

County of Santa Clara

Office of the Board of Supervisors

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James T. Beall, Jr.
Supervisor, Fourth District

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: James T. Beall, Jr.
Supervisor, District 4 *Jim Beall*

DATE: April 21, 1995

SUBJECT: Trial court budget proposal requests to the Trial Court
Budget Commission

As you know, I have expressed my concerns regarding the courts' budgets as they relate to the county budget. With regard to this matter, I would like to bring to your attention Government Code Section 68502.5 regarding the budget proposal requests of trial courts. This law states that the "Trial courts shall send to the county board of supervisors a copy of their proposed budgets and any revisions or appeals at the time their budget requests are submitted to the Trial Court Budget Commission, pursuant to this section. The counties may submit timely comments to the commission regarding the contents of the proposed budgets of their respective trial courts. The commission shall consider the counties' comments when determining appropriate budgets for the courts."

According to the Budget Director, the Courts have not submitted a copy of their proposed budget requests to the Board of Supervisors for comments to the Commission in the past. Therefore, I would like to recommend that the county administration develop a policy or draft an ordinance to ensure that the Courts' budget requests are submitted to the Board for review and public discussion when they are submitted to the Budget Commission. The administration would then draft comments regarding the Courts' budget requests and submit them to the Board for discussion and approval prior to submitting them to the Commission.

I would also like to request that the Administration explore the extent to which the county might request that the Commission or the Judicial Council respond to the county's comments as it relates to the trial courts' budget when they are approving the budgets.

In addition, since the Board approves and provides more than half of the courts' budget funding, it would seem only reasonable that the Board review and approve the Courts' budget requests prior to submission to the Commission. Thus, I would like to also recommend that the administration look into the possibility of creating a policy or ordinance requiring the Courts to submit their budget proposals to the Board for public discussion and approval prior to submitting it to the Trial Court Funding Commission.

I will be raising these issues at the April 25 board meeting, under items to refer to administration for review and report.

c: Richard Wittenberg, County Executive
Presiding Judge Biafore, Superior Court
Presiding Judge Stafford, Municipal Court
Steve Love, Superior Court Executive
Susan Myers, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk