

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



FROM: Supervisor Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: November 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Cell phone Return Evaluating Necessity and Disconnecting Land Lines Efficiently in Riverside County (C-RENDER)

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Supervisors implements C-RENDER as a cost saving measure.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the **S.C.R.A.P.E.** (Safeguard County of Riverside Against Preventable Expenses) program **unanimously** approved by the Board of Supervisors in February/2009, reduction in cell phone expenditures was highlighted as an area where the county could save significant financial resources when the economy was in the early stages of fiscal collapse. Staff has reported that the county is *still* spending in excess of **\$3 million** dollars a year for cell phone expenses. It is estimated that the county has **9549** issued cell phones. While the cost of individual cell phone plans differs significantly, the average aggregate monthly cost for all county issued cell phones is **\$27.32 per month***. Purchasing Department should be commended for keeping the cell phone costs to this affordable Level.

The cell phone is a modern day tool that not only acts as a telephonic form of communication, but also functions as a computer for electronic forms of communication from any locality. The county has approximately 25,000 land lines that cost \$650,000 per year, this number of land lines and cost depict what county pays to Telco's (AT&T, Verizon, and Century Link (formerly Qwest)), not including costs departments pay for outgoing calls, Centrex, POTS and 1MB lines; and yearly maintenance, licensing and software assurance costs to the county phone system manufacturer. The great utility of the cell phone and its affordable costs should allow the county to disconnect many of the land lines and eliminate many stand-alone computers which require extensive, expensive support, ultimately saving the county millions of dollars. Certainly, some stand-alone computers can be shared for downloading and printing documents where needed in defined office spaces within all county buildings.

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Jeff Stone, Third District Supervisor

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Furthermore, it can be assumed that most of our employees have private cell phones in today's contemporary society. In an effort to *save* the county even more money and add value for the employees of the county that have their own private phones, the county proposes the following voluntary partnership to those employees that have a department head approved county issued cell phone **and** have a private cell phone they can utilize.

Action: The Board of Supervisors will direct **Human Resources** and **Purchasing**, along with oversight in the **Executive Office** to work with all department heads to:

1. *Evaluate* the number of land lines in the county and **reduce the number of land lines** in proportion to the number of cell phones that negate the need for these respective land lines.
2. *Evaluate* those employees that are issued county cell phones and assess the efficacy of their utilization and **surrender** those cell phones deemed *non-essential* to the employee's duties.
3. Reach out to and contract with any **consenting** employee that has a county issued cell phone where staff has determined that a cell phone is vital to their employment and offer to pay the employee a monthly stipend of **\$20.00** such that their personal cell phones can be utilized for county related business while the employee works on county time. The county can then cancel respective contracts with the cell phone providers as those contracts expire.

Full implementation of this program will be **July 1st, 2012**, which will potentially save the county **millions of dollars** depending on the number of cell phone contracts that staff has determined are non-essential to the duties of a respective employee, the number of county employees that require a cell phone and wish to receive a county stipend for utilizing their personal cell phone while on county time and, the number of land lines being disconnected. These collective savings to the county will help us close the **\$80 million dollar gap** the county is now facing and hence saving many jobs.

Provider	Number of Cell Phone Lines
Verizon Wireless	3,209
AT&T	1,967
Sprint/Nextel	4,372
T-Mobile	1
Total (approx.)	9,549

*County Auditor's total for amount spent on county issued cell phones: \$3,131,230.60/9549 = \$327.91/year or **\$27.32 per month**.