

## **HARD-HIT CALAVERAS CUTS BACK**

### **SUPERVISORS HALVE MEETINGS; HOURS, SERVICES TRIMMED**

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SAN ANDREAS - People looking to do pretty much anything involving Calaveras County government - whether adopting a cat, getting a vaccination, or checking a property record - will soon have fewer times and places to take care of that business.

And if they want to complain to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors about the shrinking business hours, they'd better check the calendar.

The Board of Supervisors has already cut its number of monthly meetings in half.

Blame budget cuts.

The board on Tuesday approved the introduction of ordinances that will formally put the changes into county code.

The board itself will now meet only the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, rather than the four times a month that was the norm before July.

That reduction in meeting frequency will save an estimated \$36,112 in the fiscal year that began July 1.

Another change in county code shaves two hours a day off the time during which the doors of county departments will be open to the public. Instead of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., it will now be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In this case, the goal isn't to save additional money but to aid the survival of county workers overwhelmed after seeing dozens of their peers laid off the past three years.

According to a report by Assistant County Administrative Officer Shirley Ryan, the change will give staff "protected time" to perform duties other than responding to walk-in customers.

Several other departments reeling from layoffs and funding cuts have already made similar administrative changes. The Calaveras County Public Health Department, for example, effective Saturday, will eliminate its monthly immunization clinics in West Point and Arnold.

Among other things, the clinics offered uninsured children the whooping cough vaccine now required of public school students.

The county will continue to offer vaccinations at clinics in Valley Springs and San Andreas.

Also, because of staff reductions in the county's Animal Services Division, that facility will now be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. People who want to adopt a pet or reclaim an impounded animal will be able to visit the Animal Shelter from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

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