

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-14

Urgent  Routine

AGENDA DATE December 21, 2010

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Reduce the County's Elected Auditor-Controller Annual Salary by Ten Percent in Addition to the Five Percent Salary Deduction Taken by County Employees and Waive the \$4,800 Annual Car Allowance Beginning January 4, 2011 Through December 31, 2011

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize a voluntary ten percent annual salary deduction for the County's Elected Auditor-Controller in addition to the five percent salary deduction taken by County employees effective beginning after January 4, 2011 through December 31, 2011.
2. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to waive the annual car allowance of \$4,800 effective beginning after January 4, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The salary compensation for the Auditor-Controller is \$149,573 annually. The requested ten percent salary deduction for the newly elected Auditor-Controller is in addition to the five percent salary deduction taken by County employees. The newly elected Auditor-Controller is also requesting to waive the \$4,800 annual car allowance. In total, this will be a savings of approximately \$13,618 to the Auditor-Controllers 2010-2011 Fiscal Year budget. There will be a similar savings of \$13,618 in the first six months of the 2011-2012 Budget Year.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2010-778

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien  
and approved by the following vote,

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

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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## **DISCUSSION:**

The Auditor-Controller is an elected official who is responsible to the people of Stanislaus County. This Department Head position answers to the citizens of the County but is subject to the Board of Supervisors' approval with respect to the operating budget and certain administrative functions. The Auditor-Controller is the chief financial officer of the County. The Auditor-Controller prescribes and exercises general supervision over the accounting forms and the method of keeping the accounts of all offices, departments, and institutions under the control of the Board of Supervisors, and of all districts whose funds are in the County Treasury. The Auditor-Controller is responsible for ensuring the fiscal health of the County. The requirements for this position come from Section 26945 of the Government Code. Elected officials serve four-year terms. They receive a flat salary and do not earn vacation or sick leave benefits.

During the June 8, 2010 State Wide Direct Primary election, Lauren Klein was elected as the Stanislaus County Auditor-Controller effective January 2011. She will be sworn in as Auditor-Controller of Stanislaus County on January 4, 2011. The annual salary for the Auditor-Controller is \$149,573. On April 6, 2010 The Board of Supervisors approved a five percent salary cost deduction in Fiscal Years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. Ms. Klein is requesting a ten percent salary deduction in addition to the five percent salary deduction taken by county employees. She is also requesting to waive the annual Department Head car allowance benefit of \$4,800. In total this will be a \$27,236 reduction to Ms. Klein's compensation.

This request is due to the budget shortfall the Auditor-Controller's Office will experience in Budget Year 2011-2012. The department will be forced to evaluate more expense reductions in order to balance the upcoming 2011-2012 budget. Savings that are incurred in the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year will be carried over to the 2011-2012 Budget Year.

Ms. Klein is requesting that any salary and benefit reduction be revisited each calendar year.

Attached please find the letter of request from Ms. Klein.

## **POLICY ISSUE:**

Approval of these recommendations will support the Board of Supervisors' priority of maintaining Efficient Delivery of Public Services through fiscal savings for the 2011-2012 Budget Year.

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**STAFFING IMPACT:**

The approval of the additional ten percent salary deduction is intended to offset probable budget reductions in the Auditor-Controller's Office for the 2011-2012 Budget Year.

**CONTACT:**

Monica Nino, Assistant Executive Officer. Telephone (209) 525-6333



**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

**Larry D. Haugh**

Auditor-Controller

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

2010 NOV 12 P 2: 47

DATE: November 12, 2010  
MEMO TO: Richard Robinson, Chief Executive Office  
FROM: Lauren Klein, Auditor-Controller Elect  
SUBJECT: **TEMPORARY SALARY REDUCTION**

As you are aware I will be sworn in as the Auditor-Controller of Stanislaus County on January 4, 2011. I will be eligible for an increase in pay over my current salary as I am assuming additional duties and responsibilities. In addition I will be eligible for an annual car allowance of \$400 per month. I would like to request a 10% salary reduction based on the annual salary provided to the Auditor-Controller by Stanislaus County. This 10% reduction will be in addition to the 5% reduction currently in place as of July 1, 2010. I would also like to waive the receipt of the annual car allowance.

The Auditor-Controller's Office like other county departments has been asked to reduce the department budget by a significant amount and percentage. The department will be forced to start the Reduction In Force process for the first time in order to balance our upcoming Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget. We have been fortunate thus far in meeting our budget reductions in the current year and prior years through frugal department management by Larry Haugh, current Auditor-Controller and employee retirements.

Each year I would like to revisit this request in order to determine if my additional personal salary reductions continue to be necessary. I do believe the full salary amount is appropriate for the Auditor-Controller position as the individual holding the position assumes a great deal of responsibility. However considering the current economic environment I am more than willing to absorb this loss in compensation. The most appropriate time to review the continued need of my voluntary salary reduction may be the beginning of each calendar year, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

- CC – Chairman - Supervisor Grover
- CC – Vice Chairman -Supervisor Monteith
- CC – Supervisor O'Brien
- CC – Supervisor DeMartini
- CC – Supervisor Chiesa