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SVREP CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF ACTIVISM
Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Latino Vote 2004 Banquet at the Hilton Universal, honoring its founder Willie Velázquez.

Senator John Edwards was keynote speaker at the SVREP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Latino Vote 2004 Banquet at the Hilton Universal. At right, Los Angeles City Councilperson Antonio Villaragosa and SVREP President Antonio Gonzalez.

They came from throughout the Southwest—California, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the foremost organizations in the United States involved in voter education, voter registration and get-out-the-vote, and to honor its founder, Willie Velázquez.

Over 900 dinner guests, elected officials, community activists, civil rights organization representatives and young adults at their first political activity, attended the beautiful Hilton Hotel combined ballrooms at Universal City. The audience heard Latino political luminaries, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, State Senator Richard Alarcon, Supervisor Gloria Molina, continued on page 2

I.E. DELEGATES DEPART FOR DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
Inland Empire Democratic delegates posed prior to departing to the Democratic National Convention in Boston. Back row (l to r) Patrick Kahler, 41<sup>st</sup> C.D., Bill Gonzales, 43<sup>rd</sup> C.D., Tim Prince, 41<sup>st</sup> C.D., Joe L. Makar, 43<sup>rd</sup> C.D., Jesus Muñoz, volunteer, front row (l to r) Fran J. Givens, 43<sup>rd</sup> C.D., Viola Muñoz, volunteer. Nancy White, 41<sup>st</sup> C.D. and Nancy Koller, 41<sup>st</sup> C.D. Delegates are members of the San Bernardino Democratic Central committee. Photo by IEHN

RIALTO MAYOR GRACE VARGAS SEEKS SECOND TERM
Grace Vargas, who made dual history in Rialto as the first Hispanic woman to be elected councilperson in 1998 and two years later elected mayor of Rialto in 2000, is seeking reelection in the November 2 general election.

"Rialto has grown in the last four years, with new businesses throughout the city and continued planned development along the I-10 and extension of the 210 to attract other businesses. Our city is the continuation of the growth pattern occurring in the Inland Empire from Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana. We will continue to grow and attract businesses and we will become a model for others in the area. Our increased tax revenues will help our city increase our services to our residents," Vargas continued on page 3

WILLIAM C. VELÁSQUEZ-FOUNDER OF THE SVREP
William "Willie" Velásquez, founder of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project (SVREP) in 1974. Photo courtesy of SVREP

William C. "Willie" Velásquez, Jr. founded the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project (SVREP) in 1974 and was an influential participant in other leading Latino rights and justice groups, including the Mexican American Youth Organization and the Mexican American Unity Council. His role in MUYO was the predecessor of the La Raza Unida Party. Other roles were the boycott coordinator for the United Farm Workers that he organized in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, followed as founder and director of the Mexican American Unity Council in San

Continued on page 5
Continued from page 1

Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa, and Senator Barbara Boxer extolled the importance of the Latino Vote in 2004, the Latino voting bloc that may be the most decisive factor in the presidential elections, and the many state and local candidates and importance initiatives that may be decided by the power of the Latino Vote, not only exclusively in the Southwest but in the Northeast and Southern portions of the United, as recent demographic results have shown, stated by some speakers.

SVREP President Antonio Gonzalez spoke on the tremendous progress the voting rights organization has made since its founding by Willie Velasquez in San Antonio in 1974. "As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the SVREP, we must never forget how Velasquez never gave up in mobilizing the Latino population in registering the voters and getting out the vote throughout the Southwest. He saw the great potential for change. He knew that the growing Latino community could have a bright future but was politically powerless. We have the expectation to reach 10 million registered voters, with over 75 percent turnout. We, the Latino voter, will determine the outcome of the 2004 presidential elections," Gonzalez stated emotionally with tremendous audience applause.

Gonzalez spoke on the Latino power voters now lies in how we hold government accountable. He said that Latinos need commitments from President Bush and Senator Kerry before the presidential elections.

"These commitments must stress measures that will improve the lives of Latino families in their neighborhoods, schools, and jobs. And yes, Latinos want to support our troops in Iraq by bringing them home now," he emphasized with a prolonged applause from the audience.

The keynote speaker, presidential candidate John Edwards, was greeted with a standing ovation. In the Kerry campaign to reach out to Latinos, following complaints from Latino leaders that this important voting group was receiving very little attention, Edwards spent 24 hours in the Los Angeles area, greeting people, visiting different venues and involved in a fundraising event that was planned to bring in approximately $1 million.

Edwards spoke about his childhood growing up in a small town to equate a common ground with the Latino audience. He emphasized on a hypothetical mother struggling to keep the family together, holding two jobs, and waiting for her National Guard husband to return home from Iraq. His contention that the nation had become divided into "two Americas" — One America that does not try to do the work, another America that reaps the rewards." He said that his hometown of Robbins, North Carolina, had recently increased with a large Latino population.

He said that Americans, and specifically Latinos, were generally not progressing in America. He supported changes in immigration to allow persons, and particularly farmworkers, to reside in America.

Edwards received a standing ovation at the conclusion of the ceremony.

WASHINGTON - As the presidential race heats up this summer, the candidates might want to consider the changing landscape of our nation and how one out of every six children is Hispanic.

What might be of particular interest to them is how that statistic will rapidly change to one in five. If the candidates are going to continue to cultivate new voters, they also might want to consider the research that is needed to keep that voting block healthy.

Although we as a nation spend more on health care than any other nation, that doesn't necessarily transcend to better health for Hispanics.

Just asking working Hispanics in South-Central Los Angeles who can't even afford to have their children vaccinated. Or Hispanics in El Paso, TX, who have cancer but ignore the symptoms and wait too long to see a doctor. Those are some of problems that could be eliminated with community-based research on Hispanics. Until researchers know the underlying causes at work, the medical community can't remedy them.

It's time for leadership. The presidential candidates should support increased funding for research on Hispanics. Until researchers know the underlying causes at work, the medical community can't remedy them.

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NATION'S WELL-BEING NEEDS A DOSE OF CARE FROM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

By Dr. Elena Rios

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that Rialto and neighboring communities will be receiving over six million dollars in federal grants to clean our water supply in the Inland Empire through the efforts of Congressman Joe Baca. I will continue to work with Congressman Baca and Senator Diane Feinstein to ensure a safe and healthy community for our children and residents," she said.

As a business owner for over 25 years, Vargas stated that she is aware of the challenges facing the local business community. "As mayor, I will continue to make it easier for businesses to work in partnership with the city. As city officials, we must provide a business friendly environment for businesses to succeed."

Vargas has struggled all her life and raised seven children and is proud of their accomplishments and work ethics. She recently lost one of her daughters to cancer, however, she said, her responsibilities as mayor are to continue to work for the people of Rialto.

"I have invested a major portion of my life to our city and will continue to work toward the betterment of our residents. I am proud of my city and if reelected mayor, will put forth my efforts to continue to improve our quality of life."

Vargas has been endorsed by Congressman Joe Baca, Senator Nell Soto, San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles, Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Bill Alexander, Colton Councilperson Kelly Chastain, 63rd Assembly candidate Joe Baca, Jr., Colton Councilperson Ramon Hernandez and many others.

Continued on page 6
WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House – Senate Conference Committee approved $6.5 million for perchlorate contamination cleanup Wednesday as part of the Defense Appropriations for fiscal year 2005. Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto) requested the funding, along with Senators Boxer and Feinstein.

The Conference Committee report includes spending for perchlorate clean up projects, including $4 million for a bioremediation demonstration project in Rialto, through the Environmental Technical Certification Program; and $2.5 million for the Inland Empire Perchlorate Task Force request or well-head treatment.

"This funding will bring immediate financial relief for a problem that has plagued our communities for too long," said Rep. Baca. "This will provide our families with the safe and healthy drinking water they deserve. I am glad that Congress has finally acknowledged a problem that has been an economic burden and a health threat to our communities."

Now that the funding has passed the conference committee, it has gone to the House and Senate for their vote.

"This funding is only the first step. We need long-term relief. That is why I am urging Congress to pass the House - Senate Conference Committee report. We need long-term relief. That is why I am urging Congress to pass the House - Senate Conference Committee report. We need long-term relief. That is why I am urging Congress to pass the House - Senate Conference Committee report. We need long-term relief. That is why I am urging Congress to pass the House - Senate Conference Committee report. We need long-term relief. That is why I am urging Congress to pass the House - Senate Conference Committee report. We need long-term relief."
FIRST 5 SAN BERNARDINO INVESTS $2.2 MILLION IN LOCAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
Commission Launches Community-Driven Strategies to Benefit Children's Lives

In a demonstration of their ongoing commitment to improve the lives of children, the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County today approved a $2.2 million investment over the next three years in First 5 San Bernardino programs serving local kids ages 0 to 5 and their families. In keeping with their goal to create positive change for the children and families of San Bernardino County, organizations were asked to submit applications focused on two of the Commission’s strategic priorities — Family Resource Centers and Parenting Education.

First 5 San Bernardino is committed to investing in high-quality programs that are specifically designed to meet local needs and enhance the lives of our county’s youngest residents.” Said Don Larkin, executive director of First 5 San Bernardino. “These organizations will measure success not by the number of classes or activities they have, but by the amount of human gain achieved. The bottom line is the benefit received by the community and, most importantly, by the children.”

The Request for Applications was announced on April 8, 2004. More than 70 applications were received totaling more than $68 million in investment requests. Seven were initially selected to receive an investment – a total of $2.5 million over the next three years. Additional programs are expected to be approved at the next Commission meeting scheduled for August 4, 2004.

Agencies that did not receive an investment were offered one-on-one sessions to receive feedback about their applications. This free technical assistance is designed to assist agencies in developing and collecting knowledge for future investment opportunities. Agencies interested in researching other funding resources may contact Mary Jaquish, Community Resource Specialist at (909) 386-7706, extension 241.

Research shows that a child’s brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and the choices made by parents and caregivers during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact on the child’s chances and potential throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 San Bernardino receives approximately $24 million per year in Prop 10 revenues to invest in programs and services that meet local needs.

For more information, contact First 5 San Bernardino at (909) 386-7706, or visit their Web site at www.first5sanbernardino.org.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) has released The State of America's Children 2004, which provides a comprehensive examination of how children are faring in our country. The book paints a troubling picture—based on the most recent statistical data and analyses—of an unacceptably high number of children who are still being left behind.

One in six children in the United States continues to live in poverty. One in eight—9.3 million—children have no health insurance. Three out of five children under six are cared for by someone other than their parents on a regular basis. Only 31 percent of fourth grader read at or above grade level. An estimated three million children were reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect. Almost nine million young people are overweight—over 15 percent of children and adolescents under age 19.

The State of America's Children 2004 features the most recent data available on our nation's children and reviews developments in family income and child poverty, hunger and food assistance, child health, child care, Head Start and school-age care, education, children and families in crisis, and juvenile justice and youth development. Charts along with the latest and most compelling statistics clarify the status of children in several key areas.

Family Income
- Three out of four poor children live in families where someone worked and one in three poor children lives with a full-time year-round worker. More than 5.1 million children live in extremely low-income households spending at least half of their income on housing.
- Twenty-two million adults and 13 million children live in a household suffering from hunger or "food insecurity without hunger."
- The richest one-fifth of households made 10.7 times as much in median income as the poorest one-fifth. The widest gap on record from the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Child Health
- 9.3 million children lack health insurance. Yet six million of these uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) under current law.
- The number of overweight children has more than tripled since 1980. Almost nine million young people are overweight—over 15 percent of children and adolescents under age 19.
- The number of children participating in Head Start has more than doubled during the past three decades, but currently the program only serves three out of five three- and four-year-olds.
- Education
- Seven out of ten fourth graders cannot read nor do math at grade level.
- Ninety percent of the nation's children attend public schools. Children in the poorest families are six times as likely as children in more affluent families to drop out of high school.
- Three-quarters of the nation's public schools are in need of repairs, renovations, and modernization. The average school building is more than 40 years old. Yet, states spend on average almost three times as much per prisoner as per public school pupil.
- Children and Families in Crisis
- Three million children in a year are reported abused or neglected and referred for investigation or assessment, close to 900,000 of them are confirmed as victims of child maltreatment.
- Child abuse and domestic violence co-occur in an estimated 40 to 60 percent of the families where there is some form of family violence.
- Juvenile Justice and Youth Development
- The national crime rate has dropped nearly 25 percent since 1993, but more than one-quarter of victims of violent crime victims known to police in the U.S. are juveniles. Youths ages 16 to 19 currently experience overall violence, including rape and general assault, at higher rates than people in all other age categories.
- Two-thirds of youth in juvenile justice system have one or more diagnosable mental health disorders. Girls are the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice population. The arrest rate for females under age 18 increased more than 14 percent between 1993 and 2002, while the rate for males under age 18 decreased.
- More than six million school-age children are left alone after school without supervision. The average child watches 28 hours of television a week and by age 18 will have seen more than 200,000 acts of violence and 16,000 simulated murders depicted on the TV screen.
- The mission of the Children's Defense Fund is to leave no child behind and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

For additional information, please contact CDF's Press Secretary, John Norton, at (202) 662-3609 or to order the publication online, go to http://www.cdfwebstore.com.

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NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 17, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the proposed substantial amendments to the County’s 2004-2005 CDBG Action Plan listed below, and to solicit citizen comments regarding these amendments.

BACKGROUND: Each year since 1975, the County of San Bernardino has qualified to receive federal housing and community development grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are to develop viable communities for eligible projects in the unincorporated communities and 13 operating cities, these cities are Adelanto, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Needles, Redlands, twentynine Palms, Yucaipa, and the Town of Yucca Valley. For the purpose of these grant funds, this area is referred to as the “County Consortium.”

To receive the 2004-2005 CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds, the County prepared a consolidated grant application. The consolidated application was a part of the County’s updated 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan and 2004-2005 Action Plan. On April 13, 2004, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors approved the proposed Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. Upon completion of the public review period and after all comments were received and considered, the final Consolidated Plan and Action Plan was prepared, and submitted to HUD on May 28, 2004 for funding approval.

PROPOSED CDBG SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS: The following proposed amendments would substantially change the CDBG portion of the 2004-2005 Action Plan.

As requested by the Lucerne Valley Domestic Violence Services organization, cancel their Court-ordered Youth Counseling Services program as a CDBG funded activity, and reprogram its $5,000 allocation to unprogrammed funds for the First Supervisorial District.

Due to a determination made by HUD that this project would not meet CDBG eligibility rules, cancel as a CDBG funded activity, the “Visit Our Mountains” Economic Recovery Publicity Campaign - Mountain Communities Chambers of Commerce project, and reprogram its $150,000 to the Countywide Business Expansion (B2E) revolving loan fund.

Initiate for implementation during Fiscal Year 2004-05, the Second District Graffiti Removal Services Program, utilizing $35,000 from unprogrammed funds for the Second Supervisorial District.

Cancel the Chino Graffiti Removal project as a CDBG funded activity, because other non-CDBG funds were used for that project, and reprogram its $10,000 CDBG allocation to unprogrammed funds for the Fourth Supervisorial District.

Modify the scope of the existing CDBG-funded AI Shifa Health Clinic Facility Rehabilitation project to include facility improvements to establish a new dental office at the AI Shifa Clinic in Mussoy, utilizing $20,000 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District.

Initiate a new project for construction of improvements to the Blake Little League Baseball facility, utilizing $4,112 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District, and $30,868 from the Fifth District Hazardous and Abandoned Buildings Demonstration program.

Initiate a new project for installation of pipeline improvements to the Arrowhead Valley Mutual Water Company water system in the unincorporated Arrowhead Suburban Farms community, utilizing $35,000 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District.

Initiate a new project for construction of kitchen improvements to the Temple Community Outreach Center in San Bernardino to serve senior citizens and at-risk youth from Mussoy and other nearby unincorporated communities, utilizing $67,675 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District.

Initiate a new project for construction of youth recreation facility improvements to the Boys and Girls Club of San Bernardino Center in San Bernardino, utilizing $36,200 of CDBG funds from the unprogrammed funds for the Fifth Supervisorial District.

ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT PROVISION: Items may be added or deleted from this list of Proposed Substantial Amendments at the Board of Supervisors hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT: For a period of thirty (30) days beginning on August 3, 2004 and ending on August 31, 2004, the public is invited to submit written comments on these proposed amendments. Comments received after 5:00 p.m. August 31, 2004 cannot be considered in the preparation of the amended Consolidated Plan. Send comments to County ECD at the address shown below.

Those individuals wishing to express their views on these substantial amendments may be present and be heard at the public hearing or may, prior to the time of the hearing, submit writing, comments to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130.

If you challenge any decision regarding the above proposal in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Due to time constraints and the number of persons wishing to give oral testimony, time restrictions may be placed on oral testimony at the public hearing regarding this proposal. You may make your comments in writing to assure that you are able to express yourself adequately.

San Bernardino County
Department of Economic and Community Development
290 North “D” Street, Sixth Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0040
Attn: Program and Compliance Section
or call (909) 388-0495

DENNIS HANSBERGER, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

J. RENEE BASTIAN
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SAY NO TO FUNDING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND HISPANIC STUDENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Republicans voted to deny funding for civil rights and Hispanic programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). On a 205-209 party-line vote, Republicans narrowly defeated an amendment to the Agriculture spending bill that would have provided nearly $4 million in funding for civil rights programs, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and outreach to minority farmers. [RC vote #366, 7/13/04]

The programs are necessary because the USDA has paid out nearly $1 billion in racial discrimination complaints for failing to provide equal opportunities for minority farmers.

House Republicans claim to support the goals of the Hispanic community but their voting record proves otherwise. Under this amendment, Republicans could have improved opportunities for Hispanic farmers and students at 350 colleges and universities,” said Rep. Robert T. Matsui (CA), Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) supported the amendment because it “contains record new USDA funding for our Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), which serve the largest concentrations of Hispanic higher education students.” Also, the “amendment provides our HSIs welcome access to new federal funding resources and a greater opportunity to become actively engaged in USDA research, scholarship, internship, teaching and collaborative research programs.” [HACU letter to Reps. Baca, Kidloe and Thompson, 7/12/04]

Rep. Robert T. Matsui (CA), Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said, “Racial discrimination complaints against the USDA have cost the American people over $1 billion. The programs funded under Baca-Thompson-Kildee amendment would have gone a long way to reduce those complaints by creating programs that truly meet the needs of minorities. The reality is that either the agency will pay now via responsible funding and programs, or pay later on discrimination settlements. It is ridiculous that Republicans would rather wait for people of color to suffer injury than act to avoid it.”

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Riverside, CA 92507 or fax 909.656.8210. EOE

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Siempre es conveniente saber donde estan enterradas las lineas de servicios publicos subterranas antes de comenzar cualquier tipo de proyecto que implique cavar. Las lineas pueden estar escondidas debajo de calles y senderos, incluso debajo de terranos vacantes y a lo largo de los limites de una propiedad. Siempre que necesite cavar, estara el riesgo de encontrar las lineas de gas natural, electricidad, agua, telefono o cable.

No importa si usted esta cavando en su patio o excavando para un proyecto comercial, la ley requiere que antes llame al servicio de ubicacion Dig Alert. Dentro de dos dias laborales luego de su llamada, cada servicio publico colocara marcadores donde se encuentran sus instalaciones, para que de esta forma usted o su contratista pueda cavar con seguridad.

El no obtener la ubicacion apropiada de las lineas de los servicios subterranos puede tener como consecuencia multas significativas y costosas facturas de reparacion.

Para seguridad de todos, llame a Dig Alert, al numero de telefono sin cargo, dos dias laborales antes de comenzar a cavar.
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United Way of the Inland Valleys

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Go for a walk with a family member or a friend.

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A message from California Department of Health Services funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Department of Public Health Nutrition Program Healthy Foods System Council of San Bernardino Project LEAN and the Nutrition Network Grant #95-02857