

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 2/25/05  
**Department Name:** General Services/Purchasing  
**Department No.:** 063  
**Agenda Date:** 4/5/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Thomas Alvarez, Director, General Services

**STAFF CONTACT:** John McMillin, Purchasing Manager  
X2693

**SUBJECT:** Donation of Computers to School Districts and non-profit organizations.

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the Purchasing Manager to donate surplus County computers, on an ongoing basis, to Santa Barbara County School districts and to non-profits that contract with the County to perform Health and Human Services in accordance with the provisions of Government Code Section 25372.

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

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal number I, "An efficient government able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community."

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

County Code Section 2-47 authorizes the Purchasing Manager to "sell or dispose of, **except by gift,...**" any item of personal property that he deems to be surplus to the needs of the County.

Government code section 25372 authorizes your board to "donate or lease any real or personal property that the board declares to be surplus to...A school district or community college district." (See attached section 25372)

For a number of years, Your Board has authorized the Purchasing Manager to dispose of selected surplus personal computers by donating them to the County Schools' "Computers for Families" program. Many requests have been received to donate them to individual school districts and non-profits, as well, but this went beyond Your Board's instructions to the Purchasing Manager.

The County has more surplus computers than the “Computers for Families” program is able to take. Some of them are not powerful enough to be used in the program. Obsolete computers bring very little on the resale market, but can be used in a number of school programs and non-profits, where word processing and spreadsheet programs do not require the most powerful, up-to-date computers.

The Purchasing Manager will limit all donations to those computers that are not needed by any other County department and to those that are not needed by the “Computers for Families” program, who will continue to have first choice of the surplus computers. Although the Government Code (as amended in 2002) allows for donations of County property to all 501 (c) (3) organizations engaged in health and human services, I suggest that the Purchasing Manager’s authority to make such donations, now and in the future, be limited to County school districts and non-profits that are actually contracting with the County until the volume of requests for computers can be determined.

**Mandates and Service Levels:** NONE

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:** A limited loss of resale funds (in the hundreds of dollars) will occur.

**Special Instructions:** The Clerk of the Board will provide a copy of the minute order to the Purchasing Manager.

**Concurrence:** N/A