

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



FROM: Supervisor Ashley

SUBMITTAL DATE: June 21, 2005

**SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OF THE COLLECTION OF AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR
PROPERTY TAXES AND OTHER FUNDS AND THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER, AUDITOR-
CONTROLLER AND TREASURER TAX COLLECTOR**

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Supervisors direct the County Executive Offer to solicit requests for Proposals for consulting services to review the operations of the property tax system and make recommendations for its enhancements and review the working relationship between the Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder, Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector.

BACKGROUND:

The County of Riverside operates the local property tax system on behalf of over 100 local agencies within its jurisdiction. The system currently collects close to \$2 billion in taxes and special assessments, providing the single most important source of funding for local programs. The County General Fund receives over 40 percent of its annual revenues from property taxes.

The property tax system faces a number of challenges: keeping pace with rapid growth; the outdated computer software that is over 30 years old; and divided management responsibility. Finding solutions to meet these challenges will require a comprehensive approach that draws upon input from all of the stakeholders.

I am recommending the hiring of a consulting firm to work with the County Executive Office, the Assessor, the Auditor-Controller and the Tax Collector to report to the Board on areas of operation that could be improved; a strategy to replace outdated technology; and ways to improve the governance structure and accountability within the system.

The report from the consultant should include a segmented time frame for short term "quick fixes" to immediately improve property tax collections and long term solutions for permanent changes to the system.


MARION ASHLEY
5TH District Supervisor