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

FROM: Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
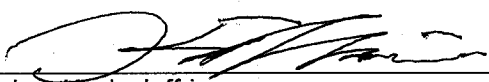
SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 6, 2016

SUBJECT: Evaluation of a Public Works Department

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
That the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Office to research and report back within 90 days on the concept of consolidating/re-organizing various departments and agencies into a "Public Works Department" or Agency.

Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
District 1

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	$ N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Consent ☐ Policy ☐
NET COUNTY COST	$ N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Budget Adjustment: No

For Fiscal Year: FY 16/17

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(NO ACTION TAKEN)

Departmental Concurrence

Positions Added ☐
Change Order ☐
A-30 ☐
4/5 Vote ☐

BACKGROUND:

Summary

While there is no one definition of "Public Works", it generally fits into a "broad category of infrastructure projects, financed and constructed by the government, for recreational, employment, and health and safety uses in the greater community. They include public buildings, transportation infrastructure, flood control facilities, solid waste facilities, airports, certain public services (construction & engineering) and other physical assets and facilities.

Many counties, including all our neighboring counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and San Diego) have established a single Public Works Department to oversee a variety of these services in a unified structure (see attachment for examples of agencies included in various public works agencies in California and neighboring states). Riverside County has historically operated under a different structure, with separate (and sometimes silo like) independent Transportation, Waste Resources, Flood Control, and Parks agencies and districts, among others.

A unified Public Works Department has the potential to achieve a variety of efficiencies and economies of scale in purchasing, maintaining, and sharing a variety of equipment, facilities, and personnel. This proposal would direct the Executive Office to research and report back on: 1) Whether pursuing a Public Works consolidation could result in budget savings to the county, 2) What agencies, departments or districts could or should be a part of such a department, and 3) What steps would need to be taken to accomplish that goal.

Departments, agencies, districts and divisions that could be considered might include, but are not limited to: Transportation, Waste Resources, Flood Control & NPDES, Regional Parks, Cemeteries, Facilities Management, Project Management, Real Property & CSA Management.

Impact on Residents and Businesses:

Studying the potential for creating a Public Works Department may identify cost savings and efficiencies that could help protect critical services from budget cuts.

Public Works Dept. Population:	San Bernardino 2.1 mil	San Diego 3.3 mil	Contra Costa 1.1 mil	Clark, NV 2.0 mil	Pima, AZ 1.0 mil	Maricopa, AZ 4.1 mil
Flood Control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Trans / Roads	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Constr. Mng / Eng	Part	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Surveyor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Solid Waste	Yes	Yes				Yes
Parks & Open Spc			Yes	Part	Yes	Yes
Building / Inspec		Yes	Yes		Yes	
Planning			Yes	Yes	Yes	Part
Airports		Yes			Yes	