Sec. A17-6. Notice of Meetings

1. **Regular Meetings**

   Each legislative body, except for advisory committees or standing committees, shall provide, by ordinance, resolution, bylaws, or by whatever other rule is required for the conduct of business by that body, the time and place for holding regular meetings. Meetings for which an agenda is posted at least **72-hours** in advance of the meeting shall be considered as regular meetings of the legislative body.

2. **Special Meetings**

   A special meeting may be called at any time by the presiding officer of the legislative body or by a majority of the members of the legislative body, by delivering written notice to each member of the legislative body and to each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or television station requesting notice in writing and posting a notice on our Internet Website.

   The notice shall be delivered personally or by any other means and shall be received at least **24-hours** before the time of the meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted or discussed. No other business shall be considered at these meetings by the legislative body. The written notice may be dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes files with the clerk or secretary of the legislative body a written waiver of notice. The written notice may also be dispensed with as to any member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes. The call and notice shall be posted at least 24-hours prior to the special meeting in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public.

3. **Emergency Meetings**

   "Emergency situation" means both of the following: (1) An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members of the legislative body. (2) A dire emergency, which shall be defined as a crippling disaster, mass destruction, terrorist act, or threatened terrorist activity that poses peril so immediate and significant that requiring a legislative body to provide **one-hour notice** before holding an emergency meeting under this section may endanger the public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members of the legislative body. In the case of an emergency situation involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, a legislative body may hold an emergency
meeting without complying with either the 24-hour notice requirement or the 24-hour posting requirement of Section 54956 or both of the notice and posting requirements.

Sec. A17-8. Conduct of Meetings

(From Board Policy Manual – 3.5 Protocol and Time Limits on Public Presentations at Board Meetings (Adopted 6-13-95)

1. Presentations by Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda

Pursuant to the Brown Act, the Board of Supervisors regularly sets aside time during its regularly scheduled sessions when members of the public may address the Board on any matter that is not on the agenda for that day's meeting. The public is cautioned to note that the Board is legally prohibited from taking action on or engaging in a lengthy discussion of any matter that is not on the agenda except under rare circumstances. If Board action is requested, the matter can be placed on the next Board agenda. All matters that require a written response will be referred to Administration for a scheduled reply.

2. Time Limit on Public Presentations for Items Not on the Agenda

Persons who wish to address the Board on a matter that is not on the agenda shall limit their presentation to one minute.

3. Public Comments on Items on the Regular Agenda

Persons who wish to address the Board on a regularly scheduled item on the agenda shall complete and submit a form that is located on the speaker’s podium. Groups of speakers who wish to make a presentation on a particular item are asked to limit their presentation to a maximum of twenty minutes for each side of the issue. Individual speakers are requested to limit their comments to three minutes.

Sec. A17-12. Disclosure of Public Records

These are the procedures for coordinating and responding to requests to inspect or to copy non-exempt County records under the California Public Records Act (CPRA).

1. California Public Records Act

The CPRA gives the public the right to inspect and to obtain copies of public records. The CPRA declares that access to information concerning the conduct of the people’s business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state. The CPRA strongly favors prompt disclosure of public records. Several types of records, however, are exempt from disclosure for privacy or public policy reasons.

The CPRA defines public records as “any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public agency’s business prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics.” A “writing” is broadly defined
to include any means of recording on any form of communication. Accordingly, written
documents, maps, audio and video recordings, e-mails, and other computer data are public
records. While an agency has no duty to create a record that does not currently exist, the
agency is required to provide electronic data in a usable form. This duty may include
necessary computer programming work to extract or compile electronic data. In such
cases, the County may be able to recover the costs of the computer programming work
from the requestor.

The CPRA contains several enumerated exemptions from disclosure as well as a public
policy exemption that applies where there is no specific exemption but where the public
interest in not disclosing the record “clearly outweighs” the public interest in disclosing the
record. Examples of enumerated exemptions include certain records relating to pending
litigation; personnel, medical or similar files, where disclosure would constitute an
unwarranted invasion of privacy; privileged communications (such as attorney-client and
physician-patient communications); and taxpayer information.

Any doubt about whether a “writing” constitutes a public record that must be disclosed
under the CPRA should be addressed to the Office of the County Counsel.

A. Time Limits to Respond to a CPRA Request

Public records must be open to inspection at all times during the agency’s normal business
hours. Records that are readily accessible for inspection and copying or otherwise
routinely produced within one or two business days of a request should be promptly
provided in accordance with County Counsel-approved departmental protocols (discussed
in Section 4.A). Responses to requests for other types of records must comply with the
following time limits. Within ten (10) days of receiving a request for copies, the agency
must notify the requestor whether there are any records responsive to the request, and, if so,
whether the records will be disclosed or withheld.1

This ten-day time period to respond whether responsive records are maintained by the
agency may be extended for up to fourteen (14) additional days in “unusual
circumstances.” Unusual circumstances are defined as requests involving a voluminous
amount of separate and distinct records, the need to search for records at other locations,
the need to compile or write programming to extract electronic data, or the need to consult
with other departments or agencies that have a substantial interest in the matter.

Once it is determined that responsive records are maintained by the County, the County
must promptly provide for inspection and/or copying of responsive records. A “prompt
response” to provide responsive records does not necessarily require immediate disclosure
of the records. Under the appropriate circumstances, taking into consideration factors such
as the volume of records requested, the need to redact information, the difficulty in copying
the records, limited resources, etc., the County can inform the requestor that the records
will be provided at a later date, so long as that later date is reasonable under the
circumstances.

B. Costs for Processing the Records Request

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1 State law requires some records to be produced more quickly. For example, Form 700s must be made
available as soon as possible during the agency’s regular business hours, but in any event not later than the
second business day after the statement is received.
The County can only charge for direct copying costs. (Note: This does not apply to requests for documents or official records where a different fee is otherwise legally authorized.) With few exceptions, the County may not charge for staff time to locate records, review the records, or otherwise process the request. For copies made in-house by the department/agency, the County Executive’s Office establishes the copying costs that may be charged (currently $0.10/page). For voluminous records, the County may require the requestor to arrange and pay for a third-party copy service to make the copies.

2. **County-Designated Office for Coordinating Public Records Act Requests**

In 2011, the Board of Supervisors designated the Office of the County Counsel as the office responsible for receiving and coordinating the County’s responses to CPRA requests. However, individual departments/agencies that maintain the records requested continue to have primary responsibility for responding to CPRA requests. The Office of the County Counsel is simply responsible for receiving and coordinating the response. The process for obtaining public records is published on the County’s website. To streamline the receipt and processing of CPRA requests, individual departments/agencies are to forward non-routine CPRA requests to the Office of the County Counsel’s public records email address. This email address is for internal departmental use.

Departments/agencies will still receive CPRA requests directly. A department/agency must not turn away a CPRA request directed to it; the department/agency should follow the procedure discussed in Section 4 (below).

3. **Department/Agency Public Records Act Coordinators**

Each department/agency shall identify a designated Public Records Act Coordinator (and at least one back-up for absences) who is responsible for complying with the County’s CPRA Response Process. Larger departments/agencies with multiple divisions shall designate a Public Records Act Coordinator (and back-up) at each appropriate division level. Each department/agency must ensure that all staff are aware of the identity of the department/agency’s Public Records Act Coordinators.

The Office of the County Counsel maintains a list of the department/agency Public Records Act Coordinators, and updates it throughout the year. Departments/Aencies must notify the County Counsel’s Confidential Secretary whenever the department/agency’s primary or back-up Public Records Act Coordinator(s) changes.

4. **Submit Copy of CPRA Request with Evidence of Date Received to the Office of the County Counsel**

A. **Requests for Documents and Copies of Official Records Routinely Provided as Part of the Departments/Agency’s Business Not Included in this CPRA Response Process**

Many departments/agencies’ functions include processes in which individuals can inspect and order or otherwise request copies of documents or official records. A few examples

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2 As each page is $0.10/page, a double-sided copy is $0.20.
include requests to the Clerk-Recorder’s Office for birth, death, marriage, or divorce records, or routine document requests to the Clerk of the Board’s Office or the Department of Planning and Development. To streamline these routine requests and ensure that there is no undue delay in providing records to the public, the department/agency should work with its assigned deputy county counsel to develop a standard protocol for responding to these types of requests. The protocol should identify the types of records that are subject to the protocol and the procedures for handling requests to review and obtain copies of those records. If there is a County Counsel-approved departmental protocol, then requests for documents and copies of official records that are covered by the protocol are **not** included in the CPRA Response Process discussed herein.

B. Dedicated Email Address

Upon receipt of a CPRA request, the receiving department/agency will immediately (on the same business day) submit via email a copy of the complete written CPRA request, including evidence of the date received, to the Office of the County Counsel’s public records email address. This can be accomplished by forwarding a full email request received or scanning a paper request with a date stamp on the document and the mailing envelope in which it was received, if applicable. If the records request was made orally (e.g., by telephone), the department/agency will need to convert the request to written form for emailing as explained under Section 4.C. below.

The Office of the County Counsel will log the CPRA request and track it for response. A deputy county counsel will be assigned to coordinate the CPRA response with the affected department(s)/agency(ies).

C. Oral CPRA Requests / County of Santa Clara Public Records Request Form

A request for public records may be made orally or in writing. When an oral request is received, the department/agency shall ask the requestor to complete the “County of Santa Clara Public Records Request Form” (Request Form) or otherwise put his/her request in writing. Confirming the request in writing will assist in eliminating any confusion regarding the details of the public records request.

However, the requestor is not required to put the request in writing, and a request for public records cannot be denied because it is made orally. If the requestor is unable or not willing to put the public records request in writing, the department/agency shall complete the Request Form for the requestor to document the public records request for the County’s records.

The Request Form does not apply to routine requests for documents and copies of official records that are covered by a County Counsel-approved departmental protocol, as discussed in Section 4.A. (above). The Request Form applies to oral requests for records that are **not** covered by a County Counsel-approved departmental protocol.

In some cases, an oral request may include both (1) documents provided by a department on a routine basis and covered under a County Counsel-approved departmental protocol and (2) records not covered under such a protocol. When this happens, the department/agency may provide the routine documents covered under a protocol immediately upon request, and will need to forward the remainder of the oral request to the
Office of the County Counsel pursuant to this CPRA Response Process. If the department/agency provided any responsive records immediately upon request, the department/agency shall indicate this in the email with the copy of the Request Form to County Counsel’s public records email address.

5. **Office of the County Counsel Will Coordinate Department/Agency CPRA Response**

Typically, the deputy county counsel assigned to the department/agency will work with the department/agency to respond to the CPRA request. In cases where the CPRA request involves other related potential or pending matters already being overseen by the Office of the County Counsel (e.g., pending litigation, matters involving multiple departments), another deputy county counsel may work with the department/agency directly.

The Office of the County Counsel will coordinate the department/agency response. This will include:

1. determining if multiple departments/agencies need to be consulted to respond to the CPRA request;
2. determining if the response should come directly from a department/agency or through the Office of the County Counsel; and
3. if the response is to come from a department/agency, whether the responsive records need to be reviewed by the Office of the County Counsel in advance of their release.

The coordinating deputy county counsel will consult with the County department(s)/agency(ies) to determine what records the department(s)/agency(ies) has that fall within the scope of the request. As necessary, the coordinating deputy(ies) will review the responsive records and determine whether any exemptions from disclosure apply, and whether any records with exempt material may be redacted such that the record can be released while still protecting the exempt material.

6. **Submit a Copy of CPRA Extension and Response Letters to Office of the County Counsel**

If an extension to respond was sent to the requestor, a pdf copy of the signed extension letter that was sent to the requestor must be provided the same day via email to County Counsel’s public records email address. If the extension was sent via email, the sent email should be forwarded to County Counsel’s public records email address. For CPRA requests made orally, see Section 4.C. above.

Within 10 days (or 14 additional days if an extension was requested), a pdf copy of the signed response letter (or copy of a response email) that was sent to the requestor must be provided the same day via email to County Counsel’s public records email address. Copies of any responsive records, if any, should **not** be included in the email to County Counsel’s public records email address.
7. **Responsive Records**

The Office of the County Counsel will determine if there is a need to have a full copy of the responsive records (in addition to the response letter) sent to County Counsel. This determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The responding department/agency must keep a copy of the CPRA response and all responsive records for three (3) years unless an alternative method of documenting what records were produced is approved by County Counsel.

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### Sec. A17-13. Acceptance of Gifts

1. **General Principle for Gifts Under $10,000**

The head of a department or agency and individual members of the Board of Supervisors may accept on behalf of the County personal property gifts, including cash, **valued at less than $10,000.00 from a single donor**, connected with or incidental to his or her office, whenever he or she deems such gifts and the terms and conditions thereof to be in the best interests of the County; provided, however, that the head of a department or agency receiving any gift shall make an accounting of all gifts so accepted to the Director of Finance and the Board of Supervisors at the first meeting in December and first meeting in June each year.

2. **Gifts Above $10,000**

All other gifts, devises, bequests and trusts, except as described above, may be received by each board, commission, department and agency only after formal acceptance and approval by the Board of Supervisors as trustee for the County.

Title to all such gifts, devises, bequests and trusts shall be taken in the name of the County of Santa Clara and shall vest in said County, and it shall be the duty of any such trustee to pay the proceeds to the Treasurer of the County when the same shall be allowed by the terms of the transfer to the trustee. Upon acceptance of any gift, devise, bequest or trust by the Board of Supervisors, the Director of Finance shall be notified of such acceptance and shall make the necessary entries on the respective accounts and property records to insure that the property which is the subject of such gift, devise, bequest or trust will be charged to the account of the proper County officer. The County Counsel shall act as attorney for the trustee solely for the purpose of effectuating any such gift, devise, bequest or trust.

3. **Gifts Shall Not be Tied to Performance of a Specific Act as Part of Official Duties**

No County officer or employee shall accept any gift, reward, devise or bequest for the performance of a specific act, which act is a part of said officer's or employee's official duties and responsibilities.
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA TRAVEL POLICY
Effective May 1, 2018
# COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA TRAVEL POLICY

## GUIDE TO CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Title</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY – QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCOPE OF THIS POLICY</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies, Guidelines, and Procedures:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affected Parties:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guiding Principles</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasions for Travel</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Conflict with Labor Agreements or Laws</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prudent Judgment and Common Sense</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itemized Receipts</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVEL PLANNING AND ARRANGEMENTS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider All Costs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimizing Time Spent Away</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booking Reservations</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booking Methods</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellations</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Authorization Form Approval</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Approval</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip Expense Voucher</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation Requirement</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVEL EXCEPTIONS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples of when the Travel Exceptions Form is required</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval of Exception</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVEL ADVANCES</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Advances Guidelines</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settling Advances</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Guidelines</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation by Air</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Travel Rules</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation by Car</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Guidelines - Driver’s Permit/License</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation – Car Rental</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
County of Santa Clara Travel Policy
Effective May 1, 2018

Car Rental Guidelines ................................................................. 15
Transportation – Personal Car ......................................................... 15
Personal Car Guidelines ................................................................. 15
Allowable Mileage Reimbursement for County Business Travel .......... 16
Mileage/Reimbursement Rate .......................................................... 16
Airfare Equivalent (AFE) Reimbursements ...................................... 17
Transportation – County Car .......................................................... 17
Transportation – Other Ground Transport ....................................... 17
Non-Air Travel ........................................................................ 17
Ground Transportation at the Travel Destination ................................ 17
Taxi Service ............................................................................. 17

LODGING ........................................................................ 18
Lodging Guidelines ................................................................. 18
Lodging Reimbursement Rate ......................................................... 18
Neighbor Counties ..................................................................... 18
Miscellaneous Lodging Rules ........................................................ 18

MEALS ............................................................................. 19
Travel Meals ........................................................................... 19
Meal Reimbursement Rates ........................................................... 19
Meals Provided as a Part of the Program ........................................ 19
Alcoholic Beverages .................................................................. 20
Meals at Protocol Events .............................................................. 20
Same Day Travel ....................................................................... 20
Per Diem Rate Sources ............................................................... 21

INCIDENTAL AND OTHER ALLOWABLE EXPENSES ............. 22

NON-REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES ........................................ 23
COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY – QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Introduction

This is a quick reference guide to travel policies and procedures contained in the County’s Travel Policy. It is NOT meant to provide comprehensive information.

Guiding Principles

All expenses incurred while on County business should be reasonable and a prudent use of public funds. Travelers shall choose the most efficient, direct and economical travel options required by the occasion.

Travel Authorization

Any person traveling on County business and seeking reimbursement from the County, must obtain travel authorization prior to the travel. Formal written request for travel reimbursement is made on a Travel Authorization form. This form must be completed if one or more of the following are incurred: airfare, lodging, meals, car rental for overnight trip, or an advance.

Within 30 calendar days of return from a County trip, travelers must submit travel documents to their departments to allow a final accounting on a Trip Expense Voucher.

Travel Advance

Travel advances will be limited to 85% of the total estimated travel cost with a minimum amount of $100.00. Employees with a P-card or who have an outstanding advance balance are not eligible for a travel advance.

Reimbursable Travel Costs

Transportation Costs
Air travel reservations are made through a County-approved travel agency. Contact your Departmental Travel Coordinator for travel arrangement assistance.

A car rental is allowable if it is the least expensive ground transportation option. A written justification for such rental is required on the Travel Authorization form, and any reimbursement must be supported by an itemized car rental receipt.

Travelers who use a private auto for traveling on County business will be reimbursed for personal car mileage which exceeds the normal home-to-work mileage. When traveling to a destination with scheduled airline service, the mileage payment may not exceed the equivalent coach class airfare plus transportation to local airport and other transportation related costs at destination (such as ground transportation and hotel vehicle parking charges).

For any other ground transportation options, the most economical and appropriate form of available transportation that meets the traveler’s needs should be selected.

Lodging Costs
The maximum reimbursement for lodging will be 165% of the federal per diem rate allowed for the location of the overnight stay. An exception is if the traveler stays in a lodging location where a conference, training, or meeting is held, then 300% of the per diem rate is allowed. The reimbursement rate includes room, resort fee, and transient occupancy tax.

A valid, itemized receipt must accompany the lodging reimbursement claim.

Meal Costs
Travel meals will be reimbursed at the federal per diem rate allowed for the location of the travel and receipts are not required. Itemized receipts are required for members of the Board of Supervisors and appointed commissions and committees per State law.

Federal Per Diem Rate
For Travel within the Continental United States, use rate listed on http://www.gsa.gov/
* Use County Code (www.naco.org) search when the city is not listed and to identify if the city is in a high cost county
* If neither city nor county is listed, use CONUS standard lodging/meal rate

Travel Exceptions

Exceptions to specific provisions of County travel policy may be authorized by the Finance Agency Director or Controller-Treasurer on a case-by-case basis, and only when there is adequate written justification and documentation and the travel is within the intent of the overall travel policy.

Allowable exceptions are confined to the following conditions:
* To serve the business interest of the County
* To avoid a severe hardship or inconvenience
* To observe an established or expected protocol at a specified event
* To respond to an emergency situation

Examples of when the Travel Exceptions Form are required prior to travel
* Attendance of more than policy-specified number of employees from the same budget unit to seminar/workshop.
* Lodging costs within four neighboring counties.

Incidental and Other Reimbursable Expenses

Reasonable and necessary costs for other travel expenses will be reimbursed when supported by
itemized receipts (if more than $10) or other appropriate documentation.

Incidental expenses incurred for fees and tips given to porters, baggage carriers, and hotel staff will be reimbursed up to GSA limit (currently at $5 per day).

**Non-reimbursable Expenses include**

* Parking and traffic violations
* Mileage for County vehicles
* Mileage for commute to work
* Mileage within Santa Clara County for Board of Supervisors and management persons who receive a vehicle allowance
* Emergency repairs for non-County vehicles
* Car rental insurance for travel in United States and Fuel Service Option
* Tips exceeding County allowances
* Refreshments, snacks, alcoholic beverages
* Personal travel expenses
* Medicinal remedies, health supplies, cosmetics
* Personal entertainment, e.g. in-room movies
* Childcare fees; kennel/boarding fees
* Short term airport parking exceeding long term rate
* Incident expenses that are to be of a personal nature, extravagant, or might be considered to be unreasonable or unnecessary
SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

Policies, Guidelines, and Procedures:
This policy provides guidelines and establishes procedures for employees and others incurring authorized business travel expenses on the County’s behalf.

Travel request circumstances not covered in this policy shall be treated as exceptions pursuant to the Travel Exceptions section of this policy with reimbursements subject to Finance Agency Director or Controller-Treasurer approval.

Affected Parties:
The policies, guidelines and procedures contained herein apply to all employees and officers of the County of Santa Clara whether appointed or elected, members of boards, commissions, committees and task forces advisory to the Board of Supervisors, County volunteers, as well as non-employees traveling on County business. Agencies or departments may adopt more restrictive procedures, if desired.

The County is in the process of developing a separate policy for approval by the Board relating to travel for contractors and professional consultants. This policy will continue to apply to contractors and professional consultants in the interim, unless otherwise provided in their contracts.

For the remainder of this document, County business travelers will be referred to as “travelers” or “employees,” unless otherwise noted.
PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

Purpose
The County of Santa Clara Ordinance Code, Division A31, authorizes travel for business purposes, on the County’s behalf. The ordinance allows advances and reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred by County employees and others for business travel and related expenses. The ordinance also states that specific policies, procedures and guidelines are provided in this Travel Policy. The County Ordinance on travel can be found in Appendix A.

Objectives
The objectives of the County’s travel policy and procedures documents are as follows:
1. To support travel costs incurred on behalf of the County for the purpose of conducting County business;
2. To establish uniform criteria and approval authority for advances and reimbursement of travel expenses for County business travelers;
3. To provide County business travelers with a reasonable level of service and comfort at reasonable cost; and
4. To avoid the improper use of County funds for travel that does not benefit the County.

Guiding Principles
Travel on behalf of the County may be approved only when the purpose results in a benefit to the County.

All expenses incurred while traveling on County business should be a reasonable and prudent use of public funds. Travelers should choose the most efficient, direct and economical travel options required for the occasion and any individual who chooses a different route, without adequate justification, must assume any additional expense incurred. If for traveler’s personal convenience, there is interruption or deviation from the direct route, the travel cost cannot exceed that which would have been incurred on uninterrupted travel.

Travel is authorized for the minimum number of persons necessary to carry out the business purpose of the travel, and only for those whose job tasks are directly related to the purpose of the travel.

Occasions for Travel
Examples include the following types of occasions when the County traveler is required to travel out of the County to:
1. Attend a convention, seminar, meeting, school, or training;
2. Make professional presentations as a County employee or official;
3. Interview persons; inspect programs, facilities or institutions; conduct surveys; exchange professional information;
4. Work at a project location sufficiently distant from the main or regular place of work to require overnight lodging;
5. Work long hours away from the main or regular place of work where daily travel is impractical;
6. Transport equipment to and from distant points for repair or maintenance;
7. Transport prisoners and/or clients; attend legal proceedings or hearings;
8. Participate in formal activities, including hosting of persons who, for protocol reasons, merit appropriate courtesies and hospitality.

Possible Conflict with Labor Agreements or Laws
These policies apply to all travelers on County business unless they are in conflict with specific provisions of existing labor agreements or with specific provisions of state or federal law. In such cases, the provisions of those agreements or laws shall prevail for the employees covered under those agreements or laws.

Prudent Judgment and Common Sense
While this manual tries to provide specific guidelines for most circumstances that might be encountered while traveling on County business, it cannot anticipate all possible circumstances. When such circumstances occur, travelers must use prudent fiscal judgment and common sense in the expenditure of public funds.

Itemized Receipts
The policy requires travelers to submit itemized receipts in certain situations (airfare, rental car, lodging, etc.) to receive reimbursement. If itemized receipts are not provided, then reimbursement for the applicable cost will not be allowed.

Personal Credit Card Use
Travelers may use their personal credit cards to pay for travel costs related to County business; however, they should not use such cards to pay travel costs for other employees. If this is done on an ongoing basis, the Controller-Treasurer Department reserves the right to deny reimbursement of such costs.
TRAVEL PLANNING AND ARRANGEMENTS

Consider All Costs
In choosing the most efficient, direct, and economical mode of transportation, the traveler shall take into account total costs including airfare cost, ground transportation availability and cost, alternate airport options, departure and travel times and their impact on work time, expediency, daily expenses, and similar measures of reasonable travel conditions.

Minimizing Time Spent Away
Travelers should schedule their trip so that they leave at the latest reasonable time and still arrive at their destination on time. They should also return promptly as soon as their business is finished, thereby minimizing both the time away from work and corresponding expenses.

Booking Reservations
Reservations should be made as early as possible to take advantage of available discounts.

Booking Methods
The County’s travel agency should be used to purchase the air tickets to take advantage of the complimentary travel insurance coverage and facilitate the central billing and payment process. However, other options are allowed if they offer a comparable costs.

When making direct reservations, it is especially important to be sure that expenditures will be a “reasonable and prudent use of public funds.” Usually pre-arranged accommodations (e.g., for a conference) provide very reasonable cost choices, and direct booking is easy and efficient, requiring no special justifications.

Cancellations
When travel arrangements must be cancelled, the traveler or the department travel coordinator, if any, is responsible for handling the cancellation and for documenting the cancellation number to avoid possible billing disputes later.
**TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION**

Any person traveling on County business and seeking reimbursement from the County, must obtain travel authorization prior to the travel. This authorization should be obtained as early as possible and always prior to the date of travel. Agencies/departments should establish how employees obtain travel authorization.

Formal written request for travel reimbursement is made on a Travel Authorization form. The Travel Authorization form and travel payment request (per Trip Expense Voucher) must be completed if one or more of the following costs are incurred: airfare, lodging, meals, car rental for overnight trip, or an advance. If other travel related costs are incurred, such as mileage for personal vehicle, parking, registration, or toll fare, they can be reimbursed to the traveler per Direct Pay Code or employee reimbursement, and a Travel Authorization form and Trip Expense Voucher are not required.

The Travel Authorization number is assigned by the department for each trip at the time the Travel Authorization form is submitted; the number sequence is as follows: ###-#####-TA#####. The first set of numbers represents the budget unit, the second set of numbers represents the cost center, and the third set is assigned by departments, beginning with “TA”. The original Travel Authorization form should always go to the Controller-Treasurer Department – Claims Unit with the first payment request, with copies attached to each payment request afterward. Controller-Treasurer will hold the original Travel Authorization form in an open file until the trip is completed.

**Travel Authorization Form Approval**

Approval of the Travel Authorization form for travel within the Continental United States (Lower 48 states) will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTY SEEKING APPROVAL</th>
<th>APPROVER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency/Department staff or affiliated non-employees</td>
<td>Agency/Department head or designee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency/Department heads who report directly to the County Executive, Chief Operating Officer, or Deputy County Executive</td>
<td>County Executive, Chief Operating Officer, or Deputy County Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department heads who do not report to the County Executive</td>
<td>Agency head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Appointees (County Executive, Clerk of the Board, County Counsel, Director of Child Support Services, Public Defender, and Chief of Correction)</td>
<td>Approve their own, but must submit written notice to the Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Supervisor staff</td>
<td>Board member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any member of the Board of Supervisors or a County board, commission, or task force advisory to the Board</td>
<td>Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
County of Santa Clara Travel Policy  
Effective May 1, 2018

For international travel, and travel to Hawaii, Alaska, or any US territory, the County Executive’s or designee’s approval is required in addition to the approvals shown above. For Board members and staff and Board appointees, the President of the Board must approve as well. The Sheriff and District Attorney are allowed to approve all travel related to extraditions and trials in Hawaii and Alaska.

Final Approval
The Finance Agency Director or Controller-Treasurer have final approval as to the appropriateness and reasonableness of all reimbursement requests and whether reimbursements shall be made to the traveler.

Trip Expense Voucher
Within 30 calendar days of return from a County business trip or official function, travelers must submit their travel documents to their departments to be eligible for any reimbursement. Departments will complete and submit a final accounting of all travel expenses on a Trip Expense Voucher to the Controller-Treasurer Department for reimbursement within 90 calendar days of return from a County business trip or official function.

Documentation Requirement
For each travel occasion, documentation must include a Travel Authorization form, a Trip Expense Voucher, and pertinent supporting documentation for the final accounting. This documentation should include the following:

- P-Card statement or P-Card activity report for any P-Card transaction;
- Invoice and trip itinerary from vendor or travel agent, if applicable;
- Documentation of the cost of airfare or use of a public carrier;
- Car rental – original car rental receipt showing the dates and number of days, mileage driven, and type of vehicle rented (the credit card receipt alone is insufficient); copy of request justification for using rental car if it was not stated in the approved travel authorization; written explanation of any unusually high mileage;
- Event brochure or agenda for conference, training, special event, including supplemental pages (if any) that have meal and price information;
- Itemized hotel bill or statement, even if vendor was paid directly or on an estimated basis;
- Receipts for travel expenses greater than $10;
- Documents showing destination and actual mileage driven for personal vehicle mileage claims;
- SAP Journal Entry Number of deposit that shows excess advance funds were returned to the County;
- A written explanation if reporting any travel cost which may appear to be unusually high, questionable, or when exceptions have been authorized;
- Approved Travel Exceptions Form(s), if applicable (see below for detail).
TRAVEL EXCEPTIONS

Occasionally there may be exceptions to these policies and guidelines that are reasonable and necessary. Such exceptions should be confined to the following conditions:

1. To serve the business interest of the County;
2. To avoid a severe hardship or inconvenience;
3. To observe an established or expected protocol at a specified event; or
4. To respond to an emergency situation.

The exceptions described below should be clearly explained and documented on a Travel Exceptions Form and should be submitted for approval at the earliest opportunity before travel occurs.

Examples of when the Travel Exceptions Form is required before travel

1. Attendance of more than policy-specified number of employees from the same budget unit to seminar/workshop. No more than five employees from the same budget unit (seven employees from the two budget units that have over 2,000 employee counts – Social Service Agency (BU 501) and Valley Medical Center (BU 921)) should be allowed to attend the same seminar or workshop, unless individual attendance is required for certification purposes. Attending employees can give a presentation or report to other employees after returning from the workshop or seminar. If there are specific reasons that the department head approves attendance of more than five (or seven for SSA or VMC), employees from the same budget unit for a seminar or workshop which is not for certification purposes, the additional costs and the justification notes will be documented on the Travel Exceptions Form and the additional costs will be reported to the Finance and Government Operations Committee annually.
2. Lodging costs within Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, or San Mateo counties.

The above situations require approval from the parties listed in the table below and concurrence from the Finance Agency Director or Controller-Treasurer (or Chief Operating Officer for Finance Agency exceptions) prior to the travel.

Any other exceptions from these policies and guidelines should be explained on the Travel Authorization form or Trip Expense Voucher, and do not require completion of Travel Exception Form.
Approval of Exception
Requests for an exception to the Travel Policy must be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis at the supervisory and department levels by the following parties before submitting for final approval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXCEPTION APPROVAL FOR</th>
<th>EXCEPTION APPROVER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board Members</td>
<td>President, Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board President</td>
<td>Vice President, Board of Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency/Department Employees, Board Staff, Affiliated Non-Employees</td>
<td>Agency/Department Head, Board of Supervisor Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency/Dept. Heads (County Executive Direct Reports)</td>
<td>County Executive, Chief Operating Officer, or Deputy County Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Officials; Commissions, boards, committees, and task forces advisory to the Boards of Supervisors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under no circumstances may any County official or employee approve his/her own exception request.

All exceptions approved as reflected in the table above require a written concurrence from the Finance Agency Director or Controller-Treasurer, in accordance with the established Exception Principles, stated above.

Travel exception requests for an employee or affiliated non-employee of the Finance Agency shall be submitted to the Chief Operating Officer for concurrence.
TRAVEL ADVANCES

Travel Advances Guidelines
Travel advances are allowed when the traveler does not have a P-Card. The Trip Expense Voucher is used for requesting advances (as well as for documenting the final travel expense report). Whenever a County traveler requires an advance of funds for travel expenses, a written, approved request for an advance will be submitted to the Controller-Treasurer Department Claims Unit on the Trip Expense Voucher, accompanied by a copy of the signed Travel Authorization. To ensure timely preparation of the advance payment, travelers should submit their requests to the Controller-Treasurer within 30 calendar days before the trip date.

Costs prepaid by the County, including airfare, registration, hotel, mileage (as airfare equivalent), and other authorized expenditures are considered part of the travel advance and it is the traveler’s responsibility to settle them within the timeframe described in the section below on Settling Advances.

An advance shall not exceed the unpaid portion of estimated travel costs and will be limited to 85% of the total estimated travel cost. The minimum advance to employees is $100. For the transport of prisoners out of state, the minimum advance amount may be under $100, and is authorized whether or not the traveler is a P-Card holder. Full advancement is allowed for anticipated actual and necessary expenditures for mileage, transportation, lodging, and meals for employees and prisoners. (For reimbursements related to transport of prisoners, see also rules and regulations of the California State Board of Control.)

Settling Advances
Advances are settled through the filing of a final expense report on the Trip Expense Voucher. Travelers are required to submit travel documents to their department within 30 calendar days after returning from their trips as required by IRS guidelines for advances. When the advance has exceeded expenses, documentation should also include the SAP journal entry number for deposit (showing funds were returned to County). If the Trip Expense Voucher report and documentation are not received by the Controller-Treasurer Department within 90 days of return, the settlement will be considered delinquent.

Failure to settle advances in the allowed timeframe following a trip will result in notification to the traveler and Department Travel Coordinator from the Controller-Treasurer Department that settlement is due. If there is no response, after two notices each approximately 15 days apart (total 120 days from the date of return), the County is authorized to deduct the entire amount of the advance from the employee’s wages or, if a non-employee, from any other payment that may be due. The Travel Authorization form includes an authorization statement to this effect so that travelers are aware of and agree to this provision when they request an advance. Unsettled advances must be resolved before a traveler is eligible for travel advances in the future.
TRANSPORTATION

General Guidelines
When planning the transportation portion of a trip, consider all aspects of cost to the County – e.g., daily expenses, overtime, lost work time – as well as actual transportation costs. In general, a common carrier (e.g., plane, bus, train) is the preferred mode of transportation. However, use of a personal or County vehicle – especially if two or more employees or officials are traveling together – may be less expensive for travel within the State. The increased time for automobile transportation and the potential for lost work time, overtime, or increased lodging costs should be considered in determining the best mode of transportation.

Transportation by Air
Air travel reservations should be made through the County-approved travel agency using the County’s Business Travel Account. Air travel through other sources is allowed, but the department must demonstrate that the cost of these other services is comparable to the cost offered by the County’s travel agency.

Air Travel Rules
For air travel, the most direct route is advised with minimal number of stops.

The traveler will bear the additional cost of changing flight plans due to personal reasons, for the convenience of the traveler, or for staying extra days for personal reasons.

Reasonable and actual add-on airline fees, such as checked baggage fees, may be allowed and require a receipt if more than $10 in cost.

Travelers will be authorized to pay excess baggage charges when traveling with heavy or bulk material or equipment for business purposes. Documentation must be included in the final Trip Expense Voucher explaining the nature of the excess baggage charge.

Unless authorized as an exception, all air travel must be Coach Class. Such exception must be explained on the Travel Authorization form or Trip Expense Voucher. In the event Coach Class is not available, Business/First Class may be used if it represents the most efficient, direct and economical mode of transportation available.

Transportation by Car

General Guidelines - Driver’s Permit/License
County travelers who drive any car on County business, whether a personal vehicle, a rented car or a County car, must possess a valid County Driver’s Permit and California Driver’s License. Please refer to Comprehensive Vehicle Policy, section “Driver Selection, Training, Driver Responsibility Statement” and section “County Driver Requirements” (Board of Supervisors Policy Manual section 3.52).
Transportation – Car Rental

Car Rental Guidelines
Upon arrival at the destination, travelers may rent a car when it is less expensive than other transportation modes such as taxis, airport limousines and hotel airport shuttles, or when a rental car is needed for other reasons, e.g., ongoing work requirements or inadequate/unavailable ground transportation. A written justification is required on the Travel Authorization form. In the event that an unanticipated rental car is required or if any unusual high mileage usage results in higher rental car fees, then a written explanation on the Trip Expense Voucher is required.

Car rental reservations should be arranged through the County’s approved travel agency, who will book with the County’s designated rental car company or other vehicle option.

When renting a car, travelers should use mid-size or smaller models. Larger vehicles are allowed if there is no additional cost to the County, or if special circumstances exist, such as medical needs, disabilities, multiple travelers who will occupy the vehicle, extra business related luggage, etc.

Travelers should decline the optional vehicle insurance offered by rental companies, as employee operation of a rental car for County business is covered by the County’s insurance program if traveling within the United States. For foreign travel, optional insurance is recommended. A spouse or traveling partner who does not have a County driver’s permit cannot be added to the rental car policy as a driver since the rental car is covered by the County’s insurance program. Insurance covering any personal side trips or additional driver is the responsibility of the employee. Rental companies may require some proof of vehicle insurance, and for this the traveler should carry the County’s Certificate of Coverage (the traveler's own personal coverage may also be accepted by the rental company). A certificate copy can be found in Appendix B.

Reimbursement claims must include the original car rental receipt showing the date(s), number of days and type of vehicle rented and mileage. A credit card receipt alone is insufficient.

Transportation – Personal Car

Personal Car Guidelines
Please refer to Comprehensive Vehicle Policy – Business Use of Private Vehicles (See Board of Supervisors Policy Manual section 3.52).

Employees, if pre-approved, may use their personal car while traveling for business purposes when one or more of the following applies:
1. Public transportation is limited or unavailable;
2. It is more flexible and timely than taking public transportation;
3. Expense is equal to or less than alternate transportation;
4. Employee is willing to accept reimbursement equal to the lowest price of reasonable transport; or
5. For extended stays a department may authorize the use of an employee’s car with reimbursement for mileage to/from the destination work site and other work-related uses.

Allowable Mileage Reimbursement for County Business Travel
Mileage reimbursement will be based on actual miles traveled. However, mileage between employee’s home and the work location is considered to be normal commute and will not be reimbursed. Employee may only claim reimbursement for the added mileage which exceeds the normal home-to-work mileage.

For workers not eligible for overtime compensation, compensatory time off, or other remuneration, actual miles traveled includes:
1. The mileage to and from home and the work location if the presence of the employee is required on a scheduled day off.
2. The daily commute mileage resulting in more than one daily trip to and from home and the work location when the presence of the employee is required before or after regular work hours.

Examples of appropriate use of personal car mileage include:
1. To and from the scheduled carrier service.
2. To and from destinations that do not have scheduled air service.
3. If scheduled air service is available but the traveler still prefers to use his/her personal car, mileage reimbursement will be based on “equivalent airfare,” described below. County paid additional travel time should also be factored into the cost decision.
4. For non-commuter transportation inside Santa Clara County. Pursuant to the Salary Ordinance relating to the compensation of persons in management positions of the County of Santa Clara unrepresented by recognized employee organizations, members of the Board of Supervisors and persons in designated management positions shall be paid a flat rate vehicle allowance per month. Board of Supervisors and designated management employees receiving the vehicle allowance shall not be eligible to claim mileage reimbursement for any miles traveled within Santa Clara County.

Mileage/Reimbursement Rate
Travelers will be reimbursed for personal car mileage expenses for County business purposes, not to exceed established federal rates. Personal car mileage reimbursement covers the operating cost of the vehicle, such as cost of gas, oil, wear and tear, and needed servicing during the trip. To claim travel mileage reimbursement, travelers should use the Trip Expense Voucher. For non-travel related mileage reimbursement, travelers should use the Employee Mileage form. Current mileage rates can be found at [http://www.irs.gov/](http://www.irs.gov/).
The County P-Card is not to be used for personal car mileage expenses, since the traveler assumes responsibility for personal vehicle expenses and will be compensated through mileage reimbursement. Also, the County gas credit card is allowed only for County vehicles and shall not be used for personal vehicle expense.

**Airfare Equivalent (AFE) Reimbursements**
If travelers prefer to use their personal vehicle when air service is available, the reimbursement for mileage will be the lower of: (1) coach class airfare plus other transportation related expenses, such as long-term parking at local airport, rental car, and ground transportation, or (2) the mileage reimbursement amount (miles driven multiplied by mileage rate).

**Transportation – County Car**
Please refer to Comprehensive Vehicle Policy (Board of Supervisors Policy Manual section 3.52). Travelers who need to check out a County car must obtain a Travel Authorization number prior to requesting the County pool vehicle.

**Transportation – Other Ground Transport**

**Non-Air Travel**
Public carrier services, e.g., bus and train, are authorized means of travel, not to exceed the coach airfare or allowable mileage, whichever is lower.

**Ground Transportation at the Travel Destination**
Ground transportation may also be required for moving to and from airports, bus or rail terminals, as well as between work, training or conferencing sites. Various types of transportation may be available for this, e.g., hotel and airport shuttle services, light rail, subway or bus. The most economical and appropriate form meeting the traveler’s needs should be used.

**Taxi Service**
Taxis may be used when time is of the essence or public transit or other common carriers are not reasonably available.

When taxi service is used, receipts are required if the taxi cost plus tip is over $10. When asked for a receipt, taxi drivers will often hand a blank receipt to the customer. Travelers should ask the driver to fill out the receipt which should include the cab number, cost, including tip (if applicable), and the driver’s signature.
LODGING

Lodging Guidelines
Lodging is allowed if the traveler is required to stay overnight to attend training, meeting, or other business purposes. The lowest cost option should be selected with consideration given to convenience and safety of the travelers.

Lodging Reimbursement Rate
The maximum reimbursement (includes room, resort fee, and transient occupancy tax) for lodging will be 165% of the per diem rate allowed for location of overnight stay. Any amount paid in excess of this will be paid by the traveler. The only exception to the 165% reimbursement rate will be if the traveler stays at a lodging location where the conference, training, or meeting is held. In such cases, 300% of the per diem rate will be allowed. (The 300% includes room, resort fee, and transient occupancy tax.) If the lodging location is fully booked, overflow or other lodging option are allowable up to the 300% limit. In all cases, an itemized lodging/hotel receipt will be required to obtain reimbursement.

Neighbor Counties
Lodging in Santa Clara, San Benito, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties is generally not a cost authorized for reimbursement. Travelers are expected to commute between the travel destination and work location or home each day. In unusual situations, such as attendance at meetings which occur early in the morning or late in the evening, reimbursement of such lodging costs must be justified and approved on the Travel Exceptions Form. The increased costs must be approved by the Finance Agency Director or Controller-Treasurer and will be included in the annual reports to the Finance and Government Operations Committee.

Lodging within Santa Clara County is allowed for contractors, consultants, witnesses, and clients who reside outside the County and must stay overnight on County related business or if required by law or court order or special circumstances.

Miscellaneous Lodging Rules
Always check special rates, e.g., government rate, conference or last minute specials, which would reduce County cost. If in California, inquire about exemptions from the local Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). By local ordinance, some California cities and counties exempt individuals from TOT if they are traveling on government business. If there is an exemption, you can save up to 12% on lodging costs depending on the local TOT rate. Almost all lodging operators will require an official, written claim for exemption on exemption forms issued by the city or county that is visited.

Honor refrigerator items, additional fee bottled water and late checkout charges will not be reimbursed unless a business reason is provided and attached to the final Trip Expense Voucher.
MEALS

Note: This section covers travel related meal expenses. Business meals are covered in a separate policy, Business Meal Policy (Non-Travel).

Travel Meals
Travel-related meal expenses include meals consumed while traveling for business purposes on the County's behalf, as well as while attending training, education or conferences that require travel and the completion of a Trip Expense Voucher. Where a Trip Expense Voucher is not required, the County’s Business Meal Policy (Non-Travel) shall be followed. Travelers will be reimbursed for meal expenses, including tax and tips (tipping allowances can be found in Appendix C), not to exceed established per diem rates.

Meal Reimbursement Rates
For any meal that the traveler is entitled to, the traveler will be reimbursed at the per diem rate for the area and receipts are not required. Payments in excess of the per diem rate are not allowed. However, the followings are exceptions to the no receipt rule:

- Meals for members of the Board of Supervisors and appointed commissions and committees per Government Code section 53232.3 (c), and
- Meals purchased with a P-Card.

For both exceptions, receipts are required and reimbursement will be capped at the allowable per diem rate. Tipping allowances can be found in Appendix C.

Please check GSA's website for current federal per diem rates for specific travel destination city or region, using “lodging per diem” for reference. Same as lodging per diem, a standard meal per diem rate for travel within the continental U.S. applies to any location not otherwise specified.

Meals Provided as a Part of the Program
Employees are generally expected to take advantage of meals which are considered part of a conference, special event or program, and for which the cost is covered by payment for the event itself.

When a meal is provided as part of the cost of an event, employees will not be additionally reimbursed for the same meal unless it is not a substantial meal or if other business reasons can be explained. For example, a continental breakfast may not be substantial enough for employees with special dietary needs. In such cases reimbursement will be provided up to per diem rates, but an explanation must be provided on the Trip Expense Voucher.

In addition, in cases where there is a legitimate reason to make alternate plans from the provided meal, the employee may submit written justification for reimbursement of the cost of a separate meal and attach to the Trip Expense Voucher.
Alcoholic Beverages
Expenditures for alcoholic beverages including related tax and tip will not be reimbursed.

Meals at Protocol Events
There are times when traveling on County business, when meals are served in conjunction with authorized protocol events where the County traveler is representing the County and/or has hosting responsibilities. Protocol events are official events held during conferences, meetings, or trainings in which the attendance by the traveler will enhance the County’s stature, benefit the County through increased business contacts, or increase the traveler’s work related knowledge. In cases when the cost of the meal surpasses the per diem rate, but there is no choice in cost paid, the traveler may be reimbursed actual cost. Such cases require an itemized receipt and written justification. Protocol events that clearly indicate that alcohol will be part of the event will not be reimbursed by the County.

Same Day Travel
For Same-Day Travel to a destination outside Santa Clara County with no overnight stay, meal reimbursement is allowed if the work plus travel causes an “extended work day.” An “extended work day” is when the actual work plus travel causes the normal workday to be extended by two or more hours at either end.

Example:
Assuming an 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. workday, if work and travel time extend the day past 7:00 p.m., then a travel meal (dinner) would be allowed. For this example, if the traveler left his home at 6:00 a.m., breakfast would also be allowed.

Moreover, for Same-Day travel with a destination outside of Santa Clara County, reimbursement will also be allowed if the time away for travel exceeds five hours during the normal work day. Per IRS guidelines, these reimbursements are treated as taxable income and are added to the employees’ income as reported on W-2 forms. Travel meals are not the same as overtime meals. Both cannot be claimed simultaneously for the same meal.
Per Diem Rate Sources
Lodging and meal rate per diem amounts can be located per the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Travel to:</th>
<th>Lodging and Meal Rates Are Established by:</th>
<th>Rate Tables Can Be Found at:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Within the continental US</td>
<td>US General Services Administration (GSA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gsa.gov/">http://www.gsa.gov/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Includes 48 Continental States and District of Columbia high cost locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Use [county code](<a href="http://www.naco.org">http://www.naco.org</a>, click “Data &amp; Demographics under “About Counties”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• search when the city is not listed and to identify if the city is in a high cost county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• If neither city nor county is listed, use CONUS standard lodging/meal rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possessions</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Includes Alaska, Hawaii and other U.S. territories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Use other category if location is not listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Meal breakdown is 25% for breakfast, 30% for lunch and 45% for dinner of total daily meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• County will only pay actual incidental expenses up to GSA limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign destinations</td>
<td>US Department of State</td>
<td><a href="http://aoprals.state.gov/">http://aoprals.state.gov/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Listed in US dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Use other category if location is not listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Multiply “M&amp;IE Rate” by 90% for meals per diem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Meal breakdown is 25% for breakfast, 30% for lunch and 45% for dinner of total daily meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• County will only pay actual incidental expenses up to GSA limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INCENTIAL AND OTHER ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

General Guidelines
Reasonable and necessary costs for other travel expenses will be reimbursed when supported by itemized receipts (only required if item is more than $10) or other appropriate documentation. Such expenses may include the following:

1. Registration fees.
2. Bridge, road or ferry tolls, etc.
3. Fuel for rental cars.
4. Parking (airport parking – when the expense for short-term parking is expected to exceed the one-day rate of long-term parking fee, traveler should use long-term parking. County will reimburse traveler up to the daily long-term rate).
5. Costs directly linked to the program or subject matter of a business meeting/function. Traveler must note purpose of expense on the claim. Examples of such costs include the following:
   ✓ County business calls
   ✓ Internet service
   ✓ Copying
   ✓ Postage
   ✓ Printed materials, tapes, training material that may be available for sale at the meeting (if claimed as a travel expense; departments may elect to purchase through other [non-travel] payment processes.)
   ✓ Other business related travel expenses determined to be reasonable and necessary by the approver and the Controller-Treasurer
6. Incidental expenses up to the GSA per diem limit (currently at $5 per day):
   Chapter 300, Part 300-3, Section 300-3.1 in the Federal Travel Regulation, under Per Diem Allowance, describes Incidental Expenses as: “Fees and tips given to porters, baggage carriers, hotel staff, and staff on ships.” The County will reimburse travelers for a reasonable amount of incidental expenses where these are usual and customary. This does not include tips for meals as they are included in the daily per diem meal allowance. (Tipping allowances can be found in Appendix C.)
7. Laundry and dry cleaning - Charges may be included when traveling in excess of five consecutive days on County business, or in emergency circumstances (include description and justification of emergency on the Travel Exceptions Form with claim request).
8. Currency conversion fee.
**NON-REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES**

The following incidental and personal expenses are generally **not** allowable for reimbursement:

1. Traffic and parking violations, also refer to Comprehensive Vehicle Policy for vehicle user responsibilities (*See Board of Supervisors Policy Manual section 3.52*).
2. Mileage for County vehicles.
3. Mileage traveled within the County for Board of Supervisors and designated employees receiving a vehicle allowance.
4. Mileage for commute to work.
5. Emergency repairs on non-County vehicles.
6. Car rental insurance for travel in United States and Fuel Service Option (FSO) / Fuel Purchase Option (FPO).
7. Alcoholic beverages.
8. Refreshments and snacks.
9. Medicinal remedies, health supplies, cosmetics.
10. Personal entertainment, e.g., in-room movies, saunas, fees for exercise room, sports events, personal reading material, personal grooming, optional tours, souvenirs.
11. Airline club membership fees, airline priority boarding fees, and credit card fees.
12. Childcare fees.
13. Kennel/boarding fees (except for County owned animals).
14. Tips that exceed County allowances (20% for meals).
15. Expenses related to vacation or personal time while on business trip.
16. Personal travel expenses that cause additional cost to the County.
17. Personal losses incurred while on County business.
18. Expenses related to an employee’s family member or friend accompanying the traveler on business trips.
19. Political or charitable contributions or events.
20. Short term airport parking exceeding long term rate.
21. Other incidental expenses that are determined to be of a personal nature, extravagant, or might be considered to be unreasonable or unnecessary.