

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 7/29/03
Department Name: Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
Department No.: 062
Agenda Date: 8/12/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Joe Holland
Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
STAFF CONTACT: Jimbo McClure
568-2574
SUBJECT: Funding for Oct 7, 2003 Governor's Recall Election

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approved the attached (enclosure 1) Budget Revision releasing \$800,000 from the General Fund Contingency to fund the cost of the Governor's Recall Election scheduled for October 7, 2003.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: The recommendation is primarily aligned with actions required by law and/or routine business necessity.

Executive Summary and Discussion: On July 23, 2003 the Secretary of the State of California certified to the Lieutenant Governor that the proponents of the proposed recall of the Governor had collected sufficient verified petition signatures to trigger a recall election. On July 24, 2003 the Lt Governor published a Notice of Election proclaiming a statewide special election to be held on October 7, 2003. As a result, officers (Registrars of Voters) charged with conducting elections shall make all arrangements for the election in accordance with state election code.

When the FY 03-04 Budget was developed we did not anticipate nor budget for this election. The attached Budget Revision will release funds (\$800,000) from the County General Fund Contingency to provide the estimated funding necessary to perform the election within Santa Barbara County.

Also attached (enclosure 2) is a detailed time line of events developed by the Secretary of State that lays out the various milestones in order to prepare for the October 7, 2003 special election.

Note: *There has been some concern expressed in various media articles about consolidation of polling places. Santa Barbara County IS NOT consolidating any polling place, except where a polling place is*

non longer available. This means the majority of our voters will still be going to their normal polling place. We are consolidating some precincts within existing polling places when logistics considerations are a major factor, while still ensuring we can fully accommodate the anticipated voter turnout.

Mandates and Service Levels: Performing Elections is a mandated County function.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: The estimated cost of this unbudgeted countywide election is \$800,000, which is roughly the midpoint in the range of estimated cost of this election. Counties through out the state normally average between \$3-5/registered voter. Given Santa Barbara County has about 200,000 registered voters the estimated cost would be between \$600,000 and \$1.0 million. Other reference points for comparison include: (1) the last major special election (22nd District after the untimely death of Congressman Walter Capps) was held in 1998 at a cost of approximately \$500,000. This election was not countywide and did not include the requirement for bi-lingual ballots nor having bi-lingual poll workers...both of which add cost to any election; (2) the March 2004 primary that is countywide is budgeted at \$1.3 million.

The department is reviewing various options to minimize cost including consolidating precincts which would reduce poll worker expense and also allow for better estimates of bi-lingual ballot requirements. The department has established a program (2004) to track and document all cost.

Note: The General Fund Designation for Contingencies was \$\$3,494K as of 7/31/03. There would be \$2,694K remaining after this transfer.

Special Instructions:

Concurrence:

7/29/2003 3:59 PM