

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

October 8, 2024

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

**Implementing Recommendations to Increase Transparency and Accountability in the County’s Contracting Process and Protecting the County Against Fraud and Conflicts of Interest**

On October 19, 2021, the Board approved a motion which called for the County Counsel to retain an outside law firm to conduct an independent investigation of County service contracts as well as the associated County processes and policies in place. The investigation also required a review of all County service contracts in all supervisorial districts with a significant cumulative monetary value approved by the Board of Supervisors from 2008-2020, and required the use of a forensic auditor. Lastly, the motion required County Counsel to provide recommendations to the Board for any proposed process and policy enhancements and improvements. County Counsel has informed the Board that the confidential investigation is complete, and the public recommendations will be presented to the Board.

It is important to reiterate that prevention of corruption and the protection of

MOTION

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taxpayer dollars is absolutely necessary to preserve public confidence in the democratic process and to ensure that government works for its constituents. It is a fundamental principle that a public office cannot be used for personal enrichment. And, for that reason, the United States Constitution addresses a major concern for thwarting corruption at all levels of government.

All government agencies should strive to ensure that systems and procedures provide the necessary protections and controls to ensure that fraud or corruption is thwarted. Therefore, whenever County systems and procedures can be improved, we should review and embrace improvements. As stated in the prior October 2021 motion, over the years, we have sought to prevent corruption by controlling opportunity, incentive, and risk through robust processes, policies, and advanced systems that provided transparency and accountability. We recommit ourselves to these principles and to a renewed assessment of further process and policy improvements.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct County Counsel, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, Internal Services Department, Auditor-Controller and other relevant departments, to report back to the Board in 120 days, after the recommendations from the investigation are presented to the Board, with a plan, including projected timelines, to implement the recommendations in the report to the extent feasible.

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