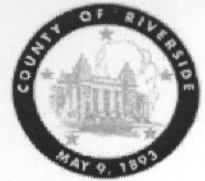


**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

918



FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBMITTAL DATE:
August 6, 2003

SUBJECT: Local Judicial Benefits for Superior Court Judges

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Begin phasing out the County's contribution to local judicial benefits in preparation of the state assuming full responsibility for court operations; and,
2. Provide a capped annual contribution of \$600,000 to be reduced upon the retirement or termination of each current sitting judge, as outlined in Attachment "A."

BACKGROUND: On November 14, 2000, the Board of Supervisors approved a three-year window with an optional two-year extension for continuing local judicial benefits for Superior Court judges. The county has contributed an annual amount of \$600,000 following the consolidation of Municipal and Superior Courts to supplement state-provided benefits (health, dental and vision), which also established parity between Superior Court judges and what was formerly their Municipal Court counterparts.

(Continued on page 2)

Departmental Concurrence

TONY CARSTENS
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 600,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 600,000	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 600,000 cap (To be reduced annually)	For Fiscal Year:	03-04

SOURCE OF FUNDS: General Fund	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature

Policy
 Consent
 Policy
 Consent
 Dep't Recomm.:
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.9 11/14/00 | **District:** All | **Agenda Number:**

3.5

Currently there are 47 Superior Court Judges in Riverside County. Staff recommends that the capped contribution continue in effect for each of the 47 judges up to the effective date of retirement or termination of the judges. Any new judges appointed on or after August 1, 2003 would not be eligible for these extended county-contributed benefits. Additionally, as each of the 47 judges retires or terminates from employment, the annual county contribution will be reduced by \$12,766 per judge effective the following fiscal year (see phase-out formula in Attachment "A").

With the state assuming full responsibility of court operations, as a result of trial court funding legislation and the recent passage of SB 1732, staff recommends approval of this benefit phasing out program which sunsets upon the retirement/termination of the current 47 judges.

The \$600,000 allocation for judicial benefits was included in the approved FY 2003/04 budget.

ATTACHMENT A
Local Judicial Benefits Phase-Out Formula

- 1) Total cap amount paid by the County of Riverside to the Courts: \$600,000.
- 2) Total number of Superior Court judges employed as of August 1, 2003: 47.
- 3) Cap amount of \$600,000 divided by the 47 currently sitting judges equals on a rounding basis to \$12,766.00.
- 4) The cap amount will be reduced by the calculated amount upon each judge's effective date of retirement or termination.
- 5) The county will reduce the cap amount upon each judge's effective date of retirement or termination by \$12,766 at the beginning of the following fiscal year.
- 6) Any judge added to the payroll after the date of August 1, 2003, will not participate in a prorata share of the \$600,000 county contribution, with the intent of applying a sunset structure to these benefits.