by shifting costs to counties and cities, unfunded federal mandates breach the underlying principles of federalism which assumes a working partnership and shared responsibilities between the federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, American citizens are unaware of the impact of unfunded mandates on local services and their own local taxes; and

WHEREAS, risk assessment is an essential component to any cost-benefit analysis of mandates and should be included in all bills that impose mandates on counties and cities:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (your county) urges Congress and the Administration to enact legislation that would relieve counties and cities of all obligations to carry out any new mandate arising from federal law, regulation or policy unless federal funds are provided; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration are urged to enact legislation to reimburse local governments for the costs of complying with existing federal mandates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration are urged to include in any future mandate, a provision that requires federal departments and agencies to provide scientifically sound assessments of purported health, safety or environmental risk prior to the imposition of any new mandate on local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (your county) supports a "National Unfunded Mandates Day" to be held October 27, 1993, during which county officials in all counties will be urged to hold press conferences in coordination with local and state officials to draw public attention to the problems imposed on counties by unfunded federal mandates.

(Send copies of your resolution to your members of Congress and a copy to NACo.)

1993 Employment Policy & Human Services Conference

November 19-22, 1993 • San Francisco Hilton • San Francisco, Calif.

Preliminary Agenda

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. ADA Seminar (separate registration required)
Affiliate Meetings

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Affiliate Meetings
Steering Committees

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Opening General Session
10:45 a.m.-Noon Workshops

Human Services:

- A Follow-Up to the Caseload Study of Eligibility Workers: A One-Year Update
- New Directions in Welfare: Making the Case for Reform and Simplification
- Integrating Health & Human Services
- Aging Services Integration Strategies

Employment:

- Dislocated Workers: Are Job Training Services Enough?
- Skills Standards — Training With a Purpose?
- One-Stop Shopping: Is it the Way of the Future?
- Integrating Services: Providing Clients With a Full Range of Services
- JTPA & JOBS: Common Programs With Common Goals Working Together

12:15 p.m.-2 p.m. Delegate Luncheon
2:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Workshops

Human Services:

- Mental Health and the Elderly

- Case Management for Special Populations
- The Effects of Illegal Immigration on County Human Services Departments
- Family & Medical Leave Act: Implementing New Regulations
- Civil & Disability Rights: Making Programs Accessible to Participants

Employment:

- Assessing the Needs of Clients: Strategies for Measuring Their Training Needs
- Case Management — Can it Work in the Job Training System
- Managing At-Risk Youth — Innovative Approaches to Managing Their Diverse Needs
- Through the Looking Glass — Moving JTPA Clients Through the County, State and Federal Maze

6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Delegate Reception

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. General Session
10:15 a.m.-Noon Workshops

Human Services:

- Information Systems: Front-End Investments Payoff
- A Look at Human Services Provisions Contained in the 1994 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation
- National Health Care Reform
- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Employment:

- Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance Programs: Job Training Professionals Assisting Each Other Through

- an Organized Peer-to-Peer Network
- Keeping Track of Funds — Managing Your Fiscal Information System
- Following "Hard-to-Follow" Clients
- Labor Department's Approach to Information Management
- Return to Investment: Strategies for Determining Benefits of Job Training Assistance

Noon-1 p.m. Lunch on your own
1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m. General Session
2:45 p.m.-4 p.m. Workshops

Human Services:

- Assisted Living
- State Advances in Paternity Establishment
- Enhancing Access Through New Technologies
- Courts Divided on Overtime for Highly Paid Executives in the Private Sector

Employment:

- Computer-Assisted Learning: State of the Art
- Responding to Massive Layoffs — The Local Role
- Work Force Development Boards: Will They Replace Private Industry Councils?
- Non-Traditional Employment for Women: Pulling Together Resources From a Multitude of Service Providers
- One-Stop Shopping: Different Models From the Field

7 p.m.-9 p.m. Closing Banquet

Keynote Speaker:

Hillary Rodham Clinton (invited)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION — POSTMARK DEADLINE — OCTOBER 25, 1993

Name _____ Mr./Mrs/Ms _____
 Title _____ County _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Nickname _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN AREA OF INTEREST? Aging Employment & Training Health Human Services

REGISTRATION FEES

	Earlybird Postmarked by October 15	Postmarked after October 15
Member county attendee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$245	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275
Non-member county attendee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$295	<input type="checkbox"/> \$345
Other government attendee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$295	<input type="checkbox"/> \$345
Private sector attendee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$320	<input type="checkbox"/> \$370
ADA Seminar	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95	

PAYMENT METHOD: Conference registration fee must be received before registration can be processed. You may reserve your registration with a voucher or purchase order made payable to the National Association of Counties. However, a purchase order only holds registration; payment must be made before a badge is issued.

Check MasterCard Visa P.O. or Voucher

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Cardholder's Name _____ Signature _____

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refund of conference registration fee, less an administrative fee of \$50, will be made if written notice of conference registration cancellations are postmarked no later than October 25, 1993. Cancellation requests postmarked after October 26 will be subject to an administrative fee equal to one-half of the registration fee.

HOTEL REGISTRATION

Housing reservations must be made by completing this form. All reservations received after October 29 will be confirmed subject to availability.

Room Reservation Name _____ Roommate Name _____
 Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____
 Do You Have Any Special Housing Needs? _____

PLEASE CHECK DESIRED ACCOMMODATIONS: San Francisco Hilton: _____ Single/Double..... \$110 (Standard) _____ Single/Double..... \$125 (Deluxe)

HOUSING DEPOSIT

Your room reservation can be guaranteed by either of the following methods:

1. Complete credit card authorization, the hotel will send confirmation of your reservation within two weeks of receipt.

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Cardholder's Name _____ Signature _____

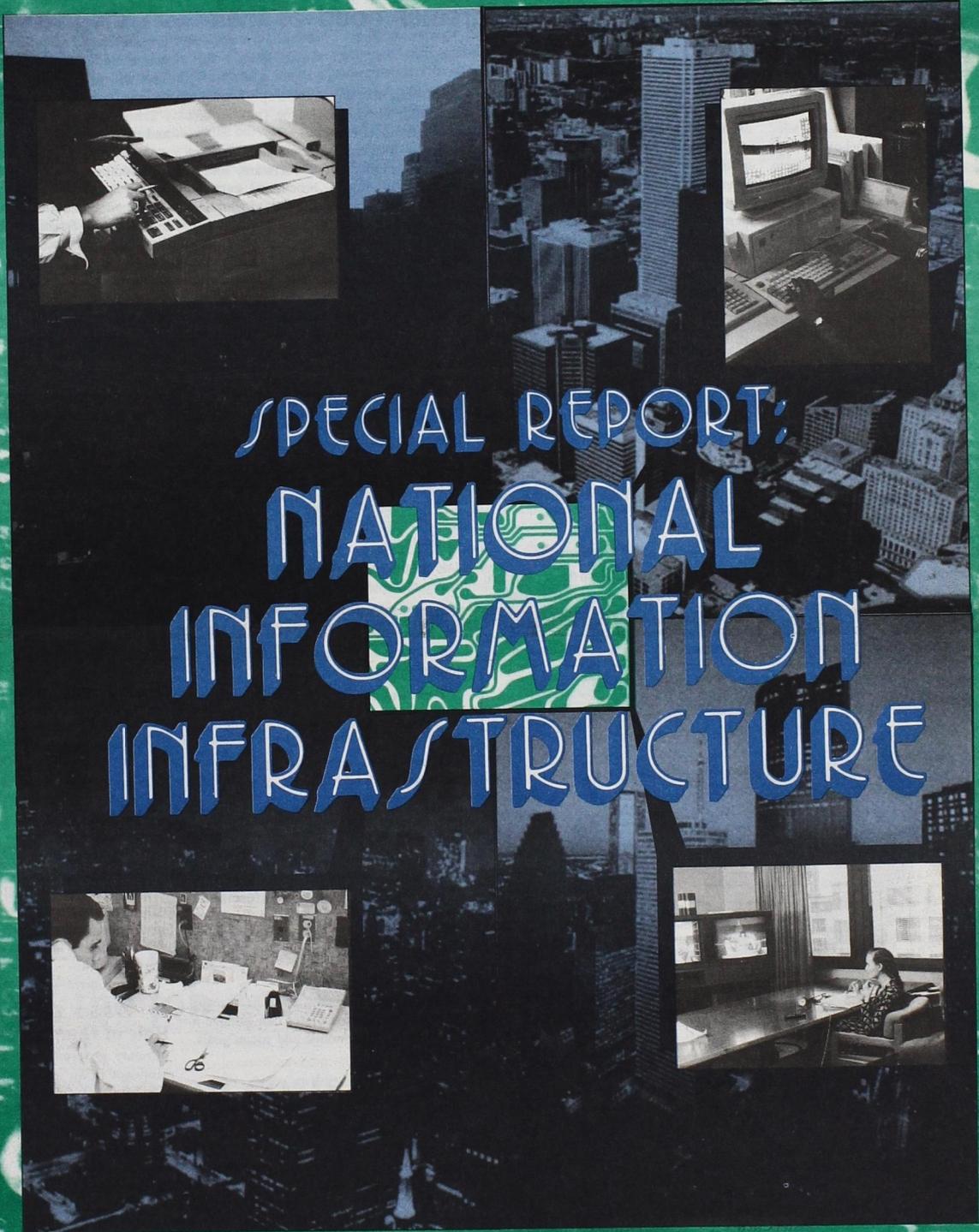
The NACo Housing Center is authorized to use the above card to guarantee my hotel reservation. I understand that one night's room charge will be billed through this card if I fail to arrive at the confirmed date unless I have cancelled my reservation with the hotel at least 48 hours in advance of arrival.

2. Indicate housing needs above. We will notify the hotel of your reservation. The hotel will send you confirmation of your reservation and request payment made directly to them. Your reservation will be guaranteed once the hotel receives a one night's deposit.

MAIL TO: NACo Conference Registration, P.O. Box 79007, Baltimore, MD 21279-0007

If you require special considerations, please indicate by checking the appropriate box below.

Sign Language Interpreter Assistive Listening Device Other (Describe) _____



SPECIAL REPORT: NATIONAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE



The national information infrastructure: the information revolution

By Winifred M. Lyday
information technology consultant

Early this year, President Clinton announced a new initiative, the National Information Infrastructure (NII), that proposes using technology to drive economic growth and job creation.

In this new information world, our televisions, fax machines and telephones would become indistinguishable as they merged into a personal or family "information set" designed to interact with entertainment, business, educational or governmental centers. We would see our callers, either individually or in conference. We would be able to bank, order groceries, purchase licenses and access public records at any time, day or night, from the comfort of our own home.

Electronic library books and reference materials would be available to everyone,

County governments should and can exploit its impact for the greater good of their communities.

complete with audio and video effects. Classes in which students and instructors exchange questions and comments, papers and exams, would be as near as an information set. An increasing number of people would be able to work from their home without any loss of productivity or increase in isolation.

Medical records, including such high-resolution images as X-rays and MRIs, would be viewed simultaneously by specialists in different parts of the country. Trials could be held with judges, attorneys, witnesses and jurors situated in different locations. Housing could be automatically

monitored for any catastrophic event, including burglary, fire or flood. The possibilities are endless.

Powerful supercomputers and new desktop devices, sophisticated software, and a national high-speed, broadband network would underpin this new "information highway." Developing such a highway would also require establishing new standards, laws, regulations and inter-governmental coordination.

The Information Infrastructure Task Force, commissioned by President Clinton to examine how the federal government will proceed with the development of an

information infrastructure, recently released its first report, "Agenda for Action." (A brief summary appears below.)

This special *County News* report focuses on the implications of a national information infrastructure for county governments. It was compiled in conjunction with Public Technology, Inc., NACo's technology research partner.

It highlights the measures some counties and other local governments have already undertaken to make certain that their communities are not bypassed when the infrastructure is laid down.

It examines the critical policy issues posed by a capacity for near-universal access to information, and outlines how counties can begin, now, to capitalize on the promise of a national information infrastructure.

It acknowledges that change is in the air and suggests that county governments should and can exploit its impact for the greater good of their communities.

The national information infrastructure's "Agenda for Action": a summary

Definition

The national information infrastructure (NII) will integrate and connect a wide and ever-expanding range of equipment designed to transmit, store and display voice, data and images — including cameras, scanners, keyboards, telephones, fax machines, computers, switches, compact disks, video and audio tape, cable, wire, satellites, optical fiber transmission lines, microwave nets, switches, televisions, monitors, and printers — in a technologically neutral manner.

It will also build the foundation for living in an information age by making these technological advances useful to public, business, library and other non-governmental agencies.

Goals and Principles

The private sector will lead the deployment of the NII. Government action will complement and enhance private sector initiatives by nine principles and goals:

- 1) promote private sector investment

- 2) extend the "universal service" concept to ensure that information resources are available to all at affordable prices

- 3) act as a catalyst to promote technological innovation and new applications

- 4) promote seamless, interactive, user-driven operations of the NII

- 5) ensure information security and network reliability

- 6) improve management of the radio frequency spectrum

- 7) protect intellectual property rights

- 8) coordinate with other levels of government and with other nations

- 9) provide access to government information and improve government procurement

As the first steps in accomplishing these goals, the Administration will establish an interagency Information Infrastructure Task Force, establish a private sector Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure, and strengthen and streamline federal communications and information policy-making agencies.

Benefits

The NII is not an end in itself; it is a means by which the United States can achieve a broad range of economic and social goals, including:

Economic

- 1) job creation
- 2) U.S. technological leadership
- 3) regional, state and local economic development
- 4) electronic commerce

Health Care

- 1) telemedicine

- 2) unified electronic medical claims
- 3) personal health information systems
- 4) computer-based patient records

Civic Networking

- 1) community-access networks
- 2) dissemination of government information
- 3) universal access

Research

- 1) solving grand challenges
- 2) enabling remote access to scientific instruments
- 3) supporting scientific collaboration

Life-Long Learning

- 1) computer-based instruction
- 2) collaborative learning
- 3) electronic library access
- 4) "virtual" field trips

Participatory and Efficient Government

- 1) electronic benefit delivery system
- 2) electronic access to government information and services
- 3) a national law enforcement/public safety network
- 4) government-wide electronic mail

Role of County Government

County government is not specifically mentioned in the "Agenda for Action." The Information Infrastructure Task Force, representing a variety of federal agencies, is charged with meeting with state and local officials to discuss policy issues related to development of the NII, and the Administration plans to work closely with state and local governments to forge regulatory principles and telecommunications policies.



Photo by Jay A. Sevidal

Whoever thought computer training could be so much fun? Maybe it isn't, but there's certainly something provoking smiles from the NACo staff and their computer instructor, pictured here, during one of NACo's staff-wide computer training classes. Staff-wide training is one phase of NACo's complete overhaul of its office information technology. Standing l-r: Bob Gonsalves, Joanna Gaither (instructor) and Ericlle Warner. Seated l-r: Traci Dove, Brian Lagana and Susan Parrish.

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Public Access: Should counties be toll keepers?

By Susan D. Grubb
staff writer

It used to be that if you wanted a look at the county property records or court docket, you'd have to hop in the car, fight for a parking space at the courthouse, search through documents and wait for copies. No more. Now it is all at your computer keyboard fingertips through an on-line service or disk.

Having spent, in some cases, millions of dollars to create and bring information systems on-line, and thousands more for staff hours to operate them, many counties see an opportunity to recoup these costs and generate more revenue through user fees.

Opponents to the idea, primarily the business community and the press, claim this to be in violation of freedom of information principles, and some are challenging counties in the courtroom.

Laws differ from state to state, but the trend seems to be moving in favor of increased fees.

Who will have access and at what price will be questions needing to be answered by every county in the country as the "information

highway" links institutions and individuals as never before.

Sedgwick County, Kan.

Legislation endorsing higher fees for county information is currently pending in the Kansas State Legislature. According to Ken Keen, director of Sedgwick County's Information Services Department, similar bills in the past never made it out of committee, but this time the chairman has pushed for a compromise.

Although the county now only charges individuals for hard copies and duplication of information, users of its on-line information service must pay to ultimately cover the costs of hardware and wiring. "The way we look at it," said Keen, "the county is offering a service that we're not required to be in. [The county commission] doesn't want county taxpayers subsidizing the service."

In 1991, a suit was brought against Sedgwick by a local information services business that wanted county real estate information. The county resisted because the business's intention was to use the data to make a profit. The case was eventually settled out of court and the company got the data it wanted.

The county is proposing changes in state law that would give it the ability to license use of such information "so we can get away

from an adversarial role," Keen said. "Is [selling information] a role of government?" Keen asked. "There are some who would argue to the death that it's not."

Approximately \$160,000 is generated each year from the sale of information. "You could say we have been able to lower the tax rate to the citizens of Sedgwick County by \$160,000," Keen said.

Hennepin County, Minn.

Minnesota claims to be one of the first states in the country to pass legislation, in 1983, allowing counties to charge more than just the cost of duplication for its information.

The development of Hennepin County's Geographic Information System (GIS), was the driving force behind the law, explained Hennepin County Commissioner Randy Johnson. It was a product that would be in demand by other entities, the county believed, and that demand could help in recovering the costs that went into developing it. "I'm not opposed to making a profit," Johnson said, "I'm an outspoken capitalist."

Hennepin also has an on-line computer subscription service that supplies court and property data to attorneys and real estate agents. The county charges a monthly fee, plus a per-screen charge (similar to a per-page copying fee). "They like it

because access is immediate."

Hennepin nets about \$360,000 annually from its sale of information.

Johnson said the county has been threatened by lawsuits, but has never been sued. One case involved a pool chemical company that wanted to be charged on an hourly basis (as opposed to monthly) for viewing property tax information; another was brought by a local newspaper wanting weekly real estate transactions disks for free. Both parties backed down.

Arlington County, Va.

Arlington County, Va. also had a run-in with the press, not in the courtroom, but in the legislature.

Last year, the Virginia Press Association unsuccessfully lobbied for state legislation requiring local governments to give priority to their information requests at no charge.

As a result, explained George November, director of the county's Office of Technology and Information Services, a blue-ribbon committee was formed to study the issue and make recommendations to the legislature.

There is doubt, however, that the climate will change in a state where Arlington County must keep its fees to the minimum duplication cost.

"Should I be able to recover more of my costs?" November asked. "I'd like to." But, he explained, there is

strong public sentiment for freedom of information principles and the feeling that the government is there to serve.

The impact on the county's budget has been minimal, he said. The county generates approximately \$5,000 per year from the sale of information.

Dade County, Fla.

According to Florida state law, local governments are permitted to charge for the cost of duplicating information and for extensive use of resources, which usually means the private sector.

This law is too vague, according to Al Rutherford, legislative liaison for Dade County's Information Technology Department. "Any effort to define what that means is doomed to fail."

As a result, Dade has established a base cost for such requests, but would like to charge the private sector more.

Local government interests have been lobbying the state for years to change the law and are starting to see some movement. Last month, the state held hearings throughout Florida and will take up a bill proposing such changes next February. A similar bill in the last legislature failed to get out of

See PUBLIC ACCESS, page 12



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As a county leader, you probably know that the problem of limited productivity can often be the result of a disconnect between your business processes and technology systems. In this situation, rethinking how to reconnect your needs with your technology is what NACoNET does best.

NACoNET is NACO's joint program with EDS to offer information technology services to counties nationwide. These services include consulting, computer systems management and business process management.

For example, if your county's goal is to cut costs and increase productivity, NACoNET can examine business processes and make the appropriate information technology recommendations.

If your current systems are outdated and inefficient, NACoNET can assist in the transition from an older system to a modern system aligned with your county's needs.

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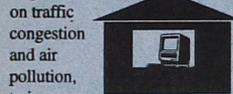
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Telecommuting and the NII

Businesses and governments are offering telecommuting as a viable option for employees to help cut down on traffic congestion and air pollution, to increase productivity, and to help reverse child care problems brought about by both parents working away from the home. Most agree on the positive benefits. Manny Garcia, information technology director, Dade County, Fla., believes telecommuting is an idea whose time has come.



After obtaining authorization from the county department of personnel, labor relations, risk management and the union, his department has initiated a yearlong telecommuting pilot project involving 13 employees, involving 13 employees.

"It's working fine so far," he says. "The personnel director has commended our efforts and wants to support a plan to expand it to all Dade County employees where appropriate. The technology available today offers us the ability to access different data bases and sources of information for education, for work, for conducting business with both the public and private sectors."

Bob Hanson, Hennepin County (Minn.) director for information technology, says: "Telecommuting is very attractive to us. With 11,000 employees in Hennepin County [Minn.], many employees, social workers and others could work directly with clients from out in the field if we had a good linkage. Some experiments are going on with handicapped employees, but nothing comprehensive yet."

Despite the obvious benefits, some questions remain. Larry Brown, Washtenaw County (Mich.) administrator, says that at this point there is not a lot of telecommuting in Washtenaw County, Mich. "We have a very informal telecommuting laptop culture," he says. "It does raise interesting questions about the consequences, intended or other, regarding the structure of communities. For instance, decisions about financing commercial structures may need to be shifted."

Another aspect is social. "Sociologists tend to support the need for individuals to come together as groups, professionally and socially," he muses. Brown does agree, however, that it is important to find more ways to avoid gridlock and other transportation difficulties.

The national information infrastructure: a county view

By Taly Walsh
Public Technology, Inc.

The national information infrastructure (NII). Yellow brick road or Interstate 90?

Fantasy or reality? This vision of America's future, portrayed in the federal government's "Agenda for Action," could profoundly reshape American life. Yet, for many counties, the future is here — in the technologies in which they have been investing for years, and in the steps they are taking to reorganize services through effective use of these technologies.

According to the 1992 Syracuse University study on "County Use of Information Technology," counties, last year, were funneling \$23 billion annually into information technologies and related resources — not including personnel costs. Their reasons for this huge investment are to improve the quality of services to residents, improve efficiency and save costs.

Counties have invested steadily to build integrated technology systems that bring together computers, telephones, fax machines, video and audio tape, compact disks, cable, telephone wire, satellites, optical fiber transmission lines, microwave nets, televisions, monitors, printers, and information kiosks.

Metro-Dade County (Fla.) Information Technology Director Manny Garcia, named *City and State* magazine's Most Valuable Public Official in Information Technology, says that he has watched local governments build communication channels for their citizens, as well as networks to connect employees who provide government functions and services.

"Out of 30 miles of high-capacity, high-speed fiber laid in Dade County, we have 20 miles of it that are fully operational connecting all our major county buildings," he explains. "Right now we're using it to connect thousands of terminals and personal computers to the host computers located at the main computer center."

The importance of fiber

The significance of fiber optic lines as compared to other interconnection technologies, such as copper telephone and coaxial cables, is that fiber optic strands are very small, lightweight, and have tremendous information-carrying capacity and speed. A 2,300-strand copper phone cable can carry 1,300 simultaneous conversations, a 32-strand optical cable can carry 500,000.

In terms of local government services, what this mega-capacity translates to is the ability to speedily

transmit huge amounts of data (such as records) and images (such as photographs, maps, X-rays and CAT scans).

Assuming that most counties are already gearing up on hardware and software (e.g., computers, Geographic Information Systems and imaging equipment), the laying of either in increments or as a planned network, will be an enabling thread connecting these technologies to provide the benefits described in the Administration's "Agenda for Action."

This is not to minimize the importance of other parallel transmission technologies, such as two-way radio, satellite, cellular telephone and microwave, which



"This will be one of the benefits of imaging and the higher bandwidth of fiber."

Dave Krings, county administrator from Hamilton County, Ohio, points out that county governments by nature are the biggest collectors and storers of paper anywhere.

Benefits

There are mixed reviews about the ability of the NII to deliver as proposed. Krings says, "I have strong negative and positive reactions, negative mostly around the universal service claims."

Barbara Cooper, information services coordinator, Maricopa County, Ariz., echoes this reaction.

Counties, last year, were funneling \$23 billion annually into information technologies and related resources — not including personnel costs.

have multiple uses in a variety of government services, such as provision of public safety, computer-aided dispatch, traffic coordination and data transmission between county buildings. But it is the capacity of fiber that perhaps explains its current popularity.

Capturing the image

Imaging is and will be a major element of local government service provision that requires this high capacity of transmission. If counties have not begun to use it, they are seriously looking into it.

Maricopa County, Ariz. (pop. 2,122,101) has one of the most successful imaging operations in the country, with recording as the leading function for which it is used. The county is looking into expanding its use to the clerk of the court, although it plans to privatize to include imaging-based technology for all court records and case filings.

Anoka County, Minn., a much smaller jurisdiction (pop. 243,641), has built a new government center, installing fiber to connect the government center, the courthouse and the jail, and is using imaging to transmit large data bases along that fiber.

Mike Humphrey, chief, Information Services Department, Prince George's County, Md., envisions the economy of movement achievable through imaging. "If you look at the entire planning process, we will greatly accelerate our ability to get new properties planned and built by removing a lot of manual steps, mostly hauling around drawings, engineering scales, graphical data, if we can transfer them efficiently from one place to another, taking people off the road and getting them what they need quicker," he says.

"You're talking about an extraordinarily long way off to achieve that level — 'the best schools to all students,'" she says. "It assumes you're solving economic problems as well, to provide the best schools and teachers to anyone regardless of economic class." Yet she sees the document as positive in that it idealizes what's possible in the future as we move toward integrating technologies and providing access to information.

"I very much agree with the things stated," says George November, director, technology and information services, Arlington County, Va. Having universal access to high-band telecommunications opens up education and employment opportunities, especially in rural and remote areas."

Steve Chapin, Clark County (Nev.) director of information systems, notes that his county is 8,000 square miles in size. "Obviously, there are many who are somewhat remote from the center of county services in downtown Las Vegas," he says. "An information infrastructure will enable us to deliver services to those areas."

One of the primary benefits of the NII, November believes, is empowering governments at all levels to work more closely together, regardless of distance. "It closes the gap between federal, state and local government, and opens up opportunities," he says.

Many counties are already sharing information with others. Anoka County, Minn. has hooked up the City of Anoka in order to share the assessor's records. "We will be getting access to the state's records in St. Paul, e.g. the voter registration

Social services and the NII

Will it be possible, as implied in the "Agenda for Action," to provide social



services to anyone, when and where needed? Well, that depends... "There is a big difference between dissemination of information and provision of services," says Larry Brown, Washtenaw County (Mich.) administrator, "especially in the health care system and other social needs." Brown questions which services could be provided, remotely or otherwise, without the necessity of a professional to provide them.

George November, director of technology and information services, Arlington County, Va., is excited about the potential, however. He says that because of high-speed, wide-area connections, the level of service and support for the service provider will be dramatically improved. "We have people who spend their whole lives shipping case files back and forth," he says. "Use some image processing and any social worker can call up all the data. Now they're spending their lives providing services, not data!"

In Maricopa County, Ariz., officials are already re-engineering their health care agency.

"We're looking at trying to take advantage of future technology and to position ourselves in such a way as to be flexible and adaptable to the dynamics of that industry, both with the feds and with our own local pressures," says Barbara Cooper, information services coordinator, Maricopa County, Ariz. These pressures include a high demand for services due to the fact that Arizona is a border state with a large indigent population. "I would like to see the business benefits of telemedicine be clearly realized by all parties," she continues.

Dave Krings, Hamilton County (Ohio) administrator, looks at the aspect of cost reduction. "I've seen an awful lot of technology go toward health care, and I haven't seen any of it reduce costs," he says. "If you could limit the number of hospitals with communications equipment, it could, in theory, reduce costs. I think consolidation, good or bad, will happen in the health industry just as it happened in the banking industry."

Training and job development should add human dimension to NII

While the pace of technology development pushes the information infrastructure to remote access, multiple benefits and glamorous entertainment options, it will be necessary to slow the pace to accommodate us, the people. At least that's the thought of Costis Toregas, president of Public Technology, Inc.

"I see the infrastructure as not just the mega-capacity fiber optic



"I see it as the people using it, breathing life into it, making it vibrant."

*Costis Toregas
president
Public Technology, Inc.*

networks connecting localities; I see it as the people using it, breathing life into it, making it vibrant. Without people, the network would be a ghost town." The importance of the highway

to train people who will be able to use it is therefore a means and an end. The Syracuse University study notes, however, that "Training is a stepchild function at the county level, receiving little

in the way of human or financial resources. Information services and information technology (IS/IT) departments spend only 13 percent of their operating budgets on training; full-time employees responsible for training account for only 0.28 percent of IS/IT jobs."

Worse, it is evident that at budget cutting time, the training budget will go first. Robert Bobb, city manager of Richmond, Va., once bemoaned that fact when his city eliminated the information

technology training center at budget time. "It was the worst thing we could have done because the prior investment made in technology almost went down the tubes with it," he said.

In tight fiscal realities, will the trend toward cutting training budgets be reversed? Given the capabilities of the proposed National information infrastructure, bringing with it the promise of videoconferencing, interactive TV, and on-line networking, perhaps so ...

Rights of way and the NII

An important economic development aspect for counties revolves around the fact that counties own the rights of way where high-capacity fiber and other telecommunications technologies have been and are being laid. They are thus in the unique position of being able to leverage their control to:



- enable private companies to lease space on county-owned fiber optic lines
- negotiate for bandwidth (capacity) on privately owned fiber optic lines, and
- plan economic development strategies for future use.

It is important to undertake a comprehensive approach by identifying assets; reviewing franchises and regulatory powers to determine extents and limits of existing authority; obtaining the necessary legal and technical skills; and preparing strategies for partnerships with users, service providers and network investors. This process is part of a package of services provided to PTI members within the framework of its Telecommunications and Information Program. Please contact Francie Gilman at PTI for more information at 1/800/852-4934.



SURVEY: County Participation in the National Information Infrastructure

Local government is a key participant in the development of the national information infrastructure (NII) and your input is important. Please take the time to fill out this survey and fax back to PTI at 202/626-2498 or return by mail c/o Public Technology, Inc., 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20004. Your input will help shape future activities to your benefit.

- 1) What county roles are most critical to protecting and promoting community interests in the development of the National Information Infrastructure? Are you already playing these roles?

Most Critical	Already Playing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitator
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulator/Policy-maker/Franchiser
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Partner/Co-investor
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Information/service provider
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Information/service user

- 2) What types of information and services are you most interested in providing to the public (individuals and commercial customers) through technology? Is your county already using technology for these purposes?

Interested	Using
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Land deeds and records
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Court and criminal justice information
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical records
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Human services data
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> County commission agendas and minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> General "how to get/where to go" information, i.e. Small Claims Court procedures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments (utility bills, permits and licenses, taxes, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Filing license and permitting applications and tracking progress
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Job line and training opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Video court arraignments and hearings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Interactive commission meetings (listener/viewer feedback)

- 3) Which three of the following technologies would you most like to see as primary community information media? Are you currently using any of these technologies?

Interested	Using
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone-based services:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Voice-response systems (recorded messages)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 900 numbers
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fax-on-demand (applications, forms, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Multimedia touch-screen kiosks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> On-line (computer-based) information and services, including Internet
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Distance learning and training (interactive videoconferencing to eliminate distance barriers)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cable TV
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Interactive Television — interaction between local governments and citizens in their homes via:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> • public access cable channels, or
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> • regular network station and cable companies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Others _____

- 4) Given the increased focus upon the national information infrastructure, and that it is envisioned to reach into business, schools, libraries, health facilities and the home, what are the highest priority applications for your county's use of this information highway (i.e., extending health care through remote diagnostics, distance learning, etc.)

Yes, I have completed the survey and I am interested in receiving a copy of the NII "Agenda for Action" study released by the White House NII Task Force. Please mail this information to:

NAME _____

TITLE/COUNTY _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE/FAX _____

Consider me for more active participation, where appropriate.

COUNTY VIEWS from page 10

system," says Tom Durand, division manager, governmental services. "The state's STARNET system can provide counties access to its court system, the human services information and the uniform commercial codes records."

This trend toward intergovernmental sharing of records is an indication that connectivity technology is triggering political decisions to do so.

Equality of service

"Our charge in government is to make people living in remote or rural locations, people who are disabled and economically disadvantaged, benefit," says George November. "In the Washington metropolitan area we have a community bulletin board in the start-up phase, CAPAccess. One of the areas we can share information is social service information, for instance, what beds are available for homeless people." Many counties have made available information kiosks and library computers for public access to try to address the necessity to provide the same types of information and services available to those owning computers.

November believes that with universal access, so many people will become engaged in the sharing of information and incubation of ideas that what now is shared among only a few will be magnified and multiplied many times over to universal sharing. Ted Bahn, Hillsborough County (Fla.) director of information technology, sees the massive "network of networks," the Internet, as one of the main highways to which local governments can build an on-ramp, or gateway. "There would be no reason to build something new. It takes a lot of support and effort."

Organizing for partnerships

Partnerships between the public and private sectors, between cities and counties, between localities and states, and with the federal government will all be necessary elements of the new structure.

Most counties are already consolidating at least one service with adjacent cities, many have entered into privatization arrangements with local businesses, and there is increased sharing of information resources between local governments and their state. Cooper is an advocate

for sharing of information and solutions. "Some groups will have the synergy to use the technologies to bring about change quickly," she explains. "They'll become leaders in showing the way. My strategy is to look to those that have already accomplished something, as opposed to reinventing from scratch."

With the advent of many different and new technologies all needing to be integrated, and the complexity of the roles and relationships of different players, it is clear that fundamental structural changes will have to be consciously planned and implemented.

"The NII will allow governments to reorganize the way they carry out their business," he says. "Will it be more appropriate for the state or locality to offer welfare and social services? Since the departments of motor vehicles digitize pictures of people, they can make these available to police departments. Pictures have many other uses, too, that are legitimate and appropriate and will not be an invasion of privacy."

The Administration's "Agenda for Action" clearly states the need to build partnerships of "business, labor,

academia, the public and government that is committed to deployment of an advanced, rapid, powerful infrastructure accessible and accountable to all Americans.

"Forging this partnership will require extensive intergovernmental coordination to ensure that Administration, congressional, state and local government policy regarding the NII is consistent, coherent and timely. It also requires the development of strong working alliances among industry groups, and between government and the businesses responsible for creating and operating the NII. Finally, close cooperation will be needed between government, users, service providers and public interest groups to ensure that the NII develops in a way that benefits people."

The partnerships will indeed have a great many issues to sort out.

Humphrey is concerned about standardization, for instance. "I want a more proactive role for local governments in the area of standards," he says. "We need to have aggressive processes and we need to be heard. I have no objection to letting the market settle it, but I don't think that's the only measure of success. Even

putting out alternative standards would be fine.

"But right now, [the entertainment and communications industries] are warring over entertainment networks instead of how it can benefit services. It's ridiculous with Movies on Demand that they want to add more movies to our selection. We can't cope with the choices we already have!"

Hope

In interviewing the many local officials who contributed to this article, I found that one thread remained true throughout: that of hope, that the vision of the NII, overcoming barriers of poverty and geography, would improve life for Americans, bringing them together as a well-connected community. It is important that in designing a national information infrastructure for our nation, its promise not be limited to the simple dehumanized exchange of bits and bytes.

Rather, it must be seen as an empowering mechanism for individualsto reconnect in new ways, to reorganize their work and activities, and to redefine economic activity to benefit society.

PUBLIC ACCESS from page 9

committee, said Rutherford, but Dade is optimistic this latest proposal will succeed.

We would like a new law to say, "We may charge market-value commercial fees if records selected are used for commercial purposes," Rutherford said.

Dade's sale of information generates approximately \$600,000 annually, but Rutherford believes it doesn't go far enough. "Our desire for funding has a specific purpose," he explained, such as more free public information kiosks and wider phone access to county information. "We're not being greedy for greed's sake."

A 1990 law allowing the county to license information is one way Dade is hoping to increase revenue. In its partnership with Florida Power and Light, the utility owns the copyright to Dade's GIS base map. In return, Dade will receive between \$3 million and \$6 million to create additional information for the system. The agreement also gives the county the right to use the data for no charge at any time.

Hillsborough County, Fla.

Hillsborough County (Fla.) Administrator Fred Karl, however, interprets Florida law very differently. "Public documents are public documents," he said. Since the public pays the county to disseminate the information through their taxes, he explained, they should not be charged a second time when requesting it. Karl includes the business community as a part of this group. "It's taxpayers that are paying to use this. It's their property. It's

their right to have it."

Business community

Kenneth B. Allen, president of the Information Industry Association (IIA), agrees. "It's contrary to the principles to access of information," he said. "You diminish access to public information."

IIA, whose membership is made up of over 500 companies involved

in information products, is also against the concept of a tiered fee scale where citizens pay lower fees than business. Under the Freedom of Information Act, he explained, the government can't ask who you are when you ask for information. If government is allowed to do that, he warned, "you've embarked down a dangerous path."

Allen sees the trend moving in

favor of the advocates of profit, however. "The fiscal pressures [for local government] are tremendous and they promise to get worse," he said. "Politicians are interested in short-term results, not long-term policy implications."

NACo position

NACo believes county governments have the right to charge higher

fees for information. At its Annual Conference in July, the Board of Directors reaffirmed a 1992 resolution which says, in part: "Counties must not be impeded in their efforts to charge fair-market value for this governmental asset, and should be given every opportunity to recover not only duplication costs, but also costs associated with developing and operating the system."

What counties should do next about NII

By Randy Johnson
commissioner
Hennepin County, Minn.

Washington, D.C. is abuzz over the long-awaited "information superhighway" technology blueprint from Vice President Al Gore that is rather ponderously titled, "The National Information Infrastructure: Agenda for Action."

But what does the national information infrastructure (NII) agenda mean for counties who are historically responsible for maintaining such an incredible amount of data as the nation's official record-keepers?

Frankly, it shouldn't mean much, unless past experience repeats itself through unfunded state and federal mandates.

And that is good. It is a sincere compliment to the Clinton Administration.

The NII agenda recognizes that it is the private sector rather than "government" that is already

establishing advanced communications networks. The NII agenda carefully poses the crucial policy questions and goals, and it wisely avoids setting out the usual "we-in-Washington-know-everything" answers.

So, what do we in county government do next?

At the national level, we must insist that NACo and county interests be represented vigorously on the new Information Infrastructure Task Force because we are such integral custodians of the most data that government maintains. The right policy questions have been raised—now we must be at the table to help provide the best answers.

Locally, our task is pretty much to keep doing what we are doing, but do it better, and always keeping in mind the implications of vastly expanded access to data that, heretofore, we maintained, for the most part, only internally.

That means...

- develop our physical assets. In many states, cities and counties have

authority to grant easements along our rights of way. Where possible, we should use this asset to obtain appropriate remuneration for our taxpayers.

- recover our costs by selling data we maintain to those who seek to use it for profit. It is an accepted principle that basic public information must always be available to the public.

But local governments must retain the right to recover our costs by charging "for profit" users of enhanced data. This seems to be a position strongly opposed by most federal agencies that have considered it.

- agree upon data standards and guidelines. Universal access to data sounds great, but it means nothing if every data base has its own unique "code." The proposed metadata standards for geospatial data are a good example of how to make data useable. Now we have to look at the rest of the data we maintain—right down to the mundane details of standardizing such data entry items as street addresses (e.g., is it Sixth Avenue, 6th Ave. or 6 Avenue?). No

longer will there be the human interface of the ever-friendly local government employee to "guide" users through the maze of newly available data.

- maintain privacy rights. Much of the data that counties collect and maintain is, and ought to remain, confidential. For example, imaging technologies can sharply reduce paperwork in the field of health care, a major responsibility of many counties, but it presents new challenges in maintaining the integrity of confidential data.

- use Internet. Internet is the existing worldwide network of networks, a web of academic, business and government electronic communication networks connected through a common suite of protocols.

The concept of a national information superhighway is exciting, but, like so many other issues, when it gets down to the county government level where we really "do the people's work," it means work without all those bells and whistles. But that is what we do best.

County-to-County Network: a progress report

By Lois Kampinsky
telecommunications and training
director

Millions of vehicles will ply the "information highway," or infrastructure, once it's paved and lit. Yet, this past summer, NACo gunned its engines early, as county officials went for a test spin on the County-to-County Video Teleconferencing Network. In some ways it was a bumpy ride, but NACo is still in the driver's seat for video teleconferencing in



the near future.

NACo learned many lessons from its five state association link-up. We used compressed digitized technology, in which audio and video signals were sent through the telephone lines. More than 20 NACo staffers created more than 40 hours of live training programs to sites in California, North Carolina, Texas, Georgia and Washington, D.C.

County officials at the sites could hear and see one another and communicate directly with those at the other sites — guest speakers, trainers and fellow county officials.

We found that small groups worked best, and that we needed

strong technical and managerial support from vendors to make the technology work.

We attempted different educational techniques even though the transmission rate was slow and video and audio quality sometimes suffered. We also videotaped all of our live transmissions to document the many useful programs.

We found that not everyone is comfortable seeing themselves on camera and responding to a televised image. Yet, when the discussion got going and people were fully engaged, the hundreds, or thousands, of miles between them didn't matter.

Because the technology is so useful, NACo is determined to help

bring it to counties and their officials and will redouble our efforts in the future.

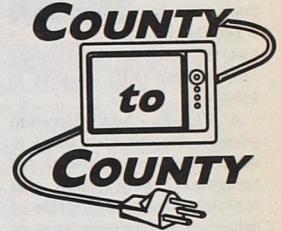
Now that the formal demonstration period is over, NACo is exploring several options in continuing the service, including using a public network or using a private, pre-existing network.

We will also be seeking funding during the next year to further our efforts. NACo will be writing proposals for federal government grants for the information highway. The funding can be used to help counties obtain the equipment they need to build a network.

We will also seek foundation and corporate money for specific programming, such as shows on

health care topics, aging topics, justice issues, and so on.

If you have questions about the demonstration, or want to get involved in future County-to-County efforts, please call Lois Kampinsky, telecommunications and training director at 202/942-4267.



NACoNET can pave your way on the new info highway

By Robert Slesser
The MAXIMA Corporation

As one hears and reads about the Administration's initiative for a national information infrastructure (NI) that will allow our country to compete better internationally, a question arises concerning local governments' role in such an undertaking.

It certainly makes sense that the "final mile," or the local loop, is essentially a local issue.

How counties connect, what information should be made available on such a network ... these and similar policy issues should surely be decided locally. Paralleling these issues are other questions, as well, principal among which is how can county governments use such a network?

We believe there may be several possibilities. Counties may wish to

County governments need to become more familiar with the various standards for data communications that are currently competing for market dominance.

- Utilize the network to communicate electronically with suppliers through what is known as electronic data interchange, or EDI. Some corporations have realized huge savings by modernizing their purchasing practices.

- Share computer cycles or data bases on a large regional computer, or a shared "competency computer center" that specializes in some aspect of a local government's processing needs. Computer-to-computer communications of this

requirements, etc.).

- Attract industries into a county by providing solid, user-friendly interfaces with the national network.

- Offer improved citizen access to various information, perhaps even on a state or regional level.

While we cannot now be certain about the details of cost, coverage and processing protocols surrounding the network, county governments need to become more familiar with the various standards for data communications that are currently competing for market dominance.

Such groups as the International Standards Organization, Open Software Foundation, Corporation for Open Systems, and others are concerned with open systems

standards and the products that implement the standards. These standards and products are critical to the future of data communications, but they are esoteric and complex.

NACoNET can help your jurisdiction decipher the alphabet soup that pervades the information technology industry. It can translate into plain English the industry trends as well as the standards that should be seriously considered in your next telecommunications, telephone, data communications or computer solicitation.

For more information, call NACoNET at 1/800/551-2323.

(The MAXIMA Corporation, based in Prince George's County, Md., is a NACoNET partner.)

type require very high-speed communications.

- Implement remote applications that require a very fast network, such as image processing applications.

- Communicate with other counties, states and the federal government (e.g., various human services and various reporting

How to get maximum, long-term value from technology by downsizing

By Lauran Hammond
EDS

One of the hottest trends in the information technology world is the movement of large chunks of computing work from expensive mainframes to cheaper, easier-to-use personal computers.

Although it makes sense to link PCs, minicomputers and mainframes in a "client/server environment," and thus improve operations and reduce costs, the client/server trend has stirred up a lot of controversy.

Currently, at least, the technology is relatively new, potentially difficult to manage, and dependent on sophisticated software and skills that are not yet widely available.

However, we at EDS believe the benefits of client/server architectures far outweigh the current difficulties involved in establishing those computing environments. Further, client/server can help our

Client/Server: What is it?

The client/server approach links a user (client) on a microcomputer or workstation to a larger computer (server) that is shared by other clients. The server, which is a mainframe, minicomputer or more powerful PC, can be configured to give clients access to any information base the organization chooses, including centralized data bases typically controlled by large mainframes. Client/server frees the mainframe to store and manage large amounts of data more effectively.

customers obtain maximum, long-term value from information technology designed to support their business applications. These two beliefs have led EDS to establish client/server technology as the foundation of its system strategy.

Autonomy at your fingertips

Client/server's greatest benefit is that it empowers users by giving them the information and autonomy they need to do their jobs more effectively — even if it means changing the way they currently do their jobs. Take, for example, the portability of computers today.

Smaller, more powerful technologies are bringing instant information to public servants who work in the field. Police officers have computers in their cars to verify prior arrests of their suspects, parking enforcement officers use hand-held computers to write parking tickets, and case workers in urban areas use workstations to determine welfare benefits.

Bringing the computing power to the users who need it most is more than just a trend, it's a revolution. And, the case of use and instant access to information is helping government workers be more productive.

County associations endorse NACoNET

In recognition of the critical role information technology has in delivering county services, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) have officially endorsed NACoNET, NACo's information technology (IT) program.

Through NACoNET, state associations can address regional issues by developing IT services for multiple counties. Each association can act as the focal point for technology needs and county consortium planning in their state.

State association endorsement enables member counties to have access to affordable and effective IT services to help them enhance citizen services, contain IT costs and improve

productivity. State associations also will be given price discounts for services.

"For the first time, our counties have a convenient, affordable way to access information technology services," said Ron Aycock, executive director, NCACC.

"New Hampshire Association of Counties is honored to endorse the NACoNET Program to provide innovative, quality information technology to counties in New Hampshire," said John Disko, executive director, NHAC.

"NCACC and NHAC will be the first state associations to reap the benefits of the NACoNET endorsement," said Mike Gillespie, chairman, NACoNET Advisory Committee, and commissioner, Madison County, Ala.

Privacy issues could make road bumpy for NII

By Jill Conley
staff writer

When George Orwell wrote about "Big Brother" in his book, 1984, is it possible he had the national information infrastructure (NII) initiative in mind?



A Clinton Administration priority, the initiative seeks to develop a vast network of computers, data bases and consumer electronics capable of delivering an enormous array of information to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

The social and economic benefits of such a network — job creation, technological leadership, and increased efficiency in both the public and private sectors — are almost universally desirable. However, the leap into an age where information can be instantly exchanged, compared and linked to other data bases may also pose a threat to Americans' prized sense of privacy.

While Americans regularly disclose a great deal of personal information in exchange for benefits or services, most feel entitled to making the decision

"As part of a network, there will always be problems with confidentiality."

Randy Johnson
Hennepin County (Minn.)
commissioner

about what information should be offered to whom, and for what purpose. And many believe that the information they divulge should be used exclusively for its original intended purpose.

"Ensuring that information that was provided for one purpose is used only for that purpose is going to become increasingly more difficult as technological developments make it easier to link various data bases," says Hennepin County (Minn.) Commissioner Randy Johnson. "It is also very likely that the media and private sector interests will make greater use of public records if it is a matter of a quick data base search, as opposed to digging through boxes of documents."

For counties, the custodians of an enormous amount of personal data, that will mean figuring out ways to keep public information public and private information private. "As part of a network, there will always be problems with confidentiality," says Johnson. But local governments can at least limit access to private information by

using special computer passwords and other devices.

Regardless of measures taken to protect private information, a tremendous amount of personal data is available from public documents. Birth and death records are public information as are real estate transactions. Motor vehicle, hunting and marriage license records are also public documents. And with a person's Social Security number (SSN), it is possible to get military records, educational records, criminal and civil court records, and credit information.

Expanded access to these records through emerging technology is fueling debates over private information and the public and private sector use of the SSN.

In testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee in June, Janlori Goldman, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Privacy and Technology Project, brought home this point. "In this computer-driven era where information is connected to a single identifier, such as the

SSN, and entered into massive data bases, it is possible to exchange, compare, verify and link information in separate data bases, often without the knowledge and consent of the person divulging the information," she said. "Large-scale information systems, even if created for a limited purpose, inevitably take on a life of their own — the temptation to use the information for other purposes is irresistible."

The Code of Fair Information Practices, which was incorporated into the Privacy Act of 1974, states that:

- The existence of personal data record-keeping systems cannot be kept secret.

- There must be a way for individuals to find out what information is in his/her files and how the information is being used.

- There must be a way for individuals to correct information in his/her records.

- Any organization collecting, maintaining or disseminating personal records of personally identifiable information must assure the reliability of the data and prevent misuse.

- There must be a way for an individual to prevent personal information obtained for one purpose from being used for another purpose.

However, the ACLU contends

that the law is weak and is not vigorously enforced. It is asking Congress to:

- amend the Privacy Act to strengthen disclosure standards, and increase the civil and criminal penalties provisions

- amend the Privacy Act to include a prohibition on the creation of a national identification card

- strengthen and update existing privacy protection statutes governing the private sector, including the Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Right to Financial Privacy Act, to give people greater control over how personal information is used, and

- enact legislation to fill significant gaps in privacy law to protect medical, insurance and personnel records.

"Our fear is that unless privacy protections are built in at the front end, people will choose not to move from the 'Age of Paperwork' to the 'Age of Information Transparency.' If people are forced to give up their privacy as the price of participating in the information age, they may be reluctant to fully step forward," said Goldman.

"Obviously, society is best served by encouraging full participation. Our society will be stronger if we can craft policy that both enhances privacy and other civil liberties, and also promotes innovation."

Special seminar offered at NACo fall employment conference

Learn how the American With Disabilities Act affects county services

In conjunction with NACo's Employment Policy and Human Services Conference, the County Health Policy Project is offering an all-day seminar, Friday, Nov. 19, on how the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) affects the services and programs that county governments offer.

ADA is a broad and complex piece of civil rights legislation. It guarantees protection from discrimination for all persons with disabilities.

A key provision of ADA's Title II is access to public services, especially those offered by state and local governments. The seminar will focus on the service access requirements of ADA, and include tips on:

- alternative ways to make your programs more accessible
- working productively with Job Training Partnership Act program enrollees who are learning disabled and finding job placements for persons with disabilities

- communicating to the deaf or blind communities that hearings will be held on an issue or that the county is considering action on a significant community issue

- improving your staff's awareness and understanding of persons with disabilities, and
- distinguishing between architectural barriers you must remove and other modifications you can make without extensive reconstruction.

Compliance with ADA is not as

complicated or expensive as many people believe. By attending this seminar, you will learn sensible and reasonable alternatives that county programs can use to achieve more successful outcomes for your communities.

Faculty for the seminar is from ADA VANTAGE, and features Dianne Lipsey, a nationally recognized expert who played a key role in NACo's highly successful ADA project with Maryland counties

last year. Kathryn McCarty will join her with experience from King County, Wash. and the National League of Cities, where she developed a best-selling "Local Officials Guide to ADA Compliance."

There is an additional \$95 cost for the seminar. Special registration is requested and may be done in conjunction with registration for the fall conference. For more information, contact Mary Yueda at NACo, 202/942-4257.



A RECYCLED MESSAGE FROM



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

"Counties Care For America"



News from the nation's counties



ILLINOIS

• **COOK COUNTY** Board President Richard Phelan (center), flanked by county law enforcement officials, recently introduced an ordinance banning the sale and possession of semiautomatic assault weapons and assault ammunition. Laid out on the table are assault weapons seized by the Cook County sheriff's office during routine evictions and arrests.

North



MICHIGAN

Tim McGuire, general counsel for the Michigan Association of Counties, was installed as president of the National Association of Governmental Deferred Compensation Administrators in New York City, Sept. 14.

NEW YORK

• The Seneca Indian Nation has filed suit against the state of New York to reclaim Grand Island, home to more than 18,000 **ERIE COUNTY** residents and businesses. The tribe, reportedly, wants to build a casino on the island, but may settle for another parcel of land.

WISCONSIN

• The county executives of four southeastern Wisconsin counties — **MILWAUKEE, KENOSHA, WAUKESHA** and **RACINE** — recently signed a joint business location policy aimed at developing regional cooperation in economic development.

conomic development.

The agreement calls for a county receiving an inquiry for relocation assistance to inform the staff of the county in which the business is located, and says each county agrees not to aggressively seek businesses already located within the state of Wisconsin. In addition, a regional economic development marketing effort is being developed.

"The significant thing is that four counties that are home to major industrial companies are coming together and saying, first, that we are not going to go after each other's companies, and, second, that we are not going to get into bidding wars," said Milwaukee County Executive F. Thomas Ament.

South

FLORIDA

In an effort to encourage manufacturers to produce recyclable containers and containers that are made with recycled materials, Florida is implementing an Advance Disposal Fee (ADF), effective Oct. 1.

The ADF will apply to all mechanically or heat-sealed plastic, glass and paper containers, from five fluid ounces to one gallon, sold or distributed in the state.

The one-cent ADF will also be charged on sales to non-profit groups which may be exempt from state sales tax.

Aluminum and steel containers are exempt from the ADF because the 50 percent recycling rate has already been achieved for both of those metals.

MARYLAND

• **FREDERICK COUNTY**

Government Administrative Officer Dawn Hatzler was recently appointed to serve a two-year term on the International City/County Management Association's Public Policy Committee.

The committee's charge is to coordinate with NACo and other public interest groups on issues of mutual interest. It will be responsible for following federal legislation and establishing policy positions that look out for the interests of local governments.

Midwest

MINNESOTA

• **ANOKA COUNTY** Commissioner Paul McCarron recently testified before Minnesota's Legislative Commission on Waste Management on a plan to examine options for counties to act jointly or regionally to address state environmental policies and waste flow issues.

A recent court ruling found that two Minnesota counties — **FAIRBAULT** and **MARTIN** — violated the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution by requiring a garbage hauler to use designated composting plants. At least 17 counties in Minnesota have enacted these types of designation ordinances.

The ruling may result in the elimination of the designation ordinance as a tool for solid waste disposal.

Without designation, it is feared that some waste haulers may choose to transport loads to other states where untreated waste disposal is cheaper, but may not be environmentally sound.

West

CALIFORNIA

• The **SAN DIEGO** County Board of Supervisors recently voted to bill the federal government for

the cost of health, welfare and education benefits for illegal immigrants.

The board estimates its costs for such services at \$146 million annually.

Older suburbs' woes trigger new 'citistate' politics?

By Neal R. Peirce
Washington Post Writers Group

Could America be on the verge of a thaw in the ice age of antagonistic distrust between suburbs and cities that has choked off, for two generations, any straightforward debate about metropolitan governance or sharing of tax bases?

Conventional wisdom says "no." Suburbanites long since decided, we're told, to distance themselves and their tax money from the poverty, the crime and minorities of the big cities. As for inner-city blacks and Hispanics, they're supposedly dead set against sharing the political power it took them so long to win.

And don't expect change, we're told. The Berlin Wall may fall; the "evil empire" may evaporate; Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin may shake hands on the White House lawn. But never expect a rapprochement between America's suburbs and their inner cities.

Let me report, however, a new set of political realities emerging across America's "citistate" regions in 1993:

First, large numbers of older working-class suburbs are starting to fall into the same abyss of disinvestment as the center cities before them.

Second, entire counties — with scores of suburbs filled with people who once thought they'd safely escaped urban ills — may be economically imperiled.

And third, the scorecard of winners and losers has shifted radically. Through the '70s, the lineup was simply center cities against their suburbs. But a careful look at the '90 Census results shows that a handful of outer-ring suburbs are picking up a massive share of new industrial and commercial investment and high property tax-paying residents.

The "losers," it turns out are not just center cities but broad areas of inner-ring suburbs now yielding up their most successful businesses and residents to the outer rings.

Thomas Bier of Cleveland State University has painstakingly documented the economic impacts of successive rings of outward movement, first from Cleveland, then from its older inner-ring suburbs. Each new ring of housing development on the regional periphery, he shows, is driving down housing prices — and the tax base and economic viability — in Cleveland and its older suburbs.

"The wake of decline and urban pathologies that spread behind outmigration will not stop at the city-suburban line," Bier projects. With

suburbs such as Parma, Maple Heights and Euclid perhaps the most vulnerable, Bier warns that "over the next 20 to 30 years, Cuyahoga County may follow the city of Cleveland into distressed fiscal condition, which would in turn further jeopardize the economic condition of the multi-county Cleveland region."

It is not a pretty picture, and it is not unique. Look almost anywhere around American regions and you find constellations of suburbs in deep trouble. They're south of Chicago, south of Los Angeles, northeast of Washington, D.C., north and west of Minneapolis.

Paul Glastris of *U.S. News & World Report* checked 1990 Census figures on suburbs in a cross section of six metropolitan regions. He found that 35 percent of those suburbs suffered real declines in median household incomes in the 1980s. Glastris quotes real estate consultant Charles Lockwood: "The nation that invented the throwaway city is now creating the throwaway suburb."

St. Louis County, ringing St. Louis, is really two counties, says Rob Gurwitt in *Governing* magazine. In the outer reaches, luxury homes and rows of condominiums sprang up in the '80s, accompanied by massive IBM, Citicorp and Hewlett-Packard office buildings astride the freeway. But in inner St. Louis County, suburbs lost eight percent of their population, saw their median household incomes drop and their numbers of the elderly rise sharply.

The biggest flights of middle-class families in the '80s didn't come out of center cities, but out of the inner-ring suburbs of such cities as Atlanta and Chicago.

The University of Southern California's Jane Pisano notes that "barrios in Riverside and Oxnard are as devastated as south central Los Angeles. There are more poor in Pomona, percentage wise, than in Los Angeles."

A decade ago, Massachusetts' big socio-economic split was Boston versus the rest of the state, says Chelsea administrator Harry Spence. But now, Spence observes, urban ills afflict such communities as Lowell, Everett, Brockton and Somerville just as much as Boston.

Admitting they face many inner-city problems comes hard to older blue-collar suburbs of folks who struggled to gain a piece of the American Dream — but now see their houses declining or stagnant in value, jobs fleeing to the outer rings, poor people moving into their neighborhoods and crime rising. In many regions, these neighborhoods are the heart of distressed, rebellious Ross Perot country.

See PEIRCE, next page

Notices . . . notices . . . notices

CONFERENCES

■ The Society of American Military Engineers is hosting an *Environmental Remediation Technology Workshop*, Oct. 20, in Baltimore, Md.

The workshop brings together experts from the private and public sectors to exchange information on state-of-the-art technologies for environmental cleanup. Innovative solutions to environmental problems will be the major focus.

For more information, call Paul Couture at 410/321-5540, fax: 410/321-5578.

■ *Sustainable Transportation and Solar and Electric Vehicles '93* is being hosted by the *Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)* in Boston, Mass., Oct. 21-23.

The symposium, car and trade show is designed to provide a forum for a diverse group of professionals to exchange information on electric vehicle technology, as well as transportation strategies to create a non-polluting, equitable and efficient multi-modal transportation future.

For more information on registration or program events, call NESEA at 413/774-6051, or fax: 413/774-6053.

■ "25 Years of Helping America Work" is the theme for the *National Alliance of Business (NAB)* Conference, Oct. 24-26, in Washington, D.C.

NAB's conference is the world's largest gathering of business leaders and government officials in the employment and training field, as well as community organizers and education professionals.

The conference will be focusing on public/private partnerships in education, job training, welfare-to-work programs and human resource development efforts for the nation's unemployed and economically disabled.

For a detailed schedule and more information, call Keith Poston at 202/289-2834.

■ The *American Association of Homes for the Aging (AAHA)* is sponsoring four educational seminars in December 1993 and January 1994 to teach housing and community service providers how to develop and link senior housing with the supportive services older people often need to maintain their independence.

The seminar dates and locations are: Dec. 2, Wilmington, Del.; Dec. 6, St. Louis, Mo.; Jan. 7, Tampa, Fla.; and

Jan. 11, Denver, Colo.

For more information, contact Mary Murphy, AAHA's eldercare project manager, at 202/508-9407.

■ December 16-17 are the dates for the *National Environmental Tobacco Smoke Conference*, "Programs, Policy, Litigation and Liability," in Washington, D.C. The conference forum will cover the entire spectrum of secondhand smoke issues, including federal, state and local policies.

Technical and general sessions feature special appearances by officials from the EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, along with building managers, attorneys and public health officials.

For more information, call IAQ Publications at 301/913-0115, or fax: 301/913-0119.

■ The *Recycling Association of Hawaii* and the EPA are co-sponsoring a conference on disaster debris management, "Disaster-Response Debris Management: Pre-Disaster Planning Policy Development," Jan. 12-15, 1994, in Kauai, Hawaii.

For the first time ever, local officials with hands-on experience in coping with debris from hurricanes, floods, snowstorms, earthquakes and tornados will be together to share insights on handling disaster cleanup. The conference will focus on developing a team approach and strategic action planning.

For more information and registration packets, contact Summer Harrison, P.O. Box 1091, Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii 96765, or call 808/332-7379, or fax: 808/332-7522.

PUBLICATIONS

■ The *Bureau for At-Risk Youth* has a new resource to help parents prepare preschool children for school and life.

The new series "Pointers for Preschool Parents" offers practical advice to help parents be their best. The series of 12 pamphlets includes titles such as: "Setting a Good Example," "Issues for Working Parents," "Building Self-Esteem in the Preschooler," and many more.

To order or receive a free buyer's guide, write: The Bureau for At-Risk Youth, 645 New York Ave., Huntington, NY 11743, or call 1/800/99-YOUTH.

■ "Community Change," a special issue publication by the *Center for Community Change (CCC)* includes

an in-depth look at the country's low-income housing crisis, with reviews of 20 housing-related books and studies.

The publication reviews what the center has learned after 25 years of working with community-based organizations in the United States, and can serve as a primer on community orga-

nizing and planning. It also explores the ongoing debate on the proper role of community organizations.

The issue costs \$5 and can be ordered from: Publications, CCC, 1000 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20007, or call 202/342-0567.

■ Now available from the U.S. *Government Printing Office* is a detailed listing of nearly 300 CD-ROM products with a wide range of federal

information that is currently available or under development.

Each entry includes an abstract description of the software retrieval engine used, the system's requirements and the price.

"SIGCAT CD-ROM Compendium" costs \$11. To order, indicate stock number 021-000-00158-9 and mail to Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 37194, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.

PEIRCE from previous page

Yet as unlikely as it seems, an alliance of center cities and inner-ring suburbs may be taking form.

This year, the Minnesota Twin Cities' Association of Metropolitan Mu-

nicipalities, representing 70 of the 136 governments in the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, voted unanimously to support an elected Metropolitan Council. The end result

could be rising pressure to equalize tax wealth across the region.

The Minnesota vote is just one straw in the wind — but possibly a very significant one.

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Job market

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR FOR REGISTRATION — CLARK COUNTY, NEV.:

Clark County, Nevada, one of the fastest growing communities in the country, is currently seeking a qualified Assistant Registrar for Registration for its Election Department. Requires equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Administration or Political Science AND four (4) years of progressively responsible professional experience in voter registration, TWO (2) years of which were in a supervisory capacity. Equivalent combinations of education and experience may also be considered. EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGE, INCLUDING FULLY PAID RETIREMENT. NO STATE INCOME TAX. Salary: \$43K-\$64K; Closing Date: 10/22/93. CLARK COUNTY APPLICATION REQUIRED. Apply to: Clark County Personnel Department, 225 Bridger Avenue, 9th floor, Las Vegas, NV 89155. M/E/D.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

— GORDON COUNTY, GA.: Gordon County, Georgia (pop. 38,000) is seeking candidates for the position of County Administrator. Requirements:

Bachelors Degree in Public/Business Administration with a Masters Degree preferred. Ten years experience in an upper level executive position with strong governmental financial, budgeting and operational skills. Extensive leadership and communication skills working in a public forum are a must. Salary, DOQ. Submit resumes and salary history no later than Oct. 29, 1993 to Gordon County Board of Commissioners, Attn: Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 580, Calhoun, GA 30703-0580. EOE.

COUNTY MANAGER — BURKE COUNTY, N.C.:

COUNTY MANAGER needed for Burke County ... population 78,000; located in western North Carolina. County Manager is appointed by a five member board of commissioners. Serves as chief administrator for over twenty (20) departments with more than 400 employees and an operating budget exceeding \$37 million dollars.

Required: Bachelor's degree, progressive experience as administrator; Master's degree in Public Administration, preferred. Skilled in governmental administration, with a comprehensive knowledge of federal, state, local

and other legislature affecting county government. Excellent interpersonal skills including public relations/communication skills; extensive background in finance, planning, personnel and other related administrative functions. Submit resume with cover letter and salary requirements by October 15, 1993 to: Burke County Personnel Division, 700 E. Parker Road, P.O. Box 219, Morganton, NC 28680-0219.

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — SOLANO COUNTY (FAIRFIELD), CALIF.:

(Approx. Annual Salary: \$69,410-\$84,368) Incumbent assists the County Administrator in the management of County activities; workforce of 2,338 and a \$272 million budget; county population of 350,000.

Qualifications incl: A minimum of a bachelors degree in public/business administration and four years of progressively responsible local government management exp. req. two yrs. of which must have been at a senior level. MPA/MBA desirable. APPLY BY: 5 p.m., Oct. 22, 1993. CONTACT: Solano County Dept. of Human Resources, 580 Texas St., Fairfield, CA 94533, (707) 421-6170. EOE/AA.

Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule

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FAX advertising copy to: Job Market, County News, 202/393-2630.

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For more information, call County News, National Association of Counties, 202/942-4256.

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SAN JOSE

CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

The City of San Jose is proud to be the Capital of Silicon Valley, the third largest city in California and the eleventh largest in the nation. We also pride ourselves on this excellent job opportunity we currently have available:

DEPUTY DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION/ BUSINESS SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(Salary: \$76,296-\$92,772/annually)

As a key member of the City's Executive Management Team, this position is responsible for managing and operating the day-to-day activities of the Business Services Group and associated divisions of the department and will assist the Director of Public Works with key strategic planning, administrative matters and other major issues.

The qualified candidate will possess a min. of 8 years experience in an increasingly responsible field, office or administrative support for major municipal programs or related work; 3 of these years should have been in a supervisory capacity. Also required is a Bachelor's degree in Business, Public Administration, Engineering or a related field, Master's in Business preferred. Certification/Registration as a professional Engineer is not required.

Interested & qualified applicants should send a resume and cover letter to: Bob Allen, Executive Recruitment, City of San Jose, Human Resources Dept., 801 N. First St., Room #207, San Jose, CA 95110. FINAL FILING DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1993. The City of San Jose supports workforce diversity. Women, minorities and disabled individuals are encouraged to apply.