

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

281



SUBMITTAL DATE:
February 22, 2010

FROM: County Counsel

SUBJECT: County Counsel Billable Hourly Rate

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve the proposed hourly billable rate of \$143.18 per hour for attorneys and \$74.98 per hour for paralegals to departments for FY 2010-2011.

BACKGROUND: The Office of the County Counsel renders legal advice and assistance to the county Board of Supervisors and county departments, commissions, and agencies on important issues of law or public policy that faces the county of Riverside; including Health, public safety, welfare reform, child welfare, jail operations, environmental protection, personnel and human resources, public finance, taxation, elections - these are among the wide range of subjects that engage the Office of the County Counsel as legal advisor and primary civil litigator for the county. All county officers and employees receive the services of the County Counsel.

County Counsel has not increased rates since May 20, 2008. Since that time, County Counsel has relocated to the new Regency Towers/Downtown Law Building. This move has increased square footage by approximately 10,000 square feet. The additional square footage has increased maintenance and custodial charges for our office. It has also added new utility costs not previously incurred, estimated at approximately \$85,000 annually.

Pamela J. Walls

Pamela J. Walls, County Counsel

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:	No
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	For Fiscal Year:	2010/11

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

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE
BY *Tina Grande*
Tina Grande

County Executive Office Signature

Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy

Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

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

3.68

FISCAL PROCEDURES APPROVED
 ROBERT E. BYRD, AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
 BY *Russell Dominick*
 Russell Dominick
 Departmental Concurrence
 2/10/10

Background (continued):

Currently County Counsel bills departments \$139.51 per hour for attorney services. This rate was approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 20, 2008. County Counsel, in conjunction with the Auditor Controller, has reviewed the factors appropriate to set the proposed rates. The rates are derived by combining the direct cost of labor and equipment with the indirect costs incurred to run and maintain the facilities and operations. It was concluded the appropriate rate now be \$143.18 per hour for attorneys. The proposed rate is \$74.98 per hour for paralegals. Increasing the hourly rate charged by County Counsel for attorneys and setting a formal rate charged for paralegals to departments will more accurately reflect the actual cost of services rendered.

The Office of County Counsel has no way to absorb these increased costs and new charges, except through our billable rates. The recommended action requests that the Board approve County Counsel's proposed rates for Fiscal year 2010-2011.