

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office *See*

BOARD AGENDA # *B-13

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE March 18, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Restructure of the Public Works' and Strategic Business Technology's Geographic Information System and Information Technology Divisions, and Associated Staffing Impacts

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the restructure of the Public Works' and Strategic Business Technology's Geographic Information System (GIS) and Information Technology Divisions.
2. Amend the Salary and Position Allocation Resolution to reflect the changes detailed in the Staffing Impact Section of this item effective the start of the March 29, 2008 pay period.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item. The requested position transfers and reclassifications will be funded through current budgeted appropriations in Public Works and Strategic Business Technology (SBT).

Although not directly involved in the proposed restructure, the Planning Department is also affected. Public Works' IT staff currently provide technical support to Planning. The restructure will shift those responsibilities to Strategic Business Technology.

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BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-179

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

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FISCAL IMPACT CONTINUED:

To ensure fiscal neutrality in the 2008/2009 Fiscal Year, Public Works and Planning will not receive additional charges for Local Area Network services.

Beginning with the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year, County departments will see a reduction in Local Area Network charges from SBT as these costs will be spread across a larger base. These reductions may be offset by increased indirect costs associated with E-government. E-government costs are for services of benefit to the entire organization. Given the countywide importance of a solid GIS base map, SBT will fund some of the costs of Public Works GIS, which will result in an increase in indirect costs—E-government for GIS Support. It is anticipated that the reduction in Local Area Network charges should offset the increase in Indirect Costs—E-government resulting in fiscal neutrality for the majority of departments. It is also anticipated that additional efficiencies may be identified that will further reduce costs.

DISCUSSION:

Development of Stanislaus County's Geographic Information System (GIS) was first begun in the early 1990's using staff from Management Information Systems (MIS), the precursor to Strategic Business Technology (SBT). The system was made operational in 1996. Since that time, responsibility for the basemap, the heart of the system, has shifted to Public Works. In approximately the year 2000, financial restrictions resulted in GIS responsibilities being split between departments, primarily SBT, Public Works, and Planning. This has resulted in some duplication of effort, varied development platforms, and decreased efficiency.

GIS is an information management technology that combines computer mapping and database technologies to improve the management and analysis of location based information. The ability to answer "Where is..." sets GIS apart from other information technology systems. GIS is embedded within many information systems including permitting, emergency response, navigation systems, crime analysis, and transportation logistics, in addition to traditional map oriented systems. Digital geographic information is the defining characteristic of a GIS, and is accessed by GIS applications to serve user specific needs.

The Stanislaus County Business Technology Strategy 2007, adopted by the Board on September 11, 2007, supported the development of a centralized GIS and the consolidation of GIS services. With the direction of the Chief Executive Office, a Senior Executive Management team was formed to begin discussions about centralizing the County's GIS system. As part of that planning, GIS staff from SBT, Planning, and Public Works were brought together to develop a "GIS Central" concept, identify resources, and develop an implementation plan.

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Core competencies were reviewed to determine where the responsibility for the development and maintenance of GIS Central should reside. During that review it was agreed that Public Works, in conjunction with Planning, were key providers of the information needed for the base layer and ongoing maintenance. In addition, both Public Works and Planning rely heavily on GIS during normal day-to-day operations. Therefore, the consensus of the Senior Executive Management team was that GIS Central should be the responsibility of Public Works. Conversely, it was agreed upon that SBT's core competencies were in the field of providing information technology (IT) services. As such, SBT was in a better position to provide those services to Public Works, eliminating the need for Public Works to have dedicated staff in this area. In recognition of this, the transfer of the listed positions will reassign SBT's GIS staff to Public Works and Public Works' IT staff to SBT. The reclassification of the requested positions will insure that actual job duties are in alignment with job descriptions.

Establishing a GIS Central provides the groundwork to develop Stanislaus County's GIS into a dynamic tool for varied users. ArcGIS Server will be implemented, providing the technology platform for maintaining centralized management of GIS data and processes. ArcSDE technology is an integrated part of ArcGIS Desktop and ArcGIS Server and a core element of GIS. Its primary role is to act as the database access engine to spatial data, its associated attributes, and metadata stored within a relational database management system (RDBMS). Making GIS available on the County's intranet system for internal users, and on the County website for external users provides a powerful management tool to many at minimal cost.

The GIS Central team will also continue to partner with the Integrated Public Safety System (IPSS) team in their efforts to implement their new CAD project.

The formation of GIS Central provides the direction and resources to develop Stanislaus County's GIS into a dynamic application. Implementation of ArcSDE technology will result in improved functionality and accessibility. The combination of unified direction and state of the art technology will result in greater efficiencies and increased value to the organization.

This item also contains reclassification recommendations in order to align these GIS positions with other County IT related job classifications. In addition, it is recommended that the Sr. Application Specialist position be reclassified to a Manager III. This position will serve as the County's GIS Coordinator, overseeing both the Public Works GIS Division as well as coordination of GIS activities with other departments and agencies. This position will report to the Public Works Assistant Director, Business Services.

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POLICY ISSUES:

The Board of Supervisors is asked to consider whether approval of the proposed staffing restructure of Public Works GIS and Strategic Business Technology will further the Board's priority of efficient delivery of public services.

STAFFING IMPACT:

The establishment of GIS Central includes the transfer of three positions between Public Works and Strategic Business Technology departments and reclassification of three positions, which is detailed below.

Budget Unit	Position Number	Classification	Recommendation
Public Works - Administration	2203	Assistant Engineer	Reclassify upward to Sr. Application Specialist
	7812	Sr. Engineering Technician	Reclassify upward to block-budgeted Application Specialist III
	9281	Application Specialist II	Transfer to SBT, reclassify upward to block-budgeted Application Specialist III
	2217	Application Specialist III	Transfer to Strategic Business Technology (SBT)
	2093	Sr. Application Specialist	Reclassify upward to Manager III
Strategic Business Technology	2185	Sr. Software Developer Analyst	Transfer to Public Works-Administration

As a result of the re-organization the current incumbents will transfer with their current positions. The Senior Engineering Technician incumbent is recommended to be y-rated per County policy at the incumbent's current salary rate and reclassified to an Application Specialist II (position number 7812).

DH:jg