

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

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Role of County Counsel In Land Use Matters	I-134	1 of 1

Background

Attorneys from the Office of County Counsel participate in providing legal services and advice to County boards, commissions, officers and employees in a wide range of land use matters.

Purpose

It is the purpose of this Policy to define the role to be performed by attorneys of the County Counsel's Office in land use matters.

Policy

The County Counsel and his or her deputies are charged with performing fair and impartial analyses to assist decision-making bodies and staff in implementing the applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations. They are not partisans or advocates for a particular side of a land use issue, but rather are interested in providing objective accurate advice on the issue. They are charged with interpreting Federal, State and particularly County laws and presenting to the decision-making bodies and staff advice within their respective areas of professional responsibility and competence, which in their professional judgment will provide the best legal advice to the decision-making body or staff. They shall act at all times relating to the hearing process in an advisory rather than a prosecutorial or adversarial capacity, and in a neutral manner at all levels of the decision-making process that provides the decision-making body and staff with professional and impartial advice and recommendations regardless of what other decisions may have been made at lower levels.

Sunset Date 12/31/2431

Board Action 6/22/05 (21)

12/09/08 (33)

11/10/10 (7)

12/06/17 (6)

10-8-24 (##)

CAO Reference

1. County Counsel
2. Planning & Development Services
3. Department of Environmental Health and Quality
4. Department of Public Works