



NEWS RELEASE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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Los Angeles County Day at the Fair a Hit Largest attendance ever

The Sixth Annual Los Angeles County Day at the County Fair in Pomona on Sept. 12 was the most successful yet, based on the large turnout and the interest in County departments' booths.

Fair officials report that 16,394 people used the special \$5 admission coupons distributed by the County – the largest ever.

And County employees staffing the department booths said the new fairgrounds layout meant a lot more foot traffic coming through the Expo, with fairgoers stopping to ask lots of questions and take materials about County programs. A number of departments reported their supplies were gone before the six-hour Expo closed at 4 p.m. due to the larger-than-expected crowd.

In the past the Expo was located on both sides of Redwood Street, with little activity to draw the fairgoers to the booths. This year the booths were surrounded by the gypsy camp, the traveling circus and vendors, with some close to fairground entrances – resulting in a steady stream of fairgoers throughout the day.

Ann Gomez of the Department of Human Resources, whose booth was one of those running out of materials, said she heard someone comment, "I love County Day at the Fair...they have such great resources."

Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Don Knabe, Chief Executive Officer Bill Fujioka and department heads joined employees in the celebration, which was themed "Service Excellence."

Activities included a noon parade featuring County vehicles and employees, the all-day expo, and a horserace in honor of the County.

The parade was a big hit with the crowd – who loved all the Mardi gras beads, toys and candy thrown their way. "We had a great time with the crowd," said Esther Benquechea,

who rode in the Coroner's Weapons of Mass Destruction vehicle with Director Anthony Hernandez, throwing "body parts" candy to those lining the parade route.

In addition to riding in the parade, department heads competed against each other in the carnival game area, shooting water pistols, throwing darts and rolling balls. County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd won the championship trophy, barely defeating last year's champion, Animal Care and Control Director Marcia Mayeda. Mayeda handed over the championship trophy –which is displayed in the Public Information Office – to Donnellan Todd in a special ceremony at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 21, arranged by Supervisor Knabe.

Employees also got a chance to visit the County's exhibit in Building 4, which provided information to residents on signing up to receive County alerts about incidents and projects in their area.

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