



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS **Agenda Number:**
AGENDA LETTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Planning and Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: May 6, 2025
Placement: Departmental Agenda
Estimated Time: 5 min.
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Lisa Plowman, Planning and Development Director, (805) 568-2300
Contact Info: Andrew Rasura, Deputy Director, Administration (805) 568-2031
SUBJECT: Hearing to Approve Extra Help Service and Retirement Waiver for the Planning & Development Department

DocuSigned by:

Lisa Plowman

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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

SBCERS

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) In accordance with California Government Code Section 7522.56(f)(1), certify that the appointment of retired County employee Allen Bell is necessary to fill a critical need in the Planning and Development Department before 180 days have passed from his date of retirement;
- b) Approve and authorize the Planning & Development Department to appoint retired employee Allen Bell as an extra help employee to provide assistance with specialized long range planning services on a part time basis, not to exceed 960 hours of annual service, with an effective start date of May 12, 2025; and
- c) Determine that the above actions are organizational and administrative activities of government that are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

April 15, 2025

Page 2 of 3

Summary Text:

The purpose of this item is to request that your Board certify that there is a critical need to allow the Planning & Development Department to hire retired Supervising Planner, Allen Bell, as an extra help employee before 180 days have passed from his date of retirement. Mr. Bell retired on March 28, 2025. One of Mr. Bell's primary assignments was performing long range planning project management with a particular focus on implementing the Housing Element Update.

The Department was aware that Mr. Bell planned to retire and transition plans were in place for coverage; there is a current recruitment, for this position, scheduled to close April 29, 2025. However, due to recent and unexpected turnover in the Long Range Planning Division, the department is requesting Mr. Bell's return. To ensure continued progress in implementing the important programs identified in the Housing Element Update, we would like to have Mr. Bell available as extra help. Mr. Bell has spent 20 years with the department and knows the position and all aspects of the Housing Element Update, specifically providing long range planning project management work until suitable replacement staff are hired to fill those duties.

If approved, Mr. Bell will assist the Planning & Development Department by primarily providing long range planning project management associated with implementation of the Housing Element Update, including but not limited to research, staff supervision, and other duties as assigned in accordance with Mr. Bell's extensive public agency experience. Specific implementation efforts Mr. Bell will assist with include, among others: 1) development of the pre-approved ADU plans (Program 10), 2) coordination with the Coastal Commission on the certification of the coastal zone rezones and ordinance amendments (Program 1), 3) establishment of the local preference program (Program 21), and 4) ordinance amendments to facilitate a reduction of governmental constraints in compliance with state housing laws (Program 16).

Background:

The Planning & Development Department's Long Range Planning Division prepares updates to the County's Comprehensive Plan, Local Coastal Program, and zoning ordinances in accordance with state mandates and Board priorities. There are often various time sensitive projects and our office must be properly staffed to respond to the critical demands.

Mr. Bell's extra help appointment will ensure stability and continuity as the Department continues to prioritize implementation of critical programs of the Housing Element Update. The Planning & Development Department anticipates that Mr. Bell will be needed in this role for approximately nine months to one year, for no more than 960 hours per fiscal year.

April 15, 2025

Page 3 of 3

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

It is anticipated that Mr. Bell will be providing long range planning services up to 960 hours per fiscal year. In accordance with California Government Code Section 7522.56(d), Mr. Bell will perform this work at the Supervising Planner rate, which can be found in the County's salary table, currently \$65.65 per hour. This extra help position will be covered by salary savings generated from vacant positions, included in the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget and have a total estimated cost of \$66,000.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a e-copy of the minute order of these actions to Andrew Rasura, rasuraa@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Allen Bell Certification Post Retirement Employment of SBCERS Retiree

Authored by:

Lisa Plowman

Director

(805) 568-2300