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Amendments Proposed to Chapter 2, Article X

Presented by Supervisors Farr and Wolf on February 17, 2009

**Review and consider amendments to
Chapter 2, Article X of the
Santa Barbara County Code
relating to the
Establishment and Duties,
Responsibilities and Authorities of the
County Executive Officer**

Background

During the past two decades, Article X has been revised three times, in 1991, 1996 and 2005.

On each occasion, the desire of the Board of Supervisors to strengthen the role of the County Administrator was cited as a motivating factor. The 2005 amendments also changed the title to County Executive Officer (CEO).

Background

The 1991 and 1996 revised ordinances also mentioned the unique role of the Board of Supervisors and the “legal responsibilities and voter accountability of elected county executives”, and encouraged communication from and with Department heads.

The 2005 ordinance amendments did not.

2005 Article X Amendments

1) On March 1, 2005 the BOS adopted an ordinance which transferred direct oversight and control of most County Department heads from the Board of Supervisors to the County Executive Officer giving the CEO “**full authority of the Board to select, appoint, evaluate, suspend, terminate and retain those department directors except the directors whose appointment or removal is otherwise expressly provided for in statute.**” Article X 2-71 (f)

2005 Article X Amendments

2) The 2005 ordinance did not require the CEO to inform, brief or seek the input of the Board of Supervisors in advance of such actions, stating only that “the County Executive Officer shall brief the Board of Supervisors *regarding the execution of [emphasis added] these responsibilities.*”
Article X 2-71 (f)

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Recommendations:

The county executive officer shall annually evaluate the performance of department heads and submit such evaluations to the board of supervisors. *Article X, 2-71 (f)*

The Board of Supervisors shall approve the appointment or removal of an appointed department director. *Article X, 2-71 (f)*

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Departmental requests for supplemental appropriations and budget revisions will be recommended to the BOS by CEO for final approval or denial *Article X, 2-71 (k)*

Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as restricting the ability of county officers or department heads from contacting board members directly. *Article X, 2-71 (q)*

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Recommendations:

- A. Adopt recommendations to amend Chapter 2, Article X
- B. Delay hiring of Planning & Development Director