



ADVANCED RISK MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, INC.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**RISK MANAGEMENT AND
LIABILITY COST STUDY**

Phase 4: Follow-Up

Prepared for the

CITIZEN'S ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY
COMMISSION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

by

Advanced Risk Management Techniques, Inc.

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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
RISK MANAGEMENT & LIABILITY COST STUDY
FOLLOW UP - - PHASE IV**

I. Executive Summary

A. Background

On July 30, 1993 the "Risk Management & Liability Cost Study" prepared by the firms McGladrey & Pullen and Advanced Risk Management Techniques, Inc.(ARM Tech) was submitted to the Economy & Efficiency Commission of Los Angeles County (EEC). Based upon this report (the McGladrey report) the EEC prepared a separate report entitled "Los Angeles County Risk Management Program Review", dated September, 1993. At its meeting on September 21, 1993, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors considered the EEC and McGladrey studies and directed county staff to take various actions based upon recommendations in the reports.

ARM Tech was engaged by the EEC for the purpose of performing a follow-up study to review departmental actions and to consider possible revisions to the recommendations or modifications to the implementation plan.

B. Methodology

The information necessary to complete this follow-up study was assembled by the staff of EEC and consisted of written reports from various County departments addressing specific recommendations and actions taken, or to be taken. Reports were submitted by the following county departments or agencies:

- Auditor-Controller
- Chief Administrative Office/RIMA
- County Counsel

- Health Services
- Sheriff

A complete listing of the reports submitted to EEC and reviewed by the consultant is included in Appendix A. The findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are the result of our review of these documents.

C. Findings

Los Angeles County staff has demonstrated effort and diligence in responding to the Board's directions and the recommendations contained in the initial EEC report. The importance of risk management and liability loss reduction and cost control activities has clearly been re-emphasized. Significant progress has been made toward addressing many of the key areas needing improvement, indicating a collaborative effort towards the common goal of liability cost reduction.

The major areas in which recommendations were made in the McGladrey and EEC reports and are the focus of subsequent County activities include:

- Consolidation of risk management activities
- Modification of claims administration practices
- Development of a new cost allocation program
- Establishment of an integrated risk management information system
- Implementation of a legal defense cost containment program
- Expanding liability loss control activities

1. Consolidate Risk Management Activities

The Chief Administrative Office has developed and submitted to the Board of Supervisors

a "Countywide Plan for the Uniform Administration of Risk Management"¹. This detailed plan proposes:

- a. An amendment to the County Code authorizing the CAO to administer and set countywide policy for risk management.
- b. Adoption of a detailed countywide risk management plan.
- c. Transfer of program administration for general, automobile and medical malpractice liability claims from County Counsel's Office to the CAO.

Many of the specific recommendations of the EEC and McGladrey reports are addressed in this plan.

2. Modify Claims Management Practices

The McGladrey and EEC reports recommended changes to the County's claim administration practices, which included:

- a. Conducting an independent claims audit of the County's contract claims adjusting firm.
- b. Increasing various levels of claims settlement authority.
- c. Restructuring and more closely monitoring the contract between the County and Carl Warren Company (CWC).
- d. Expanding subrogation activities.
- e. Considering the reorganization of current staff arrangements and the possible addition of in-house claims adjusting personnel.

¹ "Countywide plan for the Uniform Administration of Risk Management", Sally R. Reed, Chief Administrative Officer, November 1994.

Progress has been made on items (a), (b), (c) and (d) above. The County engaged the services of an independent claims auditing firm, Warren, McVeigh and Griffin. The Auditor-Controller's Office, County Counsel and CAO have recommended increases in settlement authority. County Counsel has taken steps to monitor CWC for the purposes of controlling costs and will revise the contract at renewal. Responsibility for general oversight of subrogation activities has been transferred to the CAO. The Auditor-Controller will secure the services of a subrogation vendor.

It is unclear from the action plans submitted if there will be a restructuring of staff assignments for the purpose of developing in-house claims adjusting capabilities. Additional clarification of this area is needed to determine the adequacy and appropriateness of the Countywide Risk Management Plan.

3. Development of a New Cost Allocation Plan

The McGladrey report concluded that the County's method for allocating liability program costs to departments was deficient. The EEC report recommended that a new cost allocation plan be implemented which would:

- Establish clear management goals and performance measures;
- Be consistently applied;
- Be understood by all departments;
- Have charges applied to departments on a timely basis.

The Countywide Plan for Uniform Administration of Risk Management submitted to the Board proposes that the liability cost allocation plan be administered by the CAO. The cost allocation plan will apply to:

- General Fund (auto, general and law enforcement liability);
- Special District and Trust Funds (auto, general and law enforcement

- liability);
- Hospital Enterprise Funds (medical malpractice and hospital liability).

The plan will allocate the costs for liability settlements and judgments, legal defense fees and expenses, claims administration costs and special liability-related projects to the involved departments.

4. Establish a Centralized, Integrated Risk Management Information System

The McGladrey report concluded that multiple, unrelated liability databases exist, resulting in a lack of overall, consistent and timely data for effective liability program management. It was recommended that the County develop a single liability database which contains all financial and statistical information relevant to managing risk and controlling losses. It was recommended that: (1) the County designate an umbrella information system organization in order to coordinate liability data processing activities for all County departments; (2) liability costs to be applied to County departments be calculated by the centralized risk management information system; (3) meaningful and accurate claims information be made available to departmental personnel on a timely basis.

The Chief Administrative office, through RIMA, established a risk management information task force comprised of representatives from CAO, County Counsel, Information Services Department - Information Technology Services (ISD-ITS), Auditor-Controller, Health Services, and Sheriff departments. The task force, with technical support from ISD-ITS was charged with the responsibility of exploring alternatives in the development of a consolidated risk management information system. The group focused on three major options and budgeted for program implementation during FY 1994/95. An "Automated System Implementation Plan" has been developed and is in process of being implemented.

5. Implement a Legal Defense Cost Containment Program

EEC and its consultants recommended the implementation of various strategies to reduce legal costs associated with defending liability claims. These recommendations and the County's progress in implementing programs and procedures to reduce legal defense costs are as follows:

- a. **Monitor Litigation Plans and Costs of Outside Counsel** - County Counsel established a goal of reducing legal defense costs by 10% for FY 1993/94. County Counsel's office indicated that this cost reduction goal was likely to be met. However, no figures have been submitted to EEC verifying such savings.

The Auditor-Controller's office conducted a detailed audit of the County Counsel's monitoring of outside defense counsel. This audit report contains recommendations which have been considered and acted upon by County Counsel. ²

- b. **Monitor Results of Outside Defense Attorneys** - County Counsel has indicated that procedures are being developed to more effectively monitor the use and costs of outside defense firms and individual attorneys within these firms.
- c. **Reduce the Number of Outside Defense Firms on the Approved Panels** - County Counsel disagrees with the McGladrey report recommendation to reduce the number of outside defense firms (which at the time of the McGladrey report was 49). County Counsel recommends maintaining the current number so that there is adequate representation by small and minority firms. County Counsel also disagrees with the McGladrey report conclusion

² "Review of Outside Legal Defense Counsel", Alan T. Sasaki, Auditor-Controller, May 3, 1994.

that such a large number of firms creates difficulty for monitoring the effectiveness of defense firms.

- d. **Greater Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures** - County Counsel has developed policy statements on the use of mediation and arbitration as alternative, less costly dispute resolution techniques. County Counsel has also recommended support for state legislation which would increase the cap for mandatory arbitration of civil litigation from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per claimant.
- e. **Auditing the Performance of In-House Legal Defense Staff** - County Counsel has concurred with the need for audits of in-house defense staff. However, no formal action plan has been submitted by County Counsel for review by EEC at this time.
- f. **Assigning Accident Investigation & Discovery Activities to a Liability Claims Unit** - EEC and consultants have been unable to determine if the County plans to reassign such duties to a liability claims specialists, or if existing RIMA staff will perform the function.
- g. **Exploring Creative Fee Arrangements with Outside Defense Firms** - County Counsel's office has indicated that it is currently studying the possibility of new arrangements with outside defense firms, such as flat fees, annual retainers, bulk case deals, and performance-based compensation. Such arrangements have been successfully implemented on workers compensation claims.

6. Expand Liability Loss Control Activities

RIMA requested information from all departments describing the nature of loss control programs currently in place, analyzing the effectiveness of such programs, and identifying future plans and resource needs.

A report was submitted by the Sheriff Department. This report provides comprehensive description of the Department's risk management and loss control activities and future plans.³

D. Conclusions

Substantial progress has been made toward the implementation of a comprehensive liability cost reduction program involving several key County departments. In any organization as large and complex as the County, significant changes require time and resources. Major projects, such as development of a centralized risk management information system, adoption of a new liability cost allocation program and reorganization of the risk management function are expected to take more time to complete.

A summary of the progress the County has made in complying with the EEC report recommendations is shown on Exhibit 1. A summary of the recommendations made as a result of this Follow-up Review is shown on Exhibit 2.

A more detailed discussion of the findings and recommendations of the EEC and its consultant are contained in the remainder of this report.

³ "Report on Risk Management", Sheriff Sherman Block, January 14, 1994.

STATUS REPORT OF EEC RECOMMENDATIONS

EXHIBIT 1

RECOMMENDATIONS	COUNTY ACTION	STATUS
1. Report on how best to implement arbitration, dispute resolution, and mediation.	County Counsel & Legislative Advocate continue to support legislation to increase thresholds for alternative dispute resolution methods	In progress
2. Strongly advocate tort reform legislation and support legislative changes.	County Counsel and Legislative Advocate continue to introduce and support legislation increasing immunities for liabilities arising out of natural condition of unimproved property (AB 2972)	In progress
3. Change the Risk Management Program and report on instituting capabilities.	County has re-organized and reassigned risk management function	Partially Completed
4. Identify organizational savings and reduce budgets.	No organizational savings have yet been compiled and submitted to EEC for review	Incomplete
5. Departmental review of personnel assignments.	Reorganization of CAO/RIMA and County Counsel staff responsibilities	Completed
6. Report on opportunities within Risk Management Program for contracting out.	CAO/RIMA continue to contract for claims adjusting services. Have also contracted with Corporate Systems to assist in implementation of centralized liability management information system. Contracted for liability claims audit.	Completed
7. Identify savings resulting from the implementation of contracting our opportunities.	Only evidence of savings from contracting for services is contained in letter from Office of County Counsel to CAO dated March 1, 1993	Incomplete
8. Review and report on current schedules of settlement authority.	Both Auditor-Controller and County Counsel's office have reviewed and recommended changes to current settlement authority	Completed
9. Report on implementing alternative risk management strategies.	County Counsel is in the process of examining various arrangements to reduce legal defense costs	In progress
10. Identify savings resulting from alternative risk management strategies.	No evidence of savings submitted for review by EEC	Incomplete

STATUS REPORT OF EEC RECOMMENDATIONS

EXHIBIT 1

RECOMMENDATIONS	COUNTY ACTION	STATUS
11. Review and report on most effective means to manage contracted claims.	Management of contract claims administration firms has been assigned to CAO/RIMA	Completed
12. Report on costs and benefits of independent claims audits.	CAO/RIMA and Auditor-Controller performed a cost-benefit analysis of an independent claims audit. The firm Warren, McVeigh, and Griffin	Completed
13. Review and report on defense panel composition.	County Counsel has analyzed the current defense panel and recommends no change	Completed
14. Report on the assignment of cases to defense counsel.	The Auditor-Controller's office has conducted an audit of County Counsel's office	Completed
15. Study and make recommendations on contracting out of subrogation actions.	Auditor-Controller and CAO/RIMA concur that subrogation actions should be contracted out and will be preparing and distributing an RFP for services	In progress
16. Identify savings resulting from contracting out subrogation cases.	No action yet	Incomplete
17. Review and report on cost system to monitor, control, and report risk and liability costs.	CAO/RIMA has implemented a cost allocation plan for FY1994/95	Partially completed
18. Develop cost system to identify and act on comparative efficiencies.	This activity is identified in the "Countywide Plan for Uniform Administration of Risk Management" issued by the CAO	In progress
19. Develop and coordinate a Strategic Risk Informations Systems Plan	CAO/RIMA, with assistance from ISD/ITS has developed the "Automated System Implementation Plan". Technical assistance is provided to the County by Corporate Systems, a qualified, nationally-known management information systems service provider	In progress
20. Report on saving to be achieved from Strategic Risk Information Systems Plan.	Amount budgeted for development of plan in FY 1993/94 was \$75,000. No cost savings identified.	Incomplete

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

EXHIBIT 2

1. The CAO's office should consider the staffing plan as proposed in the McGladrey report. This staffing plan includes positions assigned to the functions of claims adjusting, litigation coordination, management information systems, and accounting
2. We recommend that CAO/RIMA and ISD/ITS continue their efforts to establish the countywide integrated liability database as described in the McGladrey and EEC reports.
3. Although the County has made progress in developing an effective liability cost allocation plan, we recommend that the plan be refined.
4. It is recommended that the County continue the practice of engaging the services of a qualified, independent claims auditor. We recommend that audits be performed of the County's third party claims administration firms at least once every two years.
5. We recommend that the County Council provide evidence of compliance with the four major recommendations set forth in the May 1994 report of the Auditor-Controller.
6. In addition the Auditor-Controller's recommendations, we recommend that County Council provide an accounting of the number of cases and billing amounts referred to the firms on the defense panel (1) in the ownership categories indicated above; and (2) for fiscal years 1991-92, 1992-93, and 1993-94.
7. We recommend that the County explore the possibility of engaging a firm to provide training on legal defense cost control techniques to County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and CAO/RIMA staff.
8. It is recommended that County Council be encouraged to continue his efforts to manage and reduce outside legal defense cost.
9. The Board should monitor the overall County performance in legal cost containment on a semi-annual basis.
10. County Counsel and CAO should study the potential cost benefits of retaining more legal defense and claims adjusting activities in-house
11. CAO/RIMA should continue its efforts to promote and deliver liability loss control assistance and guidance to County departments. Consideration should be given to designating on full-time, professional-level position to liability loss control.
12. We recommend that CAO/RIMA and the Auditor-Controller consider development of a system to provide financial incentives for liability loss control and cost reduction.
13. Consideration should be given to the Sheriff Department's request for more active participation in claims investigation, defense counsel selection, defense counsel monitoring, and development of overall cost control increases, particularly loss control training.
14. It is recommended that liability claims settlement authority be increased in accordance with the recommendations of the County Council and Auditor-Controller. We also recommend that Claims Board authority be increased to \$150,000.

II. CONSOLIDATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Objective of EEC Recommendations & Board Directives

One of the major recommendations in the McGladrey report is for the County to consolidate liability risk management into a single liability program unit. The purpose of this unit is to create a more centralized approach to liability cost control, placing the responsibilities presently bifurcated between County Counsel and the Property/Casualty Division of RIMA into a single unit. The proposed responsibilities of this unit would be to:

- Develop and administer the County's liability cost control program;
- Provide technical loss control services and assistance to the various County departments;
- Oversee the performance of the County's contract claims adjusting firms;
- Manage the development of the necessary risk management information system(s);
- Coordinate (with County Counsel's Office and RIMA) the implementation of specific cost containment activities;
- Be the central coordinator for evaluating claims against the County and collecting necessary information from the departments;
- Provide periodic management reports to upper management and the Board of Supervisors;
- Administer the program for allocating liability costs to County departments; and
- Prepare the annual budget for the liability program.

It was proposed that the new unit would be staffed with six full-time equivalent employees (FTEs):

1. Liability Program Manager
2. Claims Adjuster/Investigator
3. Litigation Coordinator
4. Loss Control Specialist
5. Management Information Coordinator
6. Accountant

The proposed staffing levels, salaries and changes from the RIMA and County Counsel staff assignments were presented in Figure 11 of the McGladrey report. A net reduction of 3.75 FTEs was proposed, with a slight reduction in salaries and benefits (the salaries and benefits saving netted only \$36,500 due to up-grades in several of the liability unit positions).

B. County Action To-Date

CAO Sally Reed submitted to the Board a detailed plan entitled "Countywide Plan for the Uniform Administration of Risk Management (Auto, General, and Medical Malpractice Claims Administration)". The CAO proposed an amendment (Section 2.08.085) to the Los Angeles Administrative Code assigning responsibility of the County's risk management program to the CAO. The proposed ordinance states:

"It shall be responsibility of the Chief Administrative Officer to administer and set policy direction for a program of risk management, designed to control or reduce third-party liability claims and lawsuits against the County and its Officers and Employees acting within the course and scope of their employment, and thereby reducing the resulting costs.

This responsibility shall include: financial administration of claims and lawsuits (including Contract Cities Trust Fund, Special Districts Trust Fund administration) concerning third-party auto, general liability, and medical malpractice incidents; centralized integration of risk management information; coordination of efforts to prevent future liabilities."

The Countywide Plan specifies that the CAO will have primary responsibility for:

- Claims administration
- Risk management information system(s)
- Financial information
- Vehicle accident subrogation
- Liability loss prevention

The Plan also contains program descriptions for:

- Accelerated Claims Settlement Program
- Case Reserves
- Structured Settlements
- Cost Allocation
- Vehicle Subrogation Guidelines
- General Insurance Requirements for Service Agreements
- Driver Record Review Program: Guidelines and Procedures
- General and Medical Malpractice Liability Loss Prevention
- Incident Reporting and Accident Review Guidelines

- AUTO LIABILITY
LOSS PREVENTION
GUIDELINES →

C. Evaluation of Progress Made by County

Substantial progress has been made by the County in the development of both general and specific guidelines for the centralization of responsibility and control for the County's liability risk management program. Adoption by the Board of the proposed ordinance would place with the CAO clear authority and accountability to develop and administer a strong liability risk management program.

However, the Plan does not address staffing and budgetary issues which inherently accompany such major changes. The McGladrey report recommended various changes in staff assignments within RIMA and County Counsel's Office in order to centralize and maximize existing resources. Neither the CAO's Countywide Plan nor other material

submitted to EEC addresses staffing levels and assignments under the new Risk Management Operations Unit of the CAO's office.

D. Recommendations

1. *The CAO's office should consider the staffing plan as proposed in the McGladrey report. This staffing plan includes positions assigned to the functions of claims adjusting, litigation coordination, management information systems, and accounting*

III. ESTABLISH LIABILITY CLAIMS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

A. Objective of EEC Recommendations & Board Directives

During the course of the original study it was determined that multiple databases of tort liability information exist within the County--none of which are interrelated. These separate databases exist in:

- RIMA (through contract claims administration firms, Carl Warren and Co. (CWC) and Professional Risk Management) (PRM).
- County Counsel's Office (three separate databases).
- Public Works Department
- Sheriff's Department

The existence of the multiple, non-related databases make it impossible for the Board, County management, and staff responsible for liability program management to obtain necessary, accurate and timely information about liability program cost information. As a result, departments are not provided with information concerning liability costs which would ultimately be charged their budgets. Statistics on types and causes of liability losses are not available to direct loss control activities, and the Board and management are not able to receive overall program cost information concerning the tort liabilities of the County.

As a result of this deficiency the EEC recommended and the Board directed staff to establish an automated tort liability management information data base and reporting system for the purpose of collecting, compiling, and generating more accurate, complete and timely information. The uses of the integrated data would be for:

- Management review and decision-making;
- Budgeting, accounting, and financial planning;

- Claim file management;
- Loss Control analysis;
- Litigation management;
- Departmental (cost center) information needs -- management, budgeting, loss control;
- Actuarial and statistical analysis;
- General program analysis; and
- Cost allocation.

B. County Action To-Date

Included in the CAO's Countywide Plan for the Uniform Administration of Risk Management is an outline of a general plan for the County to develop and implement an integrated risk management information system. To accomplish this task, the CAO established a task force comprised of representatives of RIMA, County Counsel's Office, ISD-Information Technology Services, Auditor-Controller, and key County Departments (Sheriff, Health, and Public Works). The purposes of the task force are to:

1. Discuss system objectives, needs, and technical issues;
2. Develop a system with central storage, retrieval and reporting capabilities;
3. Submit its recommendations to the Board.

Based upon an "Information Sheet" (undated) prepared by the CAO/RIMA, the Task Force agreed on the following system objectives and requirements:

- Provide a centralized electronic data base of comprehensive risk management and loss information available for both Countywide and departmental needs;
- Provide departments with timely, standardized, and electronically

- generated reports;
- Provide departments with limited ad hoc reporting capabilities;
- Make financial information about cases handled by the County Counsel's Office more readily available to departments.

Based upon information contained in the "Information Sheet", ISD-ITS and RIMA identified "three courses of implementation that should result in a viable solution to consolidating the Countywide risk management data, so that comprehensive information can be quickly and easily obtained to meet the Board's requirement, and the information needs of the CAO, County Counsel and departments". The three courses of action are:

Option I--Individual Access of Current Systems-- This approach would entail both a manual compilation of the data from the existing multiple systems and modifications to existing systems to produce new reports (estimated cost--\$150,000);

Option II--Software Interface to Existing Systems-- This would require the purchase of a software system (unidentified) which would be used as an interface and translator of the data in the existing systems (estimated cost--\$50,000 to \$75,000);

Option III--Develop a Comprehensive Risk Management Data Base System -- This approach would require the development of a new, comprehensive data base system to replace the existing, multiple systems (estimated cost--\$300,000).

Option II was selected by the CAO and the FY 1994-95 budget contained a \$75,000 appropriation for development of the integrated risk management system. Corporate Systems was engaged as a risk management information systems consultant and service provider. An "Automated System Implementation Plan" has been developed with input from

all major department users.⁴

C. Evaluation of Progress Made by County

The County has made reasonable progress towards the development of an integrated liability risk management database. A working task force has been formed and is operational, a general plan of action has been developed, and estimated costs are identified. Based upon the assignment of responsibilities by CAO in the Countywide Plan, the ISD/ITS will be responsible for:

- Assisting the CAO in monitoring the data base vendor performance;
- Developing the integrated risk management information system;
- Analyzing and making recommendation on report format and content to improve communication and understanding of the reports;
- Providing technical assistance for development or revision of the system and special or customized reports to meet changing program and departmental needs.

D. Recommendations

2. *We recommend that CAO/RIMA and ISD/ITS continue their efforts to establish the countywide integrated liability database as described in the McGladrey and EEC reports.*

⁴ "Automated System Implementation Plan", Corporate Systems, September 30, 1994.

IV. ESTABLISH LIABILITY COST ALLOCATION PROGRAM

A. Objective of EEC Recommendations & Board Directives

The EEC and McGladrey report recommendations, and the corresponding Board of Supervisors directive, was for the CAO and Auditor-Controller to establish a liability cost allocation plan supportive of an effective risk management program. The McGladrey study found that the liability cost allocation plan in effect during FY1992-93 and FY 1993-94:

- Lacked management goals and performance measures;
- Was not consistently applied;
- Was not clearly communicated and understood by the departments;
- Did not apply the charges to departments on a timely basis.

Consequently, the previously established County policy to hold departments more financially accountable for tort liability costs was never properly implemented.⁵

It was and remains the objective of the EEC to emphasize the importance of a properly developed and administered cost allocation plan which elicits department support for management's objectives.

B. County Action To-Date

The County created a task force comprised of representatives from the Auditor-Controller, Counsel, and CAO. The task force identified the following key activities, which were to:

- Select a methodology that complies with Federal, State, and County

⁵ Development of this policy was directed by a Board of Supervisors motion on October 22, 1991 and resulted in a detailed plan prepared by then CAO, Richard Dixon, in a memorandum to the Board dated January 7, 1992.

- legal budgeting and accounting requirements;
- Make departments responsible and accountable for liability cost resulting from their operations;
 - Provide a performance measurement and incentive for departments to reduce liability exposures;
 - Establish guidelines that are applied consistently and timely;
 - Communicate the cost allocation policy to departments.

The CAO's report further states:

"A copy of the Cost Allocation Policy will be included in the 1994-95 Budget Instructions to be distributed to departments. This policy provides for program costs to be centrally paid from the Judgment and Damages/Insurance Budget. Departments and districts will be billed the full amount to reimburse the Judgment and Damages/Insurance Budget for such costs in the same year that payments are paid on their behalf. Departments will be billed only for costs that are attributed to their operations."

The CAO's Countywide Plan includes a detailed "Cost Allocation Policy"(Attachment D). This policy sets forth which funds are affected by the policy, which charges will be made against departmental budgets, and how the charges will be made. The policy was effective July 1, 1994. Each department, or district, is charged the actual liability costs attributable to its operations. If actual charges exceed budgeted amounts, the department "must absorb costs above their budgeted amounts for both the Judgment and Damages and Insurance budgets" (Attachment D, page 2). In such cases, the CAO policy states, "If a department indicates absorption of costs above their J&D budget is not realistically possible, use of the J&D central reserve may be requested by CAO staff. Expenditures from the J&D central reserve require the Chief Administrative Officer's or the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer's (or designee) approval.... The J&D central reserve may be used to cover one time costs and or departmental expenditures above the budgeted amount for judgments/settlements and associated litigation costs. Requests will be reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer on a case by case basis" (Attachment D, page 3).

C. Evaluation of Progress Made by County

The County has developed and documented a cost allocation plan generally consistent with the stated objectives of the Board and the EEC report. It appears that a policy is in place and has been communicated via the FY 1994-95 budget to the various departments and districts.

The structure of the new plan, however, appears to have several defects:

1. Applying Actual Costs May Prove to be Overly Punitive-- Large cost centers, and occasionally a small department, will generate large claims. A large claim may be the result of a settlement deemed to be in the best interests of the County, a Court or jury award, and/or significant legal defense costs. Such a claim, although paid out of the current year budget, may have occurred many years prior (five to seven years is a common length of time for a large liability claim to be resolved). We question whether charging a department's current budget for events for which it may have had little or no control over is equitable and in the County's best interests.
2. The Policy is Open to Substantial Discretion-- The CAO, Assistant CAO, or their designee, has authority to waive cost allocation charges in certain, broadly defined situations. Such a loosely defined policy, which allows staff to waive charges above the previously budgeted amounts, will tend to generate uncertainty, confusion and disharmony among department heads and budget staff. Such a policy is contrary to the concept of a plan which is uniformly and consistently applied and understood by those affected.
3. The Plan Does Not Contain Sufficient Incentives-- The plan is purely punitive in nature (i.e. departmental budgets may have to absorb actual costs above the amounts budgeted). There are no incentives for departments to

control costs, other than future cost avoidance. But, even that consequence is tempered by the possibility that the costs above those budgeted may still be waived by the CAO for various reasons.

It has been recommended by the Sheriff's Department that all or a portion of the savings be retained by the department generating such savings to the County.

D. Recommendation

3. *Although the County has made progress in developing an effective liability cost allocation plan, we recommend that the plan be refined.*

Regardless of how the final plan is developed, it should be:

- Easy to compute annually;
- Equitable (not overly punitive);
- Uniform and predictable (not overly dependent upon discretionary decisions by management and staff;
- Not driven by costs over which current departmental management has no control;
- One which contains budgetary incentives for good performance.

The County should consider retaining the services of a consulting firm with expertise in risk management cost allocation plans for public entities. We estimate that the cost for a specialist to develop a plan for the County would be between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

Ideally, execution of the plan would be performed through the automated risk management information system currently being developed by CAO/RIMA and ISD/ITS.

V. CONTRACT FOR CLAIMS AUDIT OF COUNTY'S CONTRACT CLAIMS ADMINISTRATORS

A. Objective of EEC Recommendations & Board Directives

The EEC report recommends that the County engage an independent, qualified liability claims auditor to perform an audit of the County's two contract claims administration firms-- CWC and PRM. Such audits are customary and accepted practice of self-insured entities. Most public entities have audits performed of their third party claims administrators at least once every two years.

An claims audit should involve an in-depth review of a representative sample of open and closed claims handled by each claims administrative firm. Normally, a sample of between 10-20% of the claims is sufficient for the auditor to determine the quality of service provided. The scope of the audit normally includes:

1. Assessing the accuracy of reserving and the timeliness of payments;
2. Verifying that effective claims investigative techniques are used;
3. Evaluating the results of settlement negotiations;
4. Analyzing the caseloads of each adjuster;
5. Evaluating the firms litigation management techniques and legal defense cost containment practices;
6. Analyzing the firm's pursuit of subrogation recoveries.

The McGladrey report recommended that an independent audit, conducted either annually or bi-annually, replacing the County's practice of sending County Counsel staff on-site to the claims administrators' offices to conduct file reviews (prior to July 1, 1993 the site audits were performed by RIMA staff). It was the opinion of EEC's consultants that the County staff assigned to the file reviews did not have sufficient experience and technical knowledge of liability claims adjusting to perform meaningful audits.

B. County Action To-Date

Effective July 1, 1994, CAO/RIMA has been reassigned the responsibility of monitoring the performance of the County's contract claims administration firms (CWC and PRM). Both the Auditor-Controller and County Counsel's offices have concurred with the E.E.C. recommendation of an independent claims audit. On September 21, 1994, the Board of Supervisors directed the Auditor-Controller to contract for an independent claims review. A request for proposals was issued by the County and the firm Warren, McVeigh and Griffin was selected. The audit has been completed.

C. Evaluation of Progress Made by County

The County has satisfied the recommendation for an independent claims audit of its contract claims administration firms.

D. Recommendation

4. *It is recommended that the County continue the practice of engaging the services of a qualified, independent claims auditor. We recommend that audits be performed of the County's third party claims administration firms at least once every two years.*

VI. CONTRACT FOR A PERFORMANCE AND COST AUDIT OF OUTSIDE LEGAL DEFENSE COUNSEL

A. Objective of EEC Recommendations & Board Directives

The McGladrey report identified legal defense costs as a major contributing factor to the County's increasing overall tort liability costs. In certain areas, defense costs have risen over 200% within a five year period. In FY 1991-92 there were 49 outside defense firms with annual billings to the County of amounts in excess of \$61 million.

As a result of the significant cost escalation, it was recommended by the EEC and its consultants that the County engage a firm to conduct an audit of the outside defense firms with the largest billings to the County (firms with annual billings in excess of \$3 million). The purpose of an audit would be (1) to identify any billing practices which may result in excessive, inaccurate, or unnecessary charges to the County, and (2) to review the quality of legal defense services provided to the County.

Additional areas of concern identified by EEC and its consultants were the size of the approved defense panel (46 firms in 1992-93) and the method of case assignment to outside counsel. EEC recommended that the County Counsel be directed to review and report to the Board the maximum number of firms on the approved defense panel that can be monitored effectively.

B. County Action To-Date

In December 1993 the County issued a request for proposals for a combined legal defense and claims audit. The responses to the RFP were at cost levels unacceptable to the County and as a result no firm was engaged.

The Auditor-Controller, however, conducted its own audit of the legal defense activities of the County Counsel's Office. This audit, dated May 3, 1994, contained four major and thirteen specific recommendations. The major recommendations were:

1. County Counsel needs to review auto/general liability case plans to further control litigation costs and ensure the reasonableness of the planned legal strategy;
2. County Counsel needs to ensure [that] outside defense counsel costs are compared to initial cost estimates;
3. County Counsel needs to establish criteria for selecting defense panel firms;
4. County Counsel needs to comprehensively evaluate defense firm's performance.

County Counsel's office responded to the issue of the number of defense firms on the approved panel. It supports the current number of firms on the basis that the large panel allows the County to include women and minority-owned firms. The panel of 46 firms, as of November 1993, includes firms with majority-ownership as follows:

5	Women-owned
8	Afro-American-owned
3	Hispanic-owned
<u>30</u>	Other
46	Total

County Counsel further notes that:

"The County's procedures, based as they are on a case-by-case accounting, give us a good basis for evaluating a law firm's effectiveness in handling County cases - both as to results and defense costs..... The larger panel permits us to use smaller firms, increases competition, assures us of representation by senior attorneys, and permits us to use minority and women-owned firms. We believe that changing the structure of the panel is not advisable."

C. Evaluation of Progress Made by County

It appears that the County has taken reasonable steps to evaluate and justify the composition of the current defense panel. The Auditor-Controller's office conducted a thorough review of practices within the County Counsel's office. We concur with the County's decision to not proceed with an outside audit of the legal defense firm(s) with the largest billing to the county.

D. Recommendations

5. *We recommend that the County Counsel provide evidence of compliance with the four major recommendations set forth in the May 1994 report of the Auditor-Controller. The major recommendations in the report, if followed, will provide an effective and fair basis upon which to evaluate the current legal defense panel composition. The Board and Auditor-Controller should be apprised of the results of the County Counsel's evaluation and proposed changes to the panel, if any.*

6. *In addition the Auditor-Controller's recommendations, we recommend that County Counsel provide an accounting of the number of cases and billing amounts referred to the firms on the defense panel (1) in the ownership categories indicated above; and (2) for fiscal years 1991-92, 1992-93, and 1993-94. Such a report will indicate the usage of such minority and women-owned firms by the County to determine if the stated objective of County Counsel to use minority-owned firms is being met. The utilization of firms listed on the defense panel may vary significantly. Firms which are under-utilized should be evaluated to determine if their qualifications and experience warrant their continued inclusion. We are still of the opinion that a smaller defense panel would be easier for the County to monitor and evaluate.*

7. *We recommend that the County explore the possibility of engaging a firm to provide training on legal defense cost control techniques to County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and CAO/RIMA staff.* It appears that a comprehensive audit of outside defense firms is too expensive at the present time, The proposed training would include methods for reviewing legal bills, case file management, and monitoring performance. There are several firms in California which perform such training. It is our understanding that CWC recently retained the services of one of these firms to perform training to its staff. CWC should be contacted to determine the effectiveness of such training.

VII. DEVELOP A LEGAL COST CONTAINMENT PROGRAM

A. Objective of EEC Recommendations & Board Directives

As stated in the previous chapter, a major concern of the EEC and its consultants is the significant cost increases experienced by the County for outside legal defense services during the past five to seven years. Costs to defend general and automobile liability claims increased from \$930,000 in FY 1984/85 to \$8,600,000 in FY 1991-92, and from \$3,400,000 to \$8,300,000 for medical malpractice claims during the same period.

Legal defense costs have become a significant factor for public and private self-insured entities throughout the United States. As a result many such organizations have developed and adopted aggressive legal cost containment measures. The EEC and its consultants recommended, and the Board concurred, that the County evaluate and adopt appropriate measures to contain future cost increases. Such measures would include:

- Greater use, when practical, of alternative dispute resolution techniques, such a mediation and arbitration;
- Creative arrangements with outside firms, such as flat fees, annual retainers, bulk case deals, compensation based upon speed of case resolution and outcome, and incentives for reduced discovery costs;
- Assigning accident investigation and discovery support activities to in-house staff: and
- Increasing in-house legal defense resources, thereby reducing reliance on outside firms.

Other cost containment measures were identified, but have been addressed in previous sections of this report.

B. County Action To-Date

The County Counsel has responded to the Board's directive and the E.E.C. recommendations in a memorandum dated January 7, 1994. This correspondence addressed the first two of the four items listed in Section (A) above.

"We have independently identified the need for closer monitoring of the fees, litigation plans and cost of outside legal defense firms and on July 1 began an aggressive monitoring program to cut both fees and costs. Our goal is to cut billings on the litigation panels by 10% and to establish uniform fixed reimbursable rates for controlling costs.

Early projections confirm that the billings for this fiscal year will be at least 10% less than those for the last and that costs are being billed at our established uniform rates.

We are constantly exploring the possibility of creative arrangements with outside defense firms, such a flat fees, annual retainers, bulk case deals, compensation based upon speed of case resolution and outcome, and incentives for reduced discovery costs."

In separate memoranda to the Board, County Counsel indicated support for, and use when appropriate, of mediation as a technique for dispute resolution (usually contractual disputes) (memorandum dated September 27, 1993) and arbitration (memorandum dated December 17, 1993). In this memorandum, County Counsel indicates, "Based upon our experience, we believe that the County can be best served by: (1) supporting pending legislation (AB 2300) to increase the cap for mandatory arbitration of civil litigation from the current \$50,000 per claimant to \$100,000 per claimant;"⁶

As further evidence of the efforts to contain legal defense costs, County Counsel indicates that the County has been successful a keeping the hourly billing rates of defense panel firms at very low levels (\$78 to \$119 per hour).

⁶ This legislation was introduced but did not pass.

C. Evaluation of Progress Made by County

County Counsel has elevated legal defense cost containment as a major priority and is exploring various techniques to accomplish the stated objective of a 10% reduction in legal defense costs. If such control measures are successful, substantial savings will result.

Areas not addressed in material reviewed by the EEC and its consultants are: (1) an evaluation of the potential cost benefits of expanding County Counsel staff to handle more defense in-house instead of contracting for such services; and (2) an analysis of the potential benefits of greater reliance upon in-house claims unit staff to perform accident investigations and various discovery activities in support of defense attorneys.

D. Recommendations

8. *It is recommended that County Counsel be encouraged to continue his efforts to manage and reduce outside legal defense cost.* Now that oversight of the contract claims administration firms has been re-assigned to CAO/RIMA, it should establish as a major priority the reduction of the legal expense component of claims managed by CWC and PRM. Both firms should be advised of the County's cost reduction target and be held accountable for controlling cost associated with claims in their purview.

9. *The Board should monitor the overall County performance in legal cost containment on a semi-annual basis.* To do so will require obtaining accurate and timely cost data from both County Counsel and CAO/RIMA.

10. *County Counsel and CAO should study the potential cost benefits of retaining more legal defense and claims adjusting activities in-house.* This should be done in conjunction with the reorganization plans for centralizing and consolidating risk management.

Less emphasis should be placed upon restricting hourly billing rates to low levels. If rates are held to unreasonably low levels for the quality of work being required, the likely consequences are that the County will only attract less qualified firms, or individuals within qualified firms which do not have the experience or background to handle major cases, or hours will be padded.

VIII. REVIEW & EVALUATE RISK MANAGEMENT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE SAFETY PROGRAM

A. Objective of EEC Recommendations & Board Directives

The preceding sections of this report deal primarily with cost control measures for incidents which have occurred and County liability may exist. Of equal and perhaps greater importance, are measures which can be taken by the County to prevent liability-generating events. These measures are commonly referred to as safety or loss prevention programs.

The McGladrey report identifies a lack of County resources devoted to liability loss control. At the time of the report only five of RIMA's 98.5 budgeted positions were assigned to the Property/Casualty Divisions. Of the five positions, none were dedicated solely to liability loss prevention. County Counsel's office had no personnel devoted to "pre-loss" activities. With countywide liability costs exceeding \$100 million a year, EEC's consultants conclude that additional resources should be allocated to liability loss prevention.

The McGladrey report recommended the following for consideration by the County:

"To partially address this service and funding deficiency (liability loss control), it is recommended that the County designate at least one new position within the proposed Liability Program Unit to oversee Countywide safety activities for the prevention of liability claims and lawsuits. The position would be responsible for providing technical assistance and training to County departments. County departments, particularly Sheriff and Public Works, should be encouraged to develop their own specialized loss control and risk management programs."

The Sheriff, Public Works and Health departments have the largest share of liability loss costs. Due to the sheer size and complexity of these three departments, it was recognized that specialized loss control programs would be needed and would most likely be better developed and implemented by departmental staff. The success of such departmental program development, of course, is dependent upon sufficient staff size, financial and

technical resources.

B. County Action To-Date

To identify County departmental liability loss control programs, needs and resources, CAO/RIMA surveyed all departments for information and input. The Sheriff and Health departments responded with descriptions of their current and proposed risk management and loss control activities.

The CAO/RIMA Countywide Plan for the Uniform Administration of Risk Management included a detailed breakdown of responsibilities and tasks (Chart B in the Plan). In addition, specific guidelines were provided in the Plan:

- Auto Liability Loss Prevention Guidelines;
- Driver Record Review Program;
- General and Medical Malpractice Liability Loss Prevention Guidelines;
- Incident Reporting and Accident Review Guidelines.

C. Evaluation of Progress Made by County

Significant progress has been made by CAO/RIMA, Sheriff, and Health departments in identifying the importance of liability loss control and establishing a structure within which effective loss prevention programs can be developed. The many recommendations contained in the Sheriff's report are well-reasoned and intended to reduce the cost of liabilities arising out of the County's law enforcement activities.

D. Recommendations

11. *CAO/RIMA should continue its efforts to promote and deliver liability loss control assistance and guidance to County departments. Consideration should be given to designating ^A on full-time, professional-level position to liability loss control.*

The three major departments, (Sheriff, Health, and Public Works) should be given the authority and the resources to develop their own ~~specific~~ loss control programs. Technical support and guidance should be provided to these departments by CAO/RIMA staff.

~~Our~~ concern remains about the lack of staff and financial resources the County allocates to liability loss prevention. One method of supporting the loss control activities proposed by the Sheriff Department is to allow departments to retain subrogation recoveries and a portion of any savings generated in the Judgment and Damages budget line item.

12. *We recommend that CAO/RIMA and the Auditor-Controller consider development of a system to provide financial incentives for liability loss control and cost reduction. This could be done by designating a portion of future savings and subrogation recoveries to be allocated back to the departments. Such a system of providing financial incentives to successful loss prevention and cost containment activities will encourage departments to develop and implement new programs and keep loss control as a high priority.*

13. *Consideration should be given to the Sheriff Department's request for more active participation in claims investigation, defense counsel selection, defense counsel monitoring, and development of overall cost control increases, particularly loss control training.*

**IX. REVIEW & RECOMMEND CHANGES TO
LIABILITY CLAIMS SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY**

A. Objective of EEC Recommendations & Board Directives

Board of Supervisors Directive No.7 instructed staff to review and recommend changes in the schedule of settlement authority for liability claims. The EEC report recommends that the existing levels of settlement authority be increased to promote more timely and less expensive resolution of small dollar value claims in which liability the County's liability is clear. Both of the County's contract claims administration firms indicated that an increase in settlement authority would be beneficial and would promote a more expeditious resolution of low value claims. The County's settlement authority level for its claims administrators (\$3000) had not been increased since 1975 and for County Counsel (\$20,000) since 1984.

It continues to be the opinion of consultants that these levels and the Claims Board settlement authority (currently \$100,000), should be increased to allow the County's contractors and staff to perform settlement activities without unnecessary delay.

B. County Action To-Date

Both the County Counsel and Auditor-Controller's offices have studied the issue of settlement authority and recommend changes to the existing levels. These recommendations are:

Auditor-Controller

Contract Administration Firm	\$ 5,000
County Counsel	\$ 30,000
Claims Board	\$100,000

County Counsel

Contract Administration Firm	\$ 3,000
County Counsel	\$ 50,000
Claims Board	\$100,000

C. Evaluation of Progress Made by County

It appears that the evaluations of settlement authority by Auditor-Controller and County Counsel's offices were sufficient to support their respective recommendations.

D. Recommendation

14. *It is recommended that liability claims settlement authority be increased in accordance with the recommendations of the County Counsel and Auditor-Controller. We also recommend that Claims Board authority be increased to \$150,000. A comparison of current authority to that recommended is shown below:*

	Current Authority	Recommended Authority
Contract Adjusting	\$3,000	\$5,000
County Counsel	\$20,000	\$30,000
Claims Board	\$100,000	\$150,000

These recommended levels reflect the current dollar value of claims adjusted for increases in the consumer price index since the last changes to the settlement authority. The levels are consistent with the original stated objective of expediting resolution of claims against the County.

The Board of Supervisors, of course, would retain authority for settlements in excess of \$150,000. Further consideration should be given to increasing the authority of County Counsel to \$50,000, as requested by County Counsel.

APPENDIX A

**County of Los Angeles
Risk Management & Liability
Cost Study - - Phase IV, Follow-up**

Major Documents Reviewed - - By Department

Auditor-Controller

1. Title: "Review of Outside Legal Defense Counsel"
Author: Alan Sasaki, Auditor-Controller
Date: May 3, 1994

CAO/RIMA

1. Title: "Risk Management Program Review"
Author: Michael Henry, Assistant Administrative Officer
Date: November 30, 1993
2. Title: "Risk Management Program Review"
Author: Sally Reed, CAO
Date: March 15, 1994
3. Title: "Countrywide Plan for the Uniform Administration
of Risk Management"
Author: Sally Reed, CAO
Date: November, 1994
4. Title: "Program Report"
Author: Warren McVeigh, & Griffin
Date: October 10, 1994

County Counsel

1. Title: "Report on Current Schedule of Settlement Authority"
Author: Sally Reed, CAO, and DeWitt Clinton, County Counsel
Date: October 29, 1993
2. Title: "Report on Number of Firms on Defense Panel"
Author: DeWitt Clinton, County Counsel
Date: November 19, 1993
3. Title: "Evaluation of Personnel Involved in Risk Management"
Author: DeWitt Clinton, County Counsel
Date: November 13, 1993

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4. Title: "Report on Assignment of Cases to Defense Counsel"
 Author: DeWitt Clinton, County Counsel
 Date: December 14, 1993
5. Title: "Review and Report on the most Effective Means
 of Managing Contracted Claims"
 Author: DeWitt Clinton, County Counsel
 Date: December 17, 1993
6. Title: "Report on How Best to Implement Mandatory
 Arbitration Alternative Dispute Resolution & Mediation"
 Author: DeWitt Clinton, County Counsel
 Date: December 17, 1993
7. Title: "Report on ^{LEGAL DEFENSE COST CONTAINMENT PROGRAM}
~~Current Schedule of Settlement Authority~~"
 Author: DeWitt Clinton, County Counsel
 Date: January 7, 1994

Health Services

1. Title: "Review and Evaluation of Risk Management Efforts"
 Author: Robert Gates, Director, Health Services
 Date: January 10, 1994

Sheriff

1. Title: "Sheriff's Department Recommendations Concerning the
 Los Angeles County Risk Management Program Review"
 Author: Sherman Block, Sheriff
 Date: October 1, 1993
2. Title: "Report on Risk Management"
 Author: Sherman Block, Sheriff
 Date: January 14, 1994
3. Title: "Sheriff Response to Risk Management Report"
 Author: Sheriff Department
 Date: Undated

Other

1. Title: "Integrated Risk Management Information System" - -
 Automated System Implementation Plan
 Author: Mike Medd, Corporate Systems
 Date: September 30, 1994

APPENDIX B

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR DIRECTIVES
AND
ECONOMY & EFFICIENCY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Board of Supervisor's Directives	E.E.C. Recommendations
1. Accept & approve Commission's findings and recommendations.	None Required.
2.(a) Develop a plan to consolidate risk management responsibilities. CAO, in consultation with County Counsel and Auditor Controller.	<u>#3</u> and <u>4</u> : Change the Risk Management Program and report on instituting capabilities; identify organizational savings and reduce budgets. CAO. <u>#6</u> and <u>7</u> : Report on opportunities within Risk Management Program for contracting out; identify savings resulting from the implementation of contracting our opportunities. CAO. <u>#9</u> and <u>10</u> : Report on implementing alternative risk management strategies; identify savings resulting from alternative risk management strategies. CAO.
2.(b) Establish the management information system automated data base and reporting system: CAO, in consultation with County Counsel and Auditor Controller.	<u>#19</u> and <u>20</u> : Develop and coordinate a Strategic Risk Information System Plan; report on savings to be achieved from Strategic Risk Information Systems Plan. CAO.
2 (c) Establish the cost allocation plan required for an effective risk management system: CAO, in consultation with County Counsel and Auditor Controller.	<u>#17</u> : Review and report on cost system to monitor, control and report risk and liability costs. CAO <u>#18</u> : Develop cost system to identify and act upon comparative efficiencies. CAO.
3(a) Contract for a claims audit of County's contract claims administrator: Auditor-Controller.	Review and report on most effective means to manage contracted claims. County Counsel. <u>#12</u> : Report on costs and benefits of independent claims audits. CAO, <u>#15</u> and <u>16</u> : Study and make recommendations on contracting out of subrogation actions; identify savings resulting from contracting out subrogation cases. CAO.
3(b) Contract for a performance and cost audit of outside legal defense counsel with billings in excess of \$3 million per year: Auditor-Controller.	<u>#13</u> : Review and report on defense panel composition. County Counsel. <u>#14</u> : Report on the assignment of cases to defense counsel. County Counsel.
4. Develop and recommend a legal defense cost containment program per pages 52 and 53 of McGladrey & Pullen study: County Counsel.	<u>#1</u> : Report on how best to implement arbitration, dispute resolution and mediation. County Counsel.
5. Review and evaluate risk management efforts including assignment and training of personnel, and identify additional assistance or funds needed to maintain an effective safety program - report to CAO: Department Heads	<u>#5</u> : Departmental review of personnel assignments. Department Heads.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR DIRECTIVES
AND
ECONOMY & EFFICIENCY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Board of Supervisor's Directives	E.E.C. Recommendations
<p>6. Review and recommend changes if needed in the schedule of settlement authority; CAO and County Counsel</p>	<p><u>#8:</u> Review and report on current schedules of settlement authority. County Counsel.</p>
<p>7. Review and comment to Board on the reports and recommendations called for in Nos. 1 through 6 above, and instruct departments to share their reports and recommendations as soon as completed. Commission, McGladrey & Pullen.</p>	<p>None required. The Phase IV Follow-Up Report fulfills this Board directive..</p>
<p>8. None</p>	<p><u>Note:</u> The following E&E Commission recommendation does not relate directly to any of the seven Board directives. <u>#2:</u> Strongly advocate legislation to support legislative changes recommended. Board of Supervisors</p>