



**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AND  
THE STANISLAUS SWORN DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION  
2017-2020**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS AND  
THE STANISLAUS SWORN DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION (SSDA)**

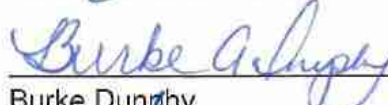
This agreement is entered into between the County of Stanislaus and the Stanislaus Sworn Deputies Association (SSDA) representing the Sworn Deputy Sheriff's Bargaining Unit.


Pursuant to the Employee relations Ordinance of the County and Section 3500 et seq. of the Government Code, the duly authorized representatives of the County and the SSDA having met and conferred in good faith concerning the issues of wages, hours and terms and conditions of employment as herein set forth, declare their agreement to the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.


**FOR THE COUNTY:**

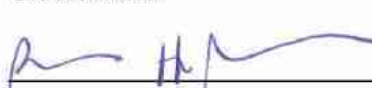
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim DeMartini, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jody Hayes  
Chief Executive Officer


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Burke Dunphy  
Lead Negotiator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tamara Thomas  
Human Resource Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ralph Ghimenti  
Undersheriff

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brandi Hopkins  
Senior Management Consultant


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mari Tamimi  
Management Consultant

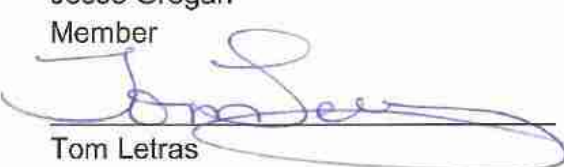
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Veronica Hernandez  
Sheriff's Human Resource Manager

**FOR SSDA:**


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Jarvis  
Labor Representative

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Berndt  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesse Grogan  
Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Letras  
Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marissa Wyatt  
Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Winter  
Member

DATE SIGNED May 23, 2018

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**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Sheriff's Represented Bargaining Units Reduction in Force Policy.

Attachment B: Discipline of Permanent Classified Employees

Attachment C: Letter dated November 20, 1992 re Conflict of Interest

Attachment D: Letter dated April 15, 1991 re Witness Expenses Related to Binding Arbitration

Attachment E: Health Insurance Agreement

## **ARTICLE 1. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

### **1.1 TERM OF AGREEMENT**

This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the thirty-six (36) month period commencing on July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2020

### **1.2 EMPLOYEES COVERED**

This Agreement covers the wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment for those employees in the classification of Deputy Sheriff.

### **1.3 RECOGNITION**

The County recognizes the Stanislaus Sworn Deputies Association as the sole and exclusive representative for all employees in the bargaining unit.

### **1.4 SEVERABILITY OF AGREEMENT**

It is not the intent of the parties hereto to violate any laws, rulings, or regulations of any governmental authority or agency having jurisdiction over the subjects of this collective bargaining agreement, and the parties hereto agree that in the event that any provisions of this Agreement are finally held or determined to be illegal or void as being in contravention of such laws, rulings, or regulations, nevertheless, the remainder of the agreement shall remain in full force and effect unless the parts so found to be void are wholly inseparable from the remaining portion of this agreement.

### **1.5 FULL UNDERSTANDING, MODIFICATION, AND WAIVER**

- A. This Agreement sets forth the full and entire understanding of the parties regarding the matters set forth herein, and any and all prior or existing Memoranda of Understanding, Understandings, and Agreements regarding the matters set forth herein, whether formal or informal, are hereby superseded and terminated in their entirety.
- B. Existing practices and/or benefits which have a direct effect on employee wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment which are not referenced in this Agreement shall continue without change unless modified or abolished by mutual agreement of the parties. The parties understand and agree that the provisions of mutual agreement shall not apply to issues under conditions of

employment unless it can be shown that they affect wages, hours, or other substantial terms or conditions of employment.

The continuation of these existing practices and/or benefits is contingent upon there being practices and benefits that are recognized by the parties as open and notorious and clear and known and regular and consistent. Examples, without limitation, would be those established in writing or those created by custom and practice known to both sides for a substantial period of time. It is the intent of the parties that management trials, test cases individual or small group practices, or sporadic practices that have not been sufficiently evaluated and accepted by management not be considered an established pattern, practice, or benefit within the meaning of this clause.

- C. It is the intent of the parties that ordinances, Board resolutions, and rules and regulations enacted pursuant to this Agreement shall be administered and observed in good faith.
- D. Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude the parties from mutually agreeing to meet and confer on any subject within the scope of representation during the term of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 2. ASSOCIATION & COUNTY ISSUES**

### **2.1 COUNTY RIGHTS**

Stanislaus County retains the exclusive right, except as expressly stated herein, to operate and direct the affairs of the departments of county government and all of their various aspects, including, but not limited do the right to direct the work force; to plan, direct, and control all of the operations and services of the county; to determine the methods, means, organization and schedule by which such operations and services are to be conducted; to assign and transfer employees within the various departments; to hire, promote, suspend, demote, discharge, reprimand, and evaluate employees; to relieve employees from duty due to lack of work or other legitimate reasons set forth in the County's Reduction-In-Force Policy; to change or eliminate existing methods, equipment, or facilities in order to maintain or increase the efficiency of governmental operations; and to exercise complete control and discretion over its organization and the technology of performing its work. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to preclude meeting and conferring between the employer and employee/Association regarding the practical consequences that decisions on these matters may have on wages, hours, terms, and conditions of employment.

## 2.2 ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

The Association retains all rights provided by federal, state and local laws and ordinances, except as abridged by this Agreement.

One (1) Association representative plus the aggrieved employee shall be allowed to participate in grievance or discipline sessions with the County with no loss of regular pay and benefits during said employees' normal work hours. Up to three (3) Association representatives shall be allowed to participate in meetings regarding wages, hours, and working conditions with the County with no loss of regular pay and benefits during said employees' normal work hours. This limit does not apply to successor contract negotiations. Any limit may be negotiated in future ground rules. Reasonable notice shall be provided to the Association representatives' supervisor(s).

The County shall permit the use of certain facilities for Association meetings, subject to the operating needs of the County.

The County shall provide the Association with an opportunity to address recruits during the Department's new hire orientation and/or during the FTO Orientation which is after the conclusion of the Academy to sign up new members and review the benefits of the Association membership.

## 2.3 NON-DISCRIMINATION & FAIR REPRESENTATION

- A. The provisions of this Agreement shall be applied without favor or discrimination based upon a protected class as described in Stanislaus County's Equal Employment Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Statement approved annually by the Board of Supervisors in compliance with federal and state laws. The parties recognize, respect, and support the County's commitment to non-discrimination in employment as set forth in the County's Equal Rights Program as well as the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.
- B. The SSDA acknowledges its responsibility to fairly represent all employees in the bargaining unit without favor or discrimination based upon a protected class as described in Stanislaus County's Equal Employment Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Statement approved annually by the Board of Supervisors in compliance with federal and state laws. The County shall not discriminate or take adverse action against employees because they are members of the Association, participate in lawful Association activities, or exercise their right to Association representation.

## 2.4 AGENCY SHOP

The parties acknowledge that the Sworn Deputy Sheriff's Bargaining Unit has been declared an agency shop in accordance with Government Code Section 3502.5(b). Designation of an agency shop requires all employees in the bargaining unit to either join



the recognized association, pay a service fee as determined by the association, or meet the religious objection requirement per Government Code Section 3502.5(c).

## 2.5 DUES DEDUCTION

The County shall deduct Association dues and other authorized deductions from members' paychecks using an appropriate authorization form, and will forward said deductions to the Association on a twice-monthly basis, following the first two paydays of each month. In the event the Association changes its dues deduction amount, the County will process the change not more than thirty (30) days after receiving notice from the Association of the change; the change will take effect at the start of the first full period following.

## 2.6 ASSOCIATION TIME BANK

An Association Time Bank (ATB) has been established for the purpose of allowing SSDA members to request paid time off including participation in Association sponsored training and conferences and workshops. Any request of ATB time shall require approval of the President prior to submission.

ATB requests shall follow the same policy for approval as vacation time. ATB time requests shall be approved unless staffing is required on an overtime basis in order for the request to be approved. The Sheriff reserves the right to approve ATB requests which incur overtime costs. ATB time shall not supersede previously approved vacation requests of other Sheriff's personnel.

Upon ratification each employee covered by this bargaining unit shall contribute two-and-one-half (2.5) hours of vacation leave to the ATB. During the first full pay period that begins in January of each year, each employee covered by this MOU shall contribute an equal amount of hours, or a portion thereof as determined by the Association President, up to two-and-one-half (2.5) hours of vacation leave to the Association Time Bank. This time, if not utilized by the Association within the year it is contributed, shall not be returned to the contributing members, nor shall this time be subject to cash-out, but rolled over to the next year's ATB.

The Sheriff shall allow eighty (80) hours of release time on an annual basis for mutual business that benefits both the County and the Association. This release time is in addition to the Association Time Bank. The use of the County-contributed hours must meet existing County rules and shall be used by the designated eligible SSDA officers for the benefit of the SSDA and the County.

The Association shall hold the County and its officers and employees harmless for transferring the vacation time from employees covered by this MOU as provided for in this Section.

## 2.7 NO STRIKE

The SSDA, and its members and representatives, shall not engage in, authorize, sanction, or support any strike, slowdown, stoppage of work, curtailment of production, concerted refusal of overtime work, refusal to operate designated equipment (provided such equipment is safe and sound), or refusal to perform customary duties.

## 2.8 REDUCTION-IN-FORCE POLICY

A joint Reduction-In-Force policy has been established and agreed to for the following four bargaining units effective August 7, 2012:

Custodial Deputy Sheriff's Bargaining Unit  
Sworn Deputy Sheriff's Bargaining Unit  
Sheriff's Supervisor Bargaining Unit  
Sheriff's Management Bargaining Unit

The joint Reduction-In-Force Policy included in this Agreement as Attachment A applies to all employees covered by this Agreement. The joint Reduction-In-Force Policy may only be amended by mutual agreement of the County and all four (4) represented bargaining units.

## 2.9 SAFETY PROGRAM

The SSDA shall support the County's safety and loss control efforts. The parties shall strive to reduce the number of industrial injuries among employees and maintain a safe place of employment and to encourage employees to perform their work in a safe manner.

## **ARTICLE 3. SALARIES AND OTHER COMPENSATION**

### **3.1 SALARIES**

Employees shall receive a three percent (3.0%) wage increase effective the first full pay period following July 1, 2017.

Employees shall receive a one percent (1.0%) equity adjustment effective the first full pay period following July 1, 2017.

Employees shall receive a one percent (1.0%) equity adjustment effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2018.

Employees shall receive a three percent (3.0%) wage increase effective the first full pay period following July 1, 2018.

Employees shall receive a three percent (3.0%) wage increase effective the first full pay period following July 1, 2019.

### **3.2 SALARY ADVANCEMENT**

Consistent with County Code section 3.24.030 B Employees shall be eligible for advancement to the next step of their salary range on their anniversary date after one (1) year of continuous service at the current step. Eligibility for advancement to subsequent salary steps shall thereafter be based on one (1) year of satisfactory continuous service at the prior step until the employee reaches the maximum step of the appropriate salary range.

### **3.3 POSTPONEMENT OF ANNIVERSARY DATE**

Any leave of absence without pay, or other time off without pay exceeding fifteen (15) calendar days, shall cause the employee's anniversary date to be postponed by the equivalent number of calendar days.

### **3.4 SALARY UPON DEMOTION**

Employees who are released during probationary service from a position which they had been promoted, demoted, or transferred shall be returned to the same salary step in the appropriate salary range as had been held prior to the promotion, demotion, or transfer. The employee's salary review date, if applicable, shall be adjusted by the equivalent number of months during which an employee did not hold the classification to which he or she is returning.

### 3.5 SALARY ON PROMOTION

The County guarantees a five percent (5%) minimum salary increase on promotion in accordance with the existing County Code Provisions. An exception to this provision shall be made if the step to which the employee is promoted is six (6) cents or less per hour under the minimum five percent (5%) increase. This provision shall apply when promotions to classifications within the bargaining unit occur or promotion to classifications assigned to bargaining units containing this provision.

### 3.6 SPECIAL & COLLATERAL ASSIGNMENT PAY PROVISIONS

Employees assigned to the following assignments shall receive the Specialty Pay associated with such assignment. Specialty Pay shall be calculated above the employee's base rate of pay.

<b>SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS</b>		<b>SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS</b>	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Specialty Pay</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Specialty Pay</b>
Air Support – Licensed Aircraft Inspector	10.0%	SWAT Team	2.5%
Air Support – Pilot in Command	10.0%	Background Investigator	2.5%
Air Support Flight Officer – Non Pilot	2.5%	Community Deputy	2.5%
Air Support – Pilot	5.0%	Detective – Crimes Against Children	2.5%
Air Support Licensed Mechanic	5.0%	Detective – Crimes Against Persons (Robbery / Homicide)	2.5%
Bomb Team	2.5%	Detective – Gangs	2.5%
Canine Trainer	2.5%	Detective – General Crimes (includes contract city detectives)	2.5%
Canine Unit	2.5%	High Tech Crimes Unit	2.5%
Designated Range Master / Armorer	2.5%	Internal Affairs	2.5%
Dive Team	2.5%	STING	2.5%
Training Officer (Field)	2.5%	Traffic Motorcycle Deputy	2.5%
Hostage Negotiator	2.5%	Training Officer (Training Deputy)	2.5%
Mounted Unit	2.5%	Transportation Deputy (with Class B License)	2.5%



- A. The parties agree that there is no compensable off-duty work being regularly performed in connection with at least the following assignments which receive a special pay premium: SWAT, Dive Squad, Bomb Team, Detective Unit, Background Investigator, Mounted Unit, Hostage Negotiator, Field Training Officer, Community Deputy, High Tech Crimes Unit, Transportation, Designated Range Master, Motor Officer, and Air Support Flight Officer/Non-Pilot. In the event it is finally determined by a Court that, contrary to the County's understanding some compensable work was being performed, all such work will be compensated at minimum wage. Further, SSDA agrees that the special pay premium will be applied, to the fullest extent allowed under the law, as compensation in full satisfaction of any such claim that is determined valid by a court of competent jurisdiction. This section shall not diminish any employee's right to compensation for work specifically assigned to be performed outside of the employee's regularly scheduled duty hours.
- B. The parties agree that pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims Relating to the Canine Handlers ("Canine Agreement"), effective January 13, 1997, each represented employee who is assigned as a canine handler and has a dog assigned to his or her care, training, and upkeep, shall be paid eighteen (18) minutes per day at the regular rate of pay for care, grooming, and transportation. This work when performed over and above the designated work period shall be compensated at time-and-one-half of the canine handler's regular rate of pay. All other terms and conditions set forth in the Canine Agreement remain in full force and effect.
- C. The parties disagree whether there is any compensable off duty work performed by members of the Mounted Unit. If a covered employee asserts a claim for off-duty compensable work, that employee will no longer be entitled to a two and one-half percent (2.5%) premium. In the event it is finally determined by a Court that, contrary to the County's understanding, some compensable work was being performed, all such work will be compensated at minimum wage.

Each mounted shift shall include three (3) hours per day for members of the Mounted Unit for grooming and transportation of their mounts.

- D. The additional compensation as described herein shall be earned by one incumbent for as many special pay assignments as the Sheriff assigns and approves.
- E. Such assignment pay shall not be paid: (a) during periods of absences for disability leaves (including, without limitation, 4850 leave); (b) unpaid leaves of absences; or (c) any time during which the employee is unable to perform the assignment for a full pay period.

- F. The Special assignments for Traffic Motor deputies, Civil Division Deputies, Gang Suppression Unit and STING K9 begin upon ratification of the MOU on 12/3/09.

### 3.7 POST CERTIFICATE

#### A. POST Intermediate Certificate

Employees who possess a POST Intermediate Certificate shall receive six and one-half percent (6.5%) above their base salary.

#### B. POST Advanced Certificate

Employees who possess a POST Advanced Certificate shall receive ten percent (10.0%) above their base salary.

### 3.8 ACTING SERGEANT COMPENSATION

An Employee assigned as an acting sergeant for a minimum of two (2) hours shall receive an additional seven and one-half percent (7.5%) compensation above their base rate of pay for each hour worked.

### 3.9 BILINGUAL CERTIFICATION PAY

- A. The County will designate certain languages as eligible for bilingual certification. The County currently recognizes the following languages: Spanish; Cambodian; Laotian; Hmong; Greek; Assyrian; Farsi; Russian; Vietnamese; Portuguese; and Sign Language. The County's Chief Executive Office may designate other languages as needed.
- B. Employees asserting their competence in any County designated bilingual language shall be given the opportunity to test for bilingual certification. The County CEO or designee is responsible for conducting bilingual certification testing within a reasonable amount of time. Employees will be tested for verbal and/or written bilingual proficiency as determined by the County CEO and Sheriff. Employees who pass the test will be certified as bilingual.
- C. Employees certified as bilingual shall receive additional compensation of two and one-half percent (2.5%) of base pay, effective the first full pay period following the certification date. Only those employees certified as bilingual will be granted bilingual certification pay.
- D. Employees receiving bilingual certification pay shall use their bilingual skills within the course of employment to maintain the certification pay. Bilingual employees

who are not certified as bilingual will not be subject to discipline for declining to use bilingual skills in the course of employment.

- E. Bilingual pay shall not be paid during periods of absences for disability leaves (including, without limitation, 4850 leave) or unpaid leaves of absences during which the employee is unable to perform the assignment for a full pay period.

### **3.10 UNIFORM ALLOWANCE**

The uniform allowance shall be one thousand two hundred twenty dollars (\$1,220.00) per year paid monthly in twelve (12) equal payments.

Employees are responsible for the maintenance, care, purchase, and replacement of their uniforms.

Employees absent from duty for three (3) or more consecutive calendar months due to 4850 or other disability-related leave shall not be eligible to receive a uniform allowance. The allowance will be reinstated the month following the employee's return.

Refer to Section 11.5 Personal Property Damage for reimbursement of personal property damaged or destroyed in the line of duty.

## **ARTICLE 4. OVERTIME AND OTHER PAYS**

### **4.1 OVERTIME**

- A. Overtime shall be compensated at a rate of one-and-one-half (1 ½) times the employee's regular rate of pay for all time worked beyond eighty (80) hours in a pay period. In calculating overtime eligibility, sick leave time taken shall not be considered as time "worked." All other forms of paid time off in the form of vacation time, compensatory time, bereavement leave, jury duty, holiday pay, paid military leave, etc., shall be considered time "worked" for the purpose of overtime eligibility.
- B. When an employee exceeds their scheduled work hours, the Department may flex the employee's remaining work schedule in the pay period for up to four (4) hours without mutual agreement of the employee. When an employee has accumulated over four (4) hours of additional work in the pay period, or for any additional work performed on a non-scheduled work day, the employer may flex the employee's remaining work schedule in the pay period by mutual agreement.
- C. An employee ordered to work on a regular day off (RDO), a compensatory time off (CTO) day, or approved vacation day, shall be compensated at time-and-one-half for time worked. Employees who volunteer to work on a RDO, CTO or vacation day shall be paid in accordance with Paragraph A, above.

#### 4.2 COMPENSATORY TIME OFF (CTO)

Overtime worked is accrued at one-and-one-half (1 ½) pay rate and may either be paid in cash or as compensatory time off (CTO) at the election of the employee. Employees who voluntarily work overtime to replace another employee who uses CTO to take time off shall only be paid in cash for hours worked and not be entitled to receive CTO for those hours worked.

Compensatory time may be accrued to a maximum of two hundred and forty (240) hours. Accumulation of CTO in excess of the maximum shall be paid in cash at the employee's regular rate of pay. Employees may submit requests at a minimum of eight (8) hours to cash-out accumulated compensatory time. The County shall cash-out such requests in the following pay period in which it is received.

Employees may be permitted to use CTO within a reasonable period of time of a request as long as the request for time off does not unduly disrupt department operations. The department shall make a good faith effort to approve the request and notify the employee as soon as practical. If vacation relief or other coverage is not available, the request shall be posted and/or made available or voluntary coverage.

Employees may not demand specific date(s) off using CTO, nor may the Department order employees to take time off as CTO.

All employees who promote or separate from service shall cash-out the total accumulation of compensatory time at the employee's regular rate of pay immediately prior to the promotion or upon separation from service.

#### 4.3 CALL-BACK

The parties agree that the three (3) hour minimum call-back shall apply to members of the bargaining unit in any official call-back situation.

#### 4.4 COURT PAY

Any deputy summoned to court or hearing during his or her off-duty time arising from the course and scope of employment shall be compensated at time-and-one-half.

Any appearance during an employee's off-duty time during the a.m. hours shall be compensated once with a minimum of four (4) hours at time-and-one-half. Any time spent beyond four (4) consecutive a.m. hours shall be compensated at time-and-one-half.

In addition, any appearance during an employee's off-duty time during the p.m. hours shall be compensated with a minimum of four (4) hours at time-and-one-half. Any time spent beyond four (4) consecutive p.m. hours shall be paid at time-and-one-half.

The minimum as described above shall only be paid for appearances that are one (1) hour or more beyond the beginning or ending of a regularly assigned shift. Appearances



that are within one (1) hour of the beginning or ending of a regularly assigned shift are considered continuation of shift and shall be compensated at time-and-one-half.

An employee receiving Court Pay shall not be eligible for any other on-duty paid time status during such time. An employee who is working an overtime shift shall not be eligible for Court Pay.

Employees subpoenaed to appear in court shall call-in to the Sheriff's Department within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the day of the required court appearance in order to determine whether the subpoena has been canceled. Should the employee fail to call the Sheriff's Department within the twenty-four (24) hour period and appear at court for a case which has been canceled, court pay shall not be paid to the employee.

The twenty-four (24) hour time frame for call-in to the Sheriff's Department shall be a window period of 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight) of the day preceding the required court appearance. The employee shall be paid court pay if he or she calls within the required time period, is told to appear, and the case is canceled or rescheduled.

#### 4.5 ON-CALL PAY

Any member of this bargaining unit who is required to stay available and accessible in an on-call capacity shall be compensated for this on-call assignment.

A member is deemed "available and accessible" when:

- A. They can leave their residence within thirty (30) minutes and respond in a reasonable time; and
- B. There is no alcohol impairment.

Employees who are on-call shall be compensated two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for each seven (7) day period of on-call assignment. If the on-call assignment is for less than a full seven (7) day period, on-call pay shall be paid on a per diem basis (calculated at thirty-five dollars seventy-one cents (\$35.71) per day).

#### 4.6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME (Spring Forward)

Employees who are at work during the hour that the time change occurs shall be compensated for all hours actually worked. Employees by mutual agreement with their supervisor may, work an additional hour, or use an hour of their accrued leave balances (vacation, SALT or CTO) to account for the time. Employees may flex their time by mutual agreement with their supervisor.

#### 4.7 STANDARD TIME (Fall Back)

Employees who are at work during the hour that the time change occurs shall be compensated for all hours actually worked. Employees by mutual agreement with their

supervisor may, take the additional hour as overtime or CTO, to account for the time. Employees may flex their time by mutual agreement with their supervisor.

## **ARTICLE 5. RETIREMENT**

### **5.1 NEW MEMBER DEFINITION**

Any employee that is designated a new member is automatically enrolled in the Tier 6 Retirement Plan as prescribed by the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2012 ("PEPRA") (Cal. Gov't Code 7522 *et seq.*). California Government Code section 7522.04(f) defines a New Member as any of the following:

- A. An individual who becomes a member of any public retirement system for the first time on or after January 1, 2013, and who was not a member of any other public retirement system prior to that date.
- B. An individual who becomes a member of a public retirement system for the first time on or after January 1, 2013, and who was a member of another public retirement system prior to that date, but who was not subject to current reciprocity rules.
- C. An individual who was an active member in a retirement system and who, after a break in service of more than six months, returned to active membership in that system with a new employer.

### **5.2 SAFETY EMPLOYEES TIER 5 RETIREMENT PLAN**

Employees who were first employed prior to January 1, 2011, and with service credit greater than zero, shall be enrolled in the three percent (3%) at age fifty (50) retirement plan, and receive upon retirement, three percent (3%) per year of service credit calculated on the single highest twelve (12) consecutive months of pensionable income.

Employee contributions shall be made on a pre-tax basis and vary based on the employee's age upon entry into the retirement system and are established by StanCERA.

Employees who are rehired/reinstated with the County after January 1, 2011 are encouraged to confirm their membership status and retirement tier reinstatement options with StanCERA.

### **5.3 SAFETY EMPLOYEES TIER 2 RETIREMENT PLAN**

Employees who were first employed between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012 and all newly hired employees who are not New Members as defined by PEPRA shall be enrolled in the two percent (2%) at age fifty (50) retirement plan, and receive upon

retirement, two percent (2%) per year of service credit calculated on the highest thirty-six (36) consecutive months of pensionable income.

Employee contributions shall be made on a pre-tax basis and vary based on the employee's age upon entry into the retirement system and are established by StanCERA.

Employees who are rehired/reinstated with the County after January 1, 2011 are encouraged to confirm their membership status and retirement tier reinstatement options with StanCERA.

#### **5.4 SAFETY EMPLOYEES PEPRA TIER 6 RETIREMENT PLAN**

Members of the bargaining unit who were first employed on or after January 1, 2013, or who are considered New Members as defined by PEPRA shall be enrolled in the Safety Option Plan 2 and receive upon retirement, a monthly pension that corresponds with the age and service factors associated with the Safety Option Plan 2 and the member's pensionable income subject to the limitations set forth by California Government Code Section 7522.10.

Individual member contributions shall be made on a pre-tax basis and shall be half the normal cost, as determined annually by StanCERA, regardless of the member's age upon entry into the retirement system.

#### **5.5 THIRTY YEAR PAY RETIREMENT BENEFIT**

Members in Retirement Tier 4 (formerly Tier 1), shall maintain the retirement benefit known as "30-year pay." Tier 4 members are eligible for this benefit, as determined by StanCERA, when they have reached thirty (30) years of service and are no longer required to make contributions to the retirement system. The County will use three and three quarters percent (3.75%) as the retirement pick-up amount utilized in the "30-year pay" calculation to determine the level of compensation the employee will receive.

### **ARTICLE 6. GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS**

#### **6.1 IRS CODE SECTIONS**

Effective March, 1991, the County implemented the mandatory premium conversion plan under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code, limited to employee health insurance premium contributions.

#### **6.2 GROUP PLANS AVAILABLE**

Health, dental, and vision plans shall be made available to County employees and, where applicable, their dependents through a cafeteria plan. These plans are, except the self-insured dental and vision plans, independent group health plans which may adjust their

respective premiums or benefits as deemed necessary by the plan provider. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the County's contribution is fixed and any increase in premiums is the responsibility of the employee.

Employee health insurance benefits are negotiated in a separate meet and confer process between the County and all represented employee bargaining units. A copy of the health insurance agreement is included in this MOU as Attachment E.

### **6.3 LIFE INSURANCE**

Employees enrolled in one of the health insurance plans shall be eligible for a ten thousand-dollar (\$10,000) term life insurance policy. This benefit is available for the employee only. Additional life insurance may be purchased at employee expense through the flexible benefit plan.

## **ARTICLE 7. LEAVES**

### **7.1 HOLIDAYS**

- A. The County recognizes the following holidays, which are valued at eight (8) hours each (for a total of 84 hours). Holiday time taken off is on an hour-for-hour basis.

January 1, New Year's Day  
Third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Third Monday in February, President's Day  
Last Monday in May, Memorial Day  
July 4, Independence Day  
First Monday in September, Labor Day  
November 11, Veterans' Day  
Thursday in November designated as Thanksgiving Day  
Day after Thanksgiving Day  
December 24, Christmas Eve (4 hours)  
December 25, Christmas Day

- B. Employees are entitled to four (4) hours of holiday time when Christmas Eve falls on any day of the week except Saturday or Sunday. Employees required to work full shifts, including Saturday or Sunday, on Christmas Eve shall be credited with four (4) hours of vacation time.
- C. Only the immediate days of mourning or holiday declared by the President and Governor shall be County holidays in addition to the specific list of holidays above. The County may add holidays or additional hours beyond the minimums set forth in this Agreement.



- D. Employees must be in paid employment status on the day before and the day after a holiday in order to receive holiday pay or holiday credit.
- E. If January 1<sup>st</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, November 11<sup>th</sup>, or December 25<sup>th</sup> occurs on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be observed as the holiday for employees assigned to a 5-2 (Saturday and Sunday off) work schedule.
- F. If January 1<sup>st</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, November 11<sup>th</sup>, or December 25<sup>th</sup> occurs on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be observed as the holiday for employees assigned to a 5-2 (Saturday and Sunday off) work schedule.
- G. Employees who are required to work on a recognized holiday as determined by their work schedule shall be compensated at a rate of double-time for each hour worked on the holiday, up to a maximum value of the individual holiday. Hours worked on a holiday beyond the maximum value of the individual holiday shall not be paid at a double-time rate. The double-time compensation is for work on the actual holiday only and does not apply to County observances on alternate days. Employees shall be considered "working the holiday" based upon the start time of their shift. Employees who work on a holiday shall not receive equivalent vacation time credit on an hour for hour basis.
- H. For employees assigned to a 4/10 schedule, whenever a holiday falls on the employee's regularly scheduled workday and the employee is not required to work, a two (2) hour deduction will be made from the employee's comp time, vacation, and/or SALT. This two (2) hour deduction is necessary to account for the difference between the eight (8) hours of holiday pay and the ten (10) hour day. At the employee's request, and with pre-approval from the Sheriff or designee, the employee can choose to flex their work schedule in the week of a recognized holiday to work the additional two (2) hours to account for this difference rather than have the time deducted from leave accruals.
- I. When a recognized holiday falls on the employee's regularly scheduled day off and the employee is not required to work, a holiday credit shall be received for the maximum value of the individual holiday.
- J. When a recognized holiday falls on the employee's regularly scheduled day off and the employee is required to work the holiday in addition to their regularly scheduled weekly hours (i.e., overtime), the employee shall be compensated at a rate of double-time-and-one-half for each hour worked on the holiday, up to a maximum value of the holiday. Any hours worked on the holiday beyond the maximum value of the individual holiday shall not be paid at double-time-and-one-half rate. The double-time-and-one-half compensation is for work on the actual holiday only and does not apply to County observances on alternate days.

- K. Holiday while on vacation – If a holiday falls during a regular employee's vacation, that day shall not be charged against the employee's accrued vacation and will be paid as holiday.

## 7.2 VACATION ACCUMULATION RATE

Consistent with the County Code the following vacation accumulation rates shall be in effect during the term of this agreement.

3.08 hours per pay period (ten (10) days a year) for the first (1<sup>st</sup>) through completion of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) year of continuous service.

4.62 hours per pay period (fifteen (15) days a year) for the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year through and including the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) year of continuous service.

6.16 hours per pay period (twenty (20) days a year) for the start of the eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) year through and including the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) year of continuous service.

7.70 hours per pay period (twenty-five (25) days a year) for the twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) year of continuous service and thereafter until separation from County service.

In addition, employees shall earn sixteen (16) hours of "special" vacation time each calendar year in lieu of optional holiday time. "Special" vacation shall be earned in addition to the regular vacation and shall be earned by prorating said amount over twenty-six (26) pay periods.

## 7.3 VACATION ACCUMULATION MAXIMUM

Vacation time in the amount not to exceed four hundred fifty (450) hours shall be carried over on employee accrual balances from year to year.

Employees who have reached the four hundred fifty (450) hour vacation accumulation maximum shall not accrue any additional vacation time. Accrual of vacation time shall again commence in the pay period that the employee's vacation time has fallen below the four hundred fifty (450) hour maximum. It is the policy of the County that the employees take at least their normal vacation each year; provided, however, that for reasons deemed sufficient by the Sheriff, an employee may, with the consent of the Sheriff, take less than the normal vacation time with a correspondingly longer vacation the following year.

Employees who are nearing the vacation accumulation maximum of four hundred fifty (450) hours (at three hundred seventy (370) hours or higher) shall be notified of vacation accrual balances through the employee's paycheck advice notice. Employees are encouraged to request vacation upon receiving this notice pursuant to department procedures.

Failure by the employee to make a good faith effort to request vacation in accordance with department procedures will result in vacation accrual stoppage at four hundred fifty (450) hours.

If the employee does make a good faith effort to request vacation time and the request is denied by the Department, or the approved vacation is canceled, or cannot be utilized by reason of subpoena or other required duties of the Department, the employee shall receive up to eighty (80) hours of vacation cash-out. It is understood employees may have to request vacation time outside of high use times, i.e., holiday seasons and summer months.

#### 7.4 VACATION LEAVE LIMITED CASH CONVERSION

Employees with one hundred (100) or more hours of accrued vacation on the records may request conversion into cash payments of up to forty (40) hours of accrued vacation not more than once in a fiscal year.

Such conversions may be granted upon approval of the Sheriff or designee. Consideration will be given for circumstances of the employee's request (i.e., emergency, last year of service, etc.) and the department's budget constraints.

#### 7.5 SICK LEAVE ACCRUALS

In accordance with County Code Section 3.40.010, regular full-time employees shall be entitled to three and seven-tenths (3.7) working hours or a proportionately equal number of sick leave pay for each bi-weekly pay period of actual hours paid.

#### 7.6 SICK LEAVE USAGE

Sick leave may be used by an employee in the case of a bona fide illness.

Sick leave may also be used by an employee in the event of a serious illness where he/she must care for a member of their immediate family. Sick leave used for family leave shall be governed by the California Labor Code Section 233.

Immediate family is normally defined as: parents (including adoptive, foster, step, and parents of the employee's spouse or registered domestic partner); spouse (including registered domestic partner); child (including adoptive, foster, step, and child of the employee's spouse or registered domestic partner); sibling; grandparents; and grandchildren. In accordance with County Code Section 3.40.010, this definition may be expanded to include other persons with whom the employee has enjoyed a parent or family-like relationship.

## 7.7 SICK LEAVE CASH-OUT

The sick leave policy of the County in effect immediately prior to the commencement of this agreement shall remain in effect during the term of this agreement, with the exception that the policy of the County concerning pay for a portion of the accrued sick leave upon termination of County employment shall be amended as follows in the consideration of the salary and other fringe benefit increases in this agreement. Employees who separate from County service as a result of death, non-service connected disability retirement, or service retirement shall be eligible to receive cash for accrued, but unused sick leave on the books at the rate of fifty percent (50%) of the salary equivalent of such sick leave.

When a member of the bargaining unit is granted a service connected disability retirement the employee shall not have the option to continue his or her disability leave charged against accrued sick time. Any accrued sick leave shall be cashed out at seventy-five percent (75%). The seventy-five percent (75%) cash-out shall be limited to this circumstance only.

Employees separated from County service for all other reasons, including but not limited to resignation and discharge, shall not be eligible to receive any cash-out of unused sick leave.

The maximum amount of sick leave that shall be applied toward the cash-out provisions as provided herein shall be six hundred (600) hours. For example, if an employee retires from County service, he or she shall be cashed out for fifty percent (50%) of six hundred (600) hours, which is three hundred (300) hours. Time in excess of the six hundred (600) hours shall continue to accrue and be used in the case of illness.

In addition, any current employee who has accrued time in excess of six hundred (600) hours shall, upon retirement, consistent with current MOU provisions, cash-out the amount of time accrued as of the pay period ending January 6, 1995 or the end of the last pay period in October, whichever time is higher. The total sick leave accrual on the date for each employee shall become the employee's individual maximum or cap for sick leave cash-out purposes while the employee remains in the continuous employment of the County. For example, if the employee has one thousand (1,000) hours on the date the cash-out maximum takes effect, he or she shall be cashed out for fifty percent (50%) of one thousand (1,000) hours, which is five hundred (500) hours, upon retirement. Any time accrued and in excess of this time shall not be subject to cash-out. The County agrees that any sick leave credited toward retirement of the employee shall be made in good faith.

The purpose of this provision is to place a ceiling on the County's cash-out liability for sick leave while maintaining unlimited accrual of sick leave for catastrophic illness.

If the County establishes a program which allows for the conversion of sick leave cash-out benefits to cover the cost of health premiums upon retirement, that program shall be



made available to all employees covered by this Agreement. This program must meet the criteria of the Auditor-Controller and Internal Revenue Codes for tax purposes.

#### **7.8 BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**

In accordance with County Code Section 3.40.010, sub-section C, in the event of a death in the employee's immediate family, regular full-time employees may be granted up to forty (40) working hours of leave, without a charge to an employee's leave balances.

#### **7.9 LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

- A. Leaves of absence may be approved for probationary employees, however, unpaid leaves of absences, or other absences (other than paid vacation), greater than three (3) weeks shall not count towards the minimum service period required to achieve permanent status.
- B. As a condition for a leave of absence without pay to continue, the County may require an employee on leave to provide periodic status reports demonstrating that the conditions still remain upon which the leave of absence was initially requested and approved.
- C. The granting of any leave of absence without pay or other time off without pay exceeding fifteen (15) calendar days shall cause the employee's date of eligibility for increased vacation accrual rates to be postponed by the equivalent number of days.

### **ARTICLE 8. SENIORITY AND SHIFT & VACATION BIDDING**

#### **8.1 SENIORITY**

For the purpose of shift bidding and vacation bidding, seniority is defined as time in current classification and higher classification. When a member is promoted, that member shall start a new date of seniority in that classification. However, when a member is voluntarily or involuntarily demoted, that member shall retain the time in service from the higher classification. Where two (2) or more employees have equal seniority, then total County seniority shall determine the order of seniority. An agreed upon lottery system will be used to determine seniority in case of a tie.

Any break in full-time employment (excluding paid/unpaid leave of absences) from the County shall be considered a break in service for purposes of calculating seniority. Employees returning to the bargaining unit after a break in service will start with no time in service for the purpose of calculating seniority.



## 8.2 SENIORITY SHIFT PREFERENCE

- A. All employees who have successfully completed their field training, including those on an approved leave of absence, shall bid on the basis of seniority for both their shift and squad as provided for below,
- B. Bidding shall take place during the months of January and July of each year and shall conclude by the last calendar day of the month.
- C. Shift assignments shall be approximately six (6) months in duration and shall occur in February and August of each calendar year.
- D. Employees out on extended family medical leave, military leave, disability, or 4850 must have a release to full duty, without limitations, effective within thirty (30) days after the shift change occurs to be eligible to participate in the shift bidding process. These releases must be turned in to the department a minimum of twenty-one (21) days prior to the effective date of the shift change. Employees not meeting these requirements may be assigned to a shift and squad based on department need.
- E. The Department may reserve slots on each shift for FTO and K9 assignments
- F. Excluding scheduled shift change as provided in this Article, except in cases of emergency, employees shall not involuntarily have their shifts or special assignments changed without fourteen (14) days' prior notice.

## 8.3 VACATION REQUESTS

### A. Seniority Requests

All seniority vacation requests shall be submitted during the month of January. Employees may provide, in order on the request form, one (1) priority seniority request and two (2) alternate seniority requests.

Seniority vacation requests must be one continuous block of time per calendar year.

The Department shall make a good faith effort to approve seniority vacation requests and shall respond to employees as soon as possible, but no later than the last day in February.

### B. Standard Requests

All standard vacation requests will be processed on a first come, first served basis.

### C. Vacation Restrictions

The Sheriff's Office may restrict the use of vacation during the following holidays:

Holiday	Shift
New Year's Eve	Graveyard
Fourth of July	Graveyard
Halloween	Graveyard
Cinco de Mayo (May 5 <sup>th</sup> )	All Shifts

### D. Contract City Vacation Restrictions

In addition to the holidays in Section A, each contract city, may, at the discretion of the Chief or Department, restrict the use of vacation during one event annually (e.g., Wine and Cheese Festival, Apricot Festival, or similar street fair event). This restriction applies only to deputies assigned to contract cities.

### E. Approved Vacations

Approved vacation requests shall be honored, except in cases of emergency, where employees may be recalled to work.

## **ARTICLE 9. SPECIAL / COLLATERAL ASSIGNMENT PROCESS**

Other than provided in this MOU, the number of Special or Collateral assignments receiving special pay and those which shall be renewed are at the sole discretion of the Sheriff and such decisions shall not be subject to the grievance procedure. Assignments shall be for a specific term as set forth below. Assignments may not be renewed and deputies may be removed from a special assignment at the sole discretion of the Sheriff without appeal except as expressly provided herein.

### A. Special / Collateral Assignment Process

A Special Assignment is defined as an assignment in which an employee is removed from routine patrol duties and accepts responsibility of an assignment on a regular full-time basis that is unrelated to routine patrol duties. A collateral assignment is defined as an assignment in which an employee performs regular full-time duties as assigned and in addition, accepts responsibility of an assignment on a part-time basis.

The Department shall announce openings in any paid or unpaid Special Assignment or Collateral Assignment prior to appointment. The announcement shall contain the minimum requirements for eligibility, management preferences, selections process (i.e., testing, interviews), any additional provisions associated

with assignment, relevant dates, and specific term (i.e., number of months) of the assignment.

Employees must submit a memorandum of interest in order to be considered for the position. The Department shall only consider candidates who submitted memorandums of interest in a timely manner for the position. The Department shall determine which candidates are eligible for the position and maintain sole discretion in its selection of eligible candidates for the position. However, if the Department does not receive any memoranda of interest from any eligible candidate for an opening, it may assign an employee at its sole discretion.

Special Assignments shall commence/conclude at shift change, except in case of emergency or operational requirements of the Department (i.e., promotion, termination).

All assignment terms are based on funding. Reductions in funding may result in the reduction or elimination of the number of special or collateral assignments available. If an assignment is created with dedicated time limited funding, the announcement will communicate this information.

## B. Procedures

### Term Limits

A term limit is the maximum period of time an employee can be assigned to the specialty position. The term resets at the time of appointment to another special assignment. If an employee is moved from one detective assignment to a different detective assignment with the Sheriff's Department, the term restarts. Special Assignments/Collateral Assignments may be extended for an additional two (2) years beyond the identified term based upon department need and discretion. Failure to approve an extension is not subject to the grievance procedure.

### Term for Involuntary Assignments

Personnel mandated to an assignment involuntarily may serve up to a maximum of eighteen (18) months in that assignment.

### Anniversary Date

The date in which an employee starts the Special Assignment is known as the anniversary date. Any additional compensation shall start upon appointment and continue on an annual basis up to each anniversary date. Reappointments to continue a Special Assignment must be approved by the Sheriff or designee annually each year on the employee's anniversary date. Failure to approve

reappointment to continue a Special Assignment is not subject to the grievance procedure.

### Management Rights

The Department maintains the right to reassign personnel based on the Sheriff's discretion. Employees shall not involuntarily have a Special Assignment changed without fourteen (14) days prior notice except in the case of unforeseen circumstances.

### Voluntary Removal

An employee may request to be removed from a Special/Collateral assignment resulting in a loss of additional compensation prior to their annual anniversary date.

### Reassignment

Reassignment from a Special/Collateral assignment resulting in a loss of additional compensation prior to an annual anniversary, during a term of assignment or removal that is not disciplinary in nature may be appealed within seven (7) calendar days from the notice of the reassignment by using the Sworn Personnel Administrative Appeal Process Policy.

### Temporary Assignments

Temporary training assignments for less than ninety (90) days are not subject to special pay. However, temporary assignments (other than for training purposes) for less than standard assignment periods are permitted and shall be subject to special pay.

### Break in Assignment

No break in Special Assignment is necessary to apply for another Special Assignment position. The term resets at time of appointment to another Special Assignment.

## C. Contract Cities and Court

Assignments to Contract City Patrol, Court Services, or state/federal JPAs shall not be considered Special Assignments for incentive pay purposes. The Contract City assignment shall be a three (3) year term.

All other Collateral/Special Assignments not listed shall have a term of three (3) years.

**D. Term of Assignment**

<b>Collateral Assignment Duration</b>	
<b>Indefinite Assignment</b>	
Air Support – Licensed Aircraft Inspector	
Air Support – Pilot in Command	
Air Support Flight Officer – Non-Pilot	
Air Support Flight Officer – Pilot	
Air Support Licensed Mechanic	
Bomb Team	
Canine Trainer	
Canine Unit	
Designated Marksman	
Designated Range Master / Armorer	
Dive Team	
Training Officer (Field)	
Hostage Negotiator	
Mounted Unit	
SWAT Team	
High Tech Crimes Unit	
<b>Seven (7) Year Assignment</b>	
Detective – Crimes Against Persons (Robbery/Homicide)	
<b>Five (5) Year Assignment</b>	
Detective – Special Victims Unit	
Detective – Gangs	
STING	
Training Officer (Training Center)	
<b>Four (4) Year Assignment</b>	
Civil Division Deputy	
Traffic Motorcycle Deputy	
<b>Three (3) Year Assignment</b>	
Background Investigator	
Community Deputy	
Detective – General Crimes (Includes Contract City Detectives)	
Gang Suppression Unit	
School Resource Officer	
Special Vehicle Operations Unit	
Transportation Deputy (With Class B License)	
Internal Affairs	



## E. Administrative Appeal Process

The following administrative appeal process is established pursuant to Government Code Section 3304.5. It shall supplement, though not replace, the disciplinary appeal process established by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and will not impose new obligations beyond those required by state law.

### Administrative Appeal Procedure

This procedure applies to sworn personnel requesting administrative review of alleged punitive transfers, as that term is defined by Government Code Section 3303.

#### A. Right to an Administrative Hearing

- a. Any Public Safety officer (as defined by Government Code Section 3301), who is subject to a loss of merit/specialized pay attached to the position through a transfer (as defined by Government Code Section 3303) other than dismissal, demotion, suspension (or reduction in pay in lieu of suspension), or transfer for purposes of punishment, is entitled to appeal an action prior to its imposition.
- b. Deputies subjected to dismissal, demotion, suspension (or reduction in pay in lieu of suspension), or transfer for purposes of punishment shall continue to be entitled to an appeal in accordance with existing procedures set forth in this MOU.
- c. Appeals for written reprimands will be provided in compliance with department policy.
- d. A deputy who appeals a punitive transfer under this procedure shall bear his/her own costs in association with the appeal hearing, including but not limited to, any and all attorney fees.

#### B. Notice of Appeal

- a. Within seven (7) calendar days of receipt by a deputy of notification of punitive transfer, the deputy shall notify the Sheriff in writing of the deputy's intent to appeal the alleged punitive transfer.
- b. The Notice of Appeal shall specify the substantive and procedural grounds for the appeal.
- c. The Department shall provide the deputy a written report containing the basis for the re-assignment and any supporting documentation upon which

the re-assignment decision was made within seven (7) calendar days from receipt of request for the Administrative Hearing.

**C. Hearing Officer**

A captain from outside of the deputy's chain of command shall serve as the Hearing Officer. Alternatively, the captain may designate a neutral lieutenant as the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer will issue an advisory opinion to the Sheriff.

**D. Burden of Proof/Persuasion**

The purpose of the hearing shall be to provide the deputy the opportunity to establish a record of the circumstances surrounding the action. The Department's burden shall be satisfied if the Department establishes that the action was the best one under the circumstances.

**E. Conduct of Hearing**

- a. The formal rules of evidence do not apply, although the Hearing Officer shall have the discretion to exclude evidence that is incompetent, irrelevant, or cumulative, or the presentation of which will otherwise consume undue time.
- b. The parties may present opening statements.
- c. The parties may present evidence through documents and direct testimony.
- d. The parties shall be entitled to cross-examine witnesses.
- e. Following the presentation of evidence, if any, the parties may present closing arguments.

**F. Recording of the Hearing**

If desired, either party may record the hearing.

**G. Representation**

The deputy may be represented by a representative of his or her choice at all stages of the proceedings. All costs associated by representation shall be borne by the employee. The Department shall also be entitled to representation at all stages of the proceedings.

## H. Decision

- a. The Hearing Officer shall serve the parties with written notice of his/her decision within fifteen (15) calendar days of submission of the case by the parties for decision. Time may be waived by mutual agreement.

The written report shall specifically address the following points:

- A determination of whether or not the proposed action was punitive; and
  - A determination of whether or not the proposed action was reasonable and proper even though punitive in nature.
- b. The decision shall be served by first class mail upon the deputy or the deputy's attorney or representative.
  - c. The Sheriff may adopt, modify, or reject the Hearing Officer's advisory decision and the Sheriff's decision shall be final and binding.

## **ARTICLE 10. SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

### **10.1 SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

- A. The following items shall be purchased by and available from the County and replaced as necessary due to normal wear and tear or damaged caused while on duty:
  - Side arm (pistol) and ammunition
  - Rifle or shotgun
  - Less than lethal shotgun
  - Taser
  - Taser holder
  - Leather duty-belt
  - Duty holster
  - Magazine pouch
  - Key carrier
  - Radio and radio holder
  - One (1) pair of handcuffs and case
  - One (1) mace/pepper spray and holder
  - Baton and holder
  - Body Armor Level II or IIIA

- Rain jacket
- Safety vest
- Flashlight and holder
- Radio
- Raid vest (Detectives/Investigators)

Additional safety equipment will be available based upon special assignment.

#### B. Body Armor

The Sheriff shall provide an option for Threat Level II or IIIA body armor to all sworn personnel in the Operations Division. All such personnel are required to wear the body armor; provided, however, the Sheriff may designate exceptions to the requirement for certain personnel. The Sheriff's designation of exceptions is not grievable or arbitrable.

#### 10.2 Motor Officer Equipment

The Sheriff shall provide employees assigned motorcycle patrol duties with the following safety equipment in new condition:

- Safety glasses (day and night)
- Gloves (summer and winter)
- Helmet with visor
- Leather jacket
- Riding pants (appropriately double layered with tapered legs)
- Motorcycle boots (with top rim buckle)

#### 10.3 Canine Handlers

The Sheriff shall provide employees assigned to canine duties with the following safety equipment:

- Bite sleeve
- Muzzle
- Tracking harness
- Leashes (four (4) feet and fifteen (15) feet)

Safety equipment shall remain the property of the County. Replacement equipment must be approved by the Sheriff or designee.

## **ARTICLE 11. GENERAL ISSUES**

### **11.1 PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

#### **A. Length of Probationary Period**

Any new employee (appointed or promoted) may serve a maximum probationary period of eighteen (18) months. The probationary period commences upon being sworn in as a deputy sheriff. Upon demotion to a classification in which the employee had previously held permanent status, the employee shall not serve a new probationary period.

#### **B. Extension of Probationary Periods**

1. Probationary periods shall be extended by the same number of days for any period of time not worked, twenty-one (21) or more consecutive calendar days, excluding vacation, compensatory time off (CTO), and holidays.
2. Probationary periods may be extended an additional six (6) months beyond the standard eighteen (18) months upon mutual agreement of the parties, but will not be extended beyond twenty-four (24) months at any time (except as provided in Section B, subsection 1, above).

### **11.2 PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS**

Supervisors are encouraged to frequently communicate with their subordinates. Supervisors who are aware of employee behavior that is not acceptable, in need of improvement, or information which is adverse to the employee's interest should notify the employee as soon as practical. The supervisor may document specific incidents and any action taken. If the incident is documented, the supervisor shall provide the employee an opportunity to review and sign the document prior to placing the document into any files. Any subsequent rebuttals shall be attached to the respective documents.

Supervisors are responsible for providing employees with the performance reviews in a timely manner. Supervisors are to adhere to current Stanislaus County policy requirements in regard to performance evaluations.

The County and the SSDA acknowledge that a supervisor is offering his or her informed opinion of a subordinate's work performance in the evaluation process. It is recognized that some of the conclusions in an evaluation process may be speculative in nature. However, supervisors shall not rely on rumors or hearsay in making judgments in performance evaluations.



Supervisors or above should not surprise the employee with any "unsatisfactory" or "needs improvement" rating without having engaged in a prior discussion with the employee on behavior that is unacceptable or in need of improvement. As such, supervisors shall not enter any adverse comment in any performance evaluation without first discussing the matter with the employee and documenting the discussion appropriately. Such discussions shall be timely in regard to the behavior.

### 11.3 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Mileage reimbursement rates will be established by the County Auditor-Controller effective January of each year based on the rates published by the IRS.

### 11.4 TAKE HOME COUNTY VEHICLES

Take home County vehicles will be based upon assignment and assignment shall be at the Sheriff's discretion. The use of a County car will not be considered as compensation.

### 11.5 PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE PROCEDURE

The County policy providing for reimbursement of personal property such as clothing damaged or destroyed in the line of duty and without employee negligence shall continue with the specific understanding that normal wear and tear is not covered as reimbursable and that any and all disputes arising out of this process shall be referred for final resolution to a County department head mutually agreed upon. If the parties cannot agree on a particular department head, one shall be selected by an alternate striking method. Normal wear and tear refers to the wearing out of articles of personal property or clothing that results over time and through no sudden or unusual occurrence such as line of duty accident. This recognizes the fact that many articles of clothing wear out with age and would be replaced in the normal course.

### 11.6 AUTOMATIC RESIGNATION

An employee who is absent without authorization and without contacting his or her supervisor for three (3) consecutive working shifts, or longer, shall be presumed to have voluntarily resigned from County service, effective on the date at which the unauthorized absence began. The provisions of the County Code Section 3.28.130 (Petition to Set Aside Resignation) shall apply. Members of the unit do not waive any right to a hearing or other due process by this section or any rights under the "Peace Officer Bill of Rights."

For purposes of Section 11.6, Automatic Resignation, "contacting his or her supervisor" shall mean personal voice conversation either over the phone or in person with the employee's immediate on-duty supervisor or designee, or if that person is unavailable, then he or she shall speak with the on-duty watch sergeant or lieutenant. The employee

may not leave a voice mail, send an email, text message via a mobile phone, or fax a document to meet the requirement of this section.

Additionally, the department shall reasonably attempt to contact the employee absent without authorization at the listed contact phone number provided by the employee during the seventy-two (72) hour period before automatic resignation is effective.

#### 11.7 RETIREE MEDICAL TRUST

The Sworn Deputies Association's Retiree Medical Trust is funded by salary reduction and/or contractually permitted sick leave cash outs at the option of the SSDA.

#### 11.8 FUTURE MEET AND CONFER TOPICS

The SSDA agrees that during the term of the MOU, the County may make proposals that will be subject to meet and confer to the extent required under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act regarding the leave provisions of the County Code and County Personnel Policy. The leave accrual rates under the County Code, County Personnel Policy and/or this Agreement will not be modified pursuant to this reopener.

### **ARTICLE 12. GRIEVANCES**

#### 12.1 INTENT

It is the intent of this provision of the Memorandum of Understanding to provide orderly and equitable procedures for the presentation and resolution of misunderstandings and disputes between the County and its employees. It is further intended that the exercises of these rights in good faith be available to all County employees, (except as herein provided) without fear of reprisal or coercion.

#### 12.2 DEFINITIONS

- A. Grievance – A grievance is defined as an employee initiated allegation that a term or condition of employment established by state law, county ordinance, resolution, memorandum of understanding or written departmental policy is being violated provided, however, that such term or condition of employment is not subject to the discretion of the County or is not a subject outside of the scope of representation as defined in Section 3500 et seq. of the Government Code or the County's Employee Relations Ordinance. This grievance procedure shall not apply to matters within the scope of applicable federal or state grievance procedures.
- B. Complaints – A complaint is defined as an employee initiated allegation or dispute concerning terms and conditions of employment which are not grievances as defined above. Complaints shall be handled herein provided except that as

complaints they may not be appealed to the Chief Executive Officer or to arbitration.

- C. **Employee** – As used in this article, “employee” may refer to an employee, a group of employees, the Association, or its designated representative.

### 12.3 EXCLUSION OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GRIEVANCES

Appeals from disciplinary actions or grievances alleging violation of the County’s policies of equal employment opportunity or equal rights or involving allegations of employment discrimination will be handled pursuant to the County’s Equal Employment opportunity grievance procedure and does not include binding arbitration as the final step in the procedure.

### 12.4 REPRESENTATION

In presenting and resolving grievances, employees may represent themselves on County time, within reason, or may designate a representative of their own choosing. Costs associated with such representation, if any, will be borne by the employee.

### 12.5 TIME LIMITS

The time limits herein specified may be extended to a definite date by mutual consent of the parties. Failure to meet time limits by the employee shall constitute withdrawal of the grievance. Such failure by the County shall entitle the employee to request the next step in the procedure.

### 12.6 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE STEPS

- A. Informal Discussion – Every effort should be made to settle grievances at the lowest level of supervision possible. The employee should advise his/her immediate supervisor that a grievance is present and explain it to the immediate supervisor no later than fifteen (15) working days after he/she becomes or should become aware of the issue. The immediate supervisor shall thereafter hear, and decide the matter informing the employee of the decision orally within seven (7) working days.
- B. Written Grievance – If the grievance is not resolved through informal discussion, the employee may within seven (7) working days from the date of the supervisor’s informal decision, submit a written grievance to his/her supervisor with a copy submitted to the Sheriff and the Director of Personnel. Such a written grievance, signed by the employee shall set forth the facts as issue, the relief sought, and time of occurrence of any alleged incident or violations precipitating the grievance.

The supervisor shall thereafter further investigate and consider the grievance and deliver a written decision to the employee within seven (7) working days after receiving the grievance.

- C. Sheriff's Review – If the grievance is not resolved by the written decision of the supervisor, the employee may request in writing within seven (7) working days after delivery of prior written decision that the grievance be reviewed by the Sheriff. If such a request is received, the Sheriff, or designee, shall conduct such meeting(s) with the employee, informal hearings, or investigations as are appropriate in his/her judgement and deliver to the employee a written decision within seven (7) working days after receipt of the review request.
- D. Advisory Opinion of Director of Personnel – At any point in this procedure after filing a written grievance or complaint, the Director of Personnel may offer, or either party may request, the non-binding advisory opinion (verbal or in writing) of the Director of Personnel concerning the resolution of the grievance complaint.
- E. Grievance Appeal – If the employee wishes to appeal the Sheriff's decision, he/she shall do so in writing within seven (7) working days after receipt of the Sheriff's decision. The employee may elect to submit the grievance for final decision to 1) either the Chief Executive Officer or 2) the employee may request binding arbitration. Within the specified time period the employee shall specify in writing to the Director of Personnel whether the grievance should be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer or binding arbitration. The decision to utilize either procedure shall be the prerogative of the aggrieved employee(s); access to only one (1) of the two (2) procedures for the purpose of resolving the alleged grievance shall be given to the employee(s); the option of procedure utilized shall be binding and irrevocable upon the employee; and the procedure utilized shall be limited to grievances only as defined in Section 12.2, subsection A herein, excluding all complaints.

1. Submission of the Grievance Appeal to the Chief Executive Officer

If the employee wishes to appeal the Sheriff's decision to the Chief Executive Officer, in lieu of binding arbitration, the employee shall do so in writing to the Director of Personnel specifically stating this option, within seven (7) working days after receipt of the Sheriff's decision. The Chief Executive Officer, or designee, shall thereafter conduct an informal hearing, and any other meetings or investigations as are appropriate in his/her judgement. The written decision of the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, shall be delivered to the employee within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of the appeal. The decision of the Chief Executive Officer or his/her

designee shall be the final step in the County's procedure for settling grievances.

2. Submission of the Grievance Appeal to Binding Arbitration

If the employee wishes to appeal the Sheriff's decision and elects to not refer the matter to the Chief Executive Officer for final resolution, the employee may elect binding arbitration by writing to the Director of Personnel within seven (7) working days after receipt of the Sheriff's decision. Prior to the selection of the arbitrator, the Director of Personnel shall informally review the grievance and determine whether said grievance may be adjusted to the satisfaction of the parties. The Director of Personnel shall have ten (10) working days in which to review and seek amicable resolution of the grievance.

i. Selection of Arbitrator

If the required steps of the grievance procedure have been exhausted and the grievance remains unresolved and is subject to arbitration, the arbitrator may be selected by mutual agreement between the Director of Personnel and the grievant or his/her representative. However, should the parties fail to mutually agree on an arbitrator, they shall make a joint request of the State Mediation and Conciliation Service (SMCS) for a list of five (5) qualified arbitrators. The arbitrator shall be selected from the list by the parties alternately striking names with the first strike determined by chance, until only one name remains, and that person shall serve as the arbitrator.

ii. Arbitration Issues

The parties shall, within fifteen (15) working days following the informal review of the Director of Personnel, exchange in writing their understanding of the questions to be submitted to arbitration. Thereafter, the parties to the arbitration shall use their best efforts to exchange a written summary of the evidence they intend to offer and to reach agreement on and reduce to writing the question or questions to be submitted to arbitration. The agreed upon question or questions, if agreement is reached, together with the exchanged summaries of evidence and a list of witnesses to be used by each side shall be submitted to each other and the arbitrator no later than five (5) working days prior to the arbitration hearing.



iii. Arbitration Expenses Shared

The cost of employing the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the parties to the arbitration. All other costs such as, but not limited to, attorney's fees shall be borne only by the party incurring that cost. If both parties agree to the use of a court reporter, or if the arbitrator requires the use of a court reporter, the cost of the court reporter shall be shared equally. Absent mutual agreement the side requesting use of the court reporter shall absorb the cost. The cost of the transcript, if one is prepared, shall be absorbed by the party requesting the transcript, unless both parties mutually agree to share the cost of the transcript. If the arbitrator requests that a copy of the transcript be prepared both parties shall share the cost of the transcript.

This provision shall apply in the event that an individual, as opposed to the Association, pursues arbitration. The employee shall be responsible for one-half of the costs of the arbitration as identified above. Prior to engaging the services of an arbitrator or court reporter, the individual shall make a deposit covering each day of arbitration, and certify that he or she is individually responsible for the costs of the arbitrator and court reporter, and that the County will have no responsibility to pay for the individual's share of costs as specified in the grievance and arbitration procedure. An arbitrator shall have no jurisdiction to order that the County assume responsibility for paying an individual's share of grievance and arbitration costs.

iv. Duty of Arbitrator

The arbitrator shall conduct an informal hearing, and any other meetings or investigations as are appropriate in his/her judgment. The arbitrator shall not have the right to amend, modify, nullify, ignore, add to, or subtract from the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding, county ordinance, resolution, or written departmental policy. He/she shall consider and make a decision with respect to only the specific issue(s) submitted, and shall not have authority to make a decision on any other issue not so submitted. In the event the arbitrator finds a violation of the Memorandum of Understanding, applicable state or federal law, county ordinance, board resolution, or written departmental policy, he/she shall decide the appropriate resolution. The arbitrator shall have no authority to substitute his/her judgement for that of the County as to any matter within the County's discretion. The decision and award of the

arbitrator shall be based solely upon the evidence and arguments presented to the arbitrator by the respective parties.

Proposals to add to or change the Memorandum of Understanding or written agreements or addenda supplementary hereto shall not be arbitrable and no proposal to modify, amend, or terminate this Memorandum of Understanding, nor any matter or subject arising out of or in connection with such proposals, may be referred to arbitration under this section.

v. Binding Decision

The decision of the arbitrator rendered consistent with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, applicable state or federal law, county ordinance, resolution, or written departmental policy shall be binding upon the employee, the Association, and the County.

Based upon significant financial impact of the arbitrator's decision upon the County, within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the arbitrator's decision the County may request the Association meet with the County to discuss the financial impact of the decision. The Association shall meet with the County over the impact upon the County of the decision. Absent mutual agreement between the parties to modify or mitigate the impact of the arbitrator's decision, the decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties.

vi. Arbitrator's Decision Due

Unless the parties agree otherwise, the arbitrator shall render the decision in writing within thirty (30) days following the close of the hearing to the Director of Personnel. The Director of Personnel shall immediately provide a copy of the decision to the employee, the employee's duly elected representative, and the Sheriff. If requested by either party, the decision shall be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law.

vii. Non-Association Representation

In the event that an employee chooses to represent himself/herself, or arranges for representation independent of the Association, including assumption of the costs of arbitration as provided in subsection iii herein, the Association shall have the right to be a party to such proceeding for the sole purpose of protecting the interests of its members under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Association shall be bound by the decision of the arbitrator.

## **ARTICLE 13. DISCIPLINE**

### **13.1 INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS**

Employees subject to an internal affairs investigation interview shall be interviewed by an employee in the same or higher classification.

### **13.2 MAXIMUM SUSPENSION**

The maximum time period during which an employee may be suspended for cause pursuant to County discipline policies is forty-five (45) work days.

### **13.3 COUNTY CODE SECTION 3.28**

The County discipline process is provided in Stanislaus County Code Section 3.28 (Attachment B-2) and shall remain unchanged for the term of this Agreement.

### **13.4 BINDING ARBITRATION**

#### **A. Submission of the Disciplinary Appeal to the Hearing Board or Hearing Officer**

The parties agree that the employee may elect to have the disciplinary matter heard by the current discipline appeals board as provided by Stanislaus County Code Section 3.28.060, "Hearing board and hearing officer" in lieu of binding arbitration by an outside arbitrator. Should the employee elect to utilize the hearing board or hearing officer as provided by Section 3.28.060 of the County Code, the decision of the hearing board or hearing officer shall be final and the employee shall forego the option of arbitration by an outside arbitrator. The employee agrees to assume half the cost of the hearing officer.

#### **B. Submission of the Disciplinary Appeal to Binding Arbitration**

##### **a. Notice of Action and Appeal**

In the event the Department Head determines to discharge, suspend, or reduce in rank or compensation a permanent employee after completing the procedures provided in Section 3.28.020 of the County Code, he shall serve upon the employee an order in writing stating (A) the nature of the disciplinary action; (B) the effective date of the action; (C) the causes therefor; (D) the specific acts or omissions upon which the causes are based, stated in ordinary concise language; and (E) the right of the employee to appeal. The employee acted against may, within seven (7) days of service of the order, appeal the action of the Department Head. If

the employee fails to appeal within the time specified, or subsequently withdraws his/her appeal, the punitive action taken by the Department Head shall be final.

b. Selection of Arbitrator

If the employee elects to have the disciplinary proceeding heard by an arbitrator, the arbitrator may be selected by mutual agreement between the Director of Personnel and the employee or his/her representative. However, should the parties fail to mutually agree on an arbitrator, they shall make a joint request of the State Mediation and Conciliation Service for a list of five (5) qualified arbitrators. The arbitrator shall be selected from the list by the parties alternately striking names with the first strike determined by chance, until only one (1) name remains, and that person shall serve as the arbitrator.

The Director of Personnel shall forthwith transmit the order and appeal to the arbitrator for hearing. The arbitrator shall, within a reasonable time of the filing of the appeal and the election of the arbitrator, commence the hearing thereof, and the Director of Personnel shall notify the interested parties of the time and place of the hearing at least five (5) days in advance thereof.

c. Arbitration Issues

The parties shall exchange summaries of evidence and a list of witnesses to be used by each side shall be submitted to each other and the arbitrator no less than five (5) working days prior to the arbitration hearing.

d. Arbitration Expenses Shared

The cost of employing the arbitrator and the court reporter for all discharges, excluding the transcript, shall be borne equally by both parties to the arbitration. The cost of the transcript shall be covered as provided by County Code Section 3.28.110, subsection A, "Hearing procedure." All other costs such as, but not limited to, attorney's fees shall be borne by the party incurring that cost. If both parties agree to the use of a court reporter other than for discharges, or the arbitrator requires the use of a court reporter, the cost of the court reporter shall be shared equally.



e. Duty of the Arbitrator

The duties of the arbitrator shall be those of the hearing board as referred to throughout the Stanislaus County Discipline Ordinance including, but not limited to, Sections 3.28.070 "Hearing rules" and 3.28.110 "Hearing procedure."

f. Arbitrator's Decision Due

Unless the parties agree otherwise, the arbitrator shall render the decision in writing within thirty (30) days following the close of the hearing. A copy of the written decision shall contain findings of fact which may be stated in the language of the pleadings or be referenced thereto. If requested by either party, the decision shall be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law.

A copy of the written decision shall be transmitted to the Department Head and the Director of Personnel. The Director of Personnel shall cause to be served a copy of the decision upon the employee. Service by mail at the employee's last known address shall be sufficient for purposes of this section. A copy of the decision shall be placed in the employee's personal history file. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties.

g. Non-Employee Organization Representation

In the event that an employee chooses to represent himself/herself, or arranges for representation independent of the recognized employee organization, the employee assumes the costs of the hearing officer or arbitration as provided herein.

This includes that the cost of employing the arbitrator and the court reporter for all discharges, excluding the transcript, shall be borne equally by both parties to the arbitration. The cost of the transcript shall be covered as provided by County Code Section 3.28.110, subsection A "Hearing procedure." All other costs such as, but not limited to, attorney's fees shall be borne only by the party incurring that cost. If both parties agree to the use of a court reporter other than for discharges, or the arbitrator requires the use of a court reporter, the cost of the court reporter shall be shared equally.



If the employee elects to utilize the hearing officer or panel in lieu of arbitration, the employee agrees to assume half the cost of the hearing officer.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Sheriff's Represented Bargaining Units Reduction in Force Policy.

Attachment B: Discipline of Permanent Classified Employees

Attachment C: Letter dated November 20, 1992 re Conflict of Interest

Attachment D: Letter dated April 15, 1991 re Witness Expenses Related to Binding Arbitration

Attachment E: Health Insurance Agreement

**Sheriff's Represented Bargaining Units  
Reduction-In-Force Policy**

The following Reduction-in-Force Policy has been established and agreed to for the following bargaining units effective August 7, 2012:

Deputy Sheriffs Association (DSA)  
Stanislaus Sworn Deputies Association (SSDA)  
Stanislaus Sheriff's Supervisors Association (SCSSA)  
Stanislaus Sheriff's Management Association (SCSMA)

The joint Reduction-in-Force Policy may only be amended by mutual agreement of the County and all represented bargaining units. Issues related to implementing reduction-in-force actions which are not specifically addressed within this policy will be subject to further meet and confer between the County and the affected bargaining unit(s).

**REDUCTION-IN-FORCE**

Whenever in the judgement of the Board of Supervisors it becomes necessary in the interest of economy or because the necessity for a position no longer exists, the Board of Supervisors may abolish a position or classification, and if necessary reduce personnel by laying off employees without the filing of disciplinary charges and without granting the employee the right of appeal except as accorded in these provisions. In reducing the number of employees every effort will be made to avoid displacing existing employees by allowing voluntary demotion or transfer to vacant positions. In laying off employees in the Classified Service the order of separation shall be based upon seniority as herein specified.

In the event that a Reduction-In-Force action is to be recommended, a good faith effort will be made by the County to notify the Union, and meet upon Union request to discuss alternatives to the Reduction-In-Force action including voluntary time-off, approval of leave of absence requests, and voluntary lay-offs. The County will do what it reasonably can to make available to employees who are laid off retraining opportunities as available through Federal or State job training programs or other available County programs.

**ORDER OF SEPARATION**

Employees in the same classification shall be separated considering type of appointment and seniority with the least senior employee in any category of appointment being the first separated and with tied seniority scores broken as provided herein.

The sequence of appointment types shall be:

1. Provisional
2. Extra-Help/Part-time (Extra-help may be maintained by mutual agreement of the County and the impacted bargaining unit)
3. Trainee
4. Regular Full-Time

Employees with prior probationary or permanent status in a lower level classification who are subject to a Reduction-In-Force action shall be returned to their prior classification, subject to the seniority provisions of this agreement.

### **REDUCTION-IN-FORCE PROCEDURES**

In calculating total continuous service for the County, those records which are maintained by the Chief Executive Office shall be utilized. However, should there be a challenge to the validity of the calculations or in cases of equal or near equal seniority, the Chief Executive Office may utilize such payroll or other records which may be on file with the Auditor-Controller's Office or other department.

#### **Continuous Service Defined**

Employees on approved leaves of absence without pay, catastrophic leave (donated time) or unpaid suspension shall retain seniority accumulated before the leave of absence. The first 60 calendar days on each individual approved unpaid leave, catastrophic leave, or disciplinary suspension will be included in the seniority score computation. Time will be deducted starting the 61<sup>st</sup> calendar day of such leave. Time spent on military leave is not deducted for the purposes of calculating seniority regardless of the length of such leave.

Service to the County including PSC, unpaid volunteer/intern, or any service which is not in an employer-employee relationship does not count toward total County seniority.

Any voluntary separation is considered a break-in-service; time spent prior to leaving County service shall not be counted for the purposes of calculating seniority for a reduction-in-force. Persons hired from a reduction-in-force reemployment list regain all previously earned seniority on the date of reemployment.

### **SENIORITY CALCULATIONS:**

Among permanent and probationary employees in the classifications of Deputy Sheriff-Custodial, Deputy Sheriff-Coroner, Sergeant-Custodial, Sergeant, Custodial Lieutenant, and Lieutenant, the order of layoff will be determined by employee's seniority calculations in the following order:

1. Classification Seniority
2. Department Seniority
3. County Seniority
4. Lottery

#### **1. Calculation of Classification Seniority**

Among permanent and probationary employees in the classifications listed above, the order of layoff will first be determined by the total full-time service in the employee's current classification and higher ranking classification(s). Extra-help/part-time service is not counted in calculating Classification Seniority.

For the purposes of calculating Classification Seniority, employees who were released from probationary status and subsequently returned to the same classification will not receive credit for time served during the first probationary period. (Example: Lieutenant is released from probation and subsequently promotes back to Lieutenant. Only the

current time spent as a Lieutenant shall be counted towards classification seniority. Time in classification spent prior to the probationary release does not count.) If an employee is released from probation and demotes to a lower level classification all time spent in the higher level classification shall count towards Classification Seniority in the lower level classification and toward overall County Seniority.

Example of Classification Seniority Calculation:

**Initial Reduction in Force of One Lieutenant Position**

Seniority Rank	County Service	Time in Classification (or higher)	
1.	20 yrs	Lt. 10 yrs	
2.	16 yrs	Lt. 7 yrs	
3.	16 yrs	Lt. 5 yrs	
4.	18 yrs	Lt. 3 yrs	Least time spent as a Lieutenant, bumped to prior Sergeant position

**Impact on Sergeants**

Seniority Rank	County Service	Time in Classification (or higher)	
1.	25 yrs	Sgt. 15 yrs	
2.	22 yrs	Sgt. 12 yrs	
3.	18 yrs	Lt. 3 yrs Sgt. 7 yrs	Previously held permanent status as a Sergeant, 10 years seniority in class or higher
4.	20 yrs	Sgt. 8 yrs	Bumped to prior Deputy Sheriff position

2. Calculation of Department Seniority

In the case of two or more employees with equal Classification Seniority, the order of layoff will then be determined by total full-time service in all positions held in the Sheriff's Department. Extra-help/part-time service is not counted in calculating Department Seniority.

3. Calculation of County Seniority

In the case of two or more employees with equal Classification and Department Seniority the order of layoff will then be determined by County Seniority. Calculation of County Seniority means all continuous service in the County, regardless of classification and department. Continuous extra-help service shall be included in the calculation of County Seniority.

Extra-help hours served on or after January 1, 1999, shall be calculated on an hour-for-hour basis with eight (8) hours as the equivalent of one (1) day of service. Extra-help hours served prior to January 1, 1999, are not available in the existing payroll system and will be calculated at 2.86 hours a day per seven (7) calendar days of service (equivalent of 20 hours per calendar week).

#### 4. Lottery

Should the order of layoff not be determined in the calculation of Classification, Department, or County Seniority an agreed upon lottery system will be used to determine the order of layoff. The County and the impacted bargaining unit(s) will meet and confer over the terms and conditions of the lottery process prior to each lottery.

#### **WRITTEN NOTICE**

Written notice of layoff shall be served on affected employees by the Chief Executive Office in person or by certified letter mailed to the last address on file with the Chief Executive Officer. Notice will be served or mailed at least 21 calendar days prior to the effective date of the separation. Notice shall be deemed served upon return of a delivery receipt or receipt showing attempted delivery.

Notice of probationary release to employees on probation will be served by the Department Head.

#### **DEMOTION RIGHTS IN LIEU OF LAYOFF**

In lieu of being laid off, an employee may elect to voluntarily demote within the Sheriff's Department to a lower paid classification previously held and in which the employee presently meets the minimum qualifications of the classification. Less senior employees who may be displaced as a result of demotion actions shall in turn be subject to the provisions of this section. In order to exercise these options, the employee affected must so advise the Deputy Executive Officer of Human Resources in writing no later than seven (7) working days after receiving notice of layoff.

#### **VOLUNTARY TRANSFER OR DEMOTION IN LIEU OF LAYOFF VACANCY**

In lieu of being laid off, an employee may request to voluntarily transfer or demote to a vacant position in the Sheriff's Department or any other County department. The transferring employee must meet the minimum qualifications of the classification at the time of transfer. Such requests require approval by the Department Head. Employees transferring or demoting may be required to serve classification and/or department probation consistent with existing County personnel policies.

#### **RE-EMPLOYMENT**

For a period of two (2) years from the effective date of layoff no regular position in the affected classification in the department involved shall be filled without first providing employees possessing rights to re-employment with an opportunity to be rehired. During the period of April 6, 2010 through June 30, 2012, the parties have agreed to extend the re-employment rights based upon the provisions outlined in each Association's agreement with the County: Implementation of 5% Salary Savings in Fiscal Years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. Re-employment lists shall be in inverse order of lay-off with the most senior employee from amongst those laid-off rehired first. Such re-employment would be at the same salary step or the salary range assigned such classification and with the same seniority as the employee had earned at the time of layoff. Benefits paid out at the time of separation such as vacation or sick leave may be bought back at employee expense. Written notice of the re-employment opportunity shall be sent by certified mail to the last known-address of the former employee by



the Department Head or designee. The former employee shall have fourteen (14) calendar days to respond to the notice.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS**

The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to render decisions resolving questions of seniority and continuous service in the administration of this section.

### **APPEALS**

Persons subject to layoff or demotion under these provisions may appeal to the Chief Executive Officer any allegation of error, fraud, irregularity or bias in the application of the reduction-in-force procedures. Any appeal submitted shall include the basis for the appeal.

An informal appeal shall first be filed by the affected person to the County's Deputy Executive Officer of Human Resources within (7) days of receiving the notification of the reduction-in-force. The Deputy Executive Officer shall review the applicable MOU, Reduction-in-Force Policy, and the seniority calculation methodology. The Deputy Executive Officer shall respond to the request in writing.

The affected person may appeal the Deputy Executive Officer's decision to the County's Chief Executive Officer, within seven (7) days after receipt of the Deputy Executive Officer's decision. The Chief Executive Officer shall respond to the appeal request in writing.

Shall the affected person wish to appeal the Chief Executive Officer's decision he/she may request a hearing with the Hearing Board established pursuant to Stanislaus County Ordinance Code 3.28.06 within seven (7) days of receipt of the Chief Executive Officer's decision. The Chief Executive Officer shall forthwith transmit the appeal request to the Hearing Board. The Hearing Board shall within a reasonable time from the filing of the appeal, commence the hearing thereof and shall notify the interested parties of the time and place of the hearing at least five (5) days in advance thereof.

At the hearing, both the appellant and the County shall have the right to be heard publicly, to be represented by Counsel and to present evidentiary facts. In certain situations in which an affected employee is disputing the seniority calculation of another employee both the affected employee who is disputing the seniority calculation and the employee whose seniority is being questioned may have the right to be present at the hearing subject to agreement by the affected labor organization and the County. The parties may agree to a hearing closed to the public and the Hearing Board may at any time exclude any person who may be a witness in the appeal under consideration. The hearing shall be informal and the Hearing Board shall not be bound by any of the rules of evidence governing trial procedure and State courts. The Hearing Board shall render a written decision, copy of which shall be transmitted to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer shall serve a copy of the decision upon the appellant. The decision of the Hearing Board shall be final.

Relevant provisions in Chapter 3.28.060 and 3.28.070 of the Ordinance Code of Stanislaus County shall govern the hearing process.

### **SICK LEAVE CASH OUT PROVISIONS**

Employees with one (1) year of service or more who are laid off due to a reduction-in-force shall be eligible for twenty-five percent (25%) sick leave cash out upon termination from the County.

DISCIPLINE OF PERMANENT CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

**3.28.010 Causes for discipline.**

An employee in the classified service who has permanent status shall be subject to the disciplinary action pursuant to this chapter. Each of the following shall constitute cause for discipline:

- A. Omission or willful misrepresentation of a material fact or other fraud in securing employment;
- B. Incompetence;
- C. Inefficiency;
- D. Inexcusable neglect of duties;
- E. Insubordination;
- F. Dishonesty;
- G. Improper use of drugs, including (1) drunkenness on duty, (2) use of drugs while on duty, (3) incapacitation for proper performance of duties by prior use of drugs. The term "drugs" shall mean controlled substances as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the California Health and Safety Code, and shall also mean alcohol;
- H. Unexcused absence from duty, including but not limited to, participation in unlawful strikes or other job actions, such as sick-ins or slow-downs;
- I. Conviction of a felony or conviction of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. A plea or verdict of guilty, or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere, to a charge of a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this subsection;
- J. Discourteous treatment of the public or other employees;
- K. Willful disobedience;
- L. Misuse of county property;
- M. Inconsistent, incompatible or conflicting employment, activity or enterprise;
- N. Violation of a departmental rule;

- O. Other failure of good behavior either during or outside of duty hours which is of such a nature that it causes discredit to the employee's department or employment. (Prior code § 2-240).

### **3.28.020 Notice of intended discipline.**

Prior to discharging, suspending or reducing a permanent employee in rank or compensation for disciplinary purposes, the department head or designee shall:

- A. Review the proposed action with the personnel director;
- B. Prepare and serve a written notice reviewed by the county counsel to inform the employee of the intended action, the reasons therefor, and the right to respond to the department head intending to impose the discipline. The notice shall identify the materials on which the action is based with sufficient certainty as to permit inspection of them by the employee. A copy of the intended charges be attached to the notice;
- C. The employee, given notice of intended disciplinary action, may within seven days after service of the notice, respond to the department head either orally or in writing. The employee shall not be entitled to a formal hearing with examination of witnesses but he may present statements by himself, written statements of any witness and other documentary material. He may be represented by another in presenting his response. The department head shall fairly and impartially consider the employee's response and shall thereafter: (1) impose the intended disciplinary action; (2) notify the employee that the intended disciplinary action will not be imposed; or (3) amend the charges. In the event the department head substantially amends the intended charges or punishment, he shall be given another notice as provided in subsection B of this section. (Ord. CS 557 § 39, 1994; prior code § 2-241).

### **3.28.030 Notice of action and appeal.**

In the event of the department head determines to discharge, suspend or reduce in rank or compensation a permanent employee after completing the procedures provided in Section 3.28.020, he shall serve upon the employee an order in writing stating (A) the nature of the disciplinary action, (B) the effective date of the action, (C) the causes therefor, (D) the specific acts or omissions upon which the causes are based, stated in ordinary and concise language and (E) the right of the employee to appeal. The employee acted against may, within seven days after service of the order, appeal the action of the department head. If the employee fails to appeal within the time specified, or subsequently withdraws his appeal, the punitive action taken by the department head shall be final. An appeal shall be in writing, shall be filed with the personnel director and shall contain an answer to each charge in the order. The answer shall include any objections the employee may have as to the form or substance of the order or the procedures followed by the department head. The personnel director shall forthwith transmit the order and appeal to the employee disciplinary proceedings hearing board for hearing. The hearing board shall, within a reasonable time for the filing of the appeal, commence the hearing thereof, and shall notify the interested parties of the time and place of hearing at least five days in advance thereof. (Prior code § 2-242).

### **3.28.040 Amendment of order.**

- A. At any time before the hearing, the department head may file with the employee disciplinary proceedings hearing board an amended or supplemental order, which shall be served upon the employee. The hearing board shall afford the employee a reasonable opportunity to prepare his defense to the amended or supplemental order but he shall not be entitled to file a further answer unless the hearing board in its discretion so orders. Any new charges shall be deemed denied by the employee. At any time before the matter is submitted for decision, the hearing board may order or permit amendments to the order or answer.
- B. The hearing board may offer amendment of the order after submission of the case for decision. Each party shall be given notice of the intended amendment and opportunity to show that he will be prejudiced thereby unless the case is reopened to permit the introduction of additional evidence. If such prejudice is shown, the hearing board shall reopen the case to permit the introduction of additional evidence. (Prior code § 2-243).

### **3.28.050 Notice or order service.**

Whenever reference is made in this chapter to service of any notice or order, such service shall be accomplished either by handing a copy thereof to the employee or by mailing a copy to the employee at his last known address by registered or certified mail. It shall be presumed that a properly addressed letter is served on the day following the day on which the letter was mailed. The department head shall promptly furnish the personnel director with a copy of each notice or order and a statement showing by whom, the manner and the date the notice or order was served. (Prior code § 2-244).

### **3.28.060 Hearing board and hearing officer.**

- A. The chairman of the board of supervisors shall appoint a three-member disciplinary proceedings hearing board to hear appeals pursuant to this chapter. The hearing board shall consist of a member of the State Bar of California, who shall act as chairman, a county department head and an employee. Proposed members shall be selected as follows:
  - 1. The personnel director shall submit the name of a member of the State Bar of California who shall not be a member of the county service.
  - 2. The personnel director shall submit the name of a head of a department of the county.
  - 3. Upon the request of the personnel director, each recognized employee organization shall, within five working days, nominate a permanent full-time employee of the county, and the personnel director shall submit the name of the employee chosen by lot, provided that if a recognized employee organization fails to nominate an employee, the personnel director shall do so. In the event the appellant is from the same department as a member of the appeal board, the personnel director shall submit another name for appointment to replace such member for that case only. The term of each member shall end on December 31st of each year, but a member shall continue to act on any appeal filed before that date. Two members of the appeal

board shall constitute a quorum, provided, however, that the personnel director or the chairman of the appeal board may request the temporary appointment of a member to replace a member who is or will be unavailable on the scheduled hearing date.

- B. Upon written agreement of the county and the appellant made at any time before the hearing board is convened, the appeal shall be heard and decided by the chairman of the appeal board as a hearing officer. The rules and procedures set forth in this chapter for hearing by a hearing board shall also apply to a hearing by a hearing officer. (Prior code § 2-245).

### **3.28.070 Hearing rules.**

At a hearing, both the appealing employee and the department head whose action is reviewed shall have the right to be heard publicly, to be represented by counsel and to present evidentiary facts. The parties may agree to a hearing closed to the public, and the hearing board may at any time exclude any person who may be a witness in the case under consideration. The hearing shall be informal and the hearing board shall not be bound by any of the rules of evidence governing trial procedure in state courts. In arriving at a decision, the hearing board may consider any prior county disciplinary action including any letters of reprimand filed with the county personnel department. The hearing board shall make an official decision either affirming, modifying, or revoking the order. The decision shall contain findings of fact which may be stated in the language of the pleadings or be reference thereto. A copy of the written decision shall be transmitted to the department head and the personnel director. The personnel director shall serve a copy of the decision upon the employee, and shall notify the employee that the time within which judicial review must be sought is governed by California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. A copy of the decision shall be placed in the employee's personal history file. The decision of the hearing board shall be final. (Prior code § 2-246).

### **3.28.080 Immediate termination.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3.28.020, the department head may discharge a permanent employee without prior notice if immediate termination is essential to avert harm to the county or to the public. In such case, the notice of discharge shall inform the employee of his right to reconsideration by the department head who shall follow the procedures of Section 3.28.020, and where appropriate shall follow the procedures of Section 3.28.030. (Prior code § 2-247).

### **3.28.090 Measures pending final determination.**

The department head may, while intended disciplinary action is pending, and with prior review by the personnel director and the chief executive officer, take one or more of the following measures:

- A. Defer the imposition of the punishment until the final order of the hearing board;
- B. Place the employee on leave of absence with compensation;
- C. With the concurrence of any department head involved, require the employee to perform such duties as may be assigned in the same or another county department with no reduction in



compensation. Reassignment without the consent of the employee shall not exceed a period of ninety days if accusations against the employee are under investigation, but such assignment may continue until the action becomes final if the employee has been given notice of discharge;

- D. Suspend the employee without pay if accusations against the employee are under investigation, and the accusations are such that, if true, immediate removal is essential to avert harm to the county or to the public, provided: (1) the employee shall be accorded the rights provided by this chapter, and may appeal the order of suspension to the hearing board at any time during the period of suspension; (2) the period of suspension without compensation shall not exceed forty-five days; (3) that in the event the employee is not served with notice of intended charges during the period of suspension, the employee shall be reinstated in county service as of the initial date of suspension; (4) that in the event the punitive action taken against the employee does not result in termination of employment, the employee shall be restored to county service for the period of the preliminary suspension and any disciplinary suspension or reduction in rank or compensation ordered or approved by the hearing board shall commence on or after the date of the punitive action by the department head. The department head may discontinue an employee's leave of absence with compensation or his suspension without compensation giving the employee forty-eight hours' notice in writing to return to duty. (Ord. CS 557 § 40, 1994; prior code § 2-248).

### **3.28.100 Maximum suspension.**

No disciplinary suspension shall be imposed for any period exceeding forty-five days and the order of suspension shall expressly state, in addition to the reasons therefor, the date of the commencement and expiration of suspension. (Ord. CS 107 § 1, 1985; prior code § 2-249).

### **3.28.110 Hearing procedure.**

The hearing shall proceed as follows:

- A. The hearing board may adopt rules of procedure. The personnel director shall be ex officio secretary to the hearing board, and the personnel director shall be authorized to issue subpoenas, make necessary orders and administer oaths in connection with the proceedings of the hearing board. Any person failing to obey a subpoena, or subpoena duces tecum, or to be sworn and testify, shall be deemed to be in contempt of the hearing board and the hearing board shall have the power to take such proceedings and impose such punishment thereof as may be taken by the board of supervisors pursuant to Title 3, Division 2, Part 2, Chapter 1, Article 9 (Sections 25170 through 25176) of the Government Code.
- B. The personnel director shall cause the proceedings to be recorded by any method he finds to be appropriate. Any person may purchase all or part of the record provided the request therefor is made within ninety days of the date of service of the final decision of the employee, the department head or the personnel director shall have a right to purchase a transcript of a hearing held in closed session. A request for the record shall be accompanied by payment of the estimated cost thereof as determined by the personnel director, and the

person making the request shall be obligated to pay the full cost prior to delivery of the transcript.

- C. The burden of proof shall be on the head of the department issuing the disciplinary order. The quantum of proof required to sustain such action shall be preponderance of the evidence.
- D. At the hearing the employee may be examined under Section 776 of the California Evidence Code. Failure of the employee to appear at the hearing or failure to testify if called as a witness shall be deemed a withdrawal of the employee's appeal and the action of the department head shall be final.
- E. The hearing board may affirm or revoke the action taken by the department head or may modify such action to a less severe punishment. The hearing board may order the employee returned to his/her position either as of the date of the punitive action by the department head or as of such later date as the hearing board may specify. If the hearing board shall revoke or modify the order of the department head, the appealing employee shall be granted forthwith all rights and privileges pertaining to county service in accordance with the order of the hearing board. (Ord. CS 557 § 41, 1994; prior code § 2-250).

### **3.28.120 Petition to set aside resignation.**

In the event a person claims his resignation was given by reason of mistake, fraud, duress, undue influence, or that for any other reason it was not his free and voluntary act, he may submit a written petition to the personnel director to set aside his resignation and such petition shall be treated in the same manner as an appeal from an order for discharge; provided, however, that no such petition shall be considered by the hearing board unless it is filed with the personnel director within thirty days after (A) the last date upon which services to the county are rendered; or (B) the date the resignation is tendered to the appointing power, whichever is later. (Prior code § 2-252).



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Wm. Dean Wright

November 20, 1992

Gary Messing, Attorney at Law  
Carroll, Burdick, and McDonough  
400 Capitol, Suite 1400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

In Re: CONFLICT OF INTEREST - COUNSEL

Dear Mr. Messing:

Pursuant to your discussions with Personnel Director Bill May during DSA negotiations, this letter will serve to advise you that in the event that the County determines that there exists an actual and specific conflict of interest, based upon the opinion of the attorney assigned to a case where the County or Sheriff's Department, and one or more individual deputy sheriffs have been named as defendants, then the County would consider whether or not it was appropriate to continue to conduct and pay for the defense of the deputy. If the above stated events occur and the County concludes it is appropriate to pay for the defense, then the County would give consideration to employing the attorney requested by the individual deputy, which would include the law firm of Carroll, Burdick and McDonough.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or its content, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

*M. H. Krausnick*  
MICHAEL H. KRAUSNICK  
County Counsel

MHK/vln

cc: Bill May, Personnel Director  
✓ Eileen Melson, Personnel



# Stanislaus County

## Personnel Department

Administration Building  
1100 H Street  
Modesto, California 95354  
Phone (209) 525-6341

April 15, 1991

Gary Messing  
Attorney-at-Law  
Carroll, Burdick and McDonough  
1303 J Street, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Gary:

This letter is intended to summarize the County's position with regard to County employees who may be subpoenaed by the DSA as witnesses and the associated witness expenses related to the binding arbitration proceedings.

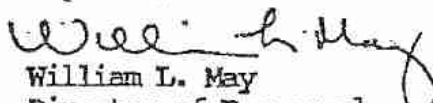
The County acknowledges that the issue is not specifically addressed in the proposed language covering binding arbitration of disciplinary proceedings and grievances. It is the County's position that the witness expenses must be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

The County acknowledges that it will not be unreasonable with regard to release time of County employees who have been asked to participate by the DSA as a witness. The DSA also agrees to be reasonable in the number of County employees to be called as witnesses and will make a good faith effort to insure that these employees serve as witnesses at no expense to the County.

While the County will not give a blanket agreement to assume witness costs, it will consider reasonable requests by the DSA regarding issues of compensation for off duty county employees who are called as witnesses on the behalf of the DSA.

There are two other issues regarding binding grievances arbitration that have been discussed by the parties. The DSA has agreed that EEO grievances are not subject to the arbitration procedure. The other issue involves past practices. It is the County's position that past practices are not grievable if the practice grieved has not been codified by state law, County ordinance, resolution, Memorandum of Understanding, etc.


Sincerely,

  
William L. May  
Director of Personnel

WLM:tt  
gm/wp

**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
HEALTH INSURANCE AGREEMENT**

October 24, 2017

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanislaus Sworn Deputies Association



# **HEALTH INSURANCE AGREEMENT**

October 24, 2017

## **Health Insurance Agreement Between Stanislaus County and the Stanislaus Sworn Deputy's Association**

### **1. Term of the Agreement**

This agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019, unless extended by mutual agreement of the parties.

### **2. Medical Insurance**

For the term of this agreement, the County will offer the following four medical plan options based on employee residency at the time of open enrollment:

#### Within Health Partners of Northern California (HPNC) Local Service Area

- Health Partners of Northern California EPO
- Health Partners of Northern California HDHP

#### Outside Health Partners of Northern California (HPNC) Local Service Area

- United Healthcare (UHC) EPO
- United Healthcare (UHC) HDHP

For employees enrolled in an EPO plan, the County shall contribute an amount equal to 80% of the EPO plan premium at each level of coverage.

For employees enrolled in a High Deductible Health Plan, the County shall contribute an amount equal to 95% of the HDHP plan premium at each level of coverage.

The County will also fund individual Health Savings Accounts (HSA) in the following amounts:

Employee only - \$1,250 annually

Employee +1 - \$2,100 annually

Family - \$2,100 annually

HSA contributions will be made as a lump sum equivalent to six months of the annual contribution processed on the first payroll cycle paid in January of each year, and then semi-monthly beginning in July. For the period of January through June, the County will make no additional HSA contributions to employees' accounts after the initial lump-sum contribution unless there is a change in family status. The last six months of HSA contributions will begin in July, and will be included in employees' biweekly benefit-eligible paychecks. Employees are responsible for paying any account related fees on their individual Health Savings Account (up to \$2.75 monthly as of September 2017).

The County will only provide one County-provided HSA contribution to two employees who are married together. Therefore, if two employees who are married together want separate medical plans, one employee must choose an EPO plan and the other employee must choose a HDHP plan.

Participants enrolled in HDHP plan options are subject to deductible payments and co-pays, which may be reimbursable through HSAs subject to available balances. Please refer to the specific plan documents to confirm deductibles and co-payments for each plan option.

The parties recognize that health insurance providers may institute benefit changes that are not within the control of the County.

### **3. Medical Premium Rates**

The County will continue to establish medical insurance premium rates each year based on actuarial and underwriting recommendations. The County reserves the right to adjust medical insurance premium rates based on these recommendations. Medical insurance rates for the 2018 plan year will not exceed those rates provided to bargaining units during the meet and confer process on August 24, 2017.

### **4. Medical Plan Design Changes**

The medical benefit plan design and co-pays will remain unchanged during the term of this agreement with the exception of the addition of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) treatment for Autism as a covered expense and those changes which may be required by law during the term of this agreement.

The annual out-of-pocket maximums for HPNC and UHC (Individual/Family) HDHP plans are as follows:

In-Network HPNC and UHC  
\$3,000 / \$6,000

Out-of-Network UHC  
\$5,000 / \$10,000

The annual out-of-pocket maximums for HPNC and UHC (Individual/Family) EPO plans are as follows:

HPNC and UHC  
\$1,500 / \$3,000

Should the IRS inflation adjusted limits increase the minimum annual deductible for high deductible health plans, the County will apply the appropriate changes to our plans with no additional County contribution to the HSA. County HSA contributions are fixed during the term of this agreement irrespective of potential regulatory changes to the deductible.

### **5. Medical Premium Reimbursement**

The County has agreed to continue the medical premium reimbursement (MPR) program for the term of this agreement. Effective December 31, 2020, this provision will end and the County will no longer offer the MPR program. Only employees currently participating in the

MPR program as of October 1, 2017 are eligible to continue participating in the MPR program.

In order to receive the medical premium reimbursement, the eligible employee must waive coverage with the County and enroll in a non-County qualified medical insurance program, individual or group coverage, meeting minimum standards under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Employees receiving a medical premium reimbursement are not eligible to receive a medical waive credit.

The County's medical premium reimbursement rate will not exceed 80% of the eligible employee's out-of-pocket medical insurance premium cost for the non-County medical plan, or 75% of the County's monthly medical premium contribution for County EPO plans, whichever amount is lower.

In order to receive reimbursement, the employee must provide proof of other coverage and proof of cost to the employee as described in the established guidelines and Quarterly Reconciliation Form. In no event, shall the medical premium reimbursement impact the compensation eligible for employee pensions or employer-paid deferred compensation.

Employees may only return to the County medical insurance program during annual open enrollment periods, or anytime the employee experiences a qualifying event in accordance with County benefit policies. If an employee who is receiving a medical premium reimbursement elects to return to the County's medical insurance program, they will no longer be eligible to receive the medical premium reimbursement should they choose to opt out of the County's medical insurance program in the future.

Employees who enroll in a non-County qualified medical insurance program are not eligible to receive any County provided HSA contributions.

## **6. Medical Waive Credit**

The County agrees to continue offering a standard medical waive credit to any employee who waives medical insurance through the County. Employees receiving a medical waive credit are not eligible to receive a medical premium reimbursement.

In order to receive the standard medical waive credit, the employee must enroll in a non-County qualified medical insurance program, individual or group coverage, meeting minimum standards under the ACA. Employees must complete a County enrollment form waiving County coverage and attach proof of other coverage.

The standard medical waive credit will be paid on a post-tax, semi-monthly basis. The amount of the standard medical waive credit is \$47.50 monthly for non-management employees and \$150.00 monthly for management and confidential employees.

Employees may only return to the County medical insurance program during annual open enrollment periods, or anytime the employee experiences a qualifying event (involuntary loss of outside coverage).

Employees who enroll in a non-County qualified medical insurance program are not eligible to receive any County provided HSA contributions.

## **7. Dental Insurance**

The County will continue to provide employees with two dental plan options through the Delta Dental program. The County will continue to pay 80% of the premium cost for the Core dental plan at each level of dental coverage (Employee only, Employee +1 and Family).

Employees may elect a "Buy-Up" dental plan option, which includes a \$500 per member increase to the plan calendar year maximum and a child(ren) orthodontics benefit that pays 50% of orthodontia care up to a lifetime maximum of \$2,000 per child. Additionally, the "Buy-Up" dental plan option includes access to the Premier network with claims being paid at the Premier contracted fee without balance billing. Employees who elect the "Buy-Up" dental plan option must remain on the "Buy-Up" dental plan for three (3) years. Any amount of the "Buy-Up" dental premium rate that exceeds the "Core" dental plan premium rate will be paid solely by the employee.

Should enrollment in the "Buy-Up" plan drop below 10% participation of benefit eligible employees, it will be eliminated and no longer offered. Enrollment will be reviewed and evaluated each year prior to Open Enrollment, using enrollment effective on July 1 of each year to determine if the plan will be offered during Open Enrollment for coverage effective January 1 in the following year.

The County will continue to establish dental insurance premium rates each year based on actuarial and underwriting recommendations. The County reserves the right to adjust dental insurance premium rates based on these recommendations.

## **8. Vision Insurance**

The County will continue to provide vision coverage through the VSP Choice Plan to include a \$10 co-payment for exam and materials, frame allowance of \$150 (\$80 at Costco), wholesale full-cost frame allowance of \$57, contact lens allowance of \$150, and allow members to receive a frame allowance 12 months after utilizing their contact lens benefit. The County shall pay 80% of the premium cost at each level of vision coverage (Employee only, Employee +1 and Family).

The County will continue to establish vision insurance premium rates each year based on underwriting recommendations. The County reserves the right to adjust vision insurance premium rates based on these recommendations.

## **9. Additional Provisions**

- a. Benefit deductions are taken out of 24 of the 26 paychecks each year (twice monthly). Benefits for new hires are effective the 1st of the month following date of hire. For terminated employees, benefits continue through the last day of the month of termination.
- b. The County will invite a representative of each labor group to participate in the County's Employee Wellness Program Workgroup to discuss implementing a comprehensive wellness program for County employees. Participation is voluntary and subject to department head or designee approval for any changes in standard working hours and will not result in overtime compensation.

- c. An Employee Benefits Committee consisting of one employee and/or the designated labor representative per bargaining unit will meet in February, May, and September to discuss the financial and operational performance of the self-insured health plans. The County's Employee Benefits Department will be responsible for coordinating these meetings. The County maintains all plan fiduciary responsibilities, including setting annual rate adjustments based on actuarial review and analysis.
- d. Regular full-time employees must work 30 hours per week to qualify for a County benefit contribution (medical, dental, vision, medical premium reimbursement, and/or waive credit). Employees working an approved percentage schedule of 30-34 hours per week will be credited with 75% of benefit contributions. Employees working an approved percentage schedule of 35-39 hours per week will be credited with 90% of benefit contributions. Additional employee contributions to health insurance premiums will be paid through payroll deduction.
  - For purposes of this policy, hours worked includes all forms of paid time rounded to the nearest whole number. Examples of paid time include, but are not limited to vacation, sick, comp time off, public safety leave (4850 leave), paid admin leave, etc.
  - This provision does not apply to part-time extra-help employees who are not eligible for benefits.
  - For regular full-time employees who change their employment status to percentage employment, this provision will be effective the first of the month following the date they assume the reduced percentage employment schedule. Benefits will return to 100% the first of the month following the effective date the employee returns to 100% regular employment status.
- e. For regular full-time employees not on an approved percentage schedule who are paid less than an average of 40 hours per week (employees going into unapproved, unpaid, unprotected time off, DOC time, etc.), employee contributions will be adjusted if the employee does not average 40 hours per week of paid time in the quarter. This process will be modified for regular full-time employees working an alternative work schedule that does not provide 80-hours of regular compensation per pay period (such as the "6/3" work schedule). Unpaid suspension time as a result of employee disciplinary actions will not count against an employee in determining health insurance eligibility.
  - Employee benefit eligibility will be evaluated on a quarterly basis, based on paychecks paid in the quarter.
  - Analysis of hours paid in the quarter will occur during the first month of the following quarter. If the employee's hours fall below 40 hours per week in the quarter being reviewed, the employee's contributions will be adjusted based on the employee's quarterly average. The effective date of the adjustment will be the first pay period of the second month of the following quarter.
  - For purposes of this provision, employees averaging 36-40 hours per week will see no change in County benefit contribution. Employees averaging 31 to 35 hours per week will be credited with 90% of County benefit contributions. Employees averaging 30 hours per week will be credited with 75% of County benefit



contributions. Employees averaging less than 30 hours per week will not be eligible for a County benefit contribution. Additional employee contributions to health insurance premiums will be paid through payroll deduction.

- County benefit contributions will be restored to 100% effective the first pay period of the second month of the following quarter in which the employee is paid an average of 40 hours per week in the quarter.
- f. For employees on a paid leave of absence, the County will continue the current process for coordinating leave accruals with State Disability benefits. This process allows an employee to combine their State Disability benefits with their leave accruals to equal 40 hours of compensation per week while maintaining their full health insurance benefits. For employees participating in disability plans other than State Disability, the County will continue to provide the same level of coordinated benefits consistent with the benefits available through State Disability.
- g. Under current policy, employees on an unpaid, unprotected leave of absence do not receive health insurance contributions effective the first of the month following the start of their unpaid leave status. Employees returning from an unpaid leave will have their health insurance contributions restored effective the first of the month following their return to full-time paid status. Please see applicable County policies regarding unpaid leave status, exceptions for FMLA eligible employees and the availability of COBRA benefits.
- h. For benefit information related to Voluntary Time Off, Job Sharing and benefit provisions for Certain Part-Time Nurses, please refer to the individual County policies and CNA labor agreement.
- i. Nothing in this agreement shall enhance or reduce existing policy provisions related to military leave benefits.

## **10. Dependent Audit**

In order to verify that only eligible individuals are covered under the County's medical, dental and vision plans, the County will be conducting an audit of all persons enrolled as dependents under the employee's plan.

The County, at its own expense, will utilize broadly accepted, industry-standard processes to determine if covered dependents meet the requirements as outlined in the County's Summary Plan Description. These processes may include, but are not limited to:

- Collection of legal documents (e.g. birth certificates, marriage certificates, legally binding adoption agreements, etc.)
- Obtaining dependent eligibility information from Medicare or health insurance companies
- Completion of sworn affidavit by County employee and/or dependents
- The purpose of this audit is to determine if only eligible dependents are enrolled

## **11. Ineligible Dependents**

If ineligible dependents are enrolled as a result of negligent behavior by the County employee, all claims and/or premiums for the ineligible dependent will become the responsibility of the County employee.

Willful misrepresentation of dependent status may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

## **12. Full Understanding**

It is understood by the parties that these provisions fully set forth the agreement of the parties in matters of health insurance as herein specified. Other than the provisions contained herein, the parties agree that only through mutual agreement of all the parties to this agreement would discussion occur during the term of this agreement on health insurance matters.