

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Marion Ashley

SUBMITTAL DATE: July 15, 2008

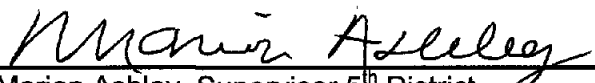
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2008-349, A Resolution of the County of Riverside Opposing Senate Bill SBX 3 16

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution No. 2008-349, Opposing Senate Bill SBX 3 16.

BACKGROUND: The Riverside County Children and Families Commission was established by this Board in the adoption of Ordinance 784, enacted on January 22, 1999. The Commission implements the provisions of Proposition 10, which mandates early childhood programs for children 0-5 years old, funded from revenue on tobacco products. Proposition 10, approved by California's voters in 1998, enables County Commissions to fund the comprehensive array of health, education, and child care services required to help our youngest children develop a strong foundation for success in school and throughout their lives.

The intent of Senate Bill SBX 3 16 is to eliminate First 5 Commissions statewide, and divert future Proposition 10 funds to the state general fund. This would be accomplished by placing an initiative on the November 2008 ballot.

(Continued, page 2)


Marion Ashley, Supervisor 5th District

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This proposed use of Proposition 10 funds under SBX 3 16 is inconsistent with two prior expressions of voter intent, would eliminate the ability of County Commissions to allocate funds based on local needs, and the ability of County Commissions to allocate funds for an array of services required by young children to ensure healthy development and school readiness.

Should Senate Bill SBX 3 16 be successful, critical health, education and child care services could become unavailable for Riverside County children and families.

This local decision making process is one of the strengths of Proposition 10, and has resulted in Riverside's Commission allocating over \$180,000,000 to nearly 200 separate agencies since 1999. These funds have resulted in services benefiting more than 100,000 children 0-5 years of age. In addition to the direct benefit of funds provided by First 5 Riverside, additional funds have been leveraged by County agencies as well as other public and private agencies.

I urge the members of this Board to join me opposing SBX 3 16 in adopting Resolution 2008-349.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2008-349

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
OPPOSING SENATE BILL SBX 3 16**

WHEREAS, Senate Bill SBX 3 16 places an Initiative on the ballot to eliminate First 5 Commissions and shift all future Proposition 10 revenue into the State General Fund for specific health uses; and

WHEREAS, two of the key elements of Proposition 10, approved by the voters in 1998, include the ability of County Commissions to allocate funds based on local needs, and the ability of County Commissions to allocate funds for an array of services required by young children to ensure healthy development and school readiness; and

WHEREAS, -if the Senate Bill SBX 3 16 Initiative is successful, funding would no longer be allocated by a local body to meet local needs, but would be placed instead in the State General Fund for funding of health insurance and Medi-cal programs; and

WHEREAS, since Proposition 10 was approved by California's voters in 1998, First 5 Riverside has dedicated over \$180 million to programs, through approximately 200 separate agencies throughout Riverside County since 1999, and these programs are aimed at improving the lives of Riverside County's youngest and most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, programs funded by First 5 Riverside include an comprehensive array of services addressing children's health, education, preschool and child care needs; and

WHEREAS, these funds have resulted in services benefiting more than 100,000 children 0-5 years of age; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the direct benefit of funds provided by First 5 Riverside, additional funds have been leveraged by County agencies as well as other public and private agencies, resulting in increased linkages in Riverside County; and

WHEREAS, these funded services are designed to help establish a strong foundation for children, increasing the likelihood of success in school and throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, if SBX 3 16 becomes law, Riverside County's children and their families would be at risk of no longer having access to a variety of quality programs as determined at the local level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors opposes Senate Bill SBX 3 16 because of its impact on local decision making and adverse effect on Riverside County's children and families.

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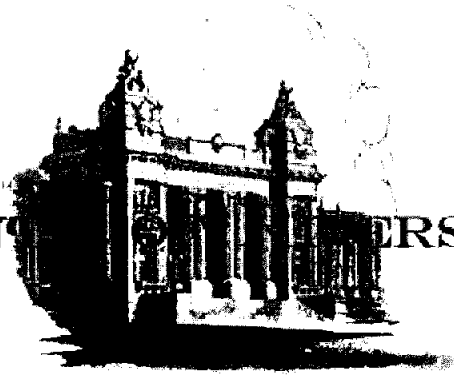
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

By: _____
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

By: _____
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY RIVERSIDE



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Bob Buster 951-955-1010
District 2	John F. Tavaglione 951-955-1020
District 3	Jeff Stone 951-955-1030
District 4	Roy Wilson 951-955-1040
District 5	Marion Ashley 951-955-1050

July 7, 2008

Senator Denise Ducheny
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to SBX 3 16 (Cox)

Dear Senator Ducheny,

I am writing on behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to express our strong opposition to SBX 3 16. This bill by Senator Cox would place a measure on the ballot to divert Proposition 10 funds to the state general fund in order to help reduce the State's General Fund deficit. The elimination of First 5 would only be a drop in the bucket compared to the fiscal crisis the state faces but would have a devastating impact on children and their families in Riverside County and throughout the State.

While we support the need for a balanced budget, we do not believe it should be accomplished on the backs of young children. We are particularly concerned with the suggestion of using Proposition 10 funds in a manner inconsistent with what was approved by the voters in two separate elections. By twice supporting Proposition 10, the voters demonstrated their commitment to a comprehensive range of services preparing children for success in school, and the ability for each County to allocate funds in a manner that best meets their unique local needs.

Services funded by First 5 Riverside address many of the needs of our County's youngest children, including increased access to health care, improved supply and quality of child care services, and support of evidence-based early education and family support programs. Studies show that such prevention services have a huge impact on a children's early development.

Over 18 months from January 2007-June 2008, First 5 Riverside invested \$31.5 million in more than 40 agencies and initiatives throughout the county to provide health, child care and education services. These services include pediatric oral health; home visitations; developmental screenings; early intervention; family literacy programs; nutrition and obesity prevention efforts; preschool; pre-kindergarten transition programs; and programs that have improved the training of early educators and the quality of child care and early education statewide.

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Over \$29.5 million are committed for similar services for the current 2008-09 fiscal year. First 5 Riverside funds critical services, that are particularly important as the County faces cuts as a result of the State budget deficit. Eliminating these funds in order to help address the State's General Fund deficit will have a negative impact on Riverside County's children, especially those from low income and at-risk families.

This local decision making process is one of the strengths of Proposition 10, and has resulted in Riverside's Commission allocating over \$180,000,000 to nearly 200 separate agencies since 1999. These funds have resulted in services benefiting more than 100,000 children 0-5 years of age. In addition to the direct benefit of funds provided by First 5 Riverside, additional funds have been leveraged by County agencies as well as other public and private agencies.

For every dollar invested in these types of programs, Californians reap long-term savings from a decrease in costly future public interventions, including remedial education, criminal justice and welfare. First 5 is a unique local funding source because it is based on local planning and decision-making. The funds invested locally by every First 5 county commission are specific to the needs of that county. When the voters approved the California Children and Families Act (Prop 10) in 1998, they voted for local flexibility to meet local needs. SBX 3 16 undermines local decision-making, defunds a wide range of successful programs, and takes resources away from families and young children in greatest need.

We urge you to vote no on SBX 3 16. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marion Ashley
Supervisor, 5th District

cc: Honorable Samuel Aanestad, Vice Chair