



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held October 16, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

County Counsel Litigation Cost Manager's annual report of projected legal cost savings.

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“Each year, the Board of Supervisors receives two reports which details the County’s legal and risk management losses and costs. One is the County Counsel’s Litigation Cost Manager’s Annual report, which was presented today. The other is the Chief Executive Officer’s Risk Management Annual Report, which analyzes the County’s fiscal year’s losses and costs in workers compensation, general liability, vehicle liability and medical practice self-insured programs. Both reports are crucial in giving the public an accounting of Los Angeles County’s legal fees and of the County’s risk, hazards and exposures, respectively. Currently, the Litigation Cost Manager’s report is scheduled for presentation to the Board when the budget is adopted each June and the Risk Manager’s report is issued six months after the end of each fiscal year. Both reports should be released simultaneously to get a fuller, more accurate picture of the County’s financial losses for one fiscal year, and to assess progress, if any, to reduce the County’s risk and exposure to liability.”

Therefore, Supervisor Molina made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, that the Board take the following actions:

1. Schedule for presentation at the meeting in September 2008, when the Supplemental Budget will be considered, the County Counsel’s Litigation Cost Manager’s and the Chief Executive Officer’s Risk Manager’s Annual Reports. The final written reports are to be due 14 days prior to the September 2008 meeting; and

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2. Instruct the Litigation Cost Manager and the Risk Manager to collaborate in preparing a joint report for the September 2008 meeting that identifies specific projects or actions accomplished during the year that supported the goal of risk management and reduction of the County's exposure to litigation and identifies joint goals and objectives for the subsequent year.

Steven Estabrook, County Counsel's Litigation Cost Manager, and Raymond J. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel, answered questions posed by the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich requested County Counsel to provide the Board with an update on those additional recommendations contained in the Auditor-Controller's October 5, 2007 follow-up review of County Counsel Litigation Cost Management. The report should focus on the Litigation Cost Manager as opposed to the recommendations contained in the Auditor-Controller's January 29, 2007 audit, including recommendations made by the outside attorney.

In addition, Supervisor Knabe made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, that the Board instruct the Auditor-Controller to report back at the October 30, 2007 meeting on those recommendations contained in his report on Litigation Cost Management that County Counsel has concluded have been implemented.

In conclusion, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Received and filed the County Counsel Litigation Cost Manager's attached reports of projected legal cost savings;
2. Agreed to schedule for presentation at a meeting in September 2008, when the Supplemental Budget will be considered, the County Counsel's Litigation Cost Manager's and the Chief Executive Officer's Risk Manager's Annual Reports. The final written reports are to be submitted to the Board 14 days prior to the September 2008 meeting;

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3. Instructed the Litigation Cost Manager and the Risk Manager to collaborate in preparing a joint report for the September 2008 meeting that identifies specific projects or actions accomplished during the year that supported the goal of risk management and reduction of the County's exposure to litigation and identifies joint goals and objectives for the subsequent year; and
4. Instructed County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller to prepare and provide reports at the October 30, 2007 meeting:
 - County Counsel - An update on those additional recommendations contained in the Auditor-Controller's October 5, 2007 follow-up review of County Counsel Litigation Cost Management. The report should focus on the Litigation Cost Manager as opposed to the recommendations contained in the Auditor-Controller's January 29, 2007 audit, including recommendations made by the outside attorney;
 - Auditor-Controller – Those recommendations contained in his report dated October 5, 2007 on Litigation Cost Management that County Counsel has concluded have already been implemented.

Later in the meeting, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board reconsidered the aforementioned motion Recommendation No. 4 only, which instructed the Auditor-Controller to report back to the Board at the meeting of October 30, 2007 and approved changing the date of the report to be presented to the November 6, 2007 Board meeting.

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Attachments

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel