



County Counsel/Risk Management

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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AGENDA DATE: May 20, 2025- **REVISED**

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Jennifer Flores PHONE: 559-636-4950

SUBJECT: County Counsel Billing Rates for Legal Services

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve County Counsel's proposed billing rates to recover the full cost of providing legal services to certain County departments and other public agencies, effective July 1, 2025.

SUMMARY:

The County Counsel office provides legal services to all County departments and other public agencies. County Counsel has previously been authorized to charge the actual cost of legal services to other public agencies and certain county departments that require direct billing for services prior to the countywide cost allocation plan charge distribution. In the fall of 1996, the Auditor's office, in conjunction with the review of County Counsel billing practices by the State, suggested the County Counsel implement a stepped billing rate. The purpose of using the stepped billing rates is to avoid disallowances of charges which could exceed actual costs.

A review of the current billing rates has been completed, and it has been determined that the existing legal services billing rates do not fully capture the current cost of providing services that include salaries, benefits, administrative overhead, and operational expenses. County Counsel's legal services billing rates have remained the same for over twenty years and is proposing to increase the billing rates based on the most current indirect cost rate. The methodology used to develop the billing rates has been reviewed by the Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector's office and the County Administrative Office.

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DATE: May 20, 2025

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The proposed billing rates will allow the County Counsel's office to recover the full cost of providing legal services to certain County departments that receive third-party funding sources and other public agencies. No additional Net County Cost.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Organizational Performance Initiative to continuously improve organizational effectiveness and fiscal stability. The proposed increase to County Counsel's billing rates will ensure proper cost recovery for providing legal services.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Jennifer M. Flores

Jennifer M. Flores

County Counsel

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: Attachment A – County Counsel Billing Rates for Legal Services