

Legal Services

County Counsel

Michael C. Ghizzoni
County Counsel



FY 2021-22
BUDGET HEARINGS

Budget Summary

Operating Budget	\$ 10,890,500
Use of One-Time for Ongoing Operations	\$ 0
Capital Budget	\$ 0
General Fund Contribution	\$ 9,179,800
Full-Time Equivalents	43.0
Service Level Reductions	\$ 0
Restoration Requests	\$ 0
Expansion Requests	\$ 0

Highlighted Goals

FY 2021-22

- Litigate major “non-standard” cases: defense against Southern California Edison’s Debris Flow indemnification claim, Northern Branch Jail construction, cannabis, and opioids.
- Litigate “standard” portfolios: child protection, Medi-Cal audits, conservatorships, “Risk” and land use, and assessment appeals.
- Provide legal support for: COVID-19 response and reopening, cannabis, “water issues,” capital projects, Emergency Ambulance contract, and multi-year Remedial Plan at the Main Jail.

◇ Renew '22
Department Goal/
Objective

Updates

- After County notified California Department of Food & Agriculture of noncompliance by cannabis grower Sunshine Organics Greens, Inc., that grower surrendered their State licenses, and State directed premises and inventory close-outs by May 31, 2021.
- Filed civil enforcement litigation against cannabis grower Island Breeze Farms, LLC and landowner Island View Ranch, LLC, for cultivating cannabis in violation of County's zoning code and regulations.
- Initiating third-party fee study about County Counsel fees within some "land use" permits and maps.
- Board appointed Rachel Van Mullem as County Counsel for a four-year term starting June 28, 2021.

Service Level Reductions

NONE

Expansions

NONE