

# OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL



February 8, 2021

# DUTIES



- The Office of the County Counsel is the legal advisor to the County.
- A County Counsel's office, once established, assumes the civil functions of the District Attorney (Gov. Code §27642), including the following:
  - Provide legal services to the County (§ 26520)
  - Represent the County and its officers and employees in civil actions (§26521)
  - Act as the legal adviser to the Board of Supervisors and attend Board meetings (§ 26526)
- County Counsel also represents and advises the court upon request (§26524, 27647), the grand jury (Penal Code § 934), the Assessment Appeals Board (§31000.7), the Air Pollution Control District (H&S Code § 40101), and the Resource Conservation District (Pub.Res.Code § 9418).
- Per County ordinance, the County Counsel's office is required to review all contracts, proposed ordinances, and resolutions.
- Note that while the Office of the County Counsel is a public law office it does not provide legal advice to members of the public.

# STAFFING



- **17 Full Time Employees**
  - **12 Attorneys organized into the following functional groups:**
    - **Health and Human Services (4 FTE)**
    - **Land Use and Development (3.5 FTE)**
    - **General Government (2.5 FTE)**
    - **Law & Justice / Human Resources (2 FTE)**
  - **5 Support Staff**

# BUDGET



	19/20	20/21 (Budgeted)
Total Appropriations	\$3,282,454	\$3,805,269
Total Revenue	\$422,466	\$409,616
FTE's	17	17
Net County Cost	\$2,859,988	\$3,395,653
% Net County Cost	87%	89%

# REVENUE



- Court-ordered awards of attorney fees
- Direct charges to departments (e.g., DOT , Risk Management, EMS, EMD, and AQMD)
- Reimbursement from developer-driven litigation

# RESOURCE CHALLENGES



- Cannabis program implementation
- Hemp program development
- Housing & safety element update
- Redistricting
- Organic waste requirements
- Multiple capital projects
- Community design standards
- Implementation of new office management software