



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

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August 25, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From:   
David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**PUBLIC COOLING CENTERS – ITEM NO. 77, AGENDA OF AUGUST 29, 2006**

On August 15, 2006 on motion of Mayor Antonovich, your Board instructed this office to work with the Acting Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Directors of the Departments of Community and Senior Services (DCSS), Internal Services (ISD), and Parks and Recreation (DPR) to develop a plan and procedures for opening public cooling centers during severe heat waves. Your Board further instructed that we report back at the Board meeting of August 29, 2006 with the plan and procedures for opening public cooling centers during severe heat waves.

As further outlined below, there is a plan with related procedures in place to open public cooling centers in various facilities throughout the County of Los Angeles; this plan is currently being updated. We have worked with the above mentioned departments in developing this response to your Board's instruction, and they concur with this memorandum.

**Los Angeles County Operational Area Heat Emergency Plan**

In 2001, the Emergency Management Council (EMC) approved the Los Angeles County Operational Area Heat Emergency Plan (Plan). This Plan was developed by DCSS, and the Departments of Health Services (DHS) and Public Social Services (DPSS) with the assistance of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in this Office. Other departments and agencies also participated in meetings that led to development of the Plan, which is consistent with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) adopted by the County of Los Angeles.

The Plan is triggered when the National Weather Services (NWS) issues an Excessive Heat Warning, when conditions of a Heat Wave (Extreme Heat) are present. This occurs when the Heat Index is expected to exceed 95 – 105 degrees for at least three consecutive days. Upon receiving notice of an Excessive Heat Warning from the NWS, DPH disseminates the information to appropriate County entities and private organizations serving vulnerable populations. DPH also prepares Heat Emergency Messages in severe heat waves, including detailed medical information, advice, and names and telephone numbers of health officials.

### **Cooling Centers**

Implementation of the Plan resulted in identification of cooling centers within the County of Los Angeles, which included Community and Senior Centers under the purview of DCSS. The purpose of the cooling centers is to make air-conditioned facilities available to the public in order to obtain respite from the heat. Additional facilities were also identified by various cities throughout the Los Angeles County Operational Area.

As noted above, when DPH receives an Excessive Heat Warning from NWS:

- DPH disseminates the information to OEM, the County's 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service, the City of Los Angeles' Emergency Preparedness Department, County departments, and some outside organizations that have special programs serving vulnerable populations;
- DPH prepares Heat Emergency Messages, including detailed medical information, advice, names and telephone numbers of health officials, and information on the availability of cooling centers;
- OEM, through the Operational Area, notifies local agencies through the Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs) and also notifies special districts;
- OEM also sends an advisory bulletin to the State Office of Emergency Services (OES) which is posted on the OES Website for the public and news media;
- DCSS faxes the heat alert to all the cooling centers; and
- Information on the cooling centers is made available on the DPH and DCSS Websites. The information will also be included on the DPR Website (see below).

Following the last heat wave in July 2006, DPH requested that the involved departments update the Plan, and this effort is expected to be complete in October 2006. DPH will be identified as the lead in implementation of the revised Plan as opposed to DHS and DPR will be added to the departments involved in execution of the Plan. Further, the procedures associated with opening cooling centers will be memorialized in the revised

Plan. This will further mitigate adverse health consequences as a result of extreme heat; better protect the residents of the County of Los Angeles, particularly those populations at risk; and promote healthy behaviors during extended periods of extreme heat.

Each Spring, DCSS contacts each of the agencies that previously agreed to serve as cooling centers to confirm their participation for the oncoming summer and to ensure the list of facilities is current. Attachment I is the most updated listing of cooling centers operated in the County of Los Angeles throughout the County Operational Area. Attachment II includes locations recently identified by DPR. These facilities become operational consistent with protocols in the current Plan. The City of Los Angeles also has community centers within its parks that serve as cooling centers in extreme heat conditions.

DPR is continuing to review additional sites to add to the list as part of the overall Plan update. The primary benefit of DPR facilities is that they normally operate beyond the 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. timeframe, including weekends. As part of the Plan update, DCSS and DPR are also examining the potential to expand hours. Finally, DPR is assessing the potential for establishing “Extended Hour Cooling Centers” that could be available on a 24/7 basis. These would be strategically located to provide access for multiple unincorporated communities. However, expanded hours need to consider increased costs for staffing, maintenance, and security, as well as liability issues, and this will be evaluated as part of the overall Plan update.

### **Air-Conditioning Systems for Potential Cooling Centers**

Another aspect for review of potential cooling center locations is being undertaken by this Office’s Capital Projects Division. A three-phase assessment is being conducted of existing and future County facilities that can serve as cooling centers for residents in the unincorporated areas of the County. Phase 1 entails the identification of existing Public Library and DPR locations to identify currently air-conditioned facilities that can accommodate 50 to 100 people during periods of extreme heat. Phase 1, which is being conducted with the Public Library and DPR, will be complete by the end of August 2006.

Phase 2 is focused on determining the feasibility of retrofitting certain strategically located County facilities with air-conditioning systems. We are working closely with the Department of Public Works to review feasible locations and to develop cost estimates. ISD is also assessing the air-conditioning systems in the existing DCSS facilities currently utilized as cooling centers. Phase 3 entails a review of County capital projects

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that are under design to determine if incorporation of air-conditioning into the facility design is advisable, e.g., certain DPR projects, such as gymnasiums are not air-conditioned, depending on the location. It is anticipated that Phases 2 and 3 of the review will be complete by the end of September 2006.

### **Summary**

The County Operational Area Heat Plan is activated and implemented according to its current protocols. The Plan is currently being updated, and additional short- and long-term objectives are under consideration to provide the public with a safe location in times of extreme heat.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please let me know, or your staff may contact Diane Shamhart of this office at (213) 974-1395.

DEJ:MKZ  
DS:pg

### **Attachments**

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Director of Community and Senior Services  
Director and Chief Medical Officer of Health Services  
Acting Director of Public Health  
Director of Internal Services  
Director of Public Social Services  
Director of Public Works  
Executive Director, 211, LA County

## COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES Cooling Stations Updated August 10, 2006

Name	Phone #	Fax #	Address	City	Zip	Days	Hours of Operation
CSS - Altadena Senior Center	Claudia Curry 626-798-0505	626-794-6742	560 East Mariposa St.	Altadena	91001	M-F	8am to 4:30pm
CSS - Antelope Valley Senior Center	Ofelia Parris 661-726-4400	661-940-7947	777 West Jackman St	Lancaster	93534	M-F	8am to 4:30pm
CSS - Asian Service Center	Joe Quintero 310-217-7300	310-516-9226	14112 S.Kingsley Dr	Gardena	90249	M-F	8am to 5pm
Assistant League of SoCal Hollywood Multi-Purpose Senior Center	323-957-3900	323-462-6164	1360 N. St. Andrews Pl	Hollywood	90028	M-F	8:30am to 4:30pm
Azusa Senior Center	626-812-5204	626-969-5611	740 North Dalton	Azusa	91702	M-Th	8:30am to 4pm F 8:30am to 1pm
Blaisdell Senior Center	909-399-5367	N/A	440 South College Ave	Claremont	91711	M-F	10am to 2pm
CSS - Centro Maravilla Service Center	323-260-2804	323-780-7986	4716 Cesar Chavez Ave	Los Angeles	90022	M-F	8am to 5pm
Cesar Chavez Park	818-898-7349	818-898-7367	208 Park Avenue 505 S. Huntington St	San Fernando Los Palmas Park	91340	M-F	9am to 10pm
City of Burbank	818-238-5357	818-238-5373	1301 West Olive	Burbank	91506	M-F Sat	8am to 9pm 8am to 4pm
City of Gardena	310-217-9552	310-323-1429	1670 West 162nd St	Gardena	90247	M-F	8am to 4pm
Coalition of Mental Health Professionals	323-777-3120	323-777-5968	9130 S. Figueroa St #100	Los Angeles	90003	M-F Sat	9am to 8pm 9am to 5pm
Culver City Senior Center	Armando Abrego 310-253-6700	310-253-6711	4095 Overland Avenue	Culver City	90232	M-F Sa-Su	9am to 5pm 12pm to 4pm
Dickison Community Lighted Schools	310-637-6971	310-631-5274	600 North Alameda St	Compton	90221	M-F	9am to 3pm
Dollarhide Senior Center	310-605-5688	310-605-1480	1108 N. Oleander Ave	Compton	90222	M-F	8am to 5pm
CSS - East Los Angeles Service Center	Gathy Garcia 323-260-2806	323-266-6457	133 North Sunol Dr	Los Angeles	90063	M-F	8am to 5pm
East Los Angeles Work Source Center	323-887-7122	323-887-8236	5301 Whittier Blvd	Los Angeles	90022	M-F	8am to 5:30pm
CSS - East Rancho Dominguez Service Center	Greg Robinson 310-603-7401	310-763-1372	4513 East Compton Bl	Compton	90221	M-F	8am to 4:30pm
CSS - Florence/Firestone Service Center	Larry Littleton 323-586-6502	323-582-4071	7807 S. Compton Ave	Los Angeles	90001	M-F	8am to 5pm
Glendale Parks and Recreation Community Services	818-548-3775	818-507-8891	201 E. Colorado St	Glendale	91205	M-Sa Su	8am to 4pm 9am to 2pm

# COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES

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Name	Phone #	Fax #	Address	City	Zip	Days	Hours of Operation
Inglewood Senior Center	310-412-5338	310-412-8790	111 North Locust St	Inglewood	90301	M-F Sat	8am to 5pm 9am to 5pm
Jack Crippen Senior Center	626-580-2210	626-444-5056	3120 North Tyler Ave	El Monte	91731	M-Th F	7am to 5:30pm 8am to 3pm
Joslyn Adult Recreation Center	Cynthia Jarvis 626-570-5056	626-284-0762	210 North Chapel Avenue	Alhambra	91801	M-F	8am to 5pm
Joslyn Senior Center, City of Claremont	909-399-5488	909-621-7320	660 N. Mountain Ave	Claremont	91711	M-F	8am to 5pm
La Mirada Activity Center	562-902-3160	562-943-9618	13810 La Mirada Blvd	La Mirada	90638	M-F Sat	7:30am to 9pm 9am to 3pm
Lennox Senior Center	Victor 310-412-5439	310-412-8721	10828 Condon Ave	Lennox	90304	M-F	9am to 2pm
CSS - Los Nietos Senior Center	Mario Murrilles 562-699-2040	562-692-7441	11640 W. Slauson Ave.	Whittier	90606	M-F	8am to 5 pm
Norwalk Senior Center	Carol Erickson 562-929-5580	562-929-5532	14040 San Antonio Dr	Norwalk	90650	M-F Sat	8am to 9am 8am to 5pm
O.N.E. [Organization for the Needs of the Elderly]	818-705-2345	818-705-2592	18255 Victory Blvd	Reseda	91335	M-F	8:30am to 5pm
Palmdale Senior Center	Heidi Valdez 661-267-5551	661-267-5350	1002 East Avenue Q-12	Palmdale	93550	M-F	8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Pasadena Senior Center	Tonja 626-795-4331	626-577-4235	85 East Holly Street	Pasadena	91103	M-F Sat	8:30am to 4:30pm 8:30am to 3pm
Pico Rivera Senior Center	562-948-4844	562-801-4306	9200 Mines Avenue	Pico Rivera	90660	M-Th F	8am to 5pm 8am to 3pm
Pomona Senior Program	Drexel Cross 909-620-2301	909-620-2055	P.O. Box 660	Pomona	91769	M-F	8am to 5pm
CSS - San Fernando Valley Service Center	Siddie Neal 818-901-3501	818-901-3506	7555 Van Nuys Blvd.	Van Nuys	91405	M-F	8am to 5pm
CSS - San Pedro Service Center	Elsie Larriva 310-519-6091	310-548-4880	769 West Third St	San Pedro	90731	M-F	8am to 5pm
CSS - Santa Clarita Valley Service Center	Lupe Lopez 661-254-0070	661-255-8620	24271 San Fernando Rd.	Santa Clarita Valley	91321	M-F	8am to 5pm
South El Monte Senior Center	Louis Valenzuela 626-448-0131	N/A	1556 Central Avenue	South El Monte	91733	M-F	7am to 5:30pm
CSS - Willowbrook Senior Center	Roland Yorke 310-603-3358	310-366-7309	12915 Jarvis Street	Los Angeles	90061	M-F	8am to 5pm
YWCA Intervale Senior Services	626-858-8382	626-858-8485	915 North Grand Avenue	Covina	91724	M-F	8am to 4:30pm

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
COOLING CENTERS**

Name	Phone #	Fax #	Address	City	Zip	Days	Hours of Operation
Castaic Sports Complex	661 775-8865	661-257-8730	31320 North Castaic Road	Castaic, CA	91384	M-F Sat-Sun	8am-9pm 10am-6pm
Hart Park	661-222-7657	661-253-2170	24151 N. San Fernando Rd	Newhall, CA	91321	M-Sun	6am-6pm
Pathfinder Park	562 690-0933	562- 690-8582	18150 E. Pathfinder Rd	Rowland Heights, CA	91748	M-Sun	8am-9pm
Jackie Robinson Park	661 944 2880	661 944 0413	8773 East Avenue R	Littlerock, CA	93543	M-F Sat-Sun	8am-9pm 10am-6pm
Roosevelt Senior Center	323-586-7228	323-586-4560	7600 Graham Ave	Los Angeles, CA	90001	M-F	7:30am-2:30pm
Steinmetz Senior Center	626 934-7041	626 934-9731	1545 South Stimson Ave	Hacienda Heights, CA	91745	M-F*	8am-5pm
Washington Park Gym	323- 586-7205	323- 586-7392	8908 South Maie Ave	Los Angeles, CA	90002	M-F Sat Sun	9am-9pm 9am-6pm 12pm-5pm
Salazar Senior Center	323-260-2330	323-269-4268	3864 Whittier Blvd	Los Angeles, CA	90023	M-F Sat	9am – 2pm 1pm – 4pm**

\* Weekend hours can be arranged, with notice  
\*\* 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays only