COUNTY BILLING POLICY APPROVED BY BOARD MINUTE ORDER, DATED OCTOBER 27, 1992

I. Policy

All County agencies/departments/districts (County) governed by the Board of Supervisors shall bill contracting entities for materials and/or services provided under contract in accordance with the following standardized billing and collection policy. Billing frequency is dependent on whether the contract is a fixed price or actual cost contract. Payment due date is designed to be both responsive to the County's cash flow needs and reasonable enough as to not require special processing by the contracting entity. If payments are not received by the required due dates, a late payment fee shall be computed and billed to the contracting entity in accordance with the requirements of this procedure.

Nothing herein shall affect the liability, including pre-judgment interest, of the contracting party for services or materials in as much as this is a policy to enact standard billing practices.

II. Definitions

- A. <u>Contract for the purposes of this policy</u> A contract is a formal written agreement, a purchase order from the contracting entity, or any other acceptable mutual understanding between the contracting parties.
- B. Received by the County The phrase "received by the County", as used in Section VI of this policy, refers to the date a payment is received by the County. It is defined as the date the payment is in the County's possession. It is not the date the payment is posted or deposited by the County.

III. Fixed Price Contracts

- A. Fixed Price (One Time/Non-Recurring Contracts) Invoices that represent a billing for a one-time, non-recurring provision of materials and/or services shall be issued no later than five working days after delivery by the County of the materials and/or services. Examples of such one-time, non-recurring provision of materials and/or services might be a city contracting with the Sheriff for security service at a parade or sporting event; or, a city purchasing a computer listing containing certain city-requested data. Payment due date shall be invoice date plus 30 days.
- B. Fixed Price (Ongoing/Recurring Contracts) Invoices that represent a billing for an ongoing, recurring provision of materials and/or services shall be issued according to the following frequency:
 - 1. Annual Billings that total \$10,000 or less per 12-month period shall be billed via one, annual invoice. Annual invoices will be issued for each 12-month period of the contract, or portions thereof. Invoices shall be issued no later than five working days after the beginning of each 12-month period. Payment due date shall be invoice date plus 30 days.

- 2. Quarterly Billings that are greater than \$10,000 but not more that \$200,000 per 12-month period shall be billed in quarterly installments. Quarterly invoices will be issued representing the contract amount for each 12-month period of the contract, or portions thereof, prorated into four installments. Invoices shall be issued no later than 30 days after the beginning of each quarter. Payment due date shall be 60 days after the beginning of each calendar quarter.
- 3. Monthly Billings that are greater than \$200,000 per 12-month period shall be billed in monthly installments. Monthly invoices will be issued representing the contract amount for each 12-month period of the contract, or portions thereof, prorated into 12 installments. Invoices shall be issued on or before the first day of each service month. Payment due date shall be 30 days after the beginning of each service month.

An example of a fixed price contract for ongoing, recurring provision of materials and/or services might be a city contracting with the Sheriff for law enforcement services.

IV. Actual Cost Contracts

- A. Actual Cost (One Time/Non-Recurring Contracts) Invoices that represent a billing for a one-time, non-recurring provision of materials and/or services shall be issued after delivery by the County of the materials and/or services and no later than 15 days after actual cost data is available. Payment due date shall be invoice date plus 30 days.
- B. Actual Cost (Ongoing/Recurring Contracts) Invoices that represent a billing for an ongoing, recurring provision of materials and/or services shall be issued on a monthly basis and shall represent the cost of materials and/or services provided to the contracting entity during the previous calendar month. Such invoices shall be issued no later than 15 days after the close of the monthly billing period. If the County agency/department/district does not utilize a monthly billing cycle, the invoice shall be issued no later than 15 days after actual cost data is available. Payment due date shall be invoice date plus 30 days.

Examples of actual cost contracts for the ongoing, recurring provision of materials and/or services might be a city contracting with the County for communications equipment repair or waste disposal at a County landfill.

V. Payment Due Dates

Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections II and III above, payment due date shall be at least invoice date plus 30 days. If the County is late in issuing an invoice, the contracting entity would always have at least invoice date plus 30 days to pay. If the County is early in issuing an invoice, the contracting entity would still have a payment due date of either 60 days after the beginning of the quarter (quarterly invoices) or 30 days after the beginning of the service month (monthly invoices). (Examples - An invoice for October service dated and issued October 8 (late) would have a payment due date of November 7. An invoice for August service dated and issued July 20 (early) would have a payment due date of August 30.)

VI. Late Charges

The late payment of any invoiced amount by a contracting entity will cause the County to incur costs not contemplated by the County/contracting entity agreement, the exact amount of such cost will be extremely difficult to ascertain. Such costs include, but are not limited to, costs such as administrative follow-up and processing of delinquent notices, increased accounting costs, etc.

Late charges will be assessed in the following situations:

- Over-the-counter payments will be assessed a late charge if any payment is not received by the County by the payment due date.
- Payments transmitted to the County via the U.S. Mail that have the payer's postage meter mark will be assessed a late charge if any payment is not received by the County by the payment due date plus one day.
- Payments transmitted to the County via the U.S. Mail that have a U.S. Post Office postmark dated after the payment due date will be assessed a late charge.

The late charge assessed in each of these situations shall be three-quarters of one percent (0.75%) of the payment due and unpaid plus \$100.00 for late payments made within 30 days of the payment due date. An additional charge of three-quarters of one percent (0.75%) of said payment shall be added for each additional 30 day period that the payment remains unpaid. Late charges shall be added to the payment and invoiced to the contracting entity in accordance with this policy.

VII. Collections

Any invoice remaining unpaid 90 days after the invoice date shall be referred to the Auditor-Controller for subsequent collection action, such as deduction from contracting entity monies on deposit with the County Treasurer in accordance with Government Code Section 907 and any other applicable provision of law. Non-payment of invoices and applicable late charges will constitute a breach of contract for which the County retains all legal remedies including termination of the contract.

VIII. Discount for Early Payment

Any payment received by the County from a contracting entity 20 days or more before, the payment due date shall be entitled to a discount of one-quarter of one percent (0.25%). If the contracting entity takes a discount, and the payment is received by the County less than 20 days before the payment due date, County staff shall immediately notify the contracting entity by telephone that the discount should not have been taken and that the balance is due by the original payment due date. If the balance is not received by the County in accordance with the dates as specified in Section VII, applicable late charges shall be calculated on the balance due.

IX. Deferred Revenue

At fiscal year end, any portion of revenue invoiced (not necessarily received) during the fiscal year being closed out that represents charges or prepayment for materials and/or services for the upcoming fiscal year shall be reclassified from a revenue account to a deferred revenue account (liability). In the new fiscal year the deferred revenue shall be reclassified to a revenue account. (Example - On June 1, 19X1, a city is invoiced \$48,000 which represents charges for the 12-month period June 1, 19X1, to May 31, 19X2. The amount to be reclassified to deferred revenue would be \$44,000 representing 11/12ths of the total amount. In July I9XI, the \$44,000 would be reclassified to revenue.) Reclassification entries shall be made by Auditor-Controller Agency Accounting units, or for those agencies/departments/districts without such a unit, the agency/department/district shall notify the Auditor-Controller of the amounts to be reclassified.

X. Cost Recovery

All County agencies/departments/districts shall include all costs of providing contracted services in contract rates. Include all direct costs, allocated indirect costs such as departmental and County (CWCAP) overhead, and cost of capital financing.

XI. Existing Contracts

Billing terms and provisions contained in existing contracting entity agreements (existing as of the date this policy is approved by the Board of Supervisors) shall remain in effect for the life of the contract. However, when these existing contracts are renegotiated, they shall contain the billing provisions as set forth in this policy.

XII. Deviations From Policy

Deviations from this policy shall be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Proposed deviations by agencies/departments/districts shall be submitted to the CEO for concurrence in advance of filing an Agenda Item Transmittal (AIT) with the .Clerk of the Board. The CEO, or his/her designee, shall advise the agency/department/district of approval or disapproval of the proposed deviations. If a County agency/department/ district submits a contract to the Board of Supervisors for approval, and the billing provisions in the contract deviate from this policy, the agency/department/district shall specifically advise the Board of Supervisors in the AIT of the deviation, the reason for the deviation, and of the CEO's recommendation relative thereto.