

Exhibit E

Protests and Appeals Procedures

1. Protests to the General Services Director

Any actual or prospective bidder, offeror or Respondent who is allegedly aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a permit, other than a bid protest for a construction project, may protest to the General Services Director. The protest shall be submitted in writing to the General Services Director (Purchasing Agent) within five (5) working days after Respondents have received notification of the recommendation of award.

2. Decision of the General Services Director

Following consultation with County Counsel, the General Services Director shall issue a written decision within ten (10) working days after receipt of the protest. The decision shall:

- (a) State the reason for the action taken;
- (b) Inform the protestant that a request for further administrative appeal of an adverse decision must be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) working days after receipt of the decision made by the General Services Director. However, if the underlying protested award is not subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors (contracts for services for up to \$200,000), then the General Services Director's decision shall be final.

3. Protests and Appeals to the Board of Supervisors

- (a) If permitted under Section 2(b) above, the decision of the General Services Director may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.
- (b) Any actual or prospective bidder, offeror or Respondent who is allegedly aggrieved may protest a bid to the Board of Supervisors.

4. Time Limits for Filing Protests and Appeals to the Board of Supervisors

Protests and appeals to the Board of Supervisors must be filed no later than ten (10) working days after the date of the decision being protested or appealed. The County shall be considered an interested party. When the appeal period ends on a day when the County offices are not open to the public for business, the time limits shall be extended to the next full working day.

5. Content of Protest and Appeal; Stay of Award

Any appeal or protest shall be filed in writing with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and shall state, as appropriate, any of the following:

- A determination or interpretation is not in accord with the purpose of these procedures or County Code;
- There was an error or abuse of discretion;
- The record includes inaccurate information; or
- A decision is not supported by the record.

In the event of a timely appeal before the Board of Supervisors under this Section, the County shall not proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the permit until the appeal is resolved, unless the County Executive Officer, in consultation with County Counsel, the General Services Director, and the using department, makes a written determination that the award of the permit without delay is necessary to protect a substantial interest of the County.

6. Protest and Appeal Procedure

- (a) Hearing Date. A hearing before the Board shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the County's receipt of a protest or appeal unless the protestor and County both consent to a later date.
- (b) Notice and Public Hearing. The hearing shall be a public hearing. Notice shall be mailed or delivered to the protestor not later than ten (10) days before the scheduled hearing date.
- (c) Hearing. At the hearing, the Board shall review the record of the process or decision, and hear oral explanations from the protestor and any other interested party.
- (d) Decision and Notice. After the hearing, the Board shall affirm, modify or revise the original decision. When a decision is modified or reversed, the Board shall state the specific reasons for modification or reversal. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall mail notice of the Board decision. Such notice shall be mailed to the protestor within five (5) working days after the date of the decision, and to any other party requesting such notice.
- (e) A decision by the Board shall become final on the date the decision is announced to the public.

Signature

Print Name

Date