

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



ITEM: 3.8  
(ID # 23643)

MEETING DATE:  
Tuesday, January 09, 2024

FROM : COUNTY COUNSEL:

SUBJECT: COUNTY COUNSEL: Approval of FY 24/25 County Counsel Billable Hourly Rates and Department Allocations, All Districts. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approval of the FY 24/25 proposed billable hourly rates as specified in Attachment A, and the departments proposed charges as specified in Attachment B.

ACTION: Policy

  
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Miriam C. Smith, County Counsel 1/2/2024

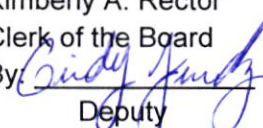
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: January 9, 2024  
xc: COCO

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board

By   
Deputy

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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> Departmental Funds and General Fund Contribution			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b>	No
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b>	24/25

**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, authorities, 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 at the same time protecting the County from risk of loss.

Since County Counsel operates as a general support service department, it must either recover costs through charges to client departments and/or be supported by the County's General Fund. Currently, County Counsel's budget is 90% salaries and benefits, and 10% fixed and other costs. All County Counsel's expenditures including employee salaries and benefits, facility leases, and other overhead costs are all fixed by existing County policies. To maintain operations at a level necessary to support our clients, a rate increase is necessary.

In surveying neighboring County Counsel Offices, Riverside County attorney rates and general fund contributions are currently lower than Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura County:

**Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Billable Rates, Yearly Budgets and General Fund Contributions**

	<u>Attorney</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>General Fund Contribution</u>
Orange County	\$219.42	\$12.7 million	\$ 8.4 million (66% of total budget)
Los Angeles County	\$272.26	\$53.8 million	\$17.0 million (32% of total budget)
San Bernardino County	\$205.00	\$15.1 million	\$ 4.4 million (29% of total budget)
San Diego County	\$270.00	\$43.9 million	\$22.7 million (52% of total budget)
Ventura County	\$259.00	\$ 8.3 million	\$ 5.5 million (66% of total budget)
<b>Riverside County</b>	<b>\$201.68</b>	<b>\$ 5.7 million</b>	<b>\$ 0.8 million (15% of total budget)</b>

Working with the Executive Office, County Counsel has developed two potential rate structures, one that contemplates no increase to the general fund contribution to the department and one with an increase to the general fund contribution. In an attempt to avoid a significant increase to

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our customer departments, the recommendation is to return to a hybrid of rate recovery and general fund support. With an assumed general fund contribution of at least \$2.2 million in Fiscal Year 2024/2025, County Counsel is requesting the below increases to billing rates for FY 24/25 effective July 1, 2024:

Attorneys: \$226.53 per hour (12% increase from FY 23/24)

Paralegals: \$134.22 per hour (16% increase from FY 23/24)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT A. Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Billable Hourly Rates Summary

ATTACHMENT B. Departments Proposed Charges Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Projections

*Rene Casillas*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rene Casillas, Internal Audits Chief

1/3/2024

*Dave Rogers*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Rogers, Chief Administrative Officer

1/3/2024