



## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BLUE RIBBON BUDGET TASK FORCE

### ACTION SUMMARY

September 30, 2005      1:00 – 4:30

BOS Internal Conference Room,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Administration Building  
105 E. Anapamu St. Santa Barbara CA 93101

#### Members

Jack Boysen

Judith Hopkinson

William Kimsey

Parker Montgomery

William Watkins

1. Call to order @ 1:05 p.m.

**Present: Boysen, Hopkinson, Kimsey,  
Montgomery, and Watkins**

**Absent: none**

2. Public comment period

**No requests to speak**

3. Overview and discussion of privatization criteria

**Received overview from Jim Laponis, Deputy  
County Executive Officer and discussed Board  
adopted privatization criteria.**

4. Continued discussion of County purchasing processes – follow-up and potential recommendations

**Discussed recommendations and directed staff to draft**

5. Direction for future agenda

**Consider a revised recommendation for purchasing issues, consider a revised recommendation for the privatization criteria, begin examining compensation and classification issues with Human Resources, examine employee benefits, discuss future agenda topics.**

6. Adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

**Adjourn to October 14, 2005, 12:00 pm, in the Board of Supervisors internal conference room**

The Board of Supervisors Internal Conference Room in Santa Barbara is located on the Fourth Floor of the County Administration Building to the left upon exiting the elevator, 105 East Anapamu Street. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Hearing Room is wheelchair accessible. Accessible public parking is available behind the County Administration Building and in City Parking Lot #6 located at the corner of Anacapa Street and Anapamu Street.

American Sign Language interpreters, Spanish language interpretation and sound enhancement equipment may be arranged by contacting the Task Force care of the County Administrator's Office at 568-3400.

Any person may request that a copy of the agenda, or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet, be mailed to that person. Requests to make agendas and documents available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132), may be made to the Task Force care of the County Administrator's Office at (805) 568-3400.

Summary information for agenda item #6 (“Direction for future agendas”)

The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force has discussed examining a number of areas for future agendas. A list and summary of these topics is included below:

1) human resource process improvement. The Task Force desires to examine human resources issues as employee costs are the primary budget item for the County. Two preliminary issues the Task Force would like to explore are 1) the County’s compensation and classification system and 2) employee benefit costs. These issues will be scheduled on a future agenda. Additionally, the Task Force has completed one review of the County’s privatization policy and is drafting a recommendation.

2) revenue enhancement opportunities. The Task Force intends to complete a detailed examination of the County’s revenue policies and revenue opportunities. The Task Force will also consider the County’s use of assets currently, potential enterprises and franchises, and the potential of making a business relationship with an outside party.

3) a discussion of the strategic scan and a forecasting presentation by Bill Watkins. The Task Force would like to receive a presentation of the strategic scan being considered by the Board of Supervisors. The Board received a presentation by staff on approximately two-thirds of the topic and continued the remaining discussion to a future Board agenda. Staff is prepared to present the material to the Task Force. The Task Force is interested in understanding the financial path the County is on without intervention.

The Task Force also asked Bill Watkins for an overview of the UCSB Economic Forecast Project’s latest analysis. This analysis was an integral part of the strategic scan so there may be an opportunity for the Task Force to be presented these two issues concurrently.

4) requested Public Health information. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force discussed purchasing on September 9, 2005. In particular, the discussion centered on health services contracts. The Task Force asked Public Health a number of questions. Public Health requested that responses be brought back at a later meeting of the Task Force. Staff is working with Public Health to schedule this item.

5) requested budget comparison information. On August 8, 2005 the Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force examined the County’s budget processes. One request the Task Force had of the Office of Budget and Research was to survey the budget processes of comparable counties. The Task Force would then have the opportunity to compare the County’s budget process to others and determine if there are opportunities for process improvement. The Office of Budget and Research has completed the survey, received a number of responses and are examining the returns. Staff will work to schedule this item on a future agenda of the Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force.

6) system automation processes and management. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force has requested examining opportunities for process improvement. Some process improvement recommendations are imbedded in other recommendations of the Task Force. One additional area of process improvement that the Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force may want to examine is the process the County undertakes when developing or implementing a new automated or computer-based management system. The County has developed or implemented a number of these systems in recent years and is continually looking for opportunities to apply additional automated services as a way to increase government efficiency.

7) adoption of recommendations. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force is preparing a number of recommendations as they consider and review areas of the County operations. These recommendations are being compiled and will have to be adopted by the Task Force or included as part of a final report.

8) non-essential County services. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force is interested in determining which, if any, of services provided by the County are non-essential.