

# **COUNTY COUNSEL**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of County Counsel is to provide quality, timely, and sound legal advice, services and representation in all civil and administrative proceedings to the Board of Supervisors, elected and appointed department heads, County departments, staff, and special districts.

**PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The Office of County Counsel currently consists of the County Counsel, four (4) full time attorneys, and four (4) administrative and support staff. As the County's chief legal office, County Counsel serves as the attorney for Butte County, including the Board of Supervisors and all County offices, departments, boards, commissions, the Grand Jury, and special districts.

County Counsel is a support organization; our work is client driven, and we have no independent objectives. County Counsel is dedicated to the principle that thoughtful, credible and ethical legal services lead to fewer lawsuits, lower liability costs, better services and better County government. By interpreting the law in a sound and consistent manner we enable our clients to reach their objectives in accordance with local, state and federal law, thereby avoiding, to the extent possible, challenge and confusion.

County Counsel has primary responsibility for providing legal advice and assistance to the Board of Supervisors and County staff on matters such as: public policies; land use; human/social services; civil actions; risk management and insurance; municipal and public law; tort law; resources law; environmental law; nuisance abatement; personnel benefits, retirement and labor relations law; and construction, facilities and real estate law. The attorneys in the Office of County Counsel prepare board reports and recommendations; prepare legal opinions; draft ordinances, resolutions and proposed legislation; represent the county before the legislature as directed; formulate litigation strategies; oversee legal research and investigations; act as trial counsel in state court, federal court, and administrative proceedings; monitor legal developments; retain and manage outside counsel; and serve as attorneys for the County in all civil actions.

**SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST**

- The Department budget request includes funding to maintain FY 2008-09 staff and operations levels.
- The Department budget request includes funding to continue the efforts in the Lake Oroville Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) Relicensing process, Poe Relicensing process (FERC), DWR litigation, General Plan and land use projects.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

- The recommendation includes appropriation of \$2,029,564 with restricted revenue of \$2,174,548 (including \$611,962 in charges to non-General Fund departments, \$142,000 in outside revenues, and \$1,420,586 in charges to General Fund departments that are shown as a negative appropriation). Charges to County departments for services provided are based on the previous year's actual costs, and the actual costs for FY 2009-10 will be adjusted in subsequent years. On average, approximately 40% of the charges from all internal service departments are ultimately paid with discretionary revenues.
- The recommendation does not make any additional staffing reductions. However the following two positions were eliminated mid-year in FY 2008-09:

March 3, 2009 – 2 Deputy County Counsel

- The recommendation includes reductions in various accounts such as professional/specialized services, office expenses, and transportation/travel.

- The recommendation includes funding to continue the efforts in the Lake Oroville Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) Relicensing process, Poe Relicensing process (FERC), DWR litigation, General Plan and land use projects.

BUDGET CODE 100

UNIT TITLE - COUNTY COUNSEL

BUTTE COUNTY  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BUDGET UNIT EXPENDITURE DETAIL  
SCHEDULE 9 2009-10

FUNCTION 1 - COUNTY COUNSEL  
ACTIVITY - 14 -  
FUND - 0010 - COUNTY GENERAL FUND 0010

ACCOUNT	TITLE	ACTUAL 2007-08	ADOPTED 2008-09	REQUESTED 2009-10	RECOMMENDED 2009-10	ADOPTED 2009-10
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
510	SALARIES & EMPLOYEE BENE	1,095,432	1,407,233	1,164,868	1,164,868	
520	SERVICES & SUPPLIES	916,117	1,014,804	797,593	797,593	
560	FIXED ASSETS	4,464	4,773	4,773		
TOTAL	DIRECT	2,016,012	2,426,810	1,967,234	1,962,461	-
570	OTHER FINANCING USES	(1,399,570)	(1,945,970)	(1,355,273)	(1,353,483)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		616,442	480,840	611,961	608,978	-
<b>REVENUES</b>						
60000	CHARGES FOR SERVICES	616,722	527,054	753,962	753,962	
70000	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES		616,722	527,054	753,962	753,962	-
NET COUNTY COSTS/USE OF FUND BALANCE		(280)	(46,214)	(142,001)	(144,984)	-

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