

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Board of Supervisors	(2) MEETING DATE 6/19/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE James R. Patterson 781-5450	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a Resolution and Contract Appointing Rita L. Neal as County Counsel.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the attached resolution and contract appointing Rita L. Neal as County Counsel, and direct the Chairperson to sign the resolution and contract.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) County Counsel Adopted 2012-13 Fiscal Year Budget	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT Salary: \$181,875; Benefits: \$89,581	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		
(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR)	(14) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
(15) LOCATION MAP N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____	
(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: James R. Patterson  
DATE: 6/19/2012  
SUBJECT: Submittal of a Resolution and Contract Appointing Rita L. Neal as County Counsel

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the attached resolution and contract appointing Rita L. Neal as County Counsel, and direct the Chairperson to sign the resolution and contract.

## **DISCUSSION**

It is necessary to appoint a successor to Warren R. Jensen who has served as County Counsel from September 22, 2008 to the present. Mr. Jensen is retiring on September 29, 2012.

California Government Code section 27641 provides that the County Board of Supervisors shall appoint a County Counsel for a four-year term, or until such time as a successor is appointed. No particular method of recruitment is specified in the applicable statutes.

Over the last four years, the Board of Supervisors has become very familiar with the performance of the County Counsel's office and, in particular, of Assistant County Counsel Rita L. Neal. The Board of Supervisors is very satisfied with the performance of the office and is very aware of the superior work and contributions of Assistant County Counsel Rita L. Neal over the last four years. The Board has interviewed Ms. Neal and is satisfied that she has the right combination of skills and leadership to lead the County Counsel's office in the future. The Board has therefore decided to appoint Rita L. Neal as County Counsel for a four year term pursuant to Government Code, sections 27640 and 27641.

Ms. Neal has been a member of the County Counsel's office since 1998, first serving as a Deputy County Counsel. She was promoted to Chief Deputy County Counsel in April 2008, and in September of 2008, was appointed Assistant County Counsel. During her time with the County Counsel's office, Ms. Neal has advised numerous County departments including the Administrative Office, Human Resources, Risk Management, General Services, Health Agency, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority, and others. Additionally, she has been personally involved in and successfully handled several complex litigation matters involving the County and for many years she has managed most of the litigation that is handled by outside counsel. She is well versed in all matters of governmental law. Prior to joining the County Counsel's office in 1998, Ms. Neal was in private practice in San Luis Obispo, specializing in civil litigation. Ms. Neal is able and qualified to act as County Counsel.

It is recommended that Rita L. Neal be appointed County Counsel for a four year term beginning September 30, 2012, as set forth in the attached resolution and contract.

## **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

Pursuant to California Government Code sections 27640 et seq., the appointment of a County Counsel is entrusted solely to the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. Although its support is not legally required, the Administrative Office supports the appointment of Ms. Neal.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This position is fully funded in the County Counsel's adopted budget for 2012-13 and does not create any increase to the budget. The salary range for County Counsel is \$157,102 to 190,956 per year. Ms. Neal will start at step 4 of the salary range, which is \$181,875 per year for salary and an additional \$89,581 for benefits. This is the same salary that Mr. Jensen received when he was appointed four years ago.

## **RESULTS**

The appointment of Rita L. Neal as County Counsel will fill an important vacancy with a highly qualified individual.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution
2. Employment Agreement