BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name:	Board of Supervisors
Department No.:	011
For Agenda Of:	05/18/2021
Placement:	Administrative
Estimated Time:	N/A
Continued Item:	No
If Yes, date from:	
Vote Required:	Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Board Member(s)   Bob Nelson, Fourth District Supervisor   *Bob Nelson*
              Contact Info: Aaron Hanke, Fourth District Chief of Staff
                                 805-346-8407

SUBJECT: **County Counsel Appointment**

<u>**County Counsel Concurrence**</u>   <u>**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**</u>

As to form: N/A   As to form: N/A

<u>Other Concurrence:</u> N/A
As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

Consider the appointment and compensation for County Counsel for the County of Santa Barbara, which occurs pursuant to Government Code §§ 27640-27641, and which comes after both a competitive recruitment and prior Closed Session consideration, as follows:

a) Appoint Rachel Van Mullem as County Counsel for the County of Santa Barbara, with a statutory four-year term that will begin on June 28, 2021.

b) Set Rachel Van Mullem's annual salary as County Counsel as $245,000, plus other benefits consistent with those received by other Santa Barbara County Department Managers, and subject to further annual increases by the Board of Supervisors based on performance.

c) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This Board letter recommends the Board appoint Chief Assistant County Counsel, Rachel Van Mullem, as the next County Counsel upon the retirement of County Counsel Michael Ghizzoni on June 27, 2021.

Ms. Van Mullem was selected after a competitive process and nationwide search. She comes to this role with 20 years of California County Counsel experience and has served as Assistant County Counsel for the County of Santa Barbara since 2014.

Ms. Van Mullem has been with the County of Santa Barbara since 2006, serving as Deputy County Counsel from 2006 to 2010; Senior Deputy County Counsel from 2010 to 2012; Chief Deputy County Counsel from 2012 to 2014; and as the Assistant County Counsel from 2014 to present. Previously, she worked for the County of Ventura County Counsel Office from 2001 to 2006.

During this time, Ms. Van Mullem has overseen the day to day operations of the County Counsel Office, including overseeing complex civil litigation, advisory work and standard litigation. She has assisted the County on high profile, fast moving projects and emergency work including the Jesusita Fire, Tea Fire, Thomas Fire, 1/9 Debris Flow, Conception boat fire and COVID-19 pandemic. She has served as lead attorney for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), Air Pollution Control District (APCD), County Planning Commission and Montecito Planning Commission.

Ms. Van Mullem holds a J.D. from Pennsylvania State University, Dickson School of Law and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Background: Pursuant to California Government Code §§ 27640-27641, the County Counsel shall serve for four years from the time of his/her appointment by the Board of Supervisors and until a successor is appointed. Mike Ghizzoni was appointed in 2013 and was appointed to two terms. His second term as County Counsel ends on June 20, 2021.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Send a copy of the Minute Order to the HR Director at mdeguevara@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Attachments:

None

Authored by:

Human Resources Department
cc:

Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Maria Elena De Guevara, HR Director