

COUNTY OF PLACER
Community Development Resource Agency

**ENGINEERING
&
SURVEYING**

John Marin, Agency Director

Wes Zicker
Director of Engineering & Surveying

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Wes Zicker, Director
Department of Engineering and Surveying, Community Development Resource Agency
DATE: May 13, 2008
SUBJECT: COUNTY SURVEYOR POSITION

ACTION REQUESTED:

Request approval for the Personnel Department to complete a study for the creation of a new classification specification with a recommended title of County Surveyor.

BACKGROUND:

The Engineering and Surveying Department requested the Personnel Department review a proposal to create the new classification specification of County Surveyor. This request stems from the interest to isolate the duties of the County Surveyor from the current job description for the Director of Engineering and Surveying (Director).

The duties of the County Surveyor as defined in Placer County Code are included in the job description of the Director. Under state law (Government Code Section 27550), the County Surveyor is required to be "a person authorized to practice land surveying". This qualification normally requires registration as a professional land surveyor; however, state law (Business and Professions Code Section 8729) allows certain engineers registered before 1982, to be qualified to perform the tasks normally requiring survey registration. At this time the number of engineers working within the industry whose date of registration precedes that date is limited and will decrease as the field of potential engineers meeting the qualifications leave the work force. It is unlikely that an engineer meeting the provisions to allow practice as a land surveyor will be available to fill the dual function in the near future.

In order to prepare the County for an orderly transition as the number of qualified engineers is reduced over time, staff proposes to create the position of County Surveyor within the Engineering and Surveying Department

Personnel's study will include a review of other jurisdictions, evaluate how they are structured, and examine salaries. Preliminary assessment by staff suggests that there is one set structure among California counties. However, the proposed position is a common way it is provided. After the Personnel study is complete and the classification specifications are approved by the Civil Service Commission, the department will return to your Board for approval of the salary grade and required ordinance changes.

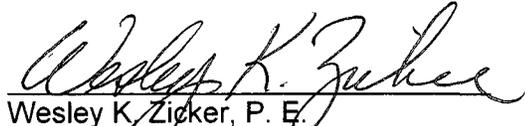
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE:

This action is not a project as defined by Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and is exempt from CEQA requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The department can accommodate the position costs within the FY 2008-09 budget (proposed). One position will be reallocated, and the department plans to absorb the cost differential. When staff returns to your Board to establish a salary, the cost differential amount will be known

Respectfully submitted,



Wesley K. Zicker, P. E.
Director, Engineering and Survey Department