

# County Investment in the Environment 2.0

County Council June 29, 2021

Mike Thomas, County Manager

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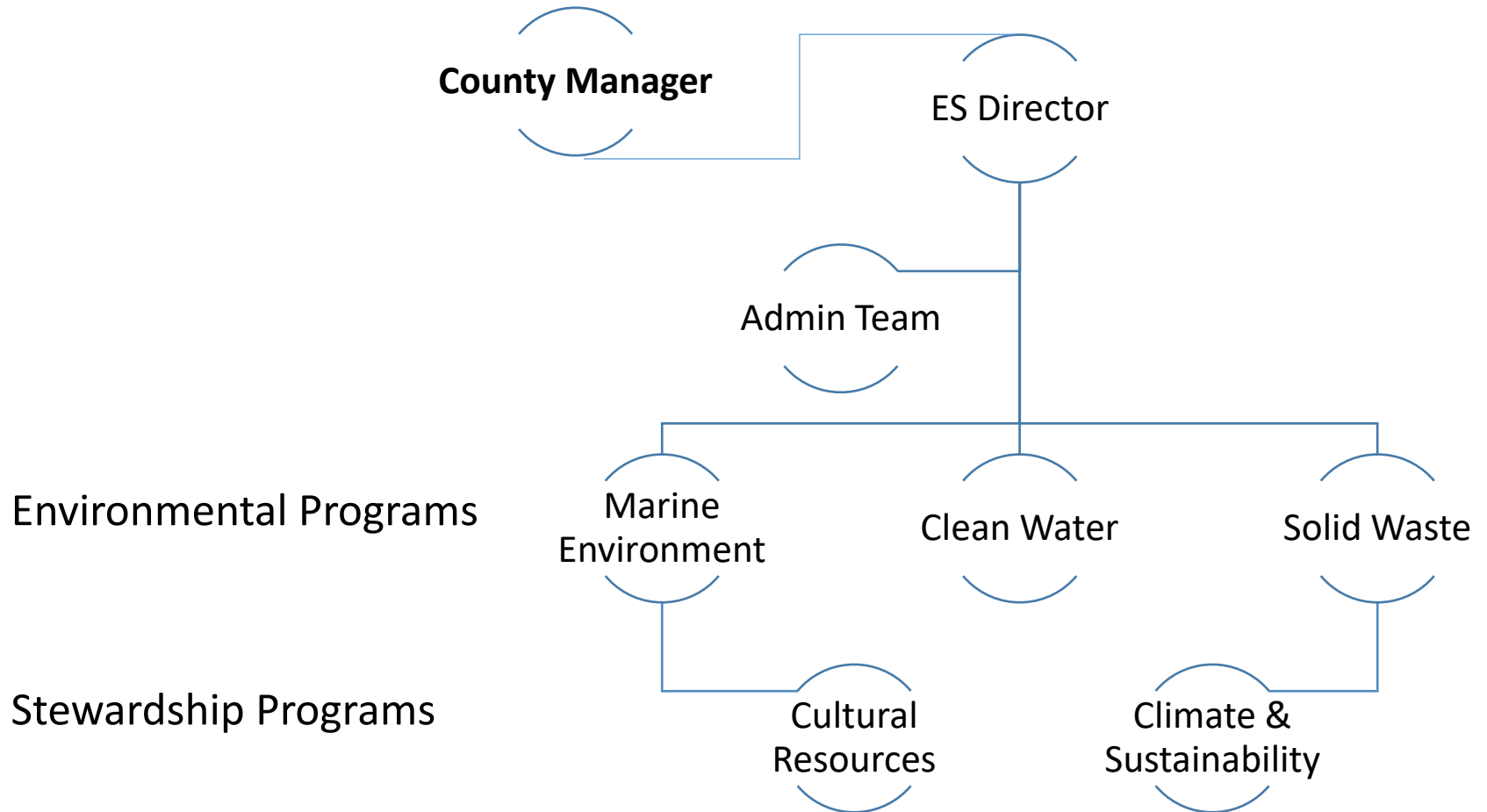


# June 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Follow Up

- Replace/add positions to address environmental inspection and compliance demands
- Add climate and sustainability coordination to Environmental team
- Articulate citizen advisory committee for climate and sustainability action

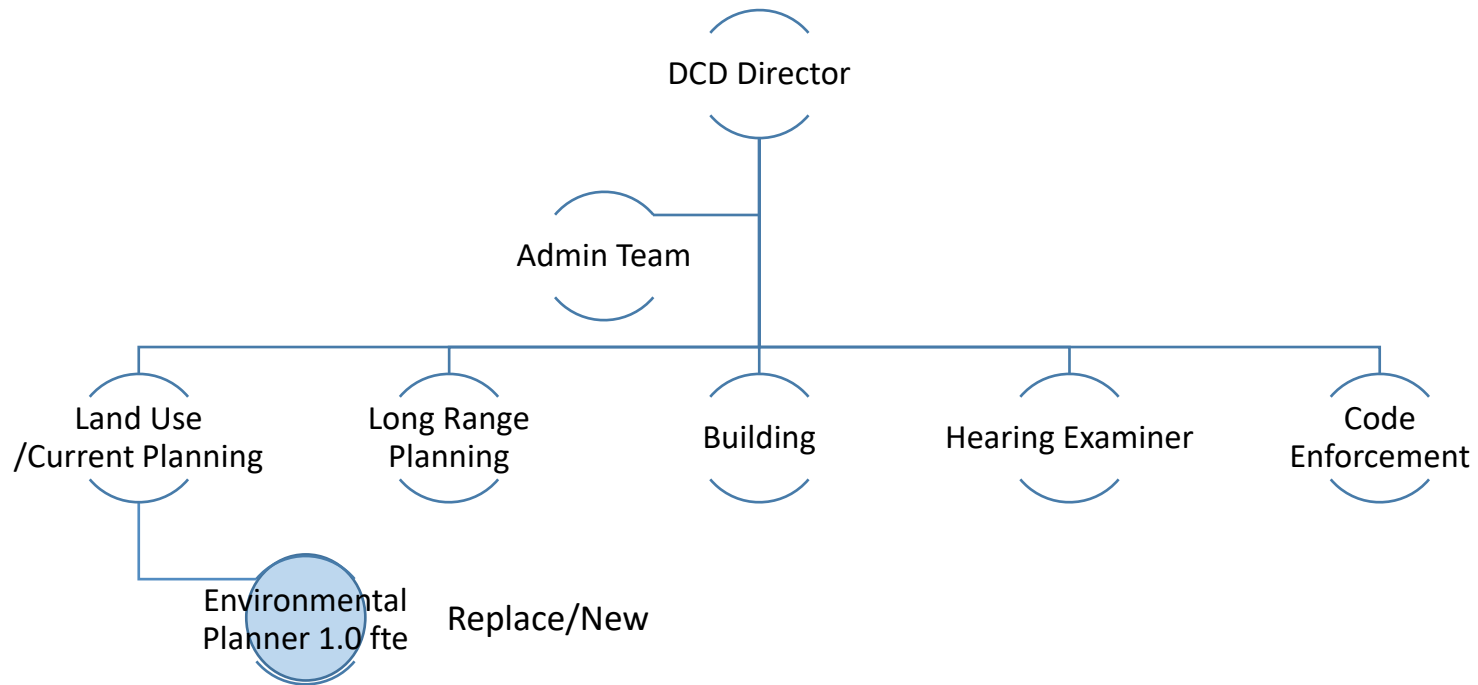


# (Climate &) Environmental Stewardship Dept Proposed Structure





# Dept of Community Development Proposed Staffing Placement in Organization





# Environmental Inspector (1.0 FTE, Replacement)

*To address staff shortages and gaps in technical review, and inspection of existing stormwater and environmental rules/codes*

- Stormwater reviews and inspections
- Support surface water/ 18.35 Critical Areas review w DCD & implement inspections
- Support nearshore/marine 18.50 SMP project review with DCD & implement inspections
- Environmental complaint inspection and investigation
- State and federal agency coordination
- Mitigation tracking and follow-up

**Staffing Cost Estimate:** \$91,500 annually

**Funding (already in the budget):**

- Clean Water Utility: \$50,000
- Development review fees: \$41,500





# Climate & Sustainability Coordinator (0.8-1.0 FTE, New)

*To address critical communications needs and community interest in advancing climate and sustainability actions within the County*

- Communications lead on environmental action
- Inter-department climate action coordination & tracking
- Stewardship outreach and business engagement
- Climate policy and Climate Action Plan support
- Grant pursuit for managed retreat, climate action
- Support sustainable tourism planning (LTAC funded)

**Staffing Cost Estimate:** \$80,600 (0.8 fte)-\$96,700 (1.0 fte) annually. Program funds for communications:\$15,000

## **Proposed Funding annually:**

- County Current: **\$55,600-\$66,700**
- Solid Waste Utility: \$20,000
- Clean Water Utility: \$10,000
- Marine Program Grants: \$5,000
- *LTAC: \$10,000 per year for STP in 2021-2022*
- *Secured grants: \$10,000 (2023 onward)*

*Currently have temp, limited duration staffing at 0.18 fte*





# Environmental Planner (1.0 FTE, Replaced/New)

*To address the extensive reviews and follow-up required for Critical Areas and Shorelines*

- *Leads review for compliance with CAO and SMP regulations, and state environmental law*
- *Processes complaint investigations of environmental code violations*
- *Permit coordination with partnering state and federal regulatory agencies*
- *Provide technical assistance to county departments*

**Cost Estimate:** \$110,000 annually

## **Funding:**

- General Fund





# Summary of Costs

| Position & Program                    | Status                     | General Fund         | Utilities           | Review Fees         | Grants              | Total                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Environmental Inspector               | Replacement FTE            | \$ -                 | \$ 50,000.00        | \$ 41,500.00        | \$ -                | \$ 91,500.00         |
| Climate & Sustainability Coordinator* | New FTE (temp at .18 now)  | \$ 66,700.00         | \$ 30,000.00        | \$ -                | \$ 15,000.00        | \$ 111,700.00        |
| Environmental Planner                 | Restored FTE from 2020 cut | \$ 110,000.00        |                     | TBD                 |                     | \$ 110,000.00        |
| <b>Totals</b>                         |                            | <b>\$ 176,700.00</b> | <b>\$ 80,000.00</b> | <b>\$ 41,500.00</b> | <b>\$ 15,000.00</b> | <b>\$ 313,200.00</b> |
| *Includes \$15,000 in program funding |                            |                      |                     |                     |                     |                      |

# Overview of Environmental Advisory Committees



NEW  
Climate  
Sustain-  
ability

- County Required
- Reps of other County Advisory Committees participate
- Focus to coordinate Climate and Sustainability efforts across orgs and sectors
- Delivers public outreach & awareness re actions
- Seeks funding for efforts

Clean  
Water

- County Required
- Every other Month
- 7-12 members

Marine  
(3)

- Grant Required
- Monthly/ quarterly
  - Marine Resources (14)
  - Salmon Recovery CAG/TAG (10)
- Local Integrating Org – expanded cultural engagement (14)

Solid  
Waste

- State Required
- Quarterly
- 12 Members

- Continue with remote based meetings for efficiency, footprint
- Staff experts serve each group

# Requested Action

## *Discuss and Motion to any or all of the following:*

- Elevate Environmental Resources Division to an independent Department and appoint its director. New name TBD. (still co-housed with PW-Roads)
- Direct ER to hire an environmental inspector, replacing an existing but recently vacated position (already in budget).
- Direct ER to hire a climate & sustainability coordinator, creating a new (0.8-1.0)FTE half funded with general funds, plus 15K in C&S program support.
- Direct Department of Community Development to hire an Environmental Planner to replace former long range manager position.
- Establish a new Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee to ensure coordination and communication of actions across departments and sectors to feed into existing County Advisory and Commissions.



# Mission (Reworked)

*We implement projects and programs in partnership with others, to protect and restore our Island environment and culture, while building resiliency within a changing climate.*

