

Memorandum



Date: October 9, 2008

To: Honorable Salud Carbajal, Chair
Members, Board of Supervisors

From: Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer

Subject: District Attorney Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability
Program (Item D-5 on 10/14/08)

CC: Jason Stilwell, Assistant CEO
Christie Stanley, District Attorney

The Board of Supervisors' October 14, 2008 agenda includes a departmental item (D-5) related to the funding of the District Attorney's Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability Program. The requested funding of \$166,000 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 would augment the \$50,000 gap funding authorized by the Board on June 9, 2008. However, given the current and projected financial conditions facing the County, caution is recommended in approving additional funding of this program at this time.

During the budget hearings for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 County Operating Plan, the Board of Supervisors directed the District Attorney to approach participating school districts for financial assistance in order to sustain the Truancy program since the school districts derive a financial benefit, increased Average Daily Attendance funding, from the Truancy program. At the June 9, 2008 hearing, the Board authorized gap funding of \$50,000 through the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008-09 to pay for two Truancy Supervisors. However, the Board also instructed staff to discontinue the Truancy program on September 30, 2008 should the school districts not contribute to the funding of the program.

Should the Board authorize the continuing of this program as presented for the current fiscal year, \$166,000 may be drawn from the Board Contingency Account. The program would require ongoing revenue of \$226,900 commencing in Fiscal Year 2009-10. The recent national economic downturn and financial market turmoil has impacted the State, as evidenced by the State's potential request for a \$7 billion loan from the federal government and likely special budget session to rework the Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget adopted on September 23rd, 2008, and local economy. Therefore, caution is urged in approving any additional expenditure at this time due to the volatility of the financial operating environment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 568.3400. Thank you.