

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Redwood City, Calif. — County Counsel Michael Murphy announced to the Board of Supervisors in closed session Tuesday his decision to retire effective the middle of March 2011.

Mr. Murphy assumed the position of County Counsel in August of 2007, with the retirement of former County Counsel Tom Casey. Mr. Murphy joined the County Counsel's office in May of 1982. He was appointed one of two Chief Deputies in the office in 1998, and was appointed to the newly created position of Assistant County Counsel in July 2006. He had broad experience in many different assignments in the County Counsel's office prior to assuming his current position, and served as the principal land use attorney in the office for 22 years. Mr. Murphy graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1970, and obtained a law degree from the University of California, Boalt Hall School of Law in 1978.

"The decision to leave the County after nearly 29 years of service was a difficult one for me," said Mr. Murphy. "I considered this a 'dream job' when I joined the Office in 1982, and there has not been a day when I didn't look forward to the challenges that awaited me when I walked in the door. I have been blessed to work with so many remarkable men and women, and I will miss their company." Mr. Murphy counted among his proudest achievements the defense of the County's Local Coastal Program and Measure A, the Coastal Protection Initiative; the defense of Measure T, authorizing the Devil's Slide Tunnel Bypass; his career-long role as legal advisor regarding the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan; his role in helping to stop the proposed disposal of dredged spoils off the San Mateo County coast; and the defense of the County's financial privacy regulations.

"Mike Murphy's dedication as a public servant should be commended," said Board President Richard Gordon. "His counsel has proved invaluable over the years and without him this County would look very different than it does today. His work has not only protected the County, but has also served the local community in numerous ways. While we on the Board of Supervisors regret that we will be losing the services of a tremendous public servant, we also wish Mr. Murphy our congratulations on his retirement and offer our thanks for his contributions and friendship over the years."

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The County Counsel is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and serves as attorney for the County of San Mateo, its elected officials, including the Sheriff and the District Attorney, the San Mateo County Courts, the Grand Jury and all county departments and agencies.

The San Mateo County Counsel is also legal counsel to 22 of the 24 school districts in the County, including the San Mateo Community College District and the elected County Superintendent of Schools and County Board of Education. The office also represents many other governmental agencies located in San Mateo County.

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