

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 1/15/02  
**Department Name:** Auditor-Controller  
**Department No.:** 061  
**Agenda Date:** 2/19/02  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Robert W. Geis, CPA  
Auditor-Controller

**STAFF CONTACT:** Robert W. Geis  
Ext 2101

**SUBJECT:** Software License Agreement for Financial Information Network

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve Amendment # 1 to the "Software License Agreement" that currently enables independent contractor to refer local governments to the County for the purpose of executing license agreements to use County Financial Information System (FIN) programs.
2. Exercise the County's right to cancel existing "Non-Exclusive Representation Agreement" between the County and Simpler Systems in accordance with paragraph 5 of that Agreement.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

*The recommendations are primarily aligned with actions required by law or by routine business necessity.*

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Four years ago, we prepared proposed license agreements and executed a non-exclusive representation agreement with Simpler Systems, a local vendor to potentially sell County FIN applications to other governmental agencies. Although, as we stated in our Board letter at that time, we felt the opportunity to generate revenue was highly speculative, we nevertheless proceeded since any potential costs to the County were considered negligible. Several agencies had shown an early interest in FIN. However, none of the agencies have the requisite hardware, trained staff, or the sophisticated programming tools necessary to either implement or maintain FIN.

Additionally, while FIN's client server model has served us well, it will soon become obsolete. We therefore envision upgrading our major systems to web based applications. This transition will substantially increase

access to financial data, both internal and external to the County, and significantly improve system functionality.

Simpler Systems has developed a new generation of proprietary web based development tools using the new Microsoft.Net technology. The proposed amendment to our existing agreement would permit Simpler Systems to use current FIN client server data models and algorithms related to the description, validation and processing of financial transactions. This would enable Simpler Systems to enhance FIN in a web-based environment by using its web based development tools. These rights would be exchanged for the County's entitlement to enhancements developed outside the County by Simpler Systems.

Since enhanced web based versions of FIN will bear minimal resemblance to our current product, the County would not retain any expectations of revenue from future transactions, if any, executed with any public agency by Simpler Systems. Accordingly, the existing "Non-Exclusive Representation Agreement" between the County and Simpler Systems will be terminated in accordance with paragraph 5 of that Agreement.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

Service levels would increase due to enhanced system functionality and access to data made possible by a web based environment.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None

**Special Instructions:**

Please return signed contract amendment and Letter to Terminate Contract (to be signed by Supervisor Marshall) to the Auditor-Controller's office for mailing.

**Concurrence:**

County Counsel