



COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE • MEDIA RELATIONS  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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## Six County Programs Receive NACo Achievement Awards

(Santa Ana, CA) — Six County of Orange programs were selected to receive a 2013 Achievement Award by the National Association of Counties (NACo).

“We are honored to have been recognized by NACo and appreciate the opportunity to share innovative County programs that best demonstrate our efforts to provide efficient, quality services to the residents of Orange County,” said Chairman Shawn Nelson, Orange County Board of Supervisors.

The Orange County programs to receive Achievement Awards are:

**Child Support Services Leadership Development Program:** Child Support Services created its Leadership Development Program to provide professional development tools and resources to staff for workforce development and succession planning.

**Family Centered Services Community Resource Initiative:** Child Support Services implemented this model to link customers to community resources to help resolve issues that may prevent parents from paying their child support obligation and from being an active part of their children’s lives.

**Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks Activity Guide:** To communicate to the public about the land and the recreation opportunities available, the Irvine Ranch Conservancy worked with OC Parks to create an expansive activity guide to not only the activities in the OC Parks open space, but a guide to all of the activities in the historic Irvine Ranch. From 2010 to 2011, participation in these programs increased by 66%.

**OC Animal Care License Collection Process:** In May of 2011, OC Animal Care sent an automated file of delinquent licenses to the Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector for follow-up and collection. This file represented the first time that OC Animal Care had proactively attempted to collect on a large group of expired dog licenses. As a result, there has not only been an increase of 7% in licensing compliance rates, but also a 10% reduction in the number of dogs impounded.

**OC Public Libraries’ Book Talk Blog:** OC Public Libraries’ Book Talk is a readers’ advisory blog written and maintained by OC Public Libraries’ staff. The purpose of this blog is to extend the Readers’ Advisory service provided in the branches. More than a critical review, Book Talk’s task is to help patrons find books they want to read in an online environment.

**Vegetation/Hazard Reduction Accounting Database:** OC Public Works sends annual notices to all affected property owners in the unincorporated areas instructing them to remove weeds and combustible vegetation identified as a public nuisance. If the removal is not accomplished by a specified date, the County or contracted crews will abate these properties. The Vegetation Hazard Reduction Application was created in order to greatly increase the efficiency of related data processing.

To learn more about the NACo Achievement Awards program, please visit

<http://www.naco.org/programs/recognition/Pages/AchievementAwards.aspx>.

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