

November 22, 2005

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Merit Hearing Regarding Amendment to Marin County Code Section 2.50.050 to 1) Increase the Marin County Living Wage Rate by \$0.50 per Hour Effective January 1, 2006 and 2) Include an Annual Cost of Living Adjustment Component in the Living Wage Ordinance

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Conduct a Public Hearing of the proposed Ordinance (attached).
2. Amend Marin County Code Section 2.50.050, after considering comments received in the Public Hearing, if applicable, to:
 - a. adjust the Living Wage rate by \$0.50 per hour effective January 1, 2006, and
 - b. include a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) component to automatically adjust the rate annually thereafter based upon change to the Bay Area Consumer Price Index.

SUMMARY:

At your Board's November 1, 2005 Public Meeting, a First Reading of the recommended amendments to the Living Wage Ordinance occurred. For your reference, attached is a copy of the November 1 Board letter. This Board letter includes background material, a report from the County Administrator regarding the anticipated impact of the recommended amendments, and a copy of the Ordinance including the recommended amendments.

Both amendments impact Section 2.50.050 of the Ordinance, "Living Wage Rate." First, Section (a) would be revised to reflect an increase of \$0.50 per hour to the living wage rate, effective January 1, 2006, which is commensurate with the increase in the Bay Area CPI since inception of the Ordinance in 2002.

Second, to ensure that the living wage remains a living wage in real dollar terms over time, Section (c) would be added to the Ordinance to incorporate an annual cost-of-living adjustment based upon the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area Consumer Price Index – commonly referred to as the "Bay Area CPI."

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Dan Eilerman (x7364) of my staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Hymel
County Administrator