July 17, 2018

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Resolution Establishing a Fee Schedule for the Office of the County Counsel

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct a hearing to consider and approve a Resolution establishing a fee schedule for the Office of the County Counsel

OVERVIEW:

On June 12, 2018, your Board approved by resolution the adjustment of countywide fees for eight departments. The Office of the County Counsel was not included in that Board item because our fees are governed by Section 3.33.010 of the Marin County Code. Changes to these fees require an ordinance change and two readings. Because these fees are not charged to the public at large and the Office of the County Counsel is not mandated to include these fees in the county code, we asked you in a separate action today to repeal Marin County Code Section 3.33.010.

We are requesting that your Board re-establish that authority by passing the attached Resolution establishing a revised fee schedule for the Office of the County Counsel. If passed, the Resolution authorizing the fee will take effect on the effective date of the repeal of the Ordinance. Fees are charged when our services are provided to independent districts and agencies that request professional legal services. Fees are not charged to any agency for which the Board of Supervisors is the governing board or ex-officio governing board of the agency.

Consistent with your Board's direction to ensure that fees and charges keep pace with our cost of doing business, the attached fee Resolution proposes a 3% increase annually over our current fee of $220. The FY 2018-19 fee of $227 per hour (prorated) would become effective August 17th, 2018, and the FY 2019-20 fee, effective on July 1, 2019, will be $234 per hour.

Pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code Section 6062a, notice of these changes were provided on or about July 2nd, 2018 and July 11, 2018.
FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed fee increase, to be considered by your Board on July 17, 2018, would result in estimated increased County Counsel revenues of approximately $10,000 annually to offset expected cost of living and benefit increases. The estimate has been incorporated into the FY 2018-2019 Proposed Budget.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brian E. Washington
Marin County Counsel