

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



**ITEM: 3.7**  
(ID # 17615)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

**FROM :** COUNTY COUNSEL:

**SUBJECT:** COUNTY COUNSEL: Approval of FY 22/23 County Counsel Billable Hourly Rates, All Districts. [\$0]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approval of the proposed FY 22/23 billable hourly rates for the Office of County Counsel as specified in Attachment A.

**ACTION:**Policy

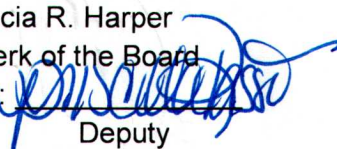
  
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Gregory H. Priaplos, Director County Counsel 1/4/2022

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel seconded by Supervisor Washington 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: January 25, 2022  
xc: Co. Co.

Kecia R. Harper  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

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By way of comparison, the FY 21/22 billable rates for attorneys and paralegals for surrounding counties are shown below. Rates for FY 22/23 are expected to increase for Orange County, remain the same for San Bernardino County and it is unknown if rates will increase or decrease for San Diego County and Los Angeles County.

	<u>Attorney</u>	<u>Paralegal</u>
San Bernardino County	\$230.00/hour	\$98.00/hour
San Diego County	\$247.00/hour	\$124.00/hour
Los Angeles County (Average)	\$241.38/hour	\$108.09/hour
Orange County of Riverside (Average)	\$205.62/hour	No rate
Average for all County Counsel's Offices	\$231.00/hour	\$110.03/hour
Riverside County Current Rates	\$187.00/hour	\$107.35/hour
Request for FY 22/23	\$189.52/hour	\$111.52/hour

Currently the paralegal and legal assistant classifications are undergoing a salary survey study compared to surrounding counties. County Counsel does not expect survey results to impact FY 22/23 requested rates, but a potential increase might be requested in FY 23/24.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**ATTACHMENT A.** Proposed FY 2022-2023 Billable Hourly Rates Summary

**ATTACHMENT B.** Departments-Impact of Proposed Changes  
Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Projections

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rene Casillas, Internal Audits Chief 1/4/2022



ATTACHMENT B  
COUNTY COUNSEL

Departments - Impact of Proposed Changes  
Estimates Using Current and Proposed Attorney and Paralegal Rates  
Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Projections

Department ID	Department Name	FY 21/22 Billable Hours Projected	FY 21/22 Paralegal Hours Projected	FY 21/22 Attorney Rate Approved	FY 21/22 Paralegal Rate Approved	FY 21/22 BOS Approved Current BOS	FY 21/22 Projected Income	FY 22/23 Billable Hrs Projected	FY 22/23 Paralegal Hrs Projected	FY 22/23 Attorney Rate Approved	FY 22/23 Paralegal Rate Approved	Proposed FY 22/23 Billable Net Income
2500300000	Sheriff Court Services	46	187	107.35	107.35	8,607	107.35	546	0	189.52	111.52	103,478
2500300000	Sheriff Patrol	11	187	107.35	107.35	2,054	107.35	0	0	189.52	111.52	0
2500100000	Sheriff Public Administrator	166	187	107.35	107.35	31,037	107.35	261	13	189.52	111.52	50,914
2500100000	Sheriff Support	231	187	107.35	107.35	43,197	107.35	134	27	189.52	111.52	25,396
3100800000	TJMA A/LUC	52	187	107.35	107.35	9,724	107.35	111	3	189.52	111.52	21,371
3100800000	TJMA A/LUC	419	187	107.35	107.35	78,435	107.35	320	27	189.52	111.52	63,657
1910700000	TJMA Aviation	215	187	107.35	107.35	41,171	107.35	20	0	189.52	111.52	3,790
3100100000	TJMA Building & Safety	215	187	107.35	107.35	41,171	107.35	20	0	189.52	111.52	3,790
3140100000	TJMA Code Enforcement	5,250	1,453	107.35	107.35	1,137,730	107.35	3,993	1,093	189.52	111.52	764,933
3139000000	TJMA Community & Business Services	0	187	107.35	107.35	0	107.35	6	0	189.52	111.52	1,137
3132000000	TJMA Landscaping Maintenance District	1,120	187	107.35	107.35	212,124	107.35	902	19	189.52	111.52	18,573
3120100000	TJMA Planning	106	187	107.35	107.35	19,822	107.35	66	3	189.52	111.52	173,066
3130000000	TJMA Survey	1,684	187	107.35	107.35	333,694	107.35	1,017	45	189.52	111.52	12,843
3130100000	TJMA Transportation	0	187	107.35	107.35	0	107.35	0	0	189.52	111.52	197,760
3130500000	TJMA Transportation Const Projects	421	187	107.35	107.35	78,727	107.35	935	22	189.52	111.52	112,188
1400100000	Treasurer Tax Collector	0	187	107.35	107.35	0	107.35	0	0	189.52	111.52	186,346
5400100000	Veterans Services	0	187	107.35	107.35	0	107.35	0	0	189.52	111.52	1,271
4500100000	Waste	520	15	107.35	107.35	98,850	107.35	266	18	189.52	111.52	52,420
80,861		80,861	3,799			15,523,761		96,629	5,476			19,923,812
82,801	Totals	82,801	3,880			15,900,236		99,677	5,559			19,510,725
1,940		1,940	81			371,475		3,048	83			586,913
233	Outside Agency Local Agency Formation Commission(LAFCO)	233	187	107.35	107.35	52,266	107.35	247	58	189.52	111.52	53,280
102	Outside Agency TJMA Riverside County Habitat Restoration Agency (RCHCA)	102	187	107.35	107.35	19,074	107.35	147	0	189.52	111.52	27,859
0	Outside Agency Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrleta Resource Conservation	0	187	107.35	107.35	0	107.35	26	0	189.52	111.52	4,928
60	Outside Agency School Districts	60	187	107.35	107.35	11,220	107.35	24	0	189.52	111.52	4,548
1,373	Outside Agency Inland Empire Health Plan - Contract	1,373	187	107.35	107.35	256,751	107.35	1,895	25	189.52	111.52	359,140
90	Outside Agency Housing Authority/RCHC	90	187	107.35	107.35	16,830	107.35	695	0	189.52	111.52	134,504
82	Outside Agency Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District (CVRCD)	82	187	107.35	107.35	15,334	107.35	14	0	189.52	111.52	2,653

ATTACHMENT A  
COUNTY COUNSEL  
Proposed FY 2022-2023 Billable Hourly Rates Summary

<b>POSITIONS</b>	<b>FY 21-22 CURRENT RATE</b>	<b>FY 22-23 PROPOSED RATE</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>Attorneys</b>	<b>\$187.00</b>	<b>\$189.52</b>	<b>1.35%</b>
<b>Paralegals</b>	<b>\$107.35</b>	<b>\$111.52</b>	<b>3.88%</b>

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<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> 100% Departmental Funds			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b>	No
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b>	22/23

**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 89 percent salaries and benefits, and 11 percent fixed and other costs. County Counsel has no ability to absorb projected increased costs except through cost recovery in our billable rates. Therefore, County Counsel is requesting an increase to our attorney and paralegal rates for FY 22/23. The attorney rate will increase from \$187.00/hour to \$189.52/hour and our paralegal rate will increase from \$107.35/hour to \$111.52/hour. The rates below reflect the actual cost of service based on full-cost recovery.

Attorneys: \$189.52/hour (1.35% increase from FY 21/22)

Paralegals: \$111.52/hour (3.88% increase from FY 21/22)

Beginning FY 22/23, County Counsel will implement a 100% Direct Bill program. This shift is intended to bring equity across all client departments and reduce County Counsel's Net County Cost (NCC). Currently, client departments are considered billable or non-billable. A billable department is directly billed, and payment is submitted directly to County Counsel's office. For a non-billable department, hours of legal services rendered are included in the County's Countywide Cost Allocation Plan (COWCAP). County Counsel is provided with NCC to cover services provided to non-billable departments. In FY 22/23 all client departments will become billable, except for the Board of Supervisors.

County Counsel currently projects collecting a total of \$19,510,725 in billable revenue based on an increase in service levels. Projected service levels are merely an estimate based on prior years actual legal services rendered. Actual service levels are driven by the work requested by the client department.