



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: October 27, 2015
Board Meeting Date: November 3, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Peggy Jensen, Deputy County Manager

Subject: Resolution Certifying The Critical Need For Retiree Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution approving the hiring of retired former Director of the Department of Housing, William Lowell to an extra help position in order to provide policy and management support to the Closing the Jobs/Housing Gap Task Force and certifying, pursuant to Government Code §7522.56(f) (1), that the nature of employment and appointment is necessary to fill a critically-needed position before the post-retirement 180 day separation period expires.

BACKGROUND:

On September 12, 2012, the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act, which is known as "PEPRA" (Assembly Bill 340), was signed into law effective January 1, 2013. Additionally, Assembly Bill 197, which amends a portion of the 1937 Act, was signed into law the same date to be effective January 1, 2013. The PEPRA legislation includes provisions in Government Code §7522.56 requiring a 180 day separation ("sit-out") period following the date of retirement for non-safety retirees who are re-employed by a public agency within the same retirement system as an employee or through a contract unless:

- The employer certifies the nature of the employment and that appointment is necessary to fill a critically-needed position before the 180 days has passed.

For the exception to apply, legislation requires that your Board, as the employer's governing body, must approve by resolution the appointment in a public meeting and not on the consent calendar.

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DISCUSSION:

As the former Director of the the San Mateo County Department of Housing, William Lowell has extensive knowledge and understanding of housing policy, the history and processes for the development of affordable housing in the County and is personally acquainted with all the members of the housing community in the County. Given Mr. Lowell's extensive experience, the County Manager/Clerk of the Board's Office seeks to have Mr. Lowell return to the County in an extra help capacity to provide expertise in housing policy to the Closing the Jobs/Housing Gap Task Force team.

After over 25 years of County service, Mr. Lowell retired on October 3, 2015. Mr. Lowell offers unique skills, expertise, and knowledge that will contribute to the success fo the Closing the Jobs/Housing Gap Task Force.

Mr. Lowell's assistance is needed immediately. He will serve as an extra help Projects Coordinator in the County Manager/Clerk of the Board's Office for a period not to exceed 960 hours in 12 months.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in net County cost associated with the recommended action. Estimated extra help costs of \$35,000 will be covered by Closing the Jobs/Housing Gap Task Force funding.