



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
POLICY MANUAL**

**No. 11-04**

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**EFFECTIVE DATE** June 11, 2024

**POLICY: PROCUREMENT OF GOODS, SUPPLIES,  
EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES**

**APPROVED**  
DAWN ROWE  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

**POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE**

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has set procurement authority at the statutory limits set by the State of California Government Code section 25502.5 and in County Code sections 14.0101 et. seq. The authority and responsibility for procurement of goods, supplies, equipment, and services rest with the Purchasing Agent. This places the responsibility on those who have the skill to do the work properly and whose primary concern is in the performance of this special task.

The purpose of this Procurement of Goods, Supplies, Equipment, and Services Policy is to establish uniform procedures with respect to the selection and purchase of goods and services and vendor relationships, and to achieve cost savings and efficiency by consolidating requirements and by establishing material standards.

**DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED**

Board of Supervisors, Elected Officials, All County Agencies and Departments, Board-Governed Special Districts and Board-Governed Entities.

**DEFINITIONS**

Best Value Evaluation – An evaluation process used to select the optimal combination of quality, price and various qualitative elements of required goods, supplies, equipment, and services. The award is made with the intent of providing the government the greatest or best value for its money. Cost is not necessarily the primary factor in the selection process because proposals are evaluated on the basis of best overall value rather than price alone.

Fixed Asset – Equipment, including equipment for capital improvement programs, with a useful life of more than one year and a per unit acquisition cost as defined in the term equipment in 2 Code of Federal Regulations part 200.1, which is \$5,000 as of May 2024.

Personal Property – All County-owned possessions, operational or not, that are movable and are not affixed to or associated with real property. Personal property includes tangible and intangible items. There is no minimum value for personal property.

Procurement – The overall process of identifying sources, competitively selecting goods and services and negotiating, all leading to the purchasing transaction.

Professional Services – Services, not of a general nature, provided by persons specially trained, experienced, expert and competent to provide services, advice, education or training in financial, economic, accounting, engineering, architectural, legal, medical, administrative, and certain information technology services.

Recycled Content Paper – Paper products and printing and writing paper as defined by Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 7, Section 18982.61 and conforming to the certification and verification requirements of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 7, Section 18993.3.

Recycled Content Paper Procurement Requirements – The certification and verification requirements in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 7, Section 18993.3, operative 1-1-2022, and any subsequent amendments thereto.

**POLICY**

1. Bids for public works projects are covered by the requirements of the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act in the State of California Public Contract Code sections 22000 et seq. Contact the Purchasing Department (Purchasing) for information regarding those requirements.

2. In accordance with County Policy 11-01, all purchases, unless otherwise provided by law or County policy, shall be solicited on a competitive basis to obtain the best value to the County. County agencies, departments and Board-Governed Special Districts must comply with and utilize the procedures established by the Board, County Administrative Office (CAO) and the Purchasing Agent through Ordinance, Policies and Standard Practices or the County Procurement Manual. All recommendations for purchases submitted to the Board must be Reviewed in advance by Purchasing.

The Purchasing Agent will conduct a good faith review of available sources. Purchasing has full authority to question the quality and kind of products or services needed in order that the best interests of the County may be served and to satisfy its review of available resources.

**A. Procurement of Services**

- i. When an agency, department or Board-Governed Special District seeks a service, Policy 11-03 will be followed with respect to procuring services which can be provided by Internal Service Departments and Divisions.
- ii. Competitive and non-competitive purchase of services where the annual aggregate cost, per scope of services, per vendor, per agency, department or Board-governed Special District does not exceed the amount authorized by Government Code section 25502.5 (currently set at \$200,000) may be approved by the Purchasing Agent. Any contract that exceeds this amount during a single annual period must be approved by the Board.
- iii. For purposes of this Policy, with respect to any Board-governed Special District managed by and reporting to the County Special Districts Department (or its successor department or agency), the limit in subsection A.ii. applies to the cumulative total of all the special districts, not to each individual special district.
- iv. Selection of professional service providers shall be conducted through a competitive process based upon demonstrated competence and professional qualifications and negotiated at a fair and reasonable price to the County. Cost is not necessarily the primary factor in the selection process but should be an important consideration.
- v. Contracts governed by California Government Code sections 4525, et seq. for professional services include architectural, landscape architectural, engineering, environmental, land surveying and construction project management services and are subject to the process described in 11-04 SP3.
- vi. Pursuant to Title 1, Division 2, Chapter 19, Section 12.1908 of the County Code, County Counsel is authorized to select and retain specialized legal services for a particular matter not to exceed \$200,000 per fiscal year.
- vii. Selection of expert witnesses is exempt from this Policy due to the special and sensitive nature of such services.

**B. Procurement of Goods, Supplies and Equipment**

- i. Competitive purchase or rental of personal property in any amount may be approved by the Purchasing Agent.
- ii. Non-competitive purchases of goods in excess of the amount specified in County Code section 14.0109 (currently set at \$200,000) must be approved by the Board.
- iii. The Board shall approve the purchase of fixed assets as part of the adoption of the annual County budget. After the budget has been adopted, any unbudgeted fixed asset purchase or substitutions with a \$50,000 unit value or more require Board approval.
- iv. Purchasing is responsible for evaluating items being considered for purchase, or consigned

or loaned to the County, and no other County department may accept any items unless so authorized by Purchasing. Any item on loan to the County for any purpose whatsoever shall be given the same care and protection against loss, damage and theft as if it were County owned. Procedures governing the testing and evaluation of products are contained in the County Procurement manual.

3. The maximum contract term is five (5) years. Contracts exceeding a five-year term must be approved by the Board. Indefinite term or automatically renewing contracts are not permitted unless approved by the Board or as allowed under County Policy 11-05 and 11-06 SP1. Contracts and any options to extend that do not exceed the amount authorized by Government Code section 25502.5 (currently set at \$200,000) annually, may be approved by the Purchasing Agent.

4. If an agency, department or Board-Governed Special District maintains that a purchase is in the best interest of the County without a competitive process, it must provide the Purchasing Agent with detailed written evidence to support a non-competitive determination. The Purchasing Agent may require that negotiations be conducted as to price, delivery and terms.

If the non-competitive purchase requires approval by the Board, the written evidence to support a non-competitive determination must be provided to the Purchasing Agent in advance of submission to the CAO for review and placement on the agenda. Justification referencing the non-competitive determination by the Purchasing Agent must also be included in the agenda item.

More information regarding the justification of non-competitive purchases may be found in the County Procurement Manual.

5. An agency, department or Board-governed Special District is not permitted to delay payment, receive a bill in advance, or split charges for goods, supplies, equipment or services, in order to avoid the contract limits of this policy.

6. Selection Process

A. An agency, department or Board-governed Special District seeking services or products with substantial services components in excess of \$100,000 annually must submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) for approval by the County Executive Officer (CEO) or Chief Financial Officer (CFO) prior to release.

B. Templates for product and service solicitations shall be maintained by Purchasing and are available from the Purchasing intranet website.

i Best Value Evaluation is the approach for awarding a contract based on evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP.

ii Documentation demonstrating that a competitive process was used must be provided to the Purchasing Agent for all purchases of \$5,000 or more. Documentation for all purchases in an amount less than \$5,000, including purchases using procurement cards, must be maintained by the agency, department or Board-Governed Special District. Documentation for procurement of Recycled Content Paper at any dollar amount must adhere to the Recycled Content Paper Procurement Requirements, certified in writing by the seller. Purchases under \$1,000 do not require a competitive process.

iii Personnel involved in the selection process shall not engage in practices which might result in unlawful activity including, but not limited to, rebates, kick-backs, or other unlawful consideration or violation of County Policy 11-02. County employees are prohibited from participating in the selection process when the employees have a relationship with a person or business entity seeking a contract which would subject those employees to the prohibitions of Government Code sections 87100 and 1090 et seq. or when such participation might result in a violation of County Policy 11-02.

7. Use of Standard Personalized Printing Materials

Any County agency, department or Board-Governed Special District, subject to County branding standards, requiring business cards, stationery, or envelopes, will requisition the items from the Printing Services division of Purchasing.

8. Exceptions To Policy

Exceptions to this Policy may arise through the following:

A. Law

State or Federal law, or State and Federal grant terms and conditions if applicable, may specifically govern procurement. If such law or grant terms and conditions mandates procurement in a certain manner, then the State or Federal law or grant terms and conditions will govern the acquisition of those goods, supplies, equipment, or services.

B. Emergency

Purchase of goods, supplies, equipment including fixed assets, and services for:

(i) any local emergency as proclaimed by the Board or an official designated by ordinance, pursuant to Government Code section 8630 (or its successor) or (ii) the preservation of life or property, or (iii) in the event the Purchasing Agent or any assistant or deputy authorized to make purchases is not immediately available, and the item or items are immediately necessary for continued operation of the entity and undue delay would cause substantial loss to the County, is to be made pursuant to 14.0106 of the County Code. Timely approval and confirmation by the Board must be obtained for purchases in excess of the amount stated in subsection A.ii. of this Policy. The following procedures will govern emergency:

A Board agenda item requesting approval and confirmation of an emergency purchase as defined above that exceed the amount stated in subsection A.ii., shall be submitted to the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting following the emergency.

A Board agenda item requesting approval and confirmation of emergency purchases for fixed assets necessary for the preservation of life or property that exceed \$50,000 per unit, shall be submitted to the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting following the acquisition.

If the aggregate cost of a purchase is undetermined, yet there is a reasonable expectation that the aggregate cost will exceed the amount stated in subdivision A.ii., a Board agenda item requesting approval and confirmation of the emergency purchase shall be submitted to the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting following the determination that the costs might exceed such amount.

In the event that the incident is catastrophic enough to prevent immediate submittal to the Board for consideration, the recommendation of approval and confirmation shall be submitted to the Board for consideration as soon as reasonably possible following the emergency.

Standard procurement policies and procedures will be utilized to the extent practicable during a local emergency. If not practicable, any reasonable procedures (considering the totality of the circumstances) will be utilized.

C. An emergency Involving Construction on a Public Work is governed by the Public Contract Code and Standard Practice 11-04SP4.

D. Board Action

The Board may make exceptions to this Policy by affirmative action and waiver of this Policy.

**LEAD DEPARTMENT**

Purchasing Department

**APPROVAL HISTORY**

**Adopted** April 18, 2000 (Item No. 54)

**Amended** February 14, 2017 (Item No. 30); December 18, 2018 (Item No. 98); June 28, 2022 (Item No. 45); June 11, 2024 (Item No. XX)

**REVIEW DATES**

June 11, 2029