

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



**FROM:** Supervisor Jeff Stone  
Supervisor John Tavaglione

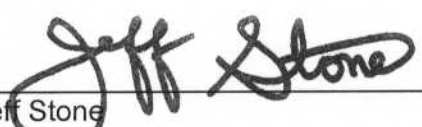
**SUBMITTAL DATE:** August 3, 2005


**SUBJECT:** Board Directive to Prepare a Detailed Analysis of the Cost Associated with Establishing a County Employee Staffed Fire Department

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board direct the County Executive Office to prepare a detailed analysis of the cost associated with establishing a county employee staffed fire department.

**BACKGROUND:**

The 2004 audit conducted by CGR Management Consultants broadly covered the costs associated with establishing a County staffed fire department. The audit did not provide sufficient detail to determine the actual cost of utilizing County employees as opposed to California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection employees. On June 30, 2005, the cooperative agreement with CDF to provide Fire Protection Services expired. The actual costs of providing direct fire services is dependent on projected salaries, benefits, indirect costs of supporting a county workforce, such as training, worker compensation, staff benefits, hiring process and many other factors. The County now pays a 9.1 percent administrative charge in addition to a fixed staff benefit rate for CDF employees. The County needs to assess if a more cost effective alternative is available than the CDF contract. By completing a more detailed cost analysis, the County will be better prepared to determine if a contract renewal is in the best interest of the County.

  
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Jeff Stone  
Supervisor  
Third District

  
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John Tavaglione  
Supervisor  
Second District

JS:JT:vc