



AGENDA ITEM NO.

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: May 15, 2012

Date: May 9, 2012
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Budget Subcommittee
Supervisor Jimmy Smith, Supervisor Ryan Sundberg
Subject: Merger of Department of Economic Development and Natural Resources into Existing County Departments

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1. Elect not to fill the position of Director of Economic Development and Natural Resources upon the departure of the incumbent department head;
2. Merge the Division of Natural Resources into the Environmental Services Division of the Department of Public Works;
3. Merge the Division of Economic Development into the County Administrative Office; and
4. Direct staff to bring back appropriate agenda items to effectuate the foregoing policy direction.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Economic Development Fund, General Fund (Proposition 50 Grant Revenue)

Signature Ryan Sundberg

Signature Jimmy Smith

Prepared by Supervisor Jimmy Smith & Supervisor Ryan Sundberg

REVIEW: Auditor County Counsel Personnel Risk Manager Other

TYPE OF ITEM:
Consent
Departmental
Public Hearing
[X] Other Board-Initiated

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor
Seconded by Supervisor
And unanimously carried by those members present,
The Board hereby adopts the recommended action
contained in this report.

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.

Meeting of:

Dated:
Nikki Turner, Deputy Clerk of the Board

By:

DISCUSSION:

On January 10, 2012, the Board approved a reorganization of the Community Development Services Department that would create two new departments. On March 6, 2012, the Board appointed the Community Development Services Director, Mr. Kirk Girard, to head one of these two new departments, the Department of Economic Development and Natural Resources (EDNR). Mr. Girard's appointment to this position became effective this week. Last week, Mr. Girard provided notice of his intent to resign from the County, effective June 8.

At this time, the Board is faced with a decision whether to appoint a new Director of Economic Development and Natural Resources when Mr. Girard leaves County employment or to modify the previous reorganization plan. Your Board's Budget Subcommittee believes that the most fiscally prudent course is not to fill the department head position and merge the two divisions within EDNR into other existing County departments.

The Natural Resources Division of EDNR manages the County's involvement in the multi-jurisdictional Integrated Regional Water Management Plan as well as other natural resource fiscal components such as payments for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Currently, the Environmental Services Division of the Public Works Department manages the County's involvement in the multi-jurisdictional Klamath Basin agreements as well as other natural resource fiscal components such as grant administration for Park Bond Act funds. It makes functional as well as financial sense to merge these two Divisions under the leadership of the Deputy Public Works Director – Environmental Services.

The Economic Development Division of EDNR is a vital component of community outreach on the Board's Core Roles of encouraging new local enterprise and supporting business and workforce development, as well as the Strategic Priority of engaging in discussions of our regional economic future. These issues are so critical to the County's future revenue growth that the Budget Subcommittee believes they should be placed under the leadership of the County's budget staff in the County Administrative Office. The County Administrative Office currently includes six separate functions, but this Board has approved one of those functions – Risk Management – merging into a new Human Resources Department. The County Administrative Office should have the capacity with the loss of Risk Management to absorb supervision of Economic Development.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Not filling the Director position could save up to \$103,548 in salary for Fiscal Year 2012-13. This savings amount might be reduced if other positions are adjusted in recognition of new duties, but there should still be a net savings to the County.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: None.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: None.