

# 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:** 1/24/02  
**Department Name:** General Services  
**Department No.:** 063  
**Agenda Date:** 2/5/02  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimate Time:** 60 minutes  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ronald S. Cortez  
General Services Director

**STAFF CONTACT:** Doug Martin  
x2628

**SUBJECT:** Risk Management, Workers Compensation Fund

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors receive a staff report regarding the County's Workers Compensation Program.

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

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

A special report was requested from the General Services Department during the County Administrator's budget status presentation on November 13, 2001.

The General Services Department and a special Workers Compensation Evaluation Team have been examining the causes for the increased Workers Compensation costs with the intent of targeting efforts to minimize them. The team is composed of representatives from the Auditor Controller, the Treasurer Tax Collector, the County Administrator's Office and General Services Department. The group first came together July 26, 2001. During this period of time the team has focused its efforts on evaluating data to determine the root cause of increasing costs in the County. For example, the project team analyzed two Actuarial reviews of our Workers Compensation fund.

This presentation will focus on trends regarding costs, number of claims, types of claims and causes of claims. In addition, we will highlight the programs and projects targeted towards reducing our costs and improving our program. These include, but are not limited to, Back to Work program, On-line reports, Education, development of a Loss Control Program, expansion of our Safety program, and contracting out a

portion of the Claims handling process to an outside firm to allow our in-house staff to focus on closing cases.

The Workers Compensation Evaluation team continues to meet and will report to the County Administrators Office and the Board as requested.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

No change in programs or service levels.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

**Special Instructions:**

**Concurrence:**