

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



ITEM: 3.5
(ID # 14151)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, February 02, 2021


FROM : COUNTY COUNSEL:

SUBJECT: COUNTY COUNSEL: Approval of FY 2021/22 County Counsel Billable Hourly Rates, All Districts. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the proposed FY 2021/22 billable hourly rates for the Office of County Counsel as specified in Attachment A.

ACTION:Policy




Gregory F. Priapos, Director County Counsel 1/20/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: February 2, 2021
xc: CoCo

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$	\$	\$	\$
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$	\$
SOURCE OF FUNDS:			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	21/22

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

County Counsel is statutorily mandated to defend and prosecute civil cases, render legal advice and assist on issues of law affecting the County Board of Supervisors, elected officials, County agencies, departments, commissions and special districts County Counsel's goal is to provide cost-effective legal services designed to promote the public service objective of the County of Riverside, while as the same time protecting the County from risk and loss.

Since County Counsel operates as a general support service department it must recover costs through charges to client departments to the greatest extent possible. Currently, County Counsel's budget is 91 percent salaries and benefits, and 9 percent fixed and other costs, with no planned vacant positions. Consequently, County Counsel has no ability to absorb the projected increased costs except through cost recovery in our billable rates. With that being said, County Counsel is requesting no change to our attorney rate and a decrease to our paralegal rate for FY21/22. The attorney rate will remain at \$187.00/hour and our paralegal rate will decrease from \$120.00/hour to \$107.35/hour. The rates below reflect the actual cost of service and full-cost recovery.

Attorneys: \$187.00/hour (no change from FY20/21)

Paralegals: \$107.35/hour (10.54% decrease from FY20/21)

County Counsel currently projects collecting a total of \$15,900,236 in billable revenue based on an increase in service levels resulting in \$1,868,826 in added costs to those clients as detailed in Attachment B. The projected service levels are merely an estimate based on FY20/21 service levels. The service levels are driven by the work requested by the client department.

By way of comparison, the FY20/21 billable rate for attorneys in the San Bernardino County Counsel's Office is \$230/hour and paralegals is \$85/hour and it is not expected to increase in FY21/22; Orange County attorney rate is currently \$199/hour and is expected to increase to \$206/hour for FY21/22 and there is no rate for work performed by its paralegals; Los Angeles County currently has a rate of \$269/hour for senior deputies and \$228/hour for deputies, an average rate of \$249/hour and \$117/hour for senior paralegals and \$105/hour for paralegals for an average of \$111/hour; and San Diego County currently has a rate of \$253/hour for attorneys

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and \$121/hour for paralegals and the rates are expected to remain the same for FY 21/22. The average billable rate for attorneys and paralegals for FY20/21 for all the County Counsel's Offices in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego is \$233/hour and \$106/hour, respectively.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ATTACHMENT A.** Proposed FY 2021-2022 Billable Hourly Rates Summary
- ATTACHMENT B.** Departments-Impact of Proposed Changes
Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Projections



Rene Casillas, Internal Audits Chief 1/20/2021



Susana Garcia-Bocanegra, Principal Management Analyst 1/21/2021

ATTACHMENT A

POSITIONS	FY 20-21 CURRENT RATE	FY 21-22 PROPOSED RATE	% CHANGE
Attorneys	\$187.00	\$187.00	0.00%
Paralegals	\$120.00	\$107.35	-10.54%

ATTACHMENT B

Departments - Impact of Proposed Changes
 *Estimates Using Current and Proposed Attorney and Paralegal Rates
 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Projections

Department/Dept ID	FY 20/21 Projected Billable Net Income	FY 21/22 Projected Billable Hrs. Attorneys	FY 21/22 Projected Billable Hrs. Paralegals	FY 21/22 Attorney Rate	FY 21/22 Paralegal Rate	Proposed FY 21/22 Billable Net Income	Estimated Billable Net Income Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
AAB	61,897	331		187	107.35	61,897	-	0%
Animal Services	93,126	500	42	187	107.35	98,009	4,883	5%
Assessor	22,066	132	7	187	107.35	25,435	3,369	15%
Auditor Controller	20,570	112	12	187	107.35	22,232	1,662	8%
Behavioral Health	13,464	78		187	107.35	14,586	1,122	8%
Behavioral Health - ELS - Contract	418,693	2,519	192	187	107.35	491,664	72,971	17%
HHPWS Community Action Project	5,610	32	2	187	107.35	6,217	607	11%
Clerk of the Board	2,805	17		187	107.35	3,179	374	13%
CV Resource Conserv	14,025	82		187	107.35	15,334	1,309	9%
DA	561	3		187	107.35	561	-	0%
DCSS	374	2		187	107.35	374	-	0%
DPSS	499,477	2,739		187	107.35	512,193	12,716	3%
DPSS - Dependency	6,397,457	41,000	75	187	107.35	7,675,051	1,277,594	20%
BCS Fair		55		187	107.35	10,285	10,285	100%
BCS Museum		43		187	107.35	8,041	8,041	100%
BCS Home Grants		333		187	107.35	62,310	62,310	100%
BCS Business Services		333		187	107.35	62,271	62,271	100%
BCS Admin	18,326	1,511	111	187	107.35	294,473	276,147	1507%
BCS Library	187	3		187	107.35	561	374	200%
HHPWS Housing		230		187	107.35	43,010	43,010	100%
HHPWS CDBG Grants		340		187	107.35	63,616	63,616	100%
HHPWS Continuum of Care		300		187	107.35	56,100	56,100	100%
HHPWS Workforce Development	39,831	228	3	187	107.35	42,958	3,127	8%
FM Project Management	178,024	1,009	31	187	107.35	192,033	14,009	8%
FM Real Estate	797,555	77		187	107.35	14,399	(783,156)	-98%
FM-Energy		47		187	107.35	8,858	8,858	100%
FM-Capital Projects		514		187	107.35	96,118	96,118	100%
EMD	53,669	1,100	60	187	107.35	212,141	158,472	295%
Environmental Health	11,220	64		187	107.35	12,005	785	7%
Executive Office	339,966	1,856	977	187	107.35	451,953	111,987	33%
Fire	36,368	193		187	107.35	36,091	(277)	-1%
First 5	62,832	346	2	187	107.35	64,917	2,085	3%
Flood Control	258,995	1,500	23	187	107.35	282,969	23,974	9%
Flood Control - Contract	233,002	1,365	13	187	107.35	256,651	23,649	10%
HR	76,670	897	52	187	107.35	173,321	96,651	126%
Housing Authority	51,799	277	23	187	107.35	54,268	2,469	5%
IEHP - RMM - Contract	230,945	1,373		187	107.35	256,751	25,806	11%
IT	8,228	18	12	187	107.35	4,654	(3,574)	-43%
LAFCO	43,571	233	81	187	107.35	52,266	8,695	20%
Parks	92,939	509	4	187	107.35	95,612	2,673	3%
Probation	44,132	243		187	107.35	45,441	1,309	3%
Public Defender	2,954	18		187	107.35	3,366	412	14%
Public Guardian	8,041	44		187	107.35	8,228	187	2%
Public Health	42,075	250	14	187	107.35	48,253	6,178	15%
Purchasing	0	13		187	107.35	2,431	2,431	100%
Registrar of Voters	20,570	113		187	107.35	21,131	561	3%
RCHC	15,895	90		187	107.35	16,830	935	6%
Risk Mgmt.	884,323	4,609	262	187	107.35	890,009	5,686	1%
RUHS	263,670	1,540	205	187	107.35	309,987	46,317	18%
RUHS - MAK - Contract	304,623	1,540		187	107.35	287,980	(16,643)	-5%

ATTACHMENT B

Departments - Impact of Proposed Changes
 *Estimates Using Current and Proposed Attorney and Paralegal Rates
 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Projections

Department/Dept ID	FY 20/21 Projected Billable Net Income	FY 21/22 Projected Billable Hrs. Attorneys	FY 21/22 Projected Billable Hrs. Paralegals	FY 21/22 Attorney Rate	FY 21/22 Paralegal Rate	Proposed FY 21/22 Billable Net Income	Estimated Billable Net Income Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
School Districts	30,107	60		187	107.35	11,220	(18,887)	-63%
Sheriff	334,730	1,840		187	107.35	344,080	9,350	3%
Successor	2,992	18		187	107.35	3,366	374	13%
TLMA	41,888	231		187	107.35	43,197	1,309	3%
TLMA Aviation	73,304	419		187	107.35	78,435	5,131	7%
TLMA ALUC	9,350	52		187	107.35	9,724	374	4%
TLMA Building & Safety	39,270	215	9	187	107.35	41,171	1,901	5%
TLMA Code	1,116,016	5,250	1,453	187	107.35	1,137,730	21,714	2%
TLMA Planning	202,521	1,120	25	187	107.35	212,124	9,603	5%
TLMA RCHCA	18,513	102		187	107.35	19,074	561	3%
TLMA Survey	3,740	106		187	107.35	19,822	16,082	430%
TLMA Transportation	314,908	1,684	175	187	107.35	333,694	18,786	6%
Treasurer Tax Collector	76,483	421		187	107.35	78,727	2,244	3%
Waste	97,053	520	15	187	107.35	98,850	1,797	2%
	14,031,410	82,801	3,880			15,900,236	1,868,826	