

**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: February 25, 2003
Department: General Services
Budget Unit:
Agenda Date: March 18, 2003
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ronald S. Cortez, Director
General Services Department

STAFF CONTACT: Douglas Martin, Assistant Director
568-2628

SUBJECT: Update on Workers' Compensation Fund
All Supervisorial Districts

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors receive a staff presentation on the status of the Workers Compensation Fund for the County of Santa Barbara.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 3. A Strong, Professionally Managed County Organization.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The County of Santa Barbara administers its own Worker's Compensation program. Over the years, the Fund has come under increasing pressure to facilitate the needs of County employees injured on the job from both fiscal needs and regulatory burdens. Workers' Compensation Fund administration has responded to these pressures the implementation of several process improvements. The implemented improvements include, but are not limited to the following:

- Outsourcing of some of the claims processing to a TPA (Third Party Administrator)
- Semi-annual actuarial reports of the Fund
- Creation of a Balanced Scorecard of Work Comp activity for each department
- Access to on-line reports of employee injuries for appropriate staff
- Objective criteria for the setting of rates based on individual department performance
- Implementation of an Injury Prevention Program

There, of course, is always more work to be done in improving our processes. Some of projects for further refinements include the following:

Implementation of a Nurse Case Manager program
Tools to help focus on closing high dollar cases
Tools to help focus on closing cases quickly
Implement and monitor Medical Provider contracts

The Risk Management team continues to explore and implement improvements in how we do our job.
General Services stands ready to report to the County Administrator and the Board as necessary.

Mandates and Service Levels: NA

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: NA

Special Instructions:

Concurrence: