

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

544



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
December 27, 2007

SUBJECT: Charter County Status

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors receive and file this update on adopting a county charter.

BACKGROUND: On October 2, 2007, the Board of Supervisors asked the Executive Office to reexamine the potential benefits of adopting a county charter, after the midterm appointment of a new Sheriff. The following is an overview of the review by the Executive Office.

All California counties govern within one of two administrative provisions in carrying out state policy: general-law or charter. While charter constitutions can not conflict with state general-law statutes, they do permit greater community input by allowing electorate sponsored amendments as well as electorate ratification for government sponsored modifications to the charter document.

(continued)

Rob Rockwell
Principal Management Analyst

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

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

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY:
Bill Luna

County Executive Office Signature

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

Dept Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** | **Agenda Number:**

2.5

Departmental Concurrence

Charters, in general, can sanction organizational structures and business activities that are not allowed under general law edict. To date, 14 of 58 California counties have adopted charters; including: Alameda, Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tehama.

The Board received a comprehensive report on charter county status in October 1997 and referred the issue to the Labor-Management Committee. At the time, charter interests were focused on the privatization of governmental services. The Labor-Management Committee developed a statement of consensus, which suggested exploring other means to improve service to our customers other than implementing a county charter.

Since this thorough review, little has changed. Other reviews have determined that charter status has sparse benefits over general-law, finding that a charter gains autonomy over only electoral structure and administrative details. As it is important to the Board of Supervisors to provide the citizens of Riverside County with the most effective means of input and control over government services, and to provide services as efficiently as possible, county staff will continue to weigh the benefits and restrictions of adopting a charter form of government.