

County Counsel

Angil Morris-Jones – County Counsel

101-0700	FY 15/16 Adopted Budget	FY 16/17 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	781,166	864,801	83,635
Services and Supplies	120,264	98,915	(21,349)
Other Charges	(386,729)	(356,314)	30,415
Fixed Assets	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	514,701	607,402	92,701
REVENUE			
Fed/State	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	0
Realignment	267,419	360,750	93,331
Fees/Misc	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	267,419	360,750	93,331
FUND BALANCE	0	0	0
NET COUNTY COST	247,282	246,652	(630)

Program Description

The County Counsel is the attorney for the County of Yuba. We are counselors in the fullest sense, providing service that is intelligent, trustworthy and dedicated to public service. We commit ourselves to professionalism, understanding and furthering the needs and goals of the Board of Supervisors, County agencies and departments. We adhere to the highest standards of ethics and confidentiality.

To accomplish our mission, we endeavor to:

- Provide responsive legal advice and client service.
- Provide creative assistance to the Board and to County officers to enable them to carry out their policy goals.
- Provide prompt and effective assistance in reviewing, drafting and advising our clients on contracts and other legal documents.

- Provide training and resources to enable us to achieve the goals of the Office.
- Provide assertive representation in civil litigation and administrative hearings.

The Office of the County Counsel serves as the chief legal advisor and representative for the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yuba, County Agencies, Departments, and Commissions. As the attorneys for the County of Yuba we are committed to ensuring that our Office provides the highest quality of legal service to all of our clients. Our clients rely on and trust the integrity of our legal advice and legal services provided by the Office in accomplishing their public service goals and objectives.

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Our office does not see our role as narrow. Rather, we provide service that will further the purposes of the County. These include:

- The defense of legal matters
- Affirmative litigation
- Proactive assistance and advice
- Drafting legislation or amendments to current legislation

We hope the information available about the Yuba County Counsel's Office will help the public in general learn more about the work of our office and the talented members of our legal staff.

Accomplishments FY 2015-2016

- The year has been one marked by higher profile and more contentious issues than County Counsel's Office has seen in the recent past. The office assisted the Board of Supervisors in drafting and passing a marijuana cultivation ordinance. The process of passage of that ordinance received substantial public attention and was the subject of considerable and vocal debate. County Counsel's Office took a lead role in advising the Board and in drafting alternative versions of the ordinance. Thereafter, the office has vigorously defended the ordinance, both in a direct legal challenge brought against the Board's action and in assisting Code Enforcement in the implementation of the ordinance. The office also assisted in the planning process for the Magnolia Ranch development project and advised the Board in the approval process for that development. County Counsel was then called upon to defend the Board's actions in legal proceedings challenging the development.

While ultimately unsuccessful, the Board's directives were creditably served by County Counsel in the Magnolia Ranch matter.

Those two issues- marijuana and Magnolia Ranch- have been hugely time consuming and, as stated, brought County Counsel's Office more public attention than in the past.

- The volume of child protection cases handled by the office continued to remain high. The office was able to secure funding for an additional attorney position, with that position being devoted primarily to the child welfare caseload. In addition, the office filled a vacancy with an experienced attorney, bringing the office to full staff. The office continued to provide responsive service to County departments, with the objective of a "quick turnaround" of legal service requests, consistent with the requirement to provide thorough and complete advice and representation. One of the attorneys in the office successfully prosecuted an appellate writ in a CPS case (it is very unusual to obtain writ relief from the Court of Appeals in such cases). The cross-training of legal staff continues to be a priority—in a small office it is important that all attorneys be able to fill in when someone is on vacation or is assigned to a different project.
- Employee discipline actions have continued to be a priority for County Counsel's Office. Attorneys from the office represented various departments in a number of complex and difficult contested personnel actions. The Office has been uniformly successful in those cases. Part of that success is due to a concerted effort to coordinate disciplinary actions among County Counsel, Human Resources and the affected department; we feel we have been very successful in developing the relationships that allowed that to occur.
- Attorney training continues to be a priority; both in developing new skills and in further

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advancing already gained expertise. All the attorneys in the office, as well as the Legal Services Coordinator, participated in regular conferences and seminars in specialized fields directed at enhancing their abilities to perform their assigned duties. Attorneys in the office served as trainers, as well. County Counsel's Office conducted a training session for CPS social workers on preparing for and testifying in court. The training was well received and appreciated by the Health and Human Services Department.

- The Legal Services Coordinator served effortlessly as the sole paralegal, legal secretary, office assistant, office specialist and office manager for the County Counsel's Office. Our Legal Services Coordinator effectively performed these duties because she has extensive experience and knowledge, as well as exceptional organization and time management skills. The office also had a very positive experience with a McGeorge law school intern during the year. It is hoped we will be able to repeat that experience.

to be somewhat burdensome to the Board of Supervisors in terms of time and effort spent in abatement and cost accounting hearings. It is a goal of County Counsel's Office to work with Code Enforcement and the Board to try to streamline the administrative process and make it more efficient. The office also plans on working closely with Code Enforcement and the CAO to try to resolve some of the County's burgeoning homeless issues.

Goals and Objectives FY 2016-2017

- Every member of the County Counsel's Office will strive to continue providing competent and timely legal services to the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, Commissions, County Boards and Special Districts of Yuba County.
- The child protection caseload is an absolute priority of the office. The addition of an attorney to handle part of that caseload will allow better case preparation and more day to day contact with the social workers and greater "client satisfaction" within HHSD.
- Enforcement of County Code violations related to marijuana cultivation has proven

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2013-2014	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2014-2015	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2015-2016	CAO RECOMMENDED 2016-2017
COUNTY COUNSEL					
Salaries & Benefits					
101-0700-413.01-01	REGULAR	521,670	535,858	610,621	651,845
101-0700-413.01-03	EXTRA HELP	0	6,575	0	0
101-0700-413.01-07	VACATION PAY	3,333	0	0	0
101-0700-413.02-02	CO SHARE PERS	77,422	84,519	102,463	110,893
101-0700-413.02-03	COPST	0	197	0	0
101-0700-413.02-04	GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	42,412	30,893	46,050	79,602
101-0700-413.02-05	MEDICARE	7,538	7,753	8,971	9,452
101-0700-413.02-06	WORKERS COMP INS	36,491	3,306	3,367	4,270
101-0700-413.02-07	LIFE INSURANCE	519	519	606	623
101-0700-413.02-08	UNEMPLOYMENT INS	2,813	0	3,065	1,947
101-0700-413.02-09	RETIREE HEALTHCARE INS	5,688	5,853	6,023	6,169
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*	Salaries & Benefits	697,886	675,473	781,166	864,801
Services & Supplies					
101-0700-413.12-00	COMMUNICATION	438	507	700	700
101-0700-413.15-00	INSURANCE	2,077	3,359	2,731	2,133
101-0700-413.17-00	MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT	2,880	3,840	3,840	5,568
101-0700-413.20-00	MEMBERSHIPS	6,556	7,456	9,300	8,250
101-0700-413.22-00	OFFICE EXPENSE	4,813	5,554	8,000	4,989
101-0700-413.23-00	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	38,742	23,003	40,000	35,000
101-0700-413.25-00	RENTS & LEASES/EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	1,275
101-0700-413.28-00	SPECIAL DPMT EXPENSE	27,767	33,359	38,693	31,000
101-0700-413.29-00	TRAVEL	6,087	6,558	17,000	10,000
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*	Services & Supplies	89,360	83,636	120,264	98,915
Cost Reimbursements					
101-0700-413.90-00	REIMBURSEMENTS	760-	1,588-	0	0
101-0700-413.90-87	A87 COST ALLOCATION PLAN	346,572-	374,334-	386,729-	356,314-

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2013-2014	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2014-2015	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2015-2016	CAO RECOMMENDED 2016-2017
*	Cost Reimbursements	347,332-	375,922-	386,729-	356,314-
**	COUNTY COUNSEL	439,914	383,187	514,701	607,402
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