


ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES
AGENCY
DAVID J. KEARS, Director



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Date: January 6, 2009

To: Supervisor Scott Haggerty, President
Supervisor Gail Steele
Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker
Supervisor Nate Miley
Supervisor Keith Carson
Susan Muranishi, County Administrator

From: 
Dave Kears, Agency Director

Subject: Retirement

It is with some trepidation and great appreciation for the opportunity that this County has afforded me that I inform you that I will retire from my position as Health Care Services Agency Director effective March 20, 2009. Upon retirement, my employment with the County will have spanned over 35 years with almost 23 years of that as Health Care Services Agency Director. I love this County, its diverse and vibrant population, its commitment to responsive and just government, and its willingness to come together when the problems or disasters we face are at their worst.

Throughout my tenure, there have been many opportunities and challenges, but in good times and bad, we have been able to stay focused and always tried to do our best and stay true to those who depend upon public service the most. Our County is blessed with numerous and dedicated community providers who, together with county personnel, daily demonstrate their commitment to excellence and the population they serve. I am proud of all of them and again feel so fortunate to have worked along side them for so many years.

There is a wonderful line in the movie "As Good As It Gets", when Helen Hunt confronts Jack Nicholson, pressuring him for a compliment. After much struggle, he responds that she "makes him want to be a better man." I can honestly say that my career with this county, my working relationship with both your Board and other Board members that preceded you, the County Administrator, and the entire County Department/Agency heads, past and present, and most of all my staff and community providers, "have made me a better" person and a better public servant. For that I am eternally grateful.

Cc: Pat O'Connell, Richard Winnie, Alex Briscoe, Vana Chavez, Marye Thomas, Tony Iton, Ariu Levi, Cindy Charan-Turner