

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



**ITEM: 2.3**  
(ID # 21303)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023

**FROM :** EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File the Monthly Advocacy Update for February 2023, [All Districts] [\$0]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and File the Monthly Advocacy Update for February 2023.

**ACTION:Consent**



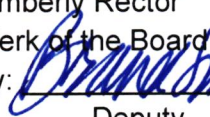
Jeff Van Wagenen, County Executive Officer 2/22/2023

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is received and filed as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: Perez  
Date: February 28, 2023  
xc: E.O.

Kimberly Rector  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

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

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at State/Federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Monthly Advocacy Update (February 2023)

## MONTHLY ADVOCACY UPDATE

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at State/Federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations. The Monthly Advocacy Update is meant to meet that requirement.

This report includes updates on the County's federal and state legislative advocacy efforts, legislation of interest, and copies of advocacy letters sent.

### FEDERAL ADVOCACY

The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress convened in Washington, D.C., on January 3, 2023. The RivCo Congressional delegation includes two senators and 6 congressional representatives, two of which are newly representing small portions of Riverside County.

Leadership in congress has shifted from the democrats to the republicans, and congressional committee assignments are still being filled. Democrats continue to control the senate, however the recent retirement announcement by Senator Diane Feinstein will have impacts as California loses its most senior senator.

As President Joe Biden enters the last two years of his first term with a republican controlled house, much remains to be seen. As he mentioned in his State of the Union, the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#), includes various competitive grant opportunities for local jurisdictions. County leaders are planning to apply for these competitive grants as funding is released.

One thing remains the same, continuing funding resolutions will continue to be a tool by which funding and policy is advanced. Congressionally directed funding is expected to return this year, however details and timelines are yet to be released. The County continues to work with the congressional delegation to advocate for additional funding streams for asylum seeker response efforts.

### CALIFORNIA STATE ADVOCACY

The California State Legislature convened on December 5<sup>th</sup>. with many members representing slightly different districts due to redistricting. The RivCo state legislative delegation now includes 10 members: 4 senators and 6 assemblymembers, five of which are new to the legislature.

The deadline to introduce bills was February 17, 2023. The Executive Office is working with County leaders to identify bills that are of interest to the County.

## RivCo Bill List

### 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

- **H.R.696 (Rep. Calvert, Ken [CA-41])** To direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Eastvale, California.  
**Position:** Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.1 on 2/7/23]
- **H.R.726 (Rep. McClain, Lisa C. [MI-9])** To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and to encourage training opportunities for military veterans to assist in range management activities, and for other purposes.  
**Position:** Watch

### 2023 California Legislative Session

- **AB 6 (Friedman) Transportation planning.** Would require regional transportation agencies to prioritize and fund transportation projects, including those funded by a local sales tax measure, that significantly contribute towards the goals outlined in a region's sustainable communities strategy and the state's climate goals.  
**Position:** Watch
- **AB 7 (Friedman) Transportation: funding: capacity projects.** Would eliminates single occupancy vehicle freeway capacity projects.  
**Position:** Watch
- **SB 45 (Roth) California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund.** Creates the California Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund and would continuously appropriate moneys to provide loans to qualifying county or city and county applicants for the purpose of building or renovating acute care psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric health facilities, or psychiatric units in general acute care hospitals, as defined.  
**Position:** Watch
- **SB 75 (Roth) Courts: Judgeships.** This bill would authorize 26 additional judgeships, subject to appropriation. This bill would require the Judicial Council to determine the allocation of those positions, pursuant their uniform criterion, resulting in six additional judges for Riverside County Courts.  
**Position:** Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.50 on 1/24/23]  
**Advocacy Strategy** - RivCo CEO Jeff Van Wagenen presented at the Inland Empire Caucus meeting to advocate for support of the bill. The Board sent a letter to Chief Justice Guerrero inviting her to visit RivCo. (Attachment B and C)
- **SB 371 (Ochoa Bogh) Undomesticated burros.** This bill would also authorize a nonprofit that contracts with a county to provide services to undomesticated burros.  
**Position:** Sponsor  
**Impact** - This bill was proposed by RivCo Animal Services. If passed this bill would allow animal services to work with nonprofit providers to provide services to the burro population.

# Attachment A

## COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



### Board of Supervisors

District 1	<b>Kevin Jeffries</b> 951-955-1010
District 2	<b>Karen Spiegel</b> 951-955-1020
District 3	<b>Chuck Washington</b> 951-955-1030
District 4	<b>V. Manuel Perez</b> 951-955-1040
District 5	<b>Yxstian Gutierrez</b> 951-955-1050

January 24, 2023

Honorable Secretary Toks Omishakin  
California State Transportation Agency  
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2340  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Support for the Riverside County Transportation Commission Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Omishakin:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant application to fund the Metrolink Double Track Project from Moreno Valley to Perris.

The project is a vital component of RCTC's vision to implement safe multimodal solutions in the rapidly growing communities of the Perris Valley, San Jacinto Valley, and southwestern Riverside County. Allowing for greater access to multimodal transportation options, providing convenient access to travelers, and helping improve air quality in our region.

Decades of underinvestment in transportation systems in these communities shows in the congestion that residents must weather every day on the I-215 corridor to access employment and education opportunities. The same residents must also compete in traffic with the nation's agricultural and freight carriers, 40 percent of which travels through the Inland Empire region. Projects like this provide safe, accessible, multimodal facilities which are critical for these communities and businesses to thrive.

RCTC has already committed 50% of the \$31 million needed to complete the project. The project leverages and supports the Metrolink Perris Valley Line Capacity Improvement Project, for which the State recently awarded \$25 million to Metrolink, a partnership application with RCTC. The project benefits include:

- **Increased Commuter Rail Service** – enabling increased Metrolink service frequency by double tracking stretches of the 91/Perris Valley Line along the Interstate (I)-215 corridor.
- **Advances State's Climate Goals** – Increased service attracts more riders by providing them with more convenient options. Increased ridership lessens vehicle miles traveled thereby advancing the state's climate action goals as outlined in the California State Transportation

## Attachment A

Agency's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure while addressing the disproportionate effects of pollution on minority and under-served communities.

- **Addresses Inequity** – Investments in passenger rail supports inclusive transportation for individuals and families who do not have access to a personal vehicle and rely on other forms of transportation to access jobs and education centers, medical care, recreation, and places of worship.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or [csherrera@rivco.org](mailto:csherrera@rivco.org).

Sincerely,



Kevin Jefferies  
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

## Attachment B



February 1, 2023

The Honorable Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero  
Supreme Court of California  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

**RE: Inland Empire Judicial Officer Shortages**

Dear Chief Justice Guerrero:

We want to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California. We look forward to working with you in your new role.

As you are aware, the Judicial Council recently released its 2022 Judicial Needs Assessment, which - using a workload-based methodology - identifies a statewide gap of 98 judicial officers. Of the additional judgeships required to meet current workload demands, 52 (more than 50 percent) would be prioritized for the long under-resourced Inland Empire: 22 judges are needed in Riverside County and 30 in San Bernardino County.

Although the 2022-23 state budget funded 23 previously authorized judgeships, including 10 directed to the Inland Empire, it is clear that the gap between the number of authorized judicial officers and assessed judicial need remains vast. Steep population growth in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties over the last several decades have greatly outpaced the superior courts' ability to keep up with the attendant demand on judicial resources. The resulting judgeship shortage hinders timely access to justice and greatly impacts our courts' and counties' collective ability to serve court users. The Inland Empire counties will be advocating for additional funding in this year's budget to continue making progress toward ensuring sufficient judgeship resources.

We would like to invite you to visit the Inland Empire to see firsthand how our counties are impacted by the lack of judicial resources in our courts. We look forward to the opportunity of showing you the commitment and innovation alive in our courts and

## Attachment B

counties and the ways in which we could do even more if our courts were appropriately resourced. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dawn Rowe  
Third District Supervisor  
Chair, San Bernardino County  
Board of Supervisors



Kevin Jeffries  
First District Supervisor  
Chair, Riverside County  
Board of Supervisors

CC: Inland Empire Legislative Caucus  
Millicent Tidwell, Acting Administrative Director - Judicial Council of California  
Cory Jasperson, Director of Government Affairs - Judicial Council of California





## Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

Telephone 415-865-4200 · Fax 415-865-4205

PATRICIA GUERRERO

*Chief Justice of California  
Chair of the Judicial Council*

MILLICENT TIDWELL

*Acting Administrative Director*

February 16, 2023

Hon. Dawn Rowe  
Third District Supervisor  
Chair, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Fifth Floor  
San Bernardino, California 92415

Hon. Kevin Jeffries  
First District Supervisor  
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
4080 Lemon Street, Fifth Floor  
Riverside, California 92502

Dear Supervisor Rowe and Supervisor Jeffries:

Thank you for your letter of February 1, 2023, regarding judicial officer shortages in the Inland Empire, and for the invitation to visit with you on this issue. I commend the collaborative approach by the leaders of the Superior Courts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and the Boards of Supervisors to raise awareness about the need for additional judges to serve the residents of your counties. Unfortunately, because of schedule demands, I am unable to accept your invitation.

The Judicial Council of California welcomed the funding appropriation in the Budget Act of 2022 for the 23 previously authorized judgeships, which the council and my predecessor, Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, had advocated for over several years. Like them, I recognize that having a sufficient number of judicial officers to provide timely access to justice is fundamental to maintaining the rights of individuals to have their day in court.

The council's 2023 legislative priorities include continuing to seek an adequate number of judges in counties with the greatest need. We support Senate Bill No. 75 (Roth), introduced in January, to authorize 26 new judgeships.

## Attachment C

Hon. Dawn Rowe  
Hon. Kevin Jeffries  
February 16, 2023  
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Also in January, I had a welcome opportunity to speak in person with Riverside County Superior Court's Presiding Judge Judith C. Clark about the impact of judicial shortages on your communities. At my request, the Judicial Council is consulting with the court to provide all available assistance, including additional resources through the Temporary Assigned Judges Program, to help manage case backlogs.

The Judicial Council and I will continue to advocate with our sister branches of government for the timely authorization, funding, and appointment of new judicial officers to meet the needs of the people living in San Bernardino and Riverside counties as well as in other counties experiencing population and court caseload growth. I appreciate your support in this process.

Sincerely,



Patricia Guerrero  
Chief Justice of California and  
Chair of the Judicial Council

PG/TC

cc: Members of the Inland Empire Legislative Caucus  
Millicent Tidwell, Acting Administrative Director, Judicial Council  
Cory Jaspersen, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council