

techwire

California Department of Justice Launching Innovation Office

Performance Manager Maya Wallace says the office will use tech and data to develop user-centered solutions.

BY MATT WILLIAMS

The California Department of Justice is the newest state entity to see value in the concept of developing its own innovation office. Residing within the department's Executive Office, the Office of Performance Improvement and Innovation (OPII) is coalescing a small team to help "identify the organization's biggest needs, tackle tough challenges, and support organizational modernization and performance transformation."

One of the leaders of the new office is Maya Wallace, a fixture in Sacramento's innovation scene who formerly evaluated state programs for California state auditor. *TechWire* recently interviewed Wallace about the new office and other emerging initiatives.



Maya Wallace

TechWire: What is the Department of Justice's new Office of Performance Improvement and Innovation that's being built?

Wallace: OPII is special because it is an effort to do an innovation office in civil service, as opposed to doing it as an executive initiative effort. The goal is to have it live on after leadership changes so we can have more continuity in the bureaucracy. The new office is consistent with her tech and data initiatives, which are led by Justin Erlich, [Kamala' Harris's chief adviser for technology and data]. The work you will see will be probably more internal [than OpenJustice]. The first project I'm working on is a redesign of a website user interface, though this really is an effort to see what it means to be user-centered

internally. How do we make sure the public is satisfied with what it is getting from government? And that internal accountability is a huge part of that effort. I think this is extremely critical to think about, especially in state and local government. We'll have some externally facing stuff. The OPII office is in the executive office, but I see us as a bridge between multiple departments, and we work very closely with the California Justice Information Services Division (CJIS), the main IT provider for the department.

The [Department of Justice's] mission is very public, like the Bureau of Firearms, and there's always a tug of war among that part of us — that is actually what got me interested in the job. How do we demonstrate that this agency is doing its best?

Q: My understanding is that OPII is working with some small firms and doing some agile methodologies. What are the projects they're working on, and how is the Department of Justice tackling this while staying within the state's procurement rules?

A: DOJ is a little special: We have some carve-outs at the Department of Justice, compared to other

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NEWS BRIEFS

Department of Technology Executives Look to 2017

BY AMY TONG AND CHRIS CRUZ

Good government is fueled by people helping people. Good government technology is fueled by people helping people use the right resources technology can bring to a solution. In this day and age in the state of California, delivering secure, effective and efficient government services to the people is more paramount than ever and will be the bellwether of success if done well. The California Department of Technology is planning accordingly to deliver on these opportunities:

- ✓ Information Security will be effectuated in a “One team-One fight” approach. Cybersecurity will be a foundational element to every technology initiative the state embarks upon and the measure by which the secure delivery of government technology services are provided to the people of California.
- ✓ IT Procurement Modernization will allow the state to make the right purchases at the right time from the right company to leverage and encourage the best IT solutions on the market. Creating a dynamic marketplace for the best solutions, regardless of a company’s size or a department’s usage of historical procurement practices, will better enable the state to deliver services to the people of California.
- ✓ Enterprise Solutions will enable ease of use for end users while providing efficiencies and sustainability to California’s IT infrastructure. By reducing redundancies, promoting interoperability and encouraging innovation where the business need requires risking bureaucracy for long-term results California will shine as the Golden State and home to the Silicon Valley.
- ✓ Workforce Development will recruit, retain and build up employee capabilities to meet the size and complexity of skill-sets required to grow, not just sustain, California’s government technologies diverse and varied IT services securely, effectively and efficiently.

Amy Tong, is state CIO and director of the California Department of Technology; Chris Cruz is deputy state CIO and chief deputy director.

California Envisions Shared Data System to Examine Workforce and Training Programs

The project, dubbed “CAAL-Skills,” is known as Cross-System Analytics and Assessment for Learning and Skills Attainment. It would combine information that’s currently held in silos, using shared data standards and performance measures — such as wages and employment. The system would track program outcomes by region, provider, service, demographics, industry and occupation, according to an outline of the project presented at a California Workforce Development Board meeting. California spends at least \$6 billion each year on workforce, career technical education and related training programs, according to the presentation, and is subject to mandated federal and state reporting requirements. In a nutshell, CAAL-Skills would be able to report on which training programs are getting results and which ones aren’t.

Tax Board Approves \$10M for Server Virtualization Improvements

The Franchise Tax Board in December authorized four IT contracts exceeding \$1 million. Three are software renewals, and the fourth is a new project — an expansion of its server virtualization. On Dec. 8, the board approved the organization to enter into a \$9.9 million, five-year Enterprise License Agreement for VMWare software. The board also approved a \$1 million, one-year renewal of its software subscription and support of IBM Passport Advantage, through June 2018, and a three-year, \$1.6 million renewal of Genesys software maintenance.

Report: Expect Growth in Government IT Spending in 2017



Government information technology spending is projected to continue to grow under the new federal administration. In a 2017 forecast from Onvia, the organization predicted steady growth and counseled that even if the new administration makes big changes to government spending, it will take several quarters for those changes to show up in government priorities and budgeting. According to the firm’s analysis, the adjusted IT spend from state, local and education entities has grown 17 percent from \$29 billion to \$34 billion between 2010 and 2016.

NEWS BRIEFS

California Adopts First-in-the-Nation Energy Rules for Computers

California regulators approved in mid-December the nation's first energy-efficiency standards for computers. The rules, passed unanimously by the California Energy Commission after years in the making, will cover desktops and laptops as well as monitors, workstations and small servers. A central aim of the rules is to reduce the amount of energy that computers consume while not in use. For example, when most computers are shipped, their settings must be adjusted under the new regulations so that the screen will go to sleep if the machine is not used for 30 minutes. Workstations and small computers must begin complying in 2018. Regulations for desktops and notebooks start taking effect in 2019.



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State Department of Rehabilitation Enhances Legacy Financial Systems



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The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) is tentatively scheduled to deploy the latest update to its Enhanced Maintenance and Operation-II (EMO-II) project in May 2017. EMO-II seeks to maintain legacy accounting and financial systems until DOR implements Fi\$Cal, the financial information system for the state, as well as support the DOR in implementing agency-specific needs related to federal legislation and Corrective Action Steps that comply with recommended standards from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration Conditions and California State Auditor's Office.

The scheduled release will include enhancements to the Immediate Pay Checkwrite system used by the department's Central Office. This deployment succeeds two update releases that took place in late 2016, which focused on improvements to the AWARE Vocational Rehabilitation case management system. Built by Alliance Enterprise Inc., AWARE interfaces with the department's legacy mainframe systems, including but not limited to financial management and invoice tracking applications.

Secretary of State Unveils New California Business Search Application

Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced the launch of the California Business Search tool. The tool provides access via the Secretary of State's website to more than 5.3 million records related to corporations, companies and partnerships, along with millions of downloadable PDF images of Statements of Information. The tool features expanded search criteria and improved search functionality, a new mobile-friendly design, daily updates of data and the addition of data relating to Statements of Information of Records. Padilla, who dubbed the California Business Search a "major step forward for transparency," noted that the application has been moved to Microsoft Azure to streamline performance and enhance resiliency.

Competition Could Be Fierce in Prequalified Pool of Agile Developers

California expects to complete by the end of February 2017 a refresh of the state's list of vendors that are pre-qualified to provide state agencies and departments with "user-centric" design and agile software development services. The state is expanding the pool — which will be eligible to bid on future Request for Offers (RFOs) — from 11 existing vendors to as many as 30. As part of the process, ownership of the pool is moving from the California Health and Human Services Agency to the California Department of Technology, in order to allow a broader range of state agencies and departments to use the qualified developers' services.

Competition for those spots could be tight. California Department of Technology senior adviser Adrian Farley, the pool's executive sponsor, said approximately 50 vendors took part in a webinar the state hosted to give more information about the Agile Development Prequalified Pool.

NEWS BRIEFS



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California Corrections Department Builds New Automated Notification Service for Crime Victims

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSRS) deployed a new Automated Email Notification Service for crime victims. The purpose of the new system is to allow victims and their family members to register for services, including notifications of an offender's release 90 days in advance, immediate alerts on the escape or death of an offender, and updates regarding collection of court-ordered restitution.

Prior to implementing the system, the department utilized the Victim Information and Notification Everyday service, also referred to as VINE, which is a national notification network created by Kentucky-based Appriss. OVSRS Assistant Chief Katie James told *TechWire* the move to the new system isn't without its benefits: "The data in the email from our new service will be more expansive," James said. "[The email] will have information about when the offender will go on parole or probation, as well as phone numbers, contact information and other resources."

Sacramento Leaders Welcome Arrival of Gigabit Internet

Sacramento leaders say speedier Internet on its way to the region should be a boon for the local economy, businesses and consumers. AT&T recently announced it's offering up to 1 gigabit fiber broadband connectivity to customers located in the Sacramento area, and in parts of Modesto, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, Stockton and West Sacramento. The company has been negotiating with Sacramento through a public-private partnership called "5 Bars." In June, the City Council approved the partnership with the Irvine, Calif.-based company, which is developing a wireless master plan for Sacramento, to proactively market city-owned assets and negotiate agreements with service providers on behalf of the city.

California Selects Vendors for Off-Premises Cloud Storage Services Contract

The California Department of Technology in December announced an Intent to Award for off-premises cloud storage services. The selected vendors are IBM and Infiniti Consulting Group of Folsom, Calif., according to procurement records associated with a competitive bid that was originally issued in June 2016. Called "Storage as a Service" (STaaS), it will join the department's growing portfolio of "Vendor-Hosted Subscription Services." In the VHSS model, customers pay a prenegotiated rate and pay as they go. The Department of Technology acts as a service broker. California is creating separate brokered offerings for both off-premises and on-premises storage.



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State Officials Discuss Monetizing FirstNet Spectrum

The California Office of Emergency Services and the federal First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) are anticipating heavy use of a nationwide broadband network for first responders, from a source some may find surprising — commercial operations. Although the primary goal of the FirstNet network is to create an interoperable system for public safety agencies across the U.S., state and federal officials say there's a fiscal benefit to opening up excess capacity to be used by entities outside the public sector. During a California Broadband Council meeting in Sacramento last month, officials noted the state's potentially very large user base could produce extra revenue, but it has yet to be determined how that would work on the national level to help deploy network access in rural states.

NEWS BRIEFS

California Public Utilities Commission Examines Telecom Competition

The California Public Utilities Commission looked at significant changes in the state's growing telecommunications market. The examination serves to test the Uniform Regulatory Framework (URF) instituted over a decade ago, which ultimately removed the need for CPUC rate and regulation under the conclusion that providers would offer fair services and the commission would continue to monitor any market changes.

Officially submitted last fall, the investigation found both expected and unexpected data on the telecom market's development, such as the rise of mobile technology and diminishing use of voice communication. Under the proceeding, communications providers in the state are instructed to submit to the CPUC annual reports on voice and broadband subscriber data and location information requested by the commission's Communications Division. The division would also be required to deliver a report by Dec. 1, 2018, analyzing voice and broadband service in the state.



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5,000 Cybersecurity Professionals Employed in Sacramento Region

A total of about 5,000 cybersecurity professionals work in Sacramento, Roseville and the surrounding metro area — and employers are hoping to fill another 2,000 positions, according to a new online tool. The data is gleaned from CyberSeek, launched and funded through a grant from the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Developed in cooperation with labor market analytics firm Burning Glass Technologies and the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA), the tool illustrates staffing needs, career paths, job openings and most popular job titles. The staffing shortage in Sacramento mirrors similar challenges in California and across the U.S. CompTIA says more than 84,000 people are employed in cybersecurity roles in California, but employers posted 45,000 job openings for cybersecurity workers in the 12 months between Q2 2015 and Q2 2016.

TechWire welcomes your feedback. Contact Editor Matt Williams at (916) 932-1310 or matt@techwire.net.



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WellSTAR System Helps State Conservation Department Take Step Toward Digital Age

The California Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) is moving forward with implementing a new statewide tracking and reporting system, known as WellSTAR. The project, which aims to improve the state's oversight of oil and gas production, is the division's first step to becoming a fully digital operation. Following the close of the project's initial analysis phase in early November, staff determined WellSTAR will be released in four phases, the first of which will take place August 2017. Subsequent releases will take place in 2018 and 2019. Each stage will include various features, such as technical architecture and entity management. In addition to assisting with daily tasks, the new system will help DOGGR comply with federal and state statutes.



Ross began his work at the Los Angeles World Airports working on the agency's SAP ERP system, until taking on the position of financial management system director for the Office of the Controller from 2008 to 2012. Prior to assuming his current role in 2015, Ross served as deputy CIO and assistant general manager to ITA for three years.

“My department as much as anyone is competing for funding, which has required us to reinvent ourselves,” Ross said. “We work really hard to be innovative, great facilitators and try and improve every meeting that we’re a part of, so whether we’re building it ourselves, we’re facilitating someone else building it or we’re simply advising, we just want to be the best tech advisers in the city of L.A. — and we’ll always find work, so to speak.”

ACTIVE AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES

The budget isn’t holding Ross back from going forward with some significant efforts. ITA is actively advancing toward enterprise Wi-Fi, a project in which Ross’ team has targeted four major city facilities that house large groups of workers, including but not limited to City Hall and City Hall East. When complete, each of the buildings’ floors will have ubiquitous, fast Wi-Fi connection, designed to allow employees to work practically anywhere they please. The agency has also been working the past year on a full replacement of all “plain old telephone service” (POTS) lines that city employees use with cloud-hosted voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) phone systems. This initiative will continue the next two years.

By the same token, ITA is looking to double the number of cloud-hosted applications each year and, in the next six to eight months, anticipates having 80 to 100 workloads in the cloud. With this increasing cloud footprint, accomplishing rapid application development is another target for the agency. Equipped with platform-as-a-service solutions, off-the-shelf systems and cloud-based infrastructure, Ross’ staff is trying to deviate from the old-fashioned method

CIO Ted Ross Discusses L.A.’s Future Tech Initiatives

BY MAGGIE CABREY

From managing the Los Angeles World Airports’ ERP system to his current position as CIO and general manager of the city’s Information Technology Agency (ITA), Ted Ross has spent the past 15 years of his 20-year IT career immersed in L.A.’s information technology sector. On Dec. 20, Ross spoke at the TechWire Virtual Conference, where he gave our Insider members a better look at the city’s evolving IT and upcoming initiatives to watch out for.

IT MISSION AND BUDGET

ITA comprises about 450 employees tasked with running the city’s data network, voice communications, a 24/7 data center and more than 125 applications for nearly 50,000 city

employees, 38 departments and 4 million residents. The agency also oversees the city’s public safety radio and microwave networks, 311 call center for city service requests, Web services, cybersecurity and a TV station.

The agency has an operating budget of approximately \$90 million, which includes approximately \$48 million for salaries, \$23 million for contractual services and about \$14 million for communications services. IT funding, among other agency budgets, have taken some hits in recent years, and while the city has seen steady revenues as of late, management isn’t interested in simply “rebuilding the old,” Ross said, but more so reallocating funding to critical issues, such as homelessness and transportation.

of taking more than a year to develop a custom system hosted in a data center, and instead plans to produce and deploy applications quickly for users that would then pay the cloud subscription fee the app runs on.

Ross noted there will be work done on some of the city's financial systems. In 2017, ITA will be launching the procurement module for its CGI Advantage financial platform, a system implemented in 2011. There has also been interest from City Council and the Mayor's Office to bring in a "true" human resources and payroll system. Ross expects to see more definitive plans for this project in the next six months.

Because of the Great Recession, ITA has about 40 percent fewer workers today than it did in 2008, and more than 50 percent of IT staff are eligible for retirement within two years. These two factors have made bringing in more talent one of the agency's top priorities.

"We've been very focused on succession planning, knowledge management, and different steps and capabilities to be able to attract and recruit excellent talent, as well as be able to transfer the proprietary knowledge of those who are retiring to those who are left behind," Ross explained.

ITA is in the process of modernizing hiring procedures by moving away from scheduled on-premise interviews by creating computer-based civil service exams. This new "anytime, anywhere" civil service testing will revolutionize how the city hires, Ross said, allowing recruitment to take place nearly in real time. Additionally, the agency has been reaching out to universities and unconventional places for recruitment, such as hack-a-thons and coding associations, to bring in new talent.

Moreover, when possible the agency will contract out specific jobs

\$90 million

The Los Angeles Information Technology Agency operating budget.

- ✓ Approximately for \$48 million for salaries
- ✓ \$23 million are contractual services
- ✓ Around \$14 million for communications services

ITA manages IT services for

50,000

city employees across 38 departments, and 4 million residents, including:

- ✓ 125 applications
- ✓ 24/7 data center
- ✓ Data and voice communications
- ✓ 311 call center
- ✓ Radio communications

and workloads, leaving city employees to manage tasks such as quality assurance and integration services.

"There's a massive appetite for IT that we certainly couldn't handle with our existing workforce, and we're not being allowed to staff up as much to be able to handle it," Ross said. "It's about figuring out clever ways in which we can use existing staff as well as extensions on staff."

PROCUREMENT AND IT STRATEGIZING

To keep up with the pace of technology, the city has expanded into alternative types of purchasing methods. In the past, ITA would primarily use request for proposals (RFPs), the traditional type of procurement that can take three years until a purchase is made. But as IT tools have quickly become more sophisticated, the need to use more agile forms of procurement is growing.

ITA will opt for RFPs and bid invitations for projects, particularly for larger efforts such as consulting services, that call for a more thorough vetting process. These solicitations are advertised via the Los Angeles Business Assistance Virtual Network, found at LABAVN.org. However, the agency will use a more expedited process for smaller-dollar projects that are lower risk, and SoftwareONE when acquiring licenses that don't require additional services.

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti is set to release his initial budget between March and April 2017, and following that vendors will be provided additional information on potential projects that the agency will move through a competitive process. Ross also said his agency plans to soon release a strategic plan, as well as a technology plan for the city that will explain in greater detail Los Angeles' top tech priorities for the coming years. ●

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agencies, where we don't have to go through the Department of General Services. But also DGS has created some procurement tools that it didn't have just a year ago that DOJ and other agencies can use. We have a \$1 million purchasing [oversight] threshold, so we can do some proof-of-concept work ourselves. There are three projects going on: One is a customer management and/or case management system; another is a forms interface that's trying to bring everything online and make it responsive; Aand the third is digitization of handwriting and other non-standard data.

Q: Where in California do you think there's impressive innovation going on, and with whom are you collaborating?

A. One instance I can think of is that what GovOps is doing is really amazing. They have an agile [guide] out now. And there's a Lean academy where the agency is doing Denver Peak Academy, California style. And places like Code4Sac have become a platform for state government people to collaborate. I see myself as a silo buster. I worked at the State Auditor for six years, so I saw every state agency has the same problems and all are creating their own solutions, as opposed to trying to figure out, at the state level, what could we provide together. We've hung out with [state Chief Data Officer] Zac Townsend and FUSE Corps fellow Niles Friedman. I talk to the Health and Human Services Agency all the time too.

Q: What do you think 2017 holds for innovation at the Department of Justice? One could say 2016 was an eventful year for projects like OpenJustice, which is putting policing data online for the public.

A: I think it was a big year [in 2016] for criminal justice in general, and it will be interesting to see how the conversation unfolds, given new developments. We have a new attorney general coming in. I have not spoken to him personally, and I am not at the level of the organization where I can say what his focus will be. However, given the fact that California seems to want to continue on the same trajectory that it has been on — we've been participating in the White House police data initiative and other tech, for example — so I think that in 2017 the department will be building out its digital communications, and there will be teams of Ph.D.s doing analytics on OpenJustice data, and then there will



Justin Erlich

be some outcomes from that data that will be taken out to the community and start having conversations.

Office Will Use Tech and Data to Measure Performance

Example projects that the Office of Performance Improvement and Innovation could address:

- ✓ Transform digital services by building and applying modern technologies to make services more accessible, efficient and effective.
- ✓ Improve criminal justice system policy, transparency and accountability by improving data collection, analysis and reporting.
- ✓ Improve the way the agency hears from the public and handles consumer complaints to make enforcement more responsive and data-driven.
- ✓ Redesign the agency website “front door” to make services easier to find and more user-friendly.
- ✓ Apply technology, data and user insights in innovative ways to enhance the DOJ's reach and impact.
- ✓ Improve performance across the agency by developing performance metrics, applying data to operational challenges, and using data to aid service improvement and decision-making.

Source: California Department of Justice

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IT CONTRACTS

BY MAGGIE CABREY

WHETHER IT'S A BIG CONTRACT or a project in the early planning stages, *TechWire* tracks initiatives and contracts with the goal of giving our members better insight on what's happening in California's technology sector. Here's a look at IT projects in the works at city and county governments you may have missed.

Contra Costa County on Dec. 6 approved a \$1.9 million contract with Echo Consulting Services of California Inc. to provide hardware, software and services through June 30, 2019, to implement the Echo Sharecare System for the county Behavioral Health Division's billing system. The new system will replace the currently used Echo INSYST solution, which the division has been using since 1999.

On Jan. 10, the **San Francisco Board of Supervisor's** discussed a series of proposed contract amendments with Tier 1A Generalist contractors, which provide professional and specialized services, technology products, equipment, and maintenance and training services. Among the proposals is a resolution authorizing the Office of Contract Administration amend the city and county's agreement with ComputerLand of Silicon Valley a third time. Under the amendment, the contract limit is increased from \$44 million to \$58 million for Oct. 1, 2014 through Sept. 30, 2018.

The **Oakland Police Department** at the end of 2016 recommended waiving the city's competitive bidding process to procure forensic lab supplies, services and software on an "as-needed" basis from certified vendors. The Oakland Redevelopment Successor Agency and City Council passed this motion at a special concurrent meeting on Dec. 13. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved a \$2.5 million contract increase with Tangent Computer Inc. in early December. Under the agreement, Tangent will continue to

provide the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System mobile wireless computers, as part of the system's "Workstation on Wheels" program. The contract amendment brings the maximum cost to \$7.5 million, and extends the contract term through Feb. 6, 2018.

In addition, the **Santa Clara** board approved increasing the county's contract amount with Impex Technologies Inc. from \$9.9 million to \$10.9 million. The company has been working with Santa Clara County since 2012, providing EMC storage solutions and related support services.

The **Los Angeles Board of Public Works** on Dec. 16 adopted a report recommending the city's sanitation agency, LSAN, award a Project Task Order to DCSE Inc. to provide on-site geographic information systems support. DCSE is included in LSAN's pre-qualified Consultant List, which was developed in 2013. Under the order, the company will augment LSAN staff at a cost of more than \$1 million.

In December, **Department of Public Works** Chief Deputy Director Mark Pestrella and acting CIO Peter Loo for Los Angeles County have recommended a project to upgrade IT infrastructure to support Public Health Centers' Online Real-Time Centralized Health Information Database System, also referred to as ORCHID. According to documents from the County Board of Supervisors' Dec. 13 meeting, the project budget is estimated at \$4.15 million.

Loo also recommended the **Director of Health Services** receive authorization to extend an agreement with MModal Services Ltd. for three years, through June 30, 2020. Under the agreement, MModal will provide three additional software modules and two interfaces for radiology transcription for an estimated cost of more than \$3.5 million. The amendment also includes two one-year extension options.

According to documents from the **Santa Monica** City Council's Jan. 10 meeting, the Planning and Community Development Administration recommended council approve a contract with Sentry Control Systems Inc. for a parking access and revenue control system for city-owned facilities. The contract amount is for a maximum of \$4.7 million, and includes purchase, installation and up to seven years of maintenance.

The **Orange County Sheriff-Coroner** received approval Dec. 13 from the Board of Supervisors to renew a contract with MorphoTrak LLC for its automated biometrics identification system. The maximum total contract amount has been set at approximately \$7 million for the period of Dec. 18, 2016, through Jan. 26, 2018.

The **Santa Ana Police Department** purchased mobile in-car computers from CDCE Inc. to replace staff's outdated fleet, which was installed nine years ago. City Council approved the contract, which is estimated at more than \$1 million, on Dec. 6. ●

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tech and Innovation Caucus Looks Ahead to Legislature's 2017-18 Session

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG



When Assemblymembers Evan Low, D-Silicon Valley, and Ian Calderon, D-Whittier, created a tech caucus last session, the new venture included a dozen lawmakers. In just one year, the caucus more than doubled to 30 members, providing a venue for elected officials to learn how technology impacts a wide variety of areas under state jurisdiction.

As the new Legislature for 2017-18 convenes beginning this month, the leaders of the California Legislative Technology and Innovation Caucus hope to attract both veteran and newly elected members to its ranks. Nine new members will be sworn in to the Senate and 22 into the Assembly — representing diverse backgrounds from government, education and the private sector.

Members have a variety of caucuses they can choose to join — on aviation, the

environment or outdoor sporting, just to name a few. The technology caucus, Low said, covers a wide range of issues and a background in the tech industry is not required. In fact, just a handful of its members have technology credentials.

“We’re not expecting anybody to be an expert,” Low said in an interview with TechWire to discuss the priorities of the Tech Caucus in the new session. “If they have an area of interest, we want to provide them the capability to do that.”

For example, the agenda in the 2017-2018 session for the tech caucus is likely to include informational sessions about driverless cars, drones, green technology and fuel cells, and fees on Internet streaming services. These are topics on which multiple members offer legislation each year, yet many members know little about the technology and impact of regulation on these issues, Low said.

Early next year, after members have introduced legislation, the caucus will meet and vote on a set of priority bills.

While it’s still too early to know how many new members might join the tech caucus, a number of incoming lawmakers highlighted technology as part of their campaign platforms.

In the Senate, Josh Newman, who won a tightly contested race against former tech caucus member Assemblywoman Ling Ling Chang, highlighted his work as both an executive and a consultant with a number of technology startups in the mobile and Internet media technology spheres.

San Francisco Board of Supervisor Scott Wiener and attorney Kevin Kiley, for example, both called for improving government efficiency and transparency, giving Californians more

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

“Technology transcends so many different issues. It doesn’t fit into a neat little box.”

-Assm. Evan Low, D-Silicon Valley

information about how their tax dollars are spent. They are in the company of incoming Sen. Anthony Portantino, who as an assemblyman was the only Democrat in the Legislature to release his personal budget and calendar in a bid for transparency after he feuded with the Assembly leadership.

“Transparency goes to the heart of what it means to have an accountable government,” Kiley said in an interview with *TechWire*.

Kiley, whose district includes Intel in Folsom, also said the state must find a way to adopt the best practices of the private sector because there is such a “marked difference” in how the private sector uses technology compared to government.

Ash Kalra, a former San Jose city councilmember, said on his campaign website that the state should “build upon the successes of Silicon Valley by creating an environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship as well as continuing to grow our manufacturing base.”

Others called for improved curriculums that can better prepare students for futures in the technology industry, including a call by Laura Friedman for free community college courses to prepare students for changes in technology in the film industry.

Todd Gloria, a San Diego councilman, has expressed interest about biotechnology and Blanca Rubio, a former teacher, wants to harness technology to help teach students, said Low, who spoke with both of them.

“Technology transcends so many different issues,” Low said. “It doesn’t fit into a neat little box.” Here is a look at the newly elected members:

SENATE

Bill Dodd, D-Napa,

former assemblymember

Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley,

former assemblymember

Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco,

former member of the San Francisco board of supervisors.

Scott Wilk, R-Santa Clarita,

former assemblymember

Anthony Portantino, D-La Canada

Flintridge, former assemblymember

Henry Stern, D-Canoga Park,

environmental attorney and policy adviser to former Democratic Sen. Fran Pavley

Josh Newman, D-Fullerton,

founder of ArmedForce2Workforce

Steven Bradford, D-Gardena,

former assemblymember

Toni Atkins, D-San Diego,

former Speaker of the Assembly

ASSEMBLY

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, D-Winters,

former mayor

Kevin Kiley, R-Rocklin,

Former Deputy Attorney General

Heath Flora, R-Ripon, farmer,

firefighter and businessman

Tim Grayson, D-Concord, former mayor

Marc Berman, D-Palo Alto, former city council member

Ash Kalra, D-San Jose, former city council member

Anna Caballero, D-Salinas, former secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, former assemblymember

Vince Fong, R-Bakersfield, his district director to Rep. Kevin McCarthy

Jordan Cunningham, R-Templeton, attorney

Monique Limón, D-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Unified School Board Member

Dante Acosta, R-Santa Clarita, former city councilmember

Raul Bocanegra, D-Los Angeles, former assemblyman

Laura Friedman, D-Glendale, former city councilwoman

Eloise Reyes, D-Colton, attorney and adjunct professor at Cal Poly Pomona

Blanca Rubio, D-Baldwin Park, Baldwin Park School Board member

Phillip Chen, R-Diamond Bar, Walnut Valley Unified School District Trustee

Sabrina Cervantes, D-Riverside, former district director for Assemblymember Jose Medina

Sharon Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton, former assemblymember

Al Muratsuchi, D-Torrance,

former assemblymember

Steven Choi, R-Irvine, former mayor

Randy Voepel, R-Santee, former mayor

Todd Gloria, D-San Diego,

former city council member ●

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