County Counsel

• Total Budget
  – Operating: $3,094,613
  – Capital: $0

• General Fund Contribution
  – $1,908,378 (38% of total)
  – $296,400 of one-time Litigation Designation funding (avg. annual use of Litigation Designation is approx. $292,000)

• Budget FTE
  – 37.8 (reduction of 17.3% from 45.7 FTE in FY 05-06)
Accomplishments

• Represented the County in approximately 125 litigated cases with reserves of nearly $10 million; concluded 19 cases with savings of $776,900 in potential liability.

• Provided legal service for multi-faceted employment issues and coordinated handling of workers’ compensation (WC) claims with related legal actions.

• Successfully resolved 16 WC cases through dismissal, trial and/or settlement for equal to or less than the amount reserved by Risk Management.
Accomplishments

• Supported negotiations to minimize impacts on County from University of California, Santa Barbara’s Long Range Development Plan.

• Litigated and resolved seven appeals by Greka Oil & Gas, Inc. of administrative fines by County.

• Prevailed in litigation to enforce County’s restrictive covenant for “passive recreation and the preservation of wildlife habitat” at Elings Park South.

• Advised the Board of Supervisors and Planning & Development Department concerning nine appeals involving NextG’s Distributed Antenna System.
Service Level Impacts

- County Counsel’s service level will be unchanged.
- FTE reductions since FY 08-09 have fallen disproportionately on General Fund departments and General Fund projects.
- Reduced staffing continues to limit the quantity and timeliness of County Counsel’s legal work.
Services Provided in FY 2011-12

• County Counsel’s goal is continued delivery of quality legal services.
• Basic services include attendance and advice at public meetings, communicating and collaborating with clients to solve legal problems and providing sound legal advice.
• Represents the County in litigated matters including tort defense, contracts, land use and advisory.