

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



ITEM: 3.6
(ID # 29651)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, January 13, 2026

FROM : COUNTY COUNSEL

SUBJECT: COUNTY COUNSEL: Approval of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 County Counsel Billable Hourly Rates and Department Allocations, All Districts. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the FY 26/27 proposed billable hourly rates as specified in Attachment A, and the departments proposed charges as specified in Attachment B.


ACTION:Policy


Minh C. Tran, County Counsel 12/29/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: January 13, 2026
xc: CO.CO.

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: Departmental Funds and General Fund Contribution			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year: 2026/27	

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’s Board of Supervisors, elected officials, 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.

County Counsel operates as a general support service department, where it must both implement a Board approved rate to recover costs through charges to client departments and be supported by the County’s General Fund to fully cover our operational costs. Currently, County Counsel’s budget is 91% salaries and benefits, and 9% fixed overhead costs including internal service charges such as Worker’s Comp insurance, Facilities Management, IT services, etc. County Counsel has no ability to absorb the projected increases in labor cost except through cost recovery (ie. increase of billing rates) and/or an increase in the County General Fund’s contribution.

For Fiscal Year 2026-2027 rates, the Office of County Counsel requests to continue using a hybrid billing methodology of rate recovery and General Fund contribution, which was the same hybrid method implemented in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Overall, County budget constraints on all departments, the uncertainty of the economy, along with federal and state budget decreases significantly impact the operation of the Office of County Counsel. Previously, our office explored various budgeting methodologies: (1) 100% direct billing method, (2) shared cost method, and now (3) the hybrid method. Under the 100% direct billing method, County departments were reluctant in reaching out to our office for legal assistance because of the desire to save costs due to their own budget constraints. All 57 other counties in the State employ the hybrid methodology (allowing both direct billings and General Fund contributions) for funding their County Counsel Offices.

In surveying our neighboring County Counsel offices for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Riverside County’s budget and General Fund contribution are lower than all neighboring counties (Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura County).

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

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Yearly Budgets, General Fund Contributions, and Billable Rates

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>General Fund Contribution</u>	<u>Attorney</u>
Riverside County	\$ 6.8 million	\$ 2.2 million	\$230.67
Ventura County	\$ 9.2 million	\$ 6.3 million	\$273.00
San Bernardino County	\$18.6 million	\$ 7.3 million	\$205.00
Orange County	\$14.4 million	\$ 9.4 million	\$246.26
San Diego County	\$51.1 million	\$24.9 million	\$282.00
Los Angeles County	\$51.9 million	\$16.5 million	\$258.76

For Fiscal Year 2026-2027, County Counsel is requesting the continued General Fund contribution of at least \$2.2 million and the below increases to billing rates, effective July 1, 2026:

Attorneys: \$240.64 per hour (4% increase from FY 25/26)

Paralegals: \$141.09 per hour (4% increase from FY 25/26)

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A. Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Billable Hourly Rates Summary

ATTACHMENT B. Departments Proposed Charges Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Projections


Rene Casillas, Internal Audits Chief 1/6/2026

ATTACHMENT A
COUNTY COUNSEL
Proposed FY 2026-2027 Billable Hourly Rates Summary

POSITIONS	FY 25-26 CURRENT RATE	FY 26-27 PROPOSED RATE	% CHANGE
Attorneys	\$230.67	\$240.64	4%
Paralegals	\$135.97	\$141.09	4%

Departments Proposed Charges

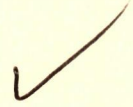
*Estimates Using Proposed Attorney and Paralegal Rates
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Projections

Department ID	Account	Department Name	FY 26/27 Projected Billable Hrs Attorneys	FY 26/27 Projected Billable Hrs Paralegals	FY 26/27 Proposed Attorney Rate	FY 26/27 Proposed Paralegal Rate	FY 26/27 Proposed Billable Net Income at Proposed Rate
Legal Service Agreements							
5100100000	572000	Department Of Public Social Services	55,895.00	6,836.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 14,415,065
4100400000	575700	Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health	13,153.00	1,393.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 3,361,677
4300100000	771430	Riverside University Health System - Medical Center	1,928.00	1,393.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 660,493
Outside Agency/	771430	Local Agency Formation Commission(LAFCO)	146.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 35,134
Outside Agency	771430	Inland Empire Health Plan - Contract	502.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 120,802
Total Legal Service Agreements			71,624.00	9,622.00			\$ 18,593,171
General Fund Cost Allocation							
3120100000	573000	TLMA Planning	1,151.00	100.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 291,086
1000200000	575700	Assessment Appeals Board	244.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 58,717
1100100000	575700	Executive Office	404.00	200.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 125,437
1100900000	575700	Executive Office - Contr Trial Court Fund	260.00	1,139.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 223,268
1102900000	575700	Executive Office-Legislative Admin Support	766.00	65.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 193,502
1103800000	575700	Executive Office Subfund Operations	20.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 4,813
1105000000	575700	Executive Office - Natl Pollutant Dschrg Elim Sys	10.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 2,407
1109900000	575700	Executive Office - Indigent Defense	55.00	386.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 67,696
1111500000	575700	Executive Offices-Integrated Service Delivery	166.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 39,947
1130100000	575700	Human Resources	250.00	12.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 61,854
1200100000	575700	Assessor	768.00	12.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 186,505
1200200000	575700	County Clerk Recorder	161.00	38.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 44,105
1300100000	575700	Auditor-Controller	60.00	3.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 14,862
1300200000	575700	Auditor-Controller - Internal Audit	30.00	8.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 8,348
1300300000	575700	Auditor-Controller - County Payroll	30.00	1.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 7,361
1400100000	575700	Treasurer Tax Collector	614.00	177.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 172,726
1700100000	575700	Registrar of Voters	684.00	113.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 180,541
2000100000	575700	Emergency Management Department	355.00	15.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 87,544
2200100000	575700	District Attorney	82.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 19,733
2300100000	575700	Department Of Child Support Services	65.00	4.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 16,206
2400100000	575700	Public Defender	61.00	5.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 15,385
2500100000	575700	Sheriff Administration	420.00	5.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 101,775
2500200000	575700	Sheriff Support	205.00	2.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 49,614
2500300000	575700	Sheriff Patrol	350.00	126.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 102,002
2500400000	575700	Sheriff Correction	790.00	48.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 196,878
2500500000	575700	Sheriff Court Services	15.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 3,610
2500700000	575700	Sheriff - Ben Clark Training Center	90.00	17.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 24,057
2501000000	575700	Sheriff Coroner	15.00	5.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 4,316
2600700000	575700	Probation	646.00	131.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 173,937
2700200000	575700	Fire	235.00	57.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 64,593
2800100000	575700	Agricultural Commissioner	70.00	5.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 17,551
3140100000	575700	TLMA Code Enforcement	338.00	52.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 88,673
4200100000	575700	Riverside University Health System - Public Health	600.00	20.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 147,206
4200400000	575700	Environmental Health	182.00	13.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 45,631
4200600000	575700	Animal Services	350.00	21.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 87,187
5400100000	575700	Veterans Services	23.00	5.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 6,241
7200500000	575700	FM Project Management	221.00	24.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 56,568
7200600000	575700	FM Energy	4.00	-	240.64	141.09	\$ 963
7201300000	575700	FM Community & Rec. Centers	72.00	10.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 18,737
7300100000	575700	Purchasing	100.00	10.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 25,475
Total General Fund Allocation			10,962.00	2,829.00			\$ 3,037,057
903601	778160	CSA 036 Idyllwild Lighting	6.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 1,444
905102	778160	Office of Economic Development - CSA 060 Pinyon Fire Protectic	6.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 1,444
912601	778160	Office of Economic Development - CSA 126 Highgrove Area Lght	27.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 6,498
914901	778160	Office of Economic Development - CSA 149	7.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 1,685
915201	778160	Office of Economic Development - Csa 152 Npdes	30.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 7,220
915202	778160	Office of Economic Development - CSA Administration Operatin	31.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 7,460
925001	778160	Executive Office - Capital Finance Administration	13.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 3,129
927003	778160	Executive-Office SW Communities Financing Auth	52.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 12,514
931104	778160	Regnl Parks & Open-Space Dist	134.00	6.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 33,093
931105	778160	Park Acq & Dev, District	98.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 23,583
931170	778160	Parks - Habitat & Open Space Mgmt	13.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 3,129
931240	778160	Parks-Finance	4.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 963
938001	777520	Children & Family Commission - First 5	146.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 35,134
947140	771410	Flood Control Subdivision	152.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 36,578
947160	771410	Flood Control - Encroachment Permits	28.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 6,738

Departments Proposed Charges

*Estimates Using Proposed Attorney and Paralegal Rates
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Projections

Department ID	Account	Department Name	FY 26/27 Projected Billable Hrs Attorneys	FY 26/27 Projected Billable Hrs Paralegals	FY 26/27 Proposed Attorney Rate	FY 26/27 Proposed Paralegal Rate	FY 26/27 Proposed Billable Net Income at Proposed Rate
947180	771410	Flood Control - Special Accounting	19.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 4,573
947200	771410	Flood Control - Administration	69.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 16,605
947400	771410	Flood Control - Zone 1 Const,Maint,Misc.	77.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 18,530
947420	771410	Flood Control - Zone 2 Constr, Maint, Misc	81.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 19,492
947440	771410	Flood Control - Zone 3 Constr, Maint, Misc	9.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 2,166
947460	771410	Flood Control - Zone 4 Constr, Maint, Misc	162.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 38,984
947480	771410	Flood Control - Zone 5 Constr, Maint, Misc	1.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 241
947500	771410	Flood Control - Zone 6 Constr, Maint, Misc	2.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 482
947520	771410	Flood Control - Zone 7 Constr, Maint, Misc	58.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 13,958
947540	771410	Flood Control - NPDES Whitewater Assess	3.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 722
947560	771410	Flood Control - NPDES Santa Ana Assess	90.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 21,658
947580	771410	Flood Control - NPDES Santa Margarita Assess	7.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 1,685
980503	778160	Office of Economic Development - Perris Vally Cemetery District	6.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 1,444
985101	778160	IHSS Public Authority - Admin	21.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 5,054
991000	778160	CFD Administration	123.00	5.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 30,305
1108000000	778160	EO COVID19 ARP	31.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 7,460
1130800000	771430	HR-Workers Compensation	6.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 1,444
1130900000	771440	Human Resources - ISF-Malpractice Insurance	65.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 15,642
1131000000	771440	Human Resources - ISF-Liability Insurance (Risk Mgmt)	2,360.00	27.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 571,720
1131300000	771430	Human Resources - Safety Loss Control	11.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 2,648
1150100000	778160	Executive Office - CFD Assessment Dist Admin	10.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 2,407
1200400000	778160	Assessor - CREST	13.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 3,129
1900700000	778160	Office of Economic Development - County Free Library	77.00	12.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 20,223
1900900000	771430	Executive Office - Successor Agency to the RDA	50.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 12,032
1901000000	778160	Office of Economic Development - Business Services	104.00	2.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 25,309
1910700000	771430	TLMA Aviation	392.00	14.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 96,307
1910900000	771430	Aviation - Capital	-	3.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 424
3100200000	778160	TLMA Administrative Services	47.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 11,311
3110100000	778160	TLMA Building & Safety	40.00	6.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 10,473
3130100000	778160	TLMA Transportation	727.00	64.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 183,976
3130200000	778160	TLMA Survey	136.00	20.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 35,549
3130500000	778160	TLMA Transportation Const Projects	1,197.00	72.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 298,205
3130700000	778160	TLMA Trans Equip	16.00	-	240.64	141.09	\$ 3,851
3130800000	778160	TLMA ALUC	100.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 24,064
3132000000	778160	TLMA Landscape Maintenance District	50.00	7.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 13,020
4500100000	771430	Waste	430.00	21.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 106,439
5300100000	778160	Office on Aging	215.00	6.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 52,585
5500100000	778160	HWS - Housing, Homeless, Wrkfrce Sol	6.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 1,444
5500300000	778160	HHPWS Continuum of Care	630.00	27.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 155,413
5500400000	778160	HHPWS Workforce Development	150.00	-	240.64	141.09	\$ 36,096
5500500000	778160	HHPWS Local Initiative Admin DCA	26.00	1.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 6,398
5500600000	778160	HHPWS DCA-Local Initiative Program	48.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 11,551
5500700000	778160	HHPWS DCA-Other Programs	6.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 1,444
5500800000	778160	HHPWS HOME Investment Partnership Act	90.00	19.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 24,339
5500900000	778160	HHPWS HUD-CDBG Home Grants	200.00	41.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 53,913
5501000000	778160	HHPWS Rental Relief Program	257.00	83.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 73,555
5502000000	778160	PLHA-HWS	256.00	273.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 100,122
7200200000	771430	FM Custodial Services	21.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 5,054
7200300000	771430	FM Maintenance Services	53.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 12,754
7200400000	771430	FM Real Estate	663.00	25.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 163,072
7200800000	778160	FM Capital Projects	759.00	14.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 184,622
7300500000	771430	PURCHASING & FLEET - Fleet Services	100.00	10.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 25,475
7400100000	771430	Riverside County Information Technology	300.00	20.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 75,014
7400600000	771430	Riverside County Information Technology - Communications Sol	48.00	43.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 17,618
3100300000	771930	DBF Building & Safety, DBF Planning, DBF Survey - CC&Rs, DBF S	961.00	616.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 318,167
Outside Agency	771430	Riverside County Citrus Pest Control District No. 2 & 3	12.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 2,888
Outside Agency	771420	Housing Authority/RCHC	536.00	48.00	240.64	141.09	\$ 135,756
Outside Agency	771430	Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District (CVRCD)	50.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 12,032
Outside Agency	771430	Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation	26.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 6,257
Outside Agency	771430	TLMA Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA)	30.00		240.64	141.09	\$ 7,220
			12,780.00	1,485.00			3,284,933
	Grand Total		95,366.00	13,936.00			\$ 24,915,161



Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak

Submit request to the Clerk of the Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Greg Langworthy

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: 951-704-5149

Date: 1/13/26 Agenda # 3.6

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose X _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 04/23/2025)

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, ensuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo. **Speakers are prohibited from bringing signs, placards, or posters into the hearing room.**

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.