



Ensen Mason CPA, CFA
**Auditor-Controller/
Treasurer/Tax Collector**
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Interoffice Memo

DATE: May 12, 2026

PHONE: 382-7000

FROM: **ENSEN MASON**
Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector

TO: **LAURA FEINGOLD**
County Counsel

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO RETAIN INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL

I am writing to formally request approval to retain independent legal counsel in connection with matters currently involving the Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office (ATC).

This request is made pursuant to California Government Code sections 26529 and 31000.6, which authorize the retention of outside or special counsel where a conflict of interest exists or where the interests of the County necessitate independent representation. Given the present circumstances, I believe such conditions are met.

As you are aware, there is an ongoing investigation directed by the Board of Supervisors concerning ATC operations, including issues related to Treasury functions. Because County Counsel provides legal advice to the Board in connection with this investigation, a conflict of interest, at minimum a perceived one, arises with respect to County Counsel simultaneously advising me in my individual capacity. This situation raises concerns regarding the ability to receive fully independent and conflict-free legal guidance.

For these reasons, I respectfully request approval to retain independent counsel to represent my interests in this matter. Granting this request will help ensure the integrity of the process and maintain confidence in the fairness and objectivity of the proceedings. I am requesting that you consult with the Board in accordance with 31000.6 and inform me in writing if they do not concur so that I may move forward with an ex parte hearing.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed to facilitate your review. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

EM:VJD:wds:aeg

cc: Kristina Robb, Deputy County Counsel