

## AGREEMENT FOR SPECIALIZED ATTORNEY SERVICES

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made and entered as of May 1, 2017, by and between the COUNTY OF MONTEREY, a political subdivision of the State of California (hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY"), on behalf of Natividad Medical Center, an acute care hospital owned and operated by COUNTY, and Best Best & Krieger PC (hereinafter referred to as "ATTORNEY").

### RECITALS

This Agreement is made with respect to the following facts:

- A. The County Board of Supervisors may contract for legal services for the COUNTY when it is necessary and appropriate that special legal services be performed for the COUNTY and its officers and employees.
- B. COUNTY desires to retain ATTORNEY to provide legal services to the COUNTY with respect to Natividad Medical Center.
- C. ATTORNEY is specially trained, experienced, expert, and competent to perform the legal services required. COUNTY specifically seeks the expertise of Leeann Habte to be the primary attorney providing services under this Agreement.

### COVENANTS

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties hereby agree as follows:

#### **I. SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED.**

1.01. Services to be Performed by ATTORNEY. COUNTY hereby hires ATTORNEY to render specialized legal services for the County Counsel, subject to the terms of this Agreement. ATTORNEY shall perform said services faithfully and well, when needed and as requested by the County. The services to be performed under this Agreement shall consist of reviewing documents, providing consultation and advice services, analysis, memorandums and briefs on federal and state confidentiality laws, health privacy and health regulatory matters with respect to the scope of services described in Exhibit A. ATTORNEY shall perform only such services as are within the expertise of the individual attorneys on ATTORNEY's staff, and ATTORNEY will notify COUNTY promptly if any work requested is beyond such expertise. ATTORNEY shall diligently provide such legal services as are necessary and approved by COUNTY in a professional, timely manner. ATTORNEY shall perform all of its services with due regard to ethical guidelines and the client's interests.

1.02. Term and Termination Upon Written Notice. The term of this Agreement shall be May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2019. ATTORNEY and COUNTY agree that COUNTY may terminate the services of ATTORNEY effective immediately for any reason by giving written

notice to ATTORNEY and that ATTORNEY may withdraw from representation of COUNTY upon written notice to COUNTY.

1.03. Budget. ATTORNEY and COUNTY agree that an initial budget for the Project shall not exceed the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000.00). ATTORNEY and COUNTY shall revise the budget estimates as necessary to reflect actual necessary ongoing fees and expenses required for the project. Proposed budget increases must be approved by COUNTY before increased charges or expenditures are accrued. ATTORNEY shall notify the County Counsel in writing when fifty percent (50%) and seventy-five percent (75%) of the initial budget has been spent.

1.04. No Conflicts of Interest.

(a) ATTORNEY agrees that it shall not represent a client with an interest that is actually adverse to the County of Monterey with respect to any matter underlying, related to, or arising in connection with this engagement. ATTORNEY does not presently represent a person or firm with an interest adverse to COUNTY with respect to the matter accepted. ATTORNEY agrees that it shall not represent a client with an interest that is potentially adverse to the County of Monterey with respect to any matter underlying, related to, or arising in connection with this engagement, without the County's informed written consent.

1.05. Direction from County Counsel. ATTORNEY shall report to and receive direction from County Counsel in providing advice under this Agreement. If ATTORNEY prepares any County documents in the performance of services under this Agreement, including but not limited to pleadings, discovery, letters, and memoranda to the Board of Supervisors, ATTORNEY shall provide such drafts to County Counsel for review and consultation prior to finalizing any such drafts.

1.06. Reporting Requirements. ATTORNEY shall provide to the COUNTY such reports as may be requested by the Board of Supervisors or County Counsel.

## II. COMPENSATION.

2.01. Compensation to Attorney. As consideration for ATTORNEY's performance of this Agreement, COUNTY shall pay to ATTORNEY the fees and necessary expenses calculated in accordance with the hourly rate and expense method of billing. Fees and expenses are to be charged in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and in accordance with the hourly rates for partners, associates, and paralegals of ATTORNEY and any other terms governing fees set forth in Exhibit C.

2.02. Maximum Liability. The maximum amount of COUNTY's liability over the full term of this Agreement (including all items paid under paragraphs 2.03) is \$80,000. This amount may be amended by written agreement between the parties.

2.03. Reimbursement for Expenses.

(a) COUNTY shall reimburse ATTORNEY for all actual and necessary expenses for the following items:

- (1) Travel expenses, as more fully described in (b) below;
- (2) Postage;
- (3) Photocopying;
- (4) Computerized research; and
- (5) Other expenses when approved in advance.

(b) COUNTY will not reimburse ATTORNEY for any non-attorney or non-paralegal staff time or for overtime for secretarial, clerical, or word processing costs connected with preparing required status reports, time spent to provide information for a fee audit, for work not authorized by COUNTY or for which a plan was not approved. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with Exhibit D, COUNTY's Travel Policy, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. Transportation will be reimbursed at actual fare for economy or coach class, meals and lodging not to exceed COUNTY per diem unless authorized in advance.

(c) ATTORNEY will bill monthly for work performed and costs advanced. ATTORNEY will bill all overhead expenses related to this representation, such as long distance telephone charges, facsimile transmission charges, photocopying and delivery expenses, as costs advanced.

2.04. Monthly Claims by Attorney.

Promptly after the last day of each month, ATTORNEY shall submit to COUNTY a claim, on a form or in a format approved by COUNTY, setting forth in detail the time and expense items incurred by ATTORNEY during the previous month, for which payment is sought, and setting forth such other information pertinent to the claim as COUNTY may require. The fees charges shall be calculated correctly, contain no charges previously billed, and be consistent with the approved hourly fee schedule and budget maximum set forth in Exhibit C.

2.05. Payment of Monthly Claims by COUNTY. The County Counsel's Office shall review ATTORNEY's claim. The County Health Department Contract Administrator or his or her designee shall certify the claim, either in the requested amount or in such other amount as the County approves in conformity with this Agreement, and shall promptly submit such invoice to the County Auditor-Controller for payment. The County Auditor-Controller shall pay the amount certified within 30 days of receiving the certified claim.

2.06. Disputed Payment Amount. If for any claim COUNTY certifies a lesser amount than the amount requested, and if ATTORNEY desires to dispute the amount so certified, ATTORNEY must submit a written notice of protest to COUNTY within 20 days after

ATTORNEY's receipt of the certification. The parties shall then promptly meet or speak by teleconference to review the dispute and resolve it on a mutually acceptable basis.

2.07. Conflicting Payment Provisions. The provisions regarding payment set forth in this portion of the Agreement prevail over any conflicting provisions that may be found in any of the Exhibits.

### III. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE.

#### 3.01. Indemnification.

a. ATTORNEY shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the COUNTY, and its officers, agents, and employees from any claim, liability, loss, injury or damage arising out of, or in connection with, ATTORNEY'S and/or its agents', employees' or subcontractors' negligent acts or omissions in the performance of this Agreement, excepting only loss, injury or damage caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of COUNTY or the County of Monterey and their officers or employees. It is the intent of the parties to this Agreement to provide the broadest possible coverage for the COUNTY and the County of Monterey. The ATTORNEY shall reimburse the COUNTY and the County of Monterey for all costs, attorneys' fees, expenses and liabilities incurred with respect to any litigation in which the ATTORNEY is obligated to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the COUNTY and the County of Monterey under this Agreement.

3.02. Insurance. At all times during the term of this Agreement ATTORNEY, at its sole cost and expense, shall maintain:

(1) Professional Liability Insurance in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate, to cover liability for malpractice or errors and omissions made in the course of rendering professional services. If professional liability insurance is written on a "claims-made" basis, such coverage shall continue for at least three (3) years following the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement;

(2) Commercial General Liability Insurance, including but not limited to premises, personal injuries, products, and completed operations, with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence;

(3) Automobile Liability Insurance, including but not limited to comprehensive automobile liability covering all motor vehicles, including owned, leased, non-owned, and hired vehicles, used in providing services under this Agreement, with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence;

(4) Workers' Compensation Insurance: If ATTORNEY employs others in the performance of this Agreement, ATTORNEY shall maintain workers' compensation insurance

with Employer's Liability limits not less than \$1,000,000 each person, \$1,000,000 each accident and \$1,000,000 each disease; and

- (5) Such other and further insurance as may be required by law.

3.03. Other Insurance Requirements.

Evidence of Coverage. Prior to commencement of this Agreement, ATTORNEY shall provide a "Certificate of Insurance" certifying that coverage as required herein has been obtained. Individual endorsements executed by the insurance carrier shall accompany the certificate. In addition, ATTORNEY upon request shall provide a certified copy of the policy or policies. This verification of coverage shall be sent to the COUNTY, unless otherwise directed. This approval of insurance shall neither relieve nor decrease the liability of ATTORNEY.

4.03. Qualifying Insurers. All coverage's, except surety, shall be issued by companies which hold a current policy holder's alphabetic and financial size category rating of not less than A- VII, according to the current Best's Key Rating Guide or a company of equal financial stability that is approved by COUNTY.

4.04. Insurance Coverage Requirements. Without limiting ATTORNEY's duty to indemnify, ATTORNEY shall maintain in effect throughout the term of this Agreement a policy or policies of insurance with the following minimum limits of liability:

(a) Commercial General Liability Insurance, including but not limited to premises and operations, including coverage for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, Personal Injury, Contractual Liability, Broad form Property Damage, Independent Contractors, Products and Completed Operations, with a combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

(b) Business automobile liability insurance, covering all motor vehicles, including owned, leased, non-owned, and hired vehicles, used in providing services under this Agreement, with a combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

(c) Workers' Compensation Insurance, if ATTORNEY employs others in the performance of this Agreement, in accordance with California Labor Code section 3700 and with Employer's Liability limits not less than \$1,000,000 each person, \$1,000,000 each accident and \$1,000,000 each disease.

(d) Professional liability insurance, if required for the professional services being provided, (e.g., those persons authorized by a license to engage in a business or profession regulated by the California Business and Professions Code), in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate, to cover liability for malpractice or errors or omissions made in the course of rendering professional services. If professional liability insurance is written on a "claims-made" basis rather than an occurrence basis, the ATTORNEY

shall, upon the expiration or earlier termination of the Agreement, obtain extended reporting coverage ("tail coverage") with the same liability limits. Any such tail coverage shall continue for at least three years following the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

(e) Other Insurance Requirements. All insurance required by this Agreement shall be with a company acceptable to COUNTY and issued and executed by an admitted insurer authorized to transact Insurance business in the State of California. Unless otherwise specified by this Agreement, all such insurance shall be written on an occurrence basis, or, if the policy is not written on an occurrence basis, such policy with the coverage required herein shall continue in effect for a period of three years following the date ATTORNEY completes its performance of services under this Agreement.

Each liability policy shall provide that COUNTY shall be given notice in writing at least thirty days in advance of any endorsed reduction in coverage or limit, cancellation, or intended non-renewal thereof. Each policy shall provide coverage for ATTORNEY and additional insureds with respect to claims arising from each subcontractor, if any, performing work under this Agreement, or be accompanied by a certificate of insurance from each subcontractor showing each subcontractor has identical insurance coverage to the above requirements.

Commercial general liability and automobile liability policies shall provide an endorsement naming the COUNTY and County of Monterey, and their officers, agents, and employees as Additional Insureds with respect to liability arising out of the ATTORNEY's work, including ongoing and completed operations, and shall further provide that such insurance is primary insurance to any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the COUNTY or County of Monterey and that the insurance of the Additional Insureds shall not be called upon to contribute to a loss covered by the ATTORNEY's insurance. The required endorsement form for Commercial General Liability Additional Insured is ISO Form CG 20 10 11-85 or CG 20 10 10 01 in tandem with CG 20 37 10 01 (2000). The required endorsement form for Automobile Additional Insured endorsement is ISO Form CA 20 48 02 99.

Prior to the execution of this Agreement by COUNTY, ATTORNEY shall file certificates of insurance with the COUNTY showing that the ATTORNEY has in effect the insurance required by this Agreement. The ATTORNEY shall file a new or amended certificate of insurance within five calendar days after any change is made in any insurance policy, which would alter the information on the certificate then on file. Acceptance or approval of insurance shall in no way modify or change the indemnification clause in this Agreement, which shall continue in full force and effect.

ATTORNEY shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain in force the insurance coverage required under this Agreement and shall send, without demand by COUNTY, annual certificates to COUNTY. If the certificate is not received by the expiration date, COUNTY shall notify ATTORNEY and ATTORNEY shall have five calendar days to send in the certificate, evidencing no lapse in coverage during the interim. Failure by ATTORNEY to maintain such insurance is a default of this Agreement which entitles COUNTY, at its sole

discretion, to terminate this Agreement immediately.

#### IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

4.01. Non-assignment. ATTORNEY shall not assign or transfer this Agreement, or any part thereof, without the written consent of COUNTY, nor shall ATTORNEY assign any monies due or to become due to ATTORNEY hereunder without the previous written consent of COUNTY.

4.02. Independent Contractor. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed or interpreted to make ATTORNEY anything but an independent contractor and in all ATTORNEY's activities and operations pursuant to this Agreement. ATTORNEY shall for no purposes be considered an employee or agent of COUNTY.

4.03. Authority to Bind COUNTY. It is understood that ATTORNEY, in the performance of any and all duties under this Agreement, has no authority to bind COUNTY to any agreements or undertakings with respect to any and all persons or entities with whom ATTORNEY deals in the course of business.

4.04. Non-disclosure of Information. ATTORNEY shall not disclose, without express written consent of COUNTY, any information relating to COUNTY business which has been submitted by COUNTY to ATTORNEY pursuant to the services to be rendered pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that this Agreement is terminated, ATTORNEY shall immediately return to COUNTY all papers, documents and the like received from COUNTY.

4.05. Cooperation. To perform our services effectively, ATTORNEY requires the full cooperation and support of each client. COUNTY will assist ATTORNEY by keeping ATTORNEY fully informed as to facts and developments relevant to ATTORNEY'S representation of COUNTY and to each matter assigned. It is essential that COUNTY (as well as any employees or representatives) provide ATTORNEY with accurate and complete information, including written materials when requested, and that COUNTY make its personnel available to the extent required. Failure to assist in this way may affect ATTORNEY'S ability to represent COUNTY adequately, and could result in our withdrawal as legal counsel.

4.06. No Warranty of Result. Although ATTORNEY believes that ATTORNEY can assist the County in reaching its legal goals, ATTORNEY cannot predict or represent that a particular result can be obtained within a specified time. ATTORNEY makes no promises or guarantees regarding the outcome of the matter or matters that are the subject of our services.

4.07. Return and Disposition of Files. After services are concluded, ATTORNEY will, upon COUNTY's request, deliver to COUNTY the files that ATTORNEY created in providing representation to COUNTY, along with any funds or property of COUNTY in our possession. If COUNTY does not request the files, ATTORNEY will retain them for a period of five years after the matter is closed. At the end of the five-year period, ATTORNEY will have no further

obligation to retain the files, and may, at ATTORNEY's discretion, destroy them without further notice to COUNTY.

4.08 Notices.

(a) Notices permitted or required to be given to the respective parties under this Agreement shall be deemed given (1) when personally delivered to the Monterey County Counsel or to ATTORNEY's principal partner contact; (2) when personally delivered to the party's principal place of business during normal business hours (i.e., to the office of the Monterey County Counsel in Salinas, California, or to ATTORNEY's office), by leaving the notice with any person apparently in charge of the office and advising such person of the import and contents of the notice; (3) 24 hours after the notice is transmitted by fax machine to the other party, to the fax number indicated below; or (4) 3 days after the notice is deposited in the U.S. mail (by first class, certified, registered, or express mail), with postage fully prepaid, addressed to the party as indicated below.

(b) Notices mailed to the parties shall be addressed as follows:

To COUNTY:

Anne K. Brereton  
Deputy County Counsel  
Office of the County Counsel  
County of Monterey  
168 W. Alisal Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901-2439  
Fax: (831) 755-5283

To ATTORNEY:

Leeann Habte, Esq.  
BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP  
300 South Grand Avenue,  
25th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Fax 213.617.7480

(c) The mailing addresses and fax numbers specified in paragraph (b) may be changed by either party, by giving notice to the other in the manner provided herein.

4.09. Subcontracting. ATTORNEY shall not subcontract or otherwise assign any portion of the work to be performed under this Agreement without prior written approval of COUNTY. Any and all subcontracts shall be subject to the provisions contained in this Agreement.

4.10. Modifications. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by written agreement of the parties. No waiver or modification of this Agreement or of any covenant, condition, or limitation herein contained shall be valid unless in writing and duly executed by the parties hereto.

4.11. Non-waiver. No covenant or condition of this Agreement can be waived except by the written consent of COUNTY. Forbearance or indulgence by COUNTY in any regard whatsoever shall not constitute a waiver of the covenant or condition to be performed by



ATTORNEY. COUNTY shall be entitled to invoke any remedy available to COUNTY under this Agreement or by law or in equity despite said forbearance or indulgence.

4.12. Sole Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties relating to the rights herein granted and the obligations herein assumed. Any oral representations or modifications concerning this Agreement shall be of no force or effect excepting a subsequent modification in writing, signed by the party to be charged.

4.13. Venue. If any party herein initiates an action to enforce the terms hereof or declare rights hereunder, the parties agree that venue thereof shall be the County of Monterey, State of California.

4.14. Construed Pursuant to California Law. The parties hereto agree that the provisions of this Agreement will be construed pursuant to the laws of the State of California.

4.15. Exhibits. The following exhibits are attached hereto:

Exhibit A – Scope of Services  
Exhibit B – Business Associate Agreement

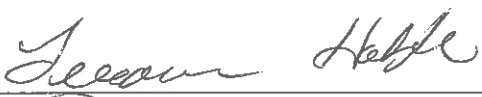
Exhibit C – Fees and Expenses  
Exhibit D – County of Monterey Travel Policy

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, COUNTY and ATTORNEY have caused this Agreement to be executed:

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ATTORNEY

By   
CHARLES J. MCKEE  
County Counsel

By   
Title Partner

Date: 6-1-17

Date: April 26, 2017

By   
GARY GRAY, D.O.  
Natividad Medical Center, CEO

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

By AK 5-1-17  
ANNE K. BRERETON  
Deputy County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO FISCAL PROVISIONS:

By Ry M Sh 5-2-17  
RUPA SHAH  
Assistant Auditor-Controller

## EXHIBIT A

### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

By this Agreement, COUNTY desires to retain ATTORNEY with respect to legal representation of COUNTY's interests in connection with healthcare law, including but not limited to, reviewing documents, providing consultation and advice services, analysis, memorandums and briefs on federal and state confidentiality laws, health privacy and health regulatory matters and appears in court to represent COUNTY on these issues. Leeann Habte shall be the attorney responsible for this matter.

EXHIBIT B

**Business Associate Agreement**

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

This Business Associate Agreement (“Agreement”), effective May 1, 2017 (“Effective Date”), is entered into by and among the County of Monterey, a political subdivision of the State of California, (“Covered Entity”) and Best Best & Krieger PC (“Business Associate”) (each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”).

Business Associate provides legal services for Covered Entity (“Services”) that involve the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information that is created or received by Business Associate from or on behalf of Covered Entity (“PHI”). The Parties are committed to complying with the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and E as amended from time to time (the “Privacy Rule”), and with the Security Standards, 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subpart C as amended from time to time (the “Security Rule”), under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”), as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act and its implementing regulations (“HITECH”). Business Associate acknowledges that, pursuant to HITECH, 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.308 (administrative safeguards), 164.310 (physical safeguards), 164.312 (technical safeguards), 164.316 (policies and procedures and documentation requirements) and 164.502 *et. seq.* apply to Business Associate in the same manner that such sections apply to Covered Entity. The additional requirements of Title XIII of HITECH contained in Public Law 111-005 that relate to privacy and security and that are made applicable with respect to covered entities shall also be applicable to Business Associate. The Parties are also committed to complying with the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Ca. Civil Code §§ 56 *et seq.* (“CMIA”), where applicable. Business Associate acknowledges that the CMIA prohibits Business Associate from further disclosing the PHI it receives from Covered Entity where such disclosure would be violative of the CMIA. The Parties are also committed to complying with applicable requirements of the Red Flag Rules issued pursuant to the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (“Red Flag Rules”). This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions pursuant to which PHI, and, when applicable, Electronic Protected Health Information (“EPHI”), shall be handled. The Parties further acknowledge that state statutes or other laws or precedents may impose data breach notification or information security obligations, and it is their further intention that each shall comply with such laws as well as HITECH and HIPAA in the collection, handling, storage, and disclosure of personal data of patients or other personal identifying information exchanged or stored in connection with their relationship.

The Parties agree as follows:

**1. DEFINITIONS**

All capitalized terms used in this Agreement but not otherwise defined shall have the meaning set forth in the Privacy Rule, Security Rule and HITECH.

**2. PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PHI**

2.1 Unless otherwise limited herein, Business Associate may:

- (a) use or disclose PHI to perform functions, activities or Services for, or on behalf of, Covered Entity as requested by Covered Entity from time to time, provided that such use or disclosure would not violate the Privacy or Security Rules or the standards for Business Associate Agreements set forth in 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e), exceed the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of such use or disclosure, violate the additional requirements of HITECH contained in Public Law 111-005 that relate to privacy and security, or violate the CMIA;

EXHIBIT B

- (b) disclose PHI for the purposes authorized by this Agreement only: (i) to its employees, subcontractors and agents; (ii) as directed by this Agreement; or (iii) as otherwise permitted by the terms of this Agreement;
- (c) use PHI in its possession to provide Data Aggregation Services to Covered Entity as permitted by 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(2)(i)(B);
- (d) use PHI in its possession for proper management and administration of Business Associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of Business Associate as permitted by 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(4)(i);
- (e) disclose the PHI in its possession to third parties for the proper management and administration of Business Associate to the extent and in the manner permitted under 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(4)(ii); provided that disclosures are Required by Law, or Business Associate obtains reasonable assurances from the persons to whom the information is disclosed that it will remain confidential and used or further disclosed only as Required by Law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies the Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached;
- (f) use PHI to report violations of law to appropriate Federal and state authorities, consistent with 45 C.F.R. § 164.502(j)(1);
- (g) de-identify any PHI obtained by Business Associate under this Agreement for further use or disclosure only to the extent such de-identification is pursuant to this Agreement, and use such de-identified data in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.502(d)(1).

**3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO PHI**

**3.1 Responsibilities of Business Associate.** With regard to its use and/or disclosure of PHI, Business Associate shall:

- (a) use and/or disclose the PHI only as permitted or required by this Agreement or as otherwise Required by Law;
- (b) report to the privacy officer of Covered Entity, in writing, (i) any use and/or disclosure of the PHI that is not permitted or required by this Agreement of which Business Associate becomes aware, and (ii) any Breach of unsecured PHI as specified by HITECH, within two (2) days of Business Associate's determination of the occurrence of such unauthorized use and/or disclosure. In such event, the Business Associate shall, in consultation with the Covered Entity, mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to the Business Associate of such improper use or disclosure. The notification of any Breach of unsecured PHI shall include, to the extent possible, the identification of each individual whose unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed by the Business Associate to have been, accessed, acquired, used or disclosed during the Breach.
- (c) use commercially reasonable safeguards to maintain the security of the PHI and to prevent use and/or disclosure of such PHI other than as provided herein;
- (d) obtain and maintain an agreement with all of its subcontractors and agents that

EXHIBIT B

receive, use, or have access to, PHI pursuant to which agreement such subcontractors and agents agree to adhere to the same restrictions and conditions on the use and/or disclosure of PHI that apply to Business Associate pursuant to this Agreement;

- (e) make available all internal practices, records, books, agreements, policies and procedures and PHI relating to the use and/or disclosure of PHI to the Secretary for purposes of determining Covered Entity or Business Associate's compliance with the Privacy Rule;
- (f) document disclosures of PHI and information related to such disclosure and, within ten (10) days of receiving a written request from Covered Entity, provide to Covered Entity such information as is requested by Covered Entity to permit Covered Entity to respond to a request by an individual for an accounting of the disclosures of the individual's PHI in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.528, as well as provide an accounting of disclosures, as required by HITECH, directly to an individual provided that the individual has made a request directly to Business Associate for such an accounting. At a minimum, the Business Associate shall provide the Covered Entity with the following information: (i) the date of the disclosure, (ii) the name of the entity or person who received the PHI, and if known, the address of such entity or person; (iii) a brief description of the PHI disclosed; and (iv) a brief statement of the purpose of such disclosure which includes an explanation of the basis for such disclosure. In the event the request for an accounting is delivered directly to the Business Associate, the Business Associate shall, within two (2) days, forward such request to the Covered Entity. The Business Associate shall implement an appropriate recordkeeping process to enable it to comply with the requirements of this Section;
- (g) subject to Section 4.4 below, return to Covered Entity within twenty-one (21) days of the termination of this Agreement, the PHI in its possession and retain no copies, including backup copies;
- (h) disclose to its subcontractors, agents or other third parties, and request from Covered Entity, only the minimum PHI necessary to perform or fulfill a specific function required or permitted hereunder;
- (i) if all or any portion of the PHI is maintained in a Designated Record Set:
  - (i) upon ten (10) days' prior written request from Covered Entity, provide access to the PHI in a Designated Record Set to Covered Entity or, as directed by Covered Entity, the individual to whom such PHI relates or his or her authorized representative to meet a request by such individual under 45 C.F.R. § 164.524; and
  - (ii) upon ten (10) days' prior written request from Covered Entity, make any amendment(s) to the PHI that Covered Entity directs pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.526;
- (j) maintain policies and procedures to detect and prevent identity theft in connection with the provision of the Services, to the extent required to comply with the Red Flag Rules;
- (k) notify the Covered Entity within five (5) days of the Business Associate's receipt of any request or subpoena for PHI.;
- (l) maintain a formal security program materially in accordance with all applicable data security and privacy laws and industry standards designed to ensure the security and

EXHIBIT B

integrity of the Covered Entity's data and protect against threats or hazards to such security.

The Business Associate acknowledges that, as between the Business Associate and the Covered Entity, all PHI shall be and remain the sole property of the Covered Entity.

3.2 Additional Responsibilities of Business Associate with Respect to EPHI. In the event that Business Associate has access to EPHI, in addition to the other requirements set forth in this Agreement relating to PHI, Business Associate shall:

- (a) implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of EPHI that Business Associate creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of Covered Entity as required by 45 C.F.R. Part 164, Subpart C;
- (b) ensure that any subcontractor or agent to whom Business Associate provides any EPHI agrees in writing to implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect such EPHI; and
- (c) report to the privacy officer of Covered Entity, in writing, any Security Incident involving EPHI of which Business Associate becomes aware within two (2) days of Business Associate's discovery of such Security Incident. For purposes of this Section, a Security Incident shall mean (consistent with the definition set forth at 45 C.F.R. § 164.304), the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with systems operations in an information system. In such event, the Business Associate shall, in consultation with the Covered Entity, mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to the Business Associate of such improper use or disclosure.

3.3 Responsibilities of Covered Entity. Covered Entity shall, with respect to Business Associate:

- (a) provide Business Associate a copy of Covered Entity's notice of privacy practices ("Notice") currently in use;
- (b) notify Business Associate of any limitations in the Notice pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.520, to the extent that such limitations may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI;
- (c) notify Business Associate of any changes to the Notice that Covered Entity provides to individuals pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.520, to the extent that such changes may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI;
- (d) notify Business Associate of any changes in, or withdrawal of, the consent or authorization of an individual regarding the use or disclosure of PHI provided to Covered Entity pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.506 or § 164.508, to the extent that such changes may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI; and
- (e) notify Business Associate, in writing and in a timely manner, of any restrictions on use and/or disclosure of PHI as provided for in 45 C.F.R. § 164.522 agreed to by Covered Entity, to the extent that such restriction may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.



4. TERMS AND TERMINATION

- 4.1 Term. This Agreement shall become effective on the Effective Date and shall continue in effect unless terminated as provided in this Article 4. Certain provisions and requirements of this Agreement shall survive its expiration or other termination as set forth in Section 5.1 herein.
- 4.2 Termination. Either Covered Entity or Business Associate may terminate this Agreement and any related agreements if the terminating Party determines in good faith that the terminated Party has breached a material term of this Agreement; provided, however, that no Party may terminate this Agreement if the breaching Party cures such breach to the reasonable satisfaction of the terminating Party within thirty (30) days after the breaching Party's receipt of written notice of such breach.
- 4.3 Automatic Termination. This Agreement shall automatically terminate without any further action of the Parties upon the termination or expiration of Business Associate's provision of Services to Covered Entity.
- 4.4 Effect of Termination. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement for any reason, Business Associate shall return all PHI pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(I) if, and to the extent that, it is feasible to do so. Prior to doing so, Business Associate shall recover any PHI in the possession of its subcontractors or agents. To the extent it is not feasible for Business Associate to return or destroy any portion of the PHI, Business Associate shall provide Covered Entity a statement that Business Associate has determined that it is infeasible to return or destroy all or some portion of the PHI in its possession or in possession of its subcontractors or agents. Business Associate shall extend any and all protections, limitations and restrictions contained in this Agreement to any PHI retained after the termination of this Agreement until such time as the PHI is returned to Covered Entity or destroyed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree that, except in certain limited circumstances, such as in the event of the termination of the attorney-client relationship between Covered Entity and Business Associate, it will not be feasible for Business Associate to return to Covered Entity or destroy Covered Entity's PHI held by Business Associate and its agents or subcontractors.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

- 5.1 Survival. The respective rights and obligations of Business Associate and Covered Entity under the provisions of Sections 4.4, 5.1, 5.6, and 5.7, and Section 2.1 (solely with respect to PHI that Business Associate retains in accordance with Section 4.4 because it is not feasible to return or destroy such PHI), shall survive termination of this Agreement until such time as the PHI is returned to Covered Entity or destroyed. In addition, Section 3.1(i) shall survive termination of this Agreement, provided that Covered Entity determines that the PHI being retained pursuant to Section 4.4 constitutes a Designated Record Set.
- 5.2 Amendments; Waiver. This Agreement may not be modified or amended, except in a writing duly signed by authorized representatives of the Parties. To the extent that any relevant provision of the HIPAA, HITECH or Red Flag Rules is materially amended in a manner that changes the obligations of Business Associates or Covered Entities, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith appropriate amendment(s) to this Agreement to give effect to the revised obligations. Further, no provision of this Agreement shall be waived, except in a writing duly signed by authorized representatives of the Parties. A waiver with respect to one event shall not be construed as continuing, or as a bar to or waiver of any right or remedy as

EXHIBIT B

to subsequent events.

5.3 No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing express or implied in this Agreement is intended to confer, nor shall anything herein confer, upon any person other than the Parties and the respective successors or assigns of the Parties, any rights, remedies, obligations, or liabilities whatsoever.

5.4 Attorney-Client Privilege. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Covered Entity and Business Associate, recognizing that Business Associate serves as an attorney for Covered Entity, hereby agree that nothing contained in this Agreement:

- (a) Waives the attorney-client, work-product, or any other privilege that may be invoked by, or is applicable to, either Party;
- (b) Imposes any duties or obligations on Business Associate that are inconsistent with Business Associate's duties and obligations to Covered Entity as a client of Business Associate, including, without limitation, any obligation of confidentiality or other obligation imposed on Business Associate under ethical rules applicable to the Parties' attorney-client relationship or otherwise at law; or
- (c) Limits either Party's right or ability to adequately conduct discovery in any arbitration or litigation proceeding.
- (d) It is the intention of the Parties that this Agreement shall be narrowly construed and that nothing contained in this Agreement shall impact any aspect of the attorney-client relationship that does not involve the Use or Disclosure of PHI.

5.5 Notices. Any notices to be given hereunder to a Party shall be made via U.S. Mail or express courier to such Party's address given below, and/or via facsimile to the facsimile telephone numbers listed below.

If to Business Associate, to:

Legal Business Name:	Best Best & Krieger PC
Attn:	Leeann Habte, Esq.
Address:	300 South Grand Ave., 25th Floor
City/State/Zip:	Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone:	213-787-2572
Fax:	213-617-7480

If to Covered Entity, to:

County of Monterey, Office of the County Counsel  
Attn: Charles J. McKee, County Counsel  
168 W. Alisal St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901-2439  
Fax: 831-755-5283

EXHIBIT B

Each Party named above may change its address and that of its representative for notice by the giving of notice thereof in the manner hereinabove provided. Such notice is effective upon receipt of notice, but receipt is deemed to occur on next business day if notice is sent by FedEx or other overnight delivery service.

5.6 Counterparts; Facsimiles. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original. Facsimile copies hereof shall be deemed to be originals.

5.7 Choice of Law; Interpretation. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California; as provided, however, that any ambiguities in this Agreement shall be resolved in a manner that allows Business Associate to comply with the Privacy Rule, and, if applicable, the Security Rule and the CMIA.

5.8 Indemnification. Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the County of Monterey (hereinafter County), its officers, agents, and employees from any claim, liability, loss, injury, cost, expense, penalty or damage, including the County's reasonable cost of providing notification of and of mitigating any acquisition, access, use or disclosure of PHI in a manner not permitted by this BAA, arising out of, or in connection with, performance of this BAA by Contractor and/or its agents, members, employees, or sub-contractors, excepting only loss, injury, cost, expense, penalty or damage caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of personnel employed by the County. It is the intent of the parties to this BAA to provide the broadest possible indemnification for the County. Contractor shall reimburse the County for all costs, attorneys' fees, expenses, and liabilities incurred by the County with respect to any investigation, enforcement proceeding or litigation in which Contractor is obligated to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the County under this BAA. This provision is in addition to and independent of any indemnification provision in any related or other agreement between the Covered Entity and the Business Associate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the undersigned has caused this Agreement to be duly executed in its name and on its behalf as of the Effective Date.

[BUSINESS ASSOCIATE]

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

By: [Signature]

By: [Signature]

Print Name: Leeann Habte

Print Name: Gary B Gray

Print Title: Partner

Print Title: CEO

Date: April 26, 2017

Date: 5/3/17

OK  
albertson  
Delos-1-17

## EXHIBIT C

### **Fees and Expenses**

The current billing rate for Leann Habte ATTORNEY is \$375.00 an hour. Associate fees range from \$215.00 - \$240.00 per hour. Time is accrued on an actual basis for all work.

The maximum amount of COUNTY's liability over the full term of this Agreement (including all items paid under paragraphs 2.03) is \$80,000. This amount may be amended by written agreement between the parties.

EXHIBIT D

**County of Monterey Travel Policy**



# **TRAVEL AND BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

Revised December 11, 2012

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. PURPOSE.....	1
II. SCOPE.....	1
III. DEFINITIONS.....	1
IV. AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL.....	2
A. General Conditions .....	2
B. In-County Travel.....	3
C. Out-of-County Travel .....	3
D. Travel Requests.....	3
V. TRAVEL EXPENSES .....	4
A. General Conditions .....	4
B. Transportation Expenses.....	4
C. Meal Expenses .....	10
D. Lodging Expenses.....	12
E. Registration Fees.....	14
F. Other Travel Expenses.....	14
VI. OTHER COUNTY BUSINESS EXPENSES	
VII. CLAIMING PROCEDURES FOR OUT-OF-COUNTY TRAVEL .....	14
A. Travel Advance Claims.....	14
B. Prepaid Vendor Claims .....	16
C. Travel Reimbursement Claims .....	17
D. Mileage Claims .....	18
E. Reimbursement by Outside Source.....	18
F. Late Claims .....	19
G. Travel Card Usage .....	19
VIII. INTERPRETATIONS .....	19
IX. EXCEPTIONS .....	19
X. CONFLICT WITH RULES .....	19

## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish uniform travel and business expense reimbursement policies, rules and claim procedures for persons authorized to conduct County business.

## **II. SCOPE**

The County travel and business expense reimbursement policy applies to all County employees, members of legislative bodies established by the Board (salaried or not), non-County employees (such as contractors who receive travel and/or business expense reimbursements) and volunteers traveling on County business.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions contained in this part govern the construction of this policy. They do not necessarily apply in other County contexts.

### **A. Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan**

Reimbursements of travel and other business expenses to a County employee, contractor or volunteer will be considered to be made under an "Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan" if the following three requirements are met:

- The person substantiates his or her expenses by submitting an expense report with
  - 1) the amount of the expenditure,
  - 2) the time and place of the travel or business entertainment,
  - 3) the business purpose of the expenditure, and
  - 4) the names and business relationship of any persons entertained.
- The person documents the expenses with supporting receipts, paid bills, etc. within 60 days after the expense is paid or incurred, and
- Excess advances, if any, are repaid to the County within 120 days after the expense is paid or incurred.

"County" means the County of Monterey.

### **B. County Business**

"County business" means the activity directly related to the ordinary, necessary and/or required business functions of the County of Monterey ("County"). It does not include travel or expenses related to an employee's participation in the County's Educational Assistance Program or commuting expenses (a non-reimbursable expense).

### **C. County Employee**

"County employee" means any County officer or employee, whether elected or appointed, filling a budgeted position approved by the Board of Supervisors.



Independent contractors and their employees are not County employees.

#### **D. County Traveler**

"County traveler" means any County employee, authorized non-County employee (such as a contractor) or volunteer traveling on County business. Agency temporary employees are not covered by this policy and are not reimbursable for travel.

#### **E. County Volunteer**

"County volunteer" means a person, other than a County employee, who performs volunteer work authorized by a department or the Board of Supervisors for the County, such as a department volunteer, a commissioner or a member of an interview panel. It does not include agency temps, inmates, wards or probationers working for the County.

#### **F. Home**

"Home" means the actual dwelling place of the County traveler without regard to any other legal or mailing address.

#### **G. Main or Regular Place of Work**

"Main or regular place of work" means the principal place of business for the County employee or the principal location to which the County volunteer/contractor is assigned to work for the County. This may be the place at which s/he spends the largest portion of his/her regular County workday or working time or, in the case of field workers, the assigned location/headquarters to which s/he returns upon completion of regular or special assignments.

#### **H. Meals**

Meals that are 1) directly related or associated with bona fide County business matters and 2) approved for reimbursement by a member of the Board of Supervisors or a department head (or his or her designee) will be considered a reimbursable County business expense, if incurred in connection with out-of-County business travel or while conducting in-County business. Also, reimbursement for the provision of in-kind meals to employees on the business premises of the County will only be allowed if there is a substantial non-compensatory business reason for providing such meals to employees.

#### **I. Temporary Work Location**

"Temporary work location" means the place where the County employee, volunteer or contractor is assigned on an irregular or short-term basis. If an employee is assigned to a work location for no more than 35 work days during a calendar year, then the location is considered temporary. Attending conferences, meeting or training sessions away from the main or regular place of work by County employees or volunteers, or field

workers conducting fieldwork at off-site locations, does not normally constitute assignment to another site. If the employee is assigned for more than 35 work days during the calendar year, the new location has become the main or regular place of work.

#### **J. Vehicle**

"Vehicle" means a motor vehicle, which can be legally operated on public highways.

### **IV. AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL**

#### **A. General Conditions**

1. Travel will be authorized only when the travel is necessary and in the best interest of the County.
2. Advance authorization is required for all County travel, as specified in B & C.
3. Advance written authorization from the County Administrative Officer is required for all County travel by County volunteers, except as follows:
  - a) Travel by appointed members of County boards, commissions, or advisory committees to and from the official meetings of their respective boards.
  - b) Travel to and from the County for members of personnel interview panels, subject to authorization by the Human Resources Department.
  - c) Travel to and from meetings, conferences and training covered by the County MHSA plan, subject to authorization by the Behavioral Health Program Manager or designee.

#### **B. In-County Travel**

County employees are authorized to travel within the County when said travel is required by the department and is considered a part of the routine, day-to-day official duties of the employee as defined and authorized by the department head or his/her designee. All other in-County travel requires advance authorization by the department head or his/her designee.

#### **C. Out-of-County Travel**

1. All travel outside of the County, but within the State of California, requires advance authorization by the department head, or his/her designee. Travel by immediate staff of a member of the Board of Supervisors requires the advance authorization of the respective Board member.

2. All travel outside of the State of California requires advance written authorization by the department head, or his/her designee. Travel by immediate staff of a member of the Board of Supervisors requires the advance authorization of the respective Board member.
3. Authorization for out-of-state travel by current members of the Board of Supervisors is subject to the guidelines established by the Board.

#### **D. Travel Requests**

Travel requests that require department head authorization shall be submitted to the department head pursuant to department policy. If the traveler is requesting a travel advance, an approved "County of Monterey Travel Request" form (usually in the form of a "white claim" or "GAX"), accompanied by all documentation relative to the request, shall be forwarded to the Auditor-Controller.

### **V. TRAVEL EXPENSES**

#### **A. General Conditions**

1. County travelers are entitled to submit a claim for actual and necessary expenses for transportation, meals, lodging, and incidentals for authorized travel, subject to the conditions set forth in this Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy ("Policy"), whenever the expenses are incurred as part of his/her official duties and authorized because the County traveler is required to work, attend a school, training, meeting or convention overnight at a location sufficiently distant from main or regular place of work to qualify under this policy for meal per diem and overnight lodging.
2. Notwithstanding Section 1 above, claims shall be paid subject to the rules set forth in this Policy and statutory law. Eligibility to submit a claim does not automatically entitle the claimant to reimbursement for any and all expenses.
3. County travelers receiving reimbursement from an outside source for travel on County time shall forward said reimbursement to the County Auditor-Controller for handling and deposit if the traveler intends to submit an expense claim to the County or use County resources to travel. Said travelers shall then be entitled to submit a claim for actual and necessary expenses for transportation, meals, lodging, and incidentals, subject to the conditions set forth in this travel policy.
4. Arrangements for transportation, lodging or registration fees that have cancellation or change penalties shall be carefully monitored by the department. If cancellation/change occurs due to direction by the County traveler's department head, or his/her designee, or the County Administrative Officer, the County department will cover the penalty cost. If the cancellation/change occurs due to a traveler's personal request or obligations, the traveler will be required to pay the

penalty. Exceptions shall be made when a traveler is unable to travel because of hospitalization, serious sickness or death of self or an immediate family member or when the department head certifies that the reason for the employee's absence was legitimate and authorized.

## **B. Transportation Expenses**

### **1. General Conditions**

- a) Transportation expenses are the direct costs related to movement of the County traveler from authorized point of departure to destination of travel and back to the authorized point of return.
- b) All transportation expenses incurred shall be based upon the most efficient, direct, and economical mode of transportation required by the occasion.
- c) Whenever a time frame is established as criteria for eligibility for claiming, such as the requirements set forth for meals in Section V, subsection C. 1. d., estimated travel time shall be based upon legal vehicle speed limits, volume of traffic, and weather conditions in effect at the time of travel.

### **2. Vehicle Transportation**

Vehicle use (both County-owned and private) by authorized County travelers during the conduct of official County business is subject to the County Vehicle Use Policy.

#### **a) Private Vehicle**

- (1) Travel by private vehicle will be reimbursed at the IRS rate for business use of a personal vehicle in effect in the County at the time of travel.
- (2) Authorized County travelers who travel in a vehicle other than their own may not claim mileage for business use of a private vehicle but may claim reimbursement of actual fuel expenses necessary for the trip and expended by the traveler. Receipts are required and should be claimed by the employee actually paying the expense.
- (3) Authorized County travelers may not claim mileage for business use of a private vehicle in the following instances:
  - (a) when the County traveler is riding with someone who will be claiming reimbursement for the vehicle's use from the County or another source;
  - (b) when the County traveler is traveling in a County or other government

agency vehicle;

- (c) when the County traveler is traveling in a rented vehicle (paid by County);
  - (d) when the County traveler has been assigned a County Vehicle for home retention, is receiving an allowance or lump sum for mileage, unless specifically provided for in the terms of their agreement or contract with the County or by Board resolution.
- (4) County employee mileage to the regular or main place of work from home, and back, is considered commuting and may not be claimed.
  - (5) County employee mileage to the temporary work location from home, and back, is considered commuting and may not be claimed except in the following cases:
    - (a) if the County employee is required to report to the regular or main place of work before reporting to the temporary work location, s/he is eligible for mileage from the regular or main place of work to the temporary work location;
    - (b) if the County employee is required to report to the regular or main place of work after working at the temporary work location and before going home, s/he is eligible for mileage from the temporary work location to the regular or main place of work.
  - (6) Mileage in conjunction with authorized County travel to and from a school, training, convention or meeting shall be based on the distance to the destination from the traveler's home or the regular or main place of work, whichever is less, except in the following cases:
    - (a) if the traveler is required to report to his/her work location before leaving, s/he is eligible for mileage to the school, training, convention/meeting from the work location.
    - (b) if the traveler is required to report to his/her work location before returning home, s/he is eligible for mileage based on the distance from the school, training, convention/meeting to the work location.
  - (7) Appointed volunteer members of County boards, commissions, or advisory committees may claim mileage to the official meetings of their respective boards from home, and back.
  - (8) Members of personnel interview panels may claim mileage to the panel location from their regular or main place of work, and back.

- (9) When two or more County travelers from the same department are traveling to the same site by vehicle, they should use only as many vehicles as are required to accommodate the number of travelers and business needs of the County. If a County traveler chooses to use a separate private vehicle because of personal preferences or obligations, h/she shall not be eligible for mileage or fuel reimbursement for the travel unless the department head determines that reimbursement is appropriate and justified.
- (10) If a County traveler chooses to use a private vehicle instead of an alternative mode of transportation chosen by the department head because of personal preferences or obligations, his/her mileage reimbursement shall not exceed the cost of using the alternative mode of transportation unless the department head determines that the additional reimbursement is appropriate and justified.

b) County Vehicle Transportation

- (1) County travelers using a County vehicle for traveling shall not be eligible for reimbursement for mileage.
- (2) County travelers required to fuel a County vehicle at their own expense should claim the actual fuel costs expended by them. Receipts must accompany the claim. Vehicle license number and the odometer reading should be written on the receipts.
- (3) If the County vehicle experiences mechanical failure, the County traveler shall follow the rules set forth in the "Mechanical Failure" section of the "Vehicle Operator's Handbook" located in the glove compartment of each County vehicle.

c) Rental Vehicle Transportation

- (1) Vehicles may be rented for transportation at the destination point when the County traveler travels to the destination via commercial common carrier and the cost of the rental will be less than the charge for shuttle or taxi service to and from the carrier termination point to the function or hotel accommodations.
- (2) Vehicles may be rented for transportation to the destination point when the cost of the rental will be less than other reasonable and available modes of transportation.
- (3) If more than one County traveler from the same department is traveling to the same function, only one rental vehicle may be claimed and then only if

it is available for use by all of the County travelers.

- (4) The County traveler shall choose the least expensive size and mileage limits appropriate to the use required. Rental expenses for luxury cars, motorcycles and recreational vehicles may not be claimed.
- (5) Rental cars shall be refueled prior to return to the rental agency to reduce cost to the County. Rental cars should be returned to the renting location and on time to avoid additional charges.
- (6) When traveling domestically the County traveler shall waive additional vehicle insurance (except for additional driver and coverage for drivers under 25 years of age), provided that the employee has his/her own vehicle insurance coverage. When traveling internationally additional insurance should be accepted if the traveler lacks other similar coverage.
- (7) An original car rental receipt showing the number of days and type of vehicle rented is required for vehicle rental claims. A copy of the receipt or a credit card receipt alone is insufficient.

d) Commercial Carrier Transportation

- (1) County travelers shall seek and attempt to use the lowest rates available for the type of commercial carrier service being utilized. Whenever possible, travelers should take advantage of flight arrangements that minimize County cost (for example, purchasing a round trip ticket may be less expensive than two one-way tickets). Reservations should be made as far in advance as possible to take advantage of available discounts and special offers. Travel agents that have added ticket handling charges should be avoided.
- (2) Claims for travel via commercial carrier shall be limited to the cost of travel at economy rates for the same day and time of travel or actual cost, whichever is less. County travelers may upgrade tickets, provided that the traveler and not the County pay for the difference in cost for such upgrade. The County will not reimburse any type of travel insurance unless the Department Head requests the traveler to purchase cancellation coverage. Reasonable baggage charges, if imposed by the airline, on the first checked bag are reimbursable.
- (3) Claims for commercial carrier tickets shall be substantiated by an original ticket document (such as an e-ticket or passenger receipt ticket copy) showing the price, date, date/time of travel and class of travel. A copy of the credit card receipt or statement from a travel agency alone is insufficient.

- (4) County business traveler may retain frequent flyer/hotel rewards and similar program benefits. However, participation in these programs must not influence flight/hotel/etc. selection, which would result in incremental cost to the County beyond the lowest available airfare/hotel cost unless the difference is paid by the traveler. Free tickets or cash allowances for volunteering to be denied timely boarding may be retained by the traveler but no additional cost to the County or interruption of County work is allowed and any additional time required to complete the trip is to be personal time.
- (5) Should a Saturday night stay reduce the cost to the County of a ticket more than the total of any additional hotel/meal/parking cost, the costs to do so are reimbursable to the traveler but should be well-documented with a clear savings to the County.

e) Private Aircraft Transportation

- (1) Traveling by private aircraft which is flown by a County employee may be authorized if it will be the most efficient means of travel and the flight is incidental to the purpose of the County travel. Said use shall require the advance written approval of the County Administrative Officer. If approved, the following must be provided to the Auditor-Controller's Office in advance of the travel:
  - (a) a copy of the pilot's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pilot's certificate and instrument rating for the category and class of aircraft to be flown and the type of flying to be performed;
  - (b) a copy of the pilot's current medical certificate;
  - (c) a copy of the FAA Pilot Proficiency Award Program certificate issued to the pilot within the twelve months prior to the flight;
  - (d) a copy of the pilot's flight log showing a minimum of 250 hours of flight time within the twelve months prior to the flight;
  - (e) a certificate of public liability and property damage insurance of not less than \$1,000,000 naming the County as an additional insured.
- (2) Traveling by private aircraft, which is flown by a non-County employee, except for flights conducted by members of the Sheriff's Air Squadron in the performance of their official duties, is normally prohibited.
- (3) County travelers who operate a private aircraft in connection with approved County travel may be reimbursed the actual cost paid by the



traveler for fuel used by the aircraft on the trip or the County's mileage rate for each air mile at the travelers option.

f) Other Transportation Expenses

(1) The following necessary transportation expenses may be claimed at actual cost (receipt required) when directly related to transporting the County traveler to and from the business destination point:

- (a) taxi, shuttle, or public transit fares;
- (b) parking fees (airport long-term parking is required for travel exceeding 24 hours);
- (c) bridge, road or ferry tolls;
- (d) other actual transportation expenses determined to be reasonable and necessary by the department head and the Auditor-Controller.

(2) The following transportation expenses may not be claimed:

- (a) traffic and parking violations;
- (b) emergency repairs or non-emergency repairs on non-County vehicles;
- (c) personal travel while at an out-of-County location;
- (d) other actual transportation expenses determined to be unreasonable or unnecessary by the department head or the Auditor-Controller.

**C. Meal Expenses**

1. Eligibility for Meals

- a) County employees, contractors and volunteers may be reimbursed for in-County meal costs that are 1) ordinary (not extravagant) and necessary, 2) directly related or associated with bona fide County business matters and 3) approved by a member of the Board of Supervisors or a department head (or his or her designee). County business discussions associated with a meal must be conducted in a “clear business setting”.
- b) County travelers involved with in-County travel that does not require an overnight stay away from their home are not eligible to claim for meals taken outside the County, unless the requirements of paragraph a) above are met, or unless provided for in a Board of Supervisor-approved written County policy.

- c) County travelers on out-of-County business travel that requires an overnight stay away from their home are eligible to claim for meals taken out-of-County.
- d) County travelers are eligible to claim the meal reimbursements noted below for travel requiring overnight lodging if the total travel time (work time, plus the lunch period plus round-trip travel time) is estimated to equal or exceed 12 hours.
  - (1) Breakfast may be claimed if the County traveler must reasonably be away from home because of County business travel at or before 7:00 a.m.
  - (2) Lunch may be claimed if the County traveler must reasonably be away from home because of County business travel at or before Noon.
  - (3) Dinner may be claimed if the County traveler must reasonably be away from home because of County business travel at 7:00 p.m. or after.
- e) Snacks are a personal expense, not reimbursable.
- f) Claims for meals purchased by a County employee or volunteer on behalf of federal, state or local public officials or employees is prohibited, including any other Monterey County employees, unless provided for under other Board of Supervisor approved written County policies.
- g) County travelers are not eligible to claim meals or other expenses for those persons who are not otherwise eligible to file a claim themselves for County reimbursement.
- h) County travelers are not eligible to keep or claim per diem allowances for anyone other than themselves.

## 2. Meal Claims

- a) The County maximum full day meal and incidental expenses rate shall be equal to the maximum federal per diem meal and incidental expenses (M&IE) rate established by the GSA. Said maximums include taxes and gratuities.
- b) Meal expense amounts shall be calculated by the Auditor-Controller for first and last partial days of travel based on the maximum federal per diem meal rate for the appropriate meal(s).
- c) Claims for out-of-County meals taken in conjunction with travel that includes an overnight stay away from the traveler's home shall be reimbursed in the form of a "per diem allowance", which means the traveler is eligible to be reimbursed at the maximum rate allowed and receipts are not required (except for Board of

Supervisor Members). Partial days shall be reimbursed at the appropriate meal rate.

- d) Allowable meal costs may only exceed the prescribed per diem rates if the meal is being served at a conference or workshop and the costs of the speaker, conference, and/or registration are included in the price. The agenda/brochure or other documentation describing the event and the price must accompany the claim to the Auditor-Controller's Office.
- e) A County traveler may not claim a per diem allowance or reimbursement for any meal which is provided, or otherwise available, to the County traveler with the lodging or function, whether or not there is an actual charge for the meal. For example, if lunch is provided at the function or breakfast is included in the cost of lodging, the traveler may not claim a per diem allowance or request reimbursement for eating elsewhere. For purposes of this section, continental breakfast and meals provided during airline or other commercial carrier travel do not constitute provided meals and do not need to be deducted from the per diem allowance. A County traveler may not claim a per diem allowance for a meal that was paid for by someone else.
- f) If a breakfast is included in the cost of lodging, the traveler may not claim for a breakfast meal; however, s/he may apply the next day's breakfast allowance amount towards the maximum lodging amount. For example, if the maximum lodging amount is \$79.00 and the breakfast allowance is \$8.00, the employee may claim up to a maximum of \$87.00 for lodging which includes a continental breakfast. (For purposes of this section, continental breakfast does not constitute a provided breakfast meal.)
- g) Claiming for alcoholic beverage expenses are prohibited in all cases.
- h) As required by California Government Code 53232.2 Board of Supervisors members must provide receipts for all meals and will be reimbursed at the lower of the appropriate per diem amount or the actual expense.

## **D. Lodging Expenses**

### **1. Eligibility for Lodging**

- a) County travelers are not eligible to claim for lodging for in-County functions.
- b) For out-of-County business that is conducted on one business day, if the County traveler's actual time for the day is estimated to equal or exceed 12 hours (including work time, the lunch period and round-trip travel time), then the County traveler will have the option of securing one night's lodging at either the

front-end or back-end of the trip. Illustration: A member of the County Board of Supervisors who resides in Monterey County is required to attend a one-day business meeting in Sacramento. The Board member estimates that his total time for the day without obtaining lodging would be 14 hours (8 hours of meetings, 1 hour for lunch and 5 hours for round-trip travel). The Board member will have the option of securing one night's lodging in Sacramento, either the night before the meeting, or after conclusion of the meeting.

- c) For out-of-County business that requires multiple business days, if County travelers are eligible to claim lodging for the first and last evenings of an out-of-County trip, they are also eligible to claim lodging for any evenings that fall in between the first and last evenings of the trip.
- d) County travelers are not eligible to claim reimbursement of lodging costs when staying overnight as a guest of friends or relatives.

## 2. Lodging Claims

- a) Lodging expenses shall be claimed at either the actual cost of the lodging (limited to the single occupancy rate for a single room) or the County's maximum lodging rate (Federal Per Diem Rate), whichever is less. Receipts are required. Taxes are in addition to the Federal Per Diem Rate.
- b) Lodging costs may exceed the County's maximum lodging rate only when a conference, meeting or convention is being sponsored by an organization of which the County, the department or employee is a member, the lodging may be claimed at the actual cost if seminars or meetings are to be held at the particular hotel and/or events are scheduled for evening hours, and the department head has given advance written authorization.
- c) An original room folio receipt, showing the number of days and the number of occupants, is required for lodging claims. A copy of the receipt, travel agency statement or a credit card receipt alone is insufficient.
- d) When a room is shared with a fellow County traveler, the expense may either be prorated, and the prorated amount claimed by each County traveler, or one County traveler may claim the total expense at the multiple occupancy rate.
- e) When a room is shared with a person other than a County traveler and said person will also be claiming reimbursement from the County or another source, the amount shall be prorated between the two travelers.
- f) Lodging expense may not be claimed for guests of the County traveler. Where expense for a family member or friend is included in the receipt, the claim must not exceed the single occupancy rate.

- g) Special lodging, such as accommodations in apartments, RV parks, campgrounds or other semi-permanent lodgings, shall require advance written authorization of the County Administrative Officer and the Auditor-Controller.
- h) County travelers should inquire when making lodging arrangements whether the County is exempt from Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) in the locale where they are staying and should provide the necessary form to the lodging facility, if required to do so to obtain the waiver.
- h) Except when registering for lodging at a pre-arranged group rate in conjunction with a conference or meeting, County travelers shall request the government rate or lowest available eligible rate when making lodging arrangements.
- i) Travelers are responsible for canceling hotel rooms before the cancellation period ends and should record the cancellation number in case of disputes. Travelers will not be reimbursed for “no-show” hotel charges unless there are unavoidable reasons for not canceling the room.
- j) When multiple county travelers are traveling together and the rooms are put on one invoice, one traveler may take care of the invoice but should provide the details on who stayed in each room on the invoice.

#### **E. Registration Fees**

Conference, convention and seminar registration and tuition fees may be claimed at the actual cost, provided that the agenda/brochure or other documentation describing the event, including the price, accompanies the approved claim to the Auditor-Controller's.

#### **F. Other Travel Expenses**

1. County travelers are eligible to claim a per diem incidental allowance, limited to the maximum federal per diem incidental rate established by the IRS, for each day of travel requiring an overnight stay away from the traveler's home. Said allowance covers fees and gratuities for persons who provide services, such as food servers and luggage handlers, and does not require receipts (Except for Board of Supervisors Meals). If applicable (such as a Board of Supervisor meal), gratuities are limited to not exceed 15% of the service costs unless billed by a provider's standard policy at a higher rate.
2. County travelers are eligible to claim the following expenses at actual cost, even if they also qualify for a per diem incidental allowance. Receipts are required.
  - a) County business calls (traveler must annotate purpose of call on the bill)
  - b) fax machine charges incurred to send or receive documents for County use.

- c) copy machine charges incurred to copy documents for County use.
- d) Internet access connection and/or usage fees away from home not to exceed \$15.00 per day, if Internet access is necessary for county related business.
- e) other business related expenses determined to be reasonable and necessary by the department head and the Auditor-Controller.

## **VI. OTHER COUNTY BUSINESS EXPENSES**

### **A. General Guidelines**

In the course of conducting County business, employees, contractors or volunteers may incur business expenses (including meal expenses pursuant to Section V.C) on behalf of the County. Such expenses will be approved for reimbursement if the disbursement meets the following requirements:

- The disbursement is for an ordinary (not extravagant) and necessary expense of conducting County business, or is an expense that is required by the County,
- The expense is approved by a member of the County Board of Supervisors, or a County department head (or his or her designee), and
- The payee accounts for the expense in accordance with the rules for a “Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan”, as set forth in the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations.

### **B. Taxation of Business Expense Reimbursements**

If a reimbursement to an employee, contractor or volunteer meets the requirements of an “Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan”, then such reimbursement will not be reportable for federal or California income tax purposes.

## **VII. CLAIMING PROCEDURES FOR OUT-OF-COUNTY TRAVEL**

### **A. Travel Advance Claims**

#### **1. Authorizations and Eligibility**

- a) Travel advances are strongly discouraged and are only available to County employees. The issuance of travel advances creates double work for departmental and auditor-controller staff and should only be used if a County travel card cannot be used or the employee does not have a personal credit card. Board of Supervisors Members are not eligible for travel advances.

The first choice is for travelers to use their personal credit cards to pay for their

travel expenses and be reimbursed before their monthly statement arrives. Secondly, the County has arranged for the use of the Travel Card to pay many travel related expenses. Departments may use their Travel Cards to pay for airline tickets and conference registration expenses for all of their employees, not just the cardholder. Commercial carrier and conference registration expenses should not be considered in the advance calculation. The third choice would be a cash advance, if necessary.

- b) Travel advances require the authorization of the department head or his/her designee, and the Auditor-Controller or his/her designee.
- c) The net amount of the travel advance shall not exceed the following:
  - (1) 75% of the total estimate for the following travel expenses, exclusive of payments made payable directly to the vendor:
    - (a) lodging (documentation, including at least the confirmation number and hotel name should be provided), including hotel parking
    - (b) rental vehicle transportation;
    - (c) per diem meal allowances;
    - (d) long-term airport parking;
    - (e) other out-of-pocket expenses deemed necessary and reasonable by the Auditor-Controller.
  - (2) 50% of the total estimate of reimbursement for mileage for business use of a private vehicle.
- d) A travel advance shall not be issued for a net amount less than \$100.00 nor more than \$2,000.00.
- e) A travel advance shall not be issued more than thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the commencement of travel.
- f) Travelers are not eligible for an additional travel advance if they have an unsettled advance, unless the advances are for travel taken consecutively. In such case, the sum total of the travel advances shall not exceed \$2,000.00.

## 2. Travel Advance Requests

- a) Requests for travel advances involving travel shall be submitted by the department head to the Auditor-Controller's Office on a completed and signed

"County of Monterey Travel Request" form, accompanied by all documentation relative to the request, at least ten (10) working days in advance of the commencement of travel.

- b) After a completed and approved "County of Monterey Travel Request" form is received by the Auditor-Controller's Office, a warrant payable to the County traveler for the amount requested shall be issued, up to the 100% maximum amount allowed pursuant to this County travel policy.

### 3. Travel Advance Settlements

- a) Within five (5) working days of completion of travel, the County traveler shall submit all receipts for allowable travel expenses to the Department and within fifteen (15) working days of completion of travel to the Auditor-Controller's Office on a completed County claim form. Credit for the travel advance shall be subtracted from the amount owed to the County traveler.
- b) In the event that allowable expenses are less than the amount of the travel advance, the County traveler shall submit the difference in the form of a check or money order made out to the "County of Monterey" with the claim form.
- c) County travelers who cannot provide a required receipt shall reimburse the County for the amount of the money advanced to them for that expense.
- d) Travelers who do not submit the required documentation by the time frames set forth above may lose their eligibility for future travel advances.
- e) Department heads are responsible for ensuring that their employees settle their travel advance claims within the time frames set forth in subsection a) above. Non-compliance may jeopardize advances for the entire department.

## **B. Prepaid Vendor Claims**

### 1. Vendor Claim Requests

- a) Once travel has been authorized, claims to the vendor may be submitted for lodging and registration fees when there is sufficient time for the check to be processed before the authorized County traveler commences travel.
- b) If the travel requires a "County of Monterey Travel Request" form, the approved form shall be submitted with the claim. If the original has been submitted with a previous claim, then that shall be noted on the claim form and a copy of the form attached.
- c) Whenever possible, the County shall be named as registrant for events to allow



transfer of attendance privilege when conflicts prevent the original registrant from attending.

- d) The County will mail the warrant directly to the vendor unless the traveler requests that the warrant be returned to them to hand carry to the vendor.

## 2. Vendor Claim Settlements

- a) Each vendor claim must have an original receipt attached in order to settle the claim. The required receipts for vendor claims that have been prepaid shall be forwarded to the Auditor-Controller's Office within thirty (30) calendar days after completion of travel.
- b) Claims paid directly to vendors that are not substantiated by receipts within thirty (30) calendar days of the completion of travel shall be considered to be unsettled travel advances to the County traveler.
- c) Department heads are responsible for ensuring that their employees return their receipts within the time frames established by this policy. Non-compliance may jeopardize the department's ability to have travel expenses paid in advance.
- d) In the event that all or a portion of the prepaid cost to a vendor is reduced after the check has been processed, the County traveler is responsible for ensuring that the entire difference is returned to the County within the time frames established for settling the claim.

## C. **Travel Reimbursement Claims**

1. After completion of travel, the County traveler shall submit a completed County claim form to the department head for authorization. After review and authorization, the department head shall submit the authorized claim, together with any required receipts, to the Auditor-Controller's Office. Said claim shall be received by the Auditor-Controller's Office within thirty (30) calendar days of the completion of travel.
2. The traveler shall not be reimbursed until s/he has signed the certification for the claim that is required by the Auditor-Controller's Office.
3. The Auditor-Controller's Office shall review the claim for compliance with applicable County policies and procedures. If approved by the Auditor-Controller's Office, the claim shall be processed and a check sent to the claimant within ten (10) working days. If denied, or denied in part, the department's contact person will be notified immediately. The Auditor-Controller has the final decision on allowable expenses.
4. No reimbursement for travel shall be paid to the employee until all required receipts

for the travel claim have been filed with the Auditor-Controller's Office.

5. Travel reimbursements are to be paid via checks and not to be paid via petty cash.

#### **D. Mileage Claims**

1. Whenever travel requires advance authorization of the department head, or his/her designee, the resulting mileage expense shall be claimed on the same claim form as the other expenses that apply to that travel. The only exception is if mileage is the only expense of the trip, in which case the traveler may claim the mileage on the monthly "Mileage Reimbursement" claim form.
2. Whenever travel does not require advance authorization of the department head, or his/her designee, the resulting mileage expense shall be claimed on the "Mileage Reimbursement" claim form.
3. Mileage claims shall be submitted monthly, unless the total for the month is less than \$50.00, in which case the claim may be held for an additional month. However, the claim must not be held over to the next month more than twice, regardless of the dollar amount.
4. All mileage claims for the last month of the fiscal year must be processed by year-end close.
5. Mileage Claims are to be paid via warrants and not to be paid via petty cash.

#### **E. Reimbursement by Outside Source**

1. County travelers receiving reimbursement from an outside source for travel on County time shall forward said reimbursement to the Auditor-Controller for handling and deposit if the traveler intends to submit an expense claim to the County or use County resources, including a County vehicle, to travel. In such cases, the traveler shall then be entitled to submit a claim for actual and necessary expenses for transportation, meals, lodging, and incidentals, subject to the claiming conditions set forth in this travel policy. Said reimbursement shall be delivered to the Auditor-Controller's Office within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the funds.
2. If a County volunteer or non-employee will be receiving a per diem or other reimbursement of travel expenses from a source outside of the County, the volunteer shall not be eligible to claim or receive any additional reimbursement from the County for the same expenses.

#### **F. Late Claims**

If a claim for reimbursement or settlement of a travel claim is submitted after the allowed time frames, the payment to the employee shall not be made until the claim has

been reviewed and approved by the Auditor-Controller or his/her designee.

**G. Travel Card Use**

Subject to the rules contained in the Travel Card Policy, travel expenses (airline, hotel, vehicle rental, gas, emergency repair of county vehicles and airport parking) may be charged to County of Monterey Travel Cards. Prohibited items include employee meals, room service, movies, cash advances, gift cards of any kind, liquor, tobacco and other items prohibited by the Travel Card Policy. Under no circumstances should personal items (even if reimbursed to the county) be charged to the travel card. Expenses paid on the travel card should not be included on a claim for reimbursement.

**VII. INTERPRETATIONS**

The Auditor-Controller, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for interpretations of this policy.

**VIII. EXCEPTIONS**

Exceptions to this policy require the approval of the Auditor-Controller or his/her designee.

**IX. CONFLICT WITH RULES**

In the event that this County Travel policy is in conflict with another County policy, the policy with the strictest application shall prevail.