

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



ITEM: 2.1  
(ID # 24385)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

**FROM :** EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File the Legislative Report for March 2024, [All Districts] [\$0]

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

1. Receive and File the Legislative Report for March 2024.

**ACTION:**Consent

  
Carolina Salazar Herrera, Deputy Director of Legislative Advocacy 3/15/2024

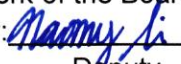
  
Jeff Van Wagenen, County Executive Officer 3/15/2024

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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: March 19, 2024  
xc: E.O

Kimberly A. 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:**

Legislative Report (March 2024)

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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 Legislative Report 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.

### Outreach & Communications

- County leaders hosted the Inland Empire Legislative Caucus at the RivCo Emergency Operations Center to discuss access to justice, foster youth care and placement, homelessness, housing, and behavioral health, and innovation in public safety on 10/06/23.
- County leaders met with Representative Mark Takano to brief him and his staff on the County's Asylum Seeker Response efforts on 01/22/24.
- Supervisors Karen Spiegel, V. Manuel Perez, and Yxstian Gutierrez, attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference where they met with members of the legislative delegation and federal administration leaders to highlight County priorities from 02/09-13/24.

## FEDERAL ADVOCACY

### RivCo Bill List

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

- **S. 3830: Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act (Sen. Alex Padilla [D-CA])** Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program to award grants to eligible entities to provide funds to owners and operators of public water systems or treatment works to assist low-income households in paying arrearages and other rates charged to such households for drinking water or wastewater services.  
**Position:** Support.
- **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 02/07/23]
- **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
- **H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1])/S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety**

**Act of 2023 (Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY])** Exempts discharges of fire retardant by Federal land management agencies and local governments from the permitting requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

**Position:** Support.

## CALIFORNIA STATE ADVOCACY

### 2023-24 Legislative Session

Over 2,100 bills were introduced this year, County leaders continue to analyze proposed bills and amendments.

- AB 817 (Pacheco-D) Local government: open meetings.**  
Would authorize members of local non-decision-making legislative bodies to participate in public meetings via two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting their location.  
**Position:** Support. [Letter of Support to Author on 02/15/24 Attachment A]  
**Impact:** Would allow virtual participation on County appointed boards and commissions, removing barriers for participation.
- AB 1957 (Wilson-D) Public contracts: Best Value Construction Contracting for Counties**  
Authorizes any county in the state to utilize the best-value contracting model and eliminates the statutory sunset on such authority.  
**Position:** Support [ Letter of Support to Author on 02/15/24 Attachment B]  
**Impact:** RivCo was one of the pilot counties, the use of best-value contracting has allowed for a selection of contractors based on qualifications and experience, not simply lowest bid prices.
- SB 994 (Roth-D) Local government: joint powers authority: transfer of authority.**  
Would facilitate the transfer of land use authority from the March JPA to RivCo.  
**Status:** Sponsored. [Per Letter of Sponsorship 02/01/24 Attachment C]  
**Impact:** This bill idea was proposed by RivCo and the March JPA.
- SB 1224 (Ochoa Bogh-R) Alcoholic beverage control: on-sale general license: County of Riverside.**  
Would facilitate the alcoholic beverage on-sale licensing for the RivCo Fairgrounds for the variety of community-based events held at the Fairgrounds throughout the year.  
**Status:** Sponsored. [Per Letter of Sponsorship 03/05/24 Attachment D]  
**Impact:** This bill idea was proposed by RivCo Facilities Management

### 2 Year Bills

- AB 444 (Addis-D) California Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP).**  
Would establish the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program, which would require the Office of Planning and Research, to grant funds to local agencies, which would assist with applications and matching fund requirements, for the federal DCIP.  
**Status:** Held in Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File  
**Position:** Support  
**Impact:** The bill could help RivCo more strategically apply for DCIP funds to help the March Air Reserve Base community.

- **AB 827 (Garcia-D) Public health: pulmonary health: Salton Sea region.** Would require the State Department of Public Health to conduct a study of the pulmonary health of communities in the Salton Sea region.  
**Status:** Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File  
**Position:** Support  
**Impact:** This bill could help RUHS Public Health inform and advance health equity work in the Salton Sea.
- **AB 1168 (Bennett-D) Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS.** Would change the key provisions of the EMS Act, creating a fractured local EMS (LEMSA) system in which local jurisdictions could opt out of our current LEMSA.  
**Status:** Held Senate Floor Inactive File  
**Position:** Oppose  
**Activation:** In addition to partnering with the opposition coalition, EMD staff met with legislative offices to advocate against the bill.
- **SB 21 (Umberg-D) Civil actions: remote proceedings.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in civil cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.  
**Status:** Held by Author  
**Position:** Support [Per Agenda Item 3.3 on 05/02/23]  
**Impact:** This bill would allow for greater efficiency and increased court access, promoting efficient Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act implementation.
- **SB 22 (Umberg-D) Courts: remote proceedings.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in juvenile cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.  
**Status:** Held in Assembly  
**Position:** Support  
**Impact:** This bill would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its county partners in addressing persistent backlogs.
- **SB 45 (Roth-D) 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.  
**Status:** Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File  
**Position:** Support
- **SB 99 (Umberg-D) Courts: remote proceedings for criminal cases.** The current ability to appear remotely to conduct conferences, hearings, proceedings, and trials in juvenile cases, in whole or in part, is set to expire in 2023, this would extend that ability until 2026.  
**Status:** Held in Assembly Public Safety Committee at request of the Author  
**Position:** Support  
**Impact:** This bill would facilitate more efficient case processing and help the court and its county partners in addressing persistent backlogs.
- **SB 318 (Ochoa Bogh-R) 211 Infrastructure.** This bill would establish the 211 Support Services Grant Program, which would enhance and scale 211 services across California.  
**Status:** Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File  
**Position:** Support

- Impact:** This bill supports statewide 211 operations, capacity, and grant funding for the various network partners.
- **SB 366 (Caballero-D) The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.** This bill would complement and amplify Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy, ensuring there are reasonable water supply targets.  
**Status:** Held in Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife at request of the Author  
**Position:** Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.4 on 11/01/22]  
**Advocacy Strategy:** This bill is being proposed by the Solve the Water Crisis Coalition as a solution to creating more reasonable water targets.
  - **SB 418 (Padilla-D) Prison Redevelopment.** This bill would establish the California Prison Redevelopment Commission to prepare a report with recommendations that deliver clear and credible recommendations for creative uses of closed prison facilities and will turn those sites into community assets.
  - **Status:** Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File  
**Position:** Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.2 on 05/09/23]  
**Impact:** This bill could be a vehicle for the County and community of Blythe to look at the impacts of the proposed prison closure.



**Board of Supervisors**

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

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco  
 California State Assembly  
 1020 O Street, Suite 6240  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re:    AB 817 (Pacheco): Local government: open meetings  
        As amended 1/17/24 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Pacheco:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 817 which would authorize members of local non-decision-making legislative bodies to participate in public meetings via two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting their location. This important measure will assist the County in addressing the challenge of recruiting and retaining public members to our advisory boards and commissions—in addition to ensuring that our diverse population can meaningfully participate.

Riverside County serves over 2.4 million resident and spans 7,303 miles. We have always been challenged in recruiting and retaining a diverse group of participants to ensure that our local advisory bodies can reach a quorum. A surprising benefit of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the capacity of local agencies to continue their work via remote participation on platforms like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. These technological advances allowed for improved participation from groups that had previously been under-represented, including those with disabilities, working parents, seniors, people of color, and others who could not easily travel to participate in-person meetings.

AB 817 such previously underrepresented groups and those in the farthest geographic reaches of the County the opportunity to meaningfully participate in our advisory boards and commissions. By doing so, local agencies can ensure that they are receiving input that is more diversified and reflective of the communities they are serving.

Additionally, participation in local advisory bodies and appointed boards and commissions often serves as a pipeline to local elected office and opportunities for state and federal leadership positions. Removing such barriers will help to entry to achieve diverse

representation in leadership which will further the Legislature's declared goals of equal access and equal opportunity. As a result, the County of Riverside supports AB 817 and greatly appreciates your authorship of the measure.

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

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington  
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation





**Board of Supervisors**

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

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Lori Wilson  
California State Assembly  
1020 O Street, Suite 8110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1957 Public contracts: Best Value Construction Contracting for Counties**

Dear Assembly Member Wilson:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 1957 which would authorize any county in the state to utilize the best-value contracting model and eliminates the statutory sunset on such authority. Riverside County was an eligible county under the previous pilot and wishes to continue to be able to use the authority, as it has been a cost-effective and efficient method for completing several important projects.

In the County of Riverside, the use of best-value contracting has allowed for a selection of contractors based on qualifications and experience, not simply lowest bid prices. Agreements require contractors to use a skilled and trained labor force which allows work to be performed with a high degree of quality and expertise. Contractors must submit through a two-step procurement process evidence of licensing, insurance coverage, project experience, performance history, and more. The award of Job Order Contracting (JOC) contracts and formal public projects in such a manner leads to better performance and expedited completion of highly complex projects—as well as reduced project costs by avoiding contractor errors, costly change orders, and redo of projects. As a result, we do not believe that lowest bid price is always the best option.

Because of our positive experience with best value contracting, the County of Riverside appreciates the opportunity to continue to pursue such contracts; AB 1957 not only eliminates the statutory sunset on the authority, but rightfully expands the authority to utilize this beneficial tool to other counties in the state. As a result, the County of Riverside supports AB 1957 and greatly appreciates your authorship of the measure.

## Attachment B

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" and last name "Washington" clearly legible.

Supervisor Chuck Washington  
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



**Board of Supervisors**

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January 31, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 994 (Roth): March AFB Joint Powers Authority (March JPA) Streamlined  
Sunsetting Bill**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write in sponsorship and support of SB 994, the legislative measure to assist in the winddown of the March Air Force Base (March AFB) Joint Powers Authority (March JPA).

The March JPA is a unique California government entity, formed in 1993 to plan and execute new uses for vacant lands, reuse of existing facilities, and joint use of the airfield facilities after the federal government realigned March AFB to March Air Reserve Base (March ARB). The JPA is a joint effort of the County of Riverside and the cities of Moreno Valley, Riverside, and Perris; collectively, these community leaders comprise the March Joint Powers Commission. The Commission has taken action to facilitate the reuse of territory not utilized by the March ARB. In 2023, with the task of redeveloping the former March AFB near completion, the Commission took action to eliminate the March JPA’s land use authority beginning July 1, 2025. At that time, land use authority for the territory will return to the County of Riverside. To facilitate such a transfer immediately on July 1, 2025, and to avoid confusion, protect the public, and to ensure a smooth transition of authority for agreements, the County strongly supports legislation that will clarify the County’s role in the former March AFB territory.

In 1997, the March JPA was given land use authority over the former March AFB territory, including the power to develop a general plan, specific plans, and zoning for the territory. Since that time, the March JPA territory has been redeveloped in accordance with California land use and planning laws with a variety of uses. The JPA has developed significant public infrastructure and landscaping, which it maintains directly and through a landscape and lighting maintenance district pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 and a community facilities district established pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982. Additionally, the March JPA has entered into a number of development and settlement agreements that serve to

ensure an orderly development of the land and to protect local wildlife and the environment in the territory.

Due to the unique governance model established to address the reuse of the former March AFB territory, legislation is necessary to ensure continuity of land use authority, maintenance and funding of local infrastructure investments, and development and settlement agreements, all of which have been previously adjudicated by the March JPA Commission. Without such clarity, the Commission's previous decisions and agreements could potentially be in a period of ambiguity until parties can again come to agreement, placing the community in a period of significant uncertainty and challenge. Legislation can assist in ensuring that past commitments will be adhered to, creating certainty for the parties involved and the public, and facilitate the continued economic development of the region.

As the bill sponsors, the County of Riverside supports legislation to facilitate the transfer of land use authority from the March JPA to the County of Riverside. We greatly appreciate your willingness to assist us with this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" being more prominent than the last name "Washington".

Supervisor Chuck Washington  
Chair, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



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March 5, 2024

Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh  
California State Senate  
1020 O Street, Suite 7220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Richard Roth  
California State Senate  
1020 O Street, Suite 7510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1224 Alcoholic beverage control: on-sale general license: County of Riverside.**

Dear Senators Ochoa Bogh and Roth:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our strong support and sponsorship for SB 1224 (Ochoa Bogh and Roth). SB 1224 will facilitate the alcoholic beverage on-sale licensing for the Riverside County Fairgrounds for the variety of community-based events held at the Fairgrounds throughout the year and allow the efficient operation of the Fairgrounds.

As you may be aware, Pickering Events, LLC was chosen to assist the County in operation of the Fairgrounds beginning July 1, 2023. In our efforts to transfer the then existing on-sale general alcoholic beverage license to Pickering we learned that to effectuate that transfer, the Fairgrounds would need to qualify as a “bona fide public eating place” with a full-time kitchen and refrigeration facilities.

Over the last few years, the Fairgrounds has expanded the use of small business food trucks, caterers and other food vendors based in our community as a way of supporting those local small businesses and offering a “community based” and supportive environment. Involving our community small business food vendors has been very successful and is supported widely by our residents and others who attend events at the Fairgrounds.

As the bill sponsors, the County of Riverside supports legislation to facilitate commerce at the fairgrounds in Riverside County. We greatly appreciate your willingness to assist us with this important measure.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Chuck Washington  
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



## Board of Supervisors

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February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Building  
Washington DC 20515

**Re: Renewal of Funds for the Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge for continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Families across Riverside County and the nation rely on this program to provide affordable access to the internet, it is key to bridging the digital divide.

Addressing the digital divide remains a top priority for our County. Internet access has become a necessity for every American—it is no longer a luxury, but many households remain isolated. Within Riverside County alone, 360,000 households face affordability challenges and qualify for ACP. Recognizing this substantial need, the County of Riverside launched an extensive outreach campaign in October 2022, with the goal of informing and assisting residents in enrolling for the ACP. To date, we have successfully enrolled 213,000 household or 59% of Riverside County’s eligible households.

Overall, ACP has made broadband more affordable for over 22 million households. By connecting these households to high-speed internet, the ACP is helping to build stronger, more resilient communities designed to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The ACP is rapidly running out of funds. Without the leadership of Congress, these 22 million households could lose internet access as early as April 2024.

Preserving and reallocating funds to the ACP will allow us to build upon the progress we’ve made in closing the digital divide—rather than falling behind in a mission we cannot afford to lose. As such, the County of Riverside stands ready to work with you to find a solution to ensure ongoing funding for ACP. Which is why we support reforms to the contributing formula for the Universal Service Fund, and hope that Congress will closely consult with the Senate Working Group to find possible funding solutions.

As a condition of ACP participation, we must also hold participating Internet Service Providers accountable for providing appropriate levels of quality and affordable service to eligible households. Finally, we urge Congress to consider the following programmatic changes:

- Restructure the \$100 device credit to allow a consumer to apply it towards a different provider from the one that offers them the monthly internet service bill credit.
- With respect to funding high-quality internet services through the ACP, Congress could instruct the FCC to prioritize application of the ACP towards high-speed home broadband services, where feasible and equitable.
- Consider expanding eligibility categories for the program to better reach residents in need, by adding eligibility for those receiving unemployment compensation, public job seeking assistance, social security, agricultural subsidies, and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), among others.

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

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington  
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

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February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

**Re: Renewal of Funds for the Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

Dear Representative Calvert:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge for continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Families across Riverside County and the nation rely on this program to provide affordable access to the internet, it is key to bridging the digital divide.

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Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington  
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



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February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

**Re: Renewal of Funds for the Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

Dear Representative Issa:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge for continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Families across Riverside County and the nation rely on this program to provide affordable access to the internet, it is key to bridging the digital divide.

Addressing the digital divide remains a top priority for our County. Internet access has become a necessity for every American—it is no longer a luxury, but many households remain isolated. Within Riverside County alone, 360,000 households face affordability challenges and qualify for ACP. Recognizing this substantial need, the County of Riverside launched an extensive outreach campaign in October 2022, with the goal of informing and assisting residents in enrolling for the ACP. To date, we have successfully enrolled 213,000 household or 59% of Riverside County's eligible households.

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- Consider expanding eligibility categories for the program to better reach residents in need, by adding eligibility for those receiving unemployment compensation, public job seeking assistance, social security, agricultural subsidies, and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), among others.

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

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington  
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



## Board of Supervisors

District 1	<b>Kevin Jeffries</b> 951-955-1010
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District 3	<b>Chuck Washington</b> 951-955-1030
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District 5	<b>Yxstian Gutierrez</b> 951-955-1050

February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Young Kim  
1306 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

**Re: Renewal of Funds for the Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

Dear Representative Kim:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge for continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Families across Riverside County and the nation rely on this program to provide affordable access to the internet, it is key to bridging the digital divide.

Addressing the digital divide remains a top priority for our County. Internet access has become a necessity for every American—it is no longer a luxury, but many households remain isolated. Within Riverside County alone, 360,000 households face affordability challenges and qualify for ACP. Recognizing this substantial need, the County of Riverside launched an extensive outreach campaign in October 2022, with the goal of informing and assisting residents in enrolling for the ACP. To date, we have successfully enrolled 213,000 household or 59% of Riverside County’s eligible households.

Overall, ACP has made broadband more affordable for over 22 million households. By connecting these households to high-speed internet, the ACP is helping to build stronger, more resilient communities designed to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The ACP is rapidly running out of funds. Without the leadership of Congress, these 22 million households could lose internet access as early as April 2024.

Preserving and reallocating funds to the ACP will allow us to build upon the progress we’ve made in closing the digital divide—rather than falling behind in a mission we cannot afford to lose. As such, the County of Riverside stands ready to work with you to find a solution to ensure ongoing funding for ACP. Which is why we support reforms to the contributing formula for the Universal Service Fund, and hope that Congress will closely consult with the Senate Working Group to find possible funding solutions.

As a condition of ACP participation, we must also hold participating Internet Service Providers accountable for providing appropriate levels of quality and affordable service to eligible households. Finally, we urge Congress to consider the following programmatic changes:

- Restructure the \$100 device credit to allow a consumer to apply it towards a different provider from the one that offers them the monthly internet service bill credit.
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February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Dr. Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

**Re: Renewal of Funds for the Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

Dear Representative Ruiz:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge for continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Families across Riverside County and the nation rely on this program to provide affordable access to the internet, it is key to bridging the digital divide.

Addressing the digital divide remains a top priority for our County. Internet access has become a necessity for every American—it is no longer a luxury, but many households remain isolated. Within Riverside County alone, 360,000 households face affordability challenges and qualify for ACP. Recognizing this substantial need, the County of Riverside launched an extensive outreach campaign in October 2022, with the goal of informing and assisting residents in enrolling for the ACP. To date, we have successfully enrolled 213,000 household or 59% of Riverside County’s eligible households.

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February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Laphonza Butler  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Building  
Washington DC 20515

**Re: Renewal of Funds for the Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

Dear Senator Butler,

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge for continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Families across Riverside County and the nation rely on this program to provide affordable access to the internet, it is key to bridging the digital divide.

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February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Mark Takano  
2078 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

**Re: Renewal of Funds for the Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

Dear Representative Takano:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge for continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Families across Riverside County and the nation rely on this program to provide affordable access to the internet, it is key to bridging the digital divide.

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February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Norma Torres  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

**Re: Renewal of Funds for the Broadband Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

Dear Representative Torres:

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March 12, 2024

The Honorable Alice Busching Reynolds, President  
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

**Re: AT&T Application for Relief from Carrier of Last Resort Obligation**

Dear President Alice Busching Reynolds:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to you regarding AT&T's application to end its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligation which in our county will impact portions of Riverside, Jurupa Valley, Woodcrest, El Cerrito, Lake Matthews, Temescal Valley, Home Gardens, and Corona. We believe that the withdrawal of AT&T landlines poses several public safety concerns that disproportionately affect our senior citizens, low-incomes households, and residents in rural areas.

As per CPUC's Universal Service rules, carriers like AT&T may opt out of their COLR obligations when another COLR is providing service and assumes responsibility. AT&T's application, however, requests COLR relief for over 99% of their service territory where AT&T has determined an alternative voice provider exists but *does not* request a replacement COLR. They also request expedited approval for future COLR relief through a CPUC Tier 1 Advice Letter process which does not require CPUC approval. If AT&T's application is approved, then over 580,000 customers could lose service within six months.

Many of our older adult residents, including low-income seniors, have commented that their landline is their sole method of communication with loved ones, medical providers, and assistance programs like the Riverside County Office of Aging's (OOA) home-delivered meals and transportation programs. In the fiscal year 2022-23, the OOA delivered over 800,000 meals to 13,184 residents and transported 255 residents on 18,108 one-way trips. These programs ensure that Riverside County older adults can have adequate, reliable nutrition and can attend their necessary doctor's appointments. Without landlines, our older adult residents may be isolated and lose access to such programs. Moreover, in cases of medical emergencies, landlines are still associated with addresses—making it easier for first responders to arrive at the correct address.

Riverside County frequently faces natural disasters like earthquakes, fires, and flooding. In these times of emergencies, our landlines become the most dependable form of communication. While wireless connection is unreliable and cell phones can run out of battery, copper landlines have stronger receptions during power outages. This is especially important in our rural areas where other forms of connectivity may not be available. Approving AT&T's application for relief—beyond disrupting their day-to-day lives—may negatively impact their ability to receive emergency alerts or call 9-1-1.

All Californians must have reliable access to communication services, especially during emergencies. As the COLR in California, AT&T has a duty to provide landline services to those who need them and if such an obligation is terminated, then widespread alternatives should be implemented with uniform, technologically neutral minimum service quality standards.

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

Sincerely,



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Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

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February 12, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Proposition 1: Support**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I am writing to inform you that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors has voted to take a position of “support” on Proposition 1. This measure – which will be considered by the voters at the March 5, 2024, primary election – will authorize the issuance of \$6.38 billion in general obligation (GO) bonds for purposes of funding community-based treatment and residential care settings, as well as permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and those experiencing behavioral health challenges.

You are undoubtedly aware that, like other counties in the state, Riverside County is in dire need of behavioral health treatment facilities to provide a broad array of services to a growing and diverse population. A recognized benchmark for psychiatric beds suggests having 50 beds per 100,000 residents. Riverside County currently has less than 10 beds per 100,000 residents.

Given the significant needs of our communities, Riverside County has prioritized investments in our behavioral health infrastructure and has also been very successful in drawing hundreds of millions of dollars in state funding for several projects. In fact, we are actively planning for the replacement of our existing acute care psychiatric facility with a modern, 100-bed facility that will better integrate mental health, substance use, and physical health services to achieve the best outcomes for our patients. Proposition 1 offers a significant opportunity to move this critical project forward – as well as others – to increase capacity and to provide timely, high quality, and patient-centered care that more fully meets the needs of our population.



To that end, we are particularly supportive of \$1.5 billion in new bond authority that was included in Proposition 1 for purposes of providing grant funding to local agencies for the construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of infrastructure to expand the continuum of behavioral health treatment resources to build new capacity or expand existing capacity for a variety of treatment options, including acute and subacute care for persons with behavioral health disorders.

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

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington  
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



December 1, 2023

Assemblymember Corey Jackson  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 637 (Jackson)– **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Jackson:

We, the undersigned coalition, write to express support for AB 637, which would provide public and private fleets with additional options to meet the zero emission vehicle (ZEV) procurement requirements under the Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulation, adopted by the CA Air Resources Board on April 28, 2023.

Unfortunately, the ACF regulation does not allow a fleet owner to claim compliance credit for renting a zero emission truck over its internal combustion counterpart. This oversight unreasonably restricts the options available to fleet owners, particularly those with less resources and limited budgets, that are looking for cost-effective ways to meet the ACF's ambitious goals.

Absent the ability for rental to be counted towards compliance, some fleets may be more inclined to rent an internal combustion engine (ICE) truck in order to avoid the reach of the ACF. For example, fleets with 50 or more trucks are covered by the ACF. A fleet with 55 trucks could remove six trucks from their fleet and alternatively rent six ICE trucks. We believe the ACF should instead contain a mechanism to encourage a fleet to rent a ZEV truck in order to minimize the risk of this scenario.

As a matter of policy, we believe that public and private fleets should have a variety of options available when developing their compliance plans. **For public and private entities that rent ACF covered trucks to supplement their existing fleets, we strongly believe that the rental of zero emission trucks should count towards the total compliance obligation for those fleets.** The increased utilization of zero emission trucks would benefit local air quality, reduce the investment costs for public and private entities electing to utilize those trucks, and provide much needed flexibility that will allow public and private fleets to better serve the needs of the public.

The urgency to adopt this proposal as soon as possible is clear especially for public fleets who will be making procurement decisions in the early part of 2024 in order to meet their compliance obligations for the ACF rule by the first milestone deadline of January 1, 2025.

## CSAC Letters

For the foregoing reasons, we support AB 637 and appreciate your leadership in authoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

Damon Conklin  
League of California Cities

Mark Neuburer  
California State Association of Counties

Ben Palmer  
Enterprise Mobility, Inc.

Oroville Thomas  
CALSTART



December 18, 2023

The Honorable Corey Jackson  
Member of the Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6120  
Sacramento CA 95814

**RE: AB 702 (Jackson) – Local government financing: juvenile justice  
As amended 3/23/2023 – OPPOSE  
Set for hearing – January 9, 2023 – Assembly Public Safety Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Jackson:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to jointly express our respectful opposition to AB 702. This measure would redirect Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds, revise the composition of local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils (JJCC), and recast various elements of required multiagency juvenile justice plans. While our organizations support the continued evaluation of the most effective ways to address the therapeutic needs of youth in our community, we are steadfast in our opposition to diverting meaningful and long-standing investments in local systems, particularly during the ongoing implementation of interrelated juvenile justice reforms, most notably with realignment (SB 823, 2020) and the final closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice this past June 30 along with the recent passage of related legislation (AB 505, 2023), which will become effective January 1, 2024.

As we have noted in our advocacy during legislative deliberation on similar measures<sup>1</sup>, it is our understanding that AB 702 is in response to findings of a 2019 state audit report that examined five counties' use and reporting of JJCPA funds. As was outlined briefly in the audit report, the JJCPA was enacted statutorily in 2000 and funded for just over a decade through the state General Fund. **JJCPA – along with a variety of other local assistance services and programs – was moved under the 2011 Public Safety Realignment fiscal structure to ensure it would remain a stable, foundational funding**

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<sup>1</sup> AB 1007 (Jones-Sawyer, 2020) and SB 493 (Bradford, 2021).

**source** to support local innovation and a continuum of community service options for youth. Provisions in Proposition 30 (2012) dedicate a specified level of Vehicle License Fee (VLF) funding to the JJCPA along with other local programs and **constitutionally protects those investments**. This latter feature requires careful thinking and understanding about the constitutional implications of potentially repurposing, or redirecting, the vast majority of JJCPA funds.

AB 702 would establish a new Request for Proposal process that in its application would arbitrarily redirect nearly every dollar of JJCPA funds away from county probation departments. Today, JJCPA funds are – in many instances – dedicated to staffing and personnel costs that make up the backbone of our juvenile probation departments. These expenditures have been and continue to be **wholly eligible and lawful under JJCPA**. While counties are not opposed to evaluating ways in which to improve JJCPA reporting and the structure of local coordinating councils (as was done through AB 1998 – Chapter 880, Statutes of 2016), we must oppose this measure that would redirect a stable, constitutionally protected funding structure at a time when we are working diligently to support the entirety of the juvenile justice system responsibility given SB 823, which shifted responsibility for the care and custody of all system-involved youth to county responsibility. **To be clear, a redirection of any portion of the JJCPA would be unacceptable to county governments in the context of fully realigned responsibilities and constitutional protections.**

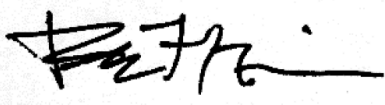
Additionally, one specific point of particular concern is the provision that would condition receipt of JJCPA funding upon the “establishment of a juvenile justice coordinating council.” This provision does not take into account the real and challenging circumstances, primarily in rural jurisdictions, where a county is unable to seat a JJCC – not for lack of trying, but merely for lack of available or willing volunteers. This amendment would impede the flow of realigned funds for circumstances that are often outside of county control, and again, appears to ignore the constitutional protections that surround this funding stream. Moreover, increasing the required number of community representatives serving on the JJCC from one “at-large community representative” and “representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations” to “at least 50 percent community representatives” as proposed by this measure, exacerbates existing challenges with establishing a JJCC. AB 702 also proposes to reduce the number of required representatives serving on a JJCC. While reducing the number of council members could theoretically assist with local recruitment, the proposed approach is not helpful. In combination with the 50 percent community representation requirement, mandating a community representative as co-chair and explicitly removing law enforcement-related agencies from overseeing the request for proposals process for funding **strips the authority county government has over a county government function.**

On the surface, changes to the composition of the JJCC (and for that matter, any other juvenile justice committee or subcommittee), the frequency and accessibility of meetings, and required components of multiagency juvenile justice plans may seem reasonable. However, from the county perspective, they are indicative of a latent intent to create endless litigation if dollars are not directly allocated to community-based organizations. These changes not only run counter to the vital governance principle that responsibility must be accompanied by the authority to implement, but unfortunately also result in diminished and delayed programming and service delivery to young people under county care.

UCC, RCRC, and CSAC are united in our view that community-based organizations provide valuable programs and services to criminal justice-involved populations in many parts of the state. However, **the process for allocating funds to these organizations should remain a local decision with robust community engagement, as is provided under current law, given that local governments are accountable for the outcomes associated with the support and supervision of justice-involved youth.** Furthermore, we urge a collaborative discussion on separate, new investments in programs to complement and expand the existing work of county probation departments that share the goals of diverting individuals from the criminal justice system where possible and facilitating positive community reentry.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC, and RCRC must therefore respectfully, but firmly oppose this measure. Please feel free to contact Ryan Morimune at CSAC ([rmorimune@counties.org](mailto:rmorimune@counties.org)), Elizabeth Espinosa at UCC ([ehe@hbeadvocacy.com](mailto:ehe@hbeadvocacy.com)), or Sarah Dukett at RCRC ([sdukett@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sdukett@rcrcnet.org)) for any questions on our associations' perspectives. Thank you.


Sincerely,



Ryan Morimune  
Legislative Representative  
CSAC



Elizabeth Espinosa  
Legislative Representative  
UCC



Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
RCRC

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee

CSAC Letters



January 5, 2024

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 817 (PACHECO) LOCAL GOVERNMENT: OPEN MEETINGS – SUPPORT AS AMENDED  
MARCH 16, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Pacheco:

## CSAC Letters

On behalf of the California Association of Recreation and Parks Districts (CARPD), League of California Cities (CalCities), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representative of California (RCRC), and California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we are pleased to sponsor this important legislation and thank you for your leadership in removing barriers to entry into civic leadership.

We and the undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for AB 817.

This measure would remove barriers to entry for appointed and elected office by allowing non-decision-making legislative bodies that do not have the ability to take final action to participate in two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting location.

Local governments across the state have faced an ongoing challenge to recruit and retain members of the public on advisory bodies, boards, and commissions. Challenges associated with recruitment have been attributed to participation time commitments; time and location of meetings; physical limitation, conflicts with childcare, and work obligations. The COVID-19 global pandemic drove both hyper-awareness and concerns about the spread of infectious diseases, as well as removed barriers to local civic participation by allowing this same remote participation. This enabled individuals who could not otherwise accommodate the time, distance, or mandatory physical participation requirements to engage locally, providing access to leadership opportunities and providing communities with greater diversified input on critical community proposals.

Existing law (Stats. 1991, Ch. 669) declares “a vast and largely untapped reservoir of talent exists among the citizenry of the State of California, and that rich and varied segments of this great human resource are, all too frequently, not aware of the many opportunities which exist to participate in and serve on local regulatory and advisory boards, commissions, and committees.” Under the Local Appointments List, also known as Maddy’s Act, this information must be publicly noticed and published. However, merely informing the public of the opportunity to engage is not enough: addressing barriers to entry to achieve diverse representation in leadership furthers the Legislature’s declared goals of equal access and equal opportunity.

Diversification in civic participation at all levels requires careful consideration of different protected characteristics as well as socio-economic status. The in-person requirement to participate in local governance bodies presents a disproportionate challenge for those with physical or economic limitations, including seniors, persons with disability, single parents and/or caretakers, economically marginalized groups, and those who live in rural areas and face prohibitive driving distances. Participation in local advisory bodies and appointed boards and commissions often serves as a pipeline to local elected office and opportunities for state and federal leadership positions.

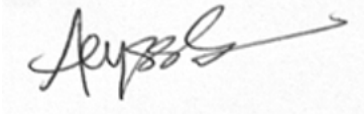
AB 817 would help address these issues by providing a narrow exemption under the Ralph M. Brown Act for non-decision-making legislative bodies that do not take final action on any legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or other entitlements, so that equity in opportunity to serve locally and representative diversity in leadership can be achieved. For these reasons, we are collectively pleased to support AB 817 and reiterate our appreciation for your leadership on this most important issue.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Alyssa Silhi at (916) 505-4978 and/or Johnnie Pina at (916) 802-4997.

Sincerely,



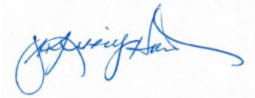
CSAC Letters



Alyssa Silhi  
Legislative Representative  
California Recreation and Park Districts



Johnnie Pena  
Legislative Representative  
League of California Cities



Jean Hurst  
Legislative Advocate  
Urban Counties of California



Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
Rural Counties Representatives of California



Eric Lawyer  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties



Dorothy Johnson  
Legislative Advocate  
Association of California School Administrators



Marjie Kirn  
Executive Director  
Santa Barbara County Association of  
Government



Kim Levy Rothschild, CAE  
Executive Director  
California Association of Public Authorities for  
IHSS



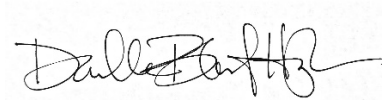
Bill Higgins  
Executive Director  
California Association of Councils of  
Governments



Sarah Bridge  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Association of California Healthcare Districts



Oscar Villegas  
Chair  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors



Danielle Blacet-Hyden  
Deputy Executive Director  
California Municipal Utilities Association

CSAC Letters



Erik White  
President  
California Air Pollution Control Officers  
Association



Dane Hutchings  
Legislative Advocate  
City Clerks Association of California



Keith Blackburn  
Mayor  
City of Carlsbad



James Corless  
Executive Director  
Sacramento Area Council of Governments

CC: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee  
The Honorable Marie Waldron, Vice Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee

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Riverside County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

January 5, 2024

The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 545  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 251 (Newman): Candidates' statements: false statements.  
As amended January 3, 2024 – SUPPORT  
Set for hearing January 9, 2024, Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Wahab,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 251 (Newman), which raises the penalty for intentional false statements by candidates in elections from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Intentional false statements by candidates undermine the will of voters and heighten the risk that unqualified candidates are elected to office, specifically the role of County Auditors. Local elected officials serve an essential and often unappreciated role in their communities. The role of a county auditor, for example, performs vital functions including budget control, financial reporting, and managing disbursements and receipts. Due to the importance of that role, CSAC was proud to support AB 910 (Wilson) in 2023, which provided much needed clarity for the qualifications for the office of county auditor and expanded the documentation that must be submitted to a county elections official to be a legal candidate for the office.

Further, the Elections Code Section that includes the fixed penalty amount of \$1,000 has not been updated since 1994 (Statutes of 1994, Chapter 920). The benefits of holding public office may simply outweigh the costs of the existing fine for an unscrupulous individual looking to advance their own interests at the expense of the communities they are intended to serve. While increasing the fine will not guarantee bad behavior will cease, it will help to ensure that our candidates for local office are qualified and properly vetted by their communities.

For these reasons, CSAC supports SB 251 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at [elawyer@counties.org](mailto:elawyer@counties.org).

Sincerely,

Eric Lawyer  
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Josh Newman, California State Senate, District 29  
Members and Consultants, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Eric Csizmar, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

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**CEO**

Graham Knaus

January 5, 2024

The Honorable Steve Glazer  
Chair, Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments  
State Capitol, Room 410  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 251 (Newman): Candidates' statements: false statements.  
As amended January 3, 2024 – SUPPORT  
Set for hearing January 9, 2024, Senate Committee on Elections and  
Constitutional Amendments**

Dear Senator Glazer,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 251 (Newman), which raises the penalty for intentional false statements by candidates in elections from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Intentional false statements by candidates undermine the will of voters and heighten the risk that unqualified candidates are elected to office, specifically the role of County Auditors. Local elected officials serve an essential and often unappreciated role in their communities. The role of a county auditor, for example, performs vital functions including budget control, financial reporting, and managing disbursements and receipts. Due to the importance of that role, CSAC was proud to support AB 910 (Wilson) in 2023, which provided much needed clarity for the qualifications for the office of county auditor and expanded the documentation that must be submitted to a county elections official to be a legal candidate for the office.

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For these reasons, CSAC supports SB 251 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at [elawyer@counties.org](mailto:elawyer@counties.org).

Sincerely,

Eric Lawyer  
Legislative Advocate

The Honorable Steve Glazer

January 5, 2024

Page 2 of 2

cc: The Honorable Josh Newman, California State Senate, District 29  
Members and Consultants, Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional  
Amendments  
Cory Botts, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

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**CEO**

Graham Knaus

January 5, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 546 (Alvarado-Gil): Sales and Use Tax Law: exemption: dedicated snow removal vehicles.  
As amended January 3, 2024 – SUPPORT  
Set for hearing January 10, 2024, Senate Governance and Finance Committee**

Dear Senator Caballero,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 546 (Alvarado-Gil), which alleviates some of the fiscal burden that local agencies are experiencing in response to the changing climate and [historic winter snowstorms in 2023](#), which prompted an emergency response from Governor Newsom.

SB 546 does this by exempting the state portion of the sales and use tax from purchases of dedicated snow removal vehicles by local public agencies between July 1, 2025, and January 1, 2030.

Counties are on the front lines of managing snowfall that accumulates on public roads and creates dangerous conditions for county residents. Snowfall of just a few inches can obstruct public roads and interfere with school bus routes, waste and recycling collection, emergency response, and generally reduce community access to basic needs. As weather patterns become more volatile and unpredictable, local public agencies will need to match the increased demand for snow removal by increasing fleets of snow removal vehicles and other related equipment.

Existing law imposes or dedicates certain state sales and use tax rates for local funding, including through the Local Revenue Fund 2011. SB 546 would specify that this exemption does not apply to those state sales and use tax rates imposed or dedicated for local government funding, including those rates for which revenues are deposited into the Local Revenue Fund 2011. CSAC appreciates Senator Alvarado-Gil's efforts in crafting SB 546 in a manner that protects local services and realignment funds while recognizing that the biggest portion (and thus biggest benefit for the buyer) is the state's share. As a result, the measure does not negatively impact county sales and use tax revenue.

SB 546 balances fiscal relief for local public agencies in the interest of public safety while preserving critical sales and use tax revenues for local governments.

For these reasons, CSAC supports SB 546 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at [elawyer@counties.org](mailto:elawyer@counties.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric Lawyer', written in a cursive style.

Eric Lawyer  
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil, California State Senate, District 4  
Members and Consultants, Senate Governance and Finance Committee  
Ryan Eisberg, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus





**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
California State Assembly  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 637 (Jackson)– **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Holden:

We, the undersigned coalition, write to express support for AB 637, which would provide public and private fleets with additional options to meet the zero emission vehicle (ZEV) procurement requirements under the Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulation, adopted by the CA Air Resources Board on April 28, 2023.

Unfortunately, the ACF regulation does not allow a fleet owner to claim compliance credit for renting a zero emission truck over its internal combustion counterpart. This oversight unreasonably restricts the options available to fleet owners, particularly those with less resources and limited budgets, that are looking for cost-effective ways to meet the ACF's ambitious goals.

As a matter of policy, we believe that public and private fleets should have a variety of options available when developing their compliance plans. **For public and private entities that rent ACF covered trucks to supplement their existing fleets, we strongly believe that the rental of zero emission trucks should count towards the total compliance obligation for those fleets.** The increased utilization of zero emission trucks would benefit local air quality, reduce the investment costs for public and private entities electing to utilize those trucks, and provide much needed flexibility that will allow public and private fleets to better serve the needs of the public.

The urgency to adopt this proposal as soon as possible is clear especially for public fleets who will be making procurement decisions in the early part of 2024 in order to meet their compliance obligations for the ACF rule by the first milestone deadline of January 1, 2025.

## CSAC Letters

For the foregoing reasons, we support AB 637 and appreciate your leadership in authoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

Damon Conklin  
League of California Cities

Trisha Dellolacono  
CALSTART

Mark Neuburger  
California State Association of Counties

Ben Palmer  
Enterprise Mobility, Inc.

Anthony J. Tannehill  
California Special Districts Association



January 17, 2024

The Honorable Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 797 (Weber) – Local Government: police review boards  
As amended January 3, 2024 – CONCERNS  
Set for hearing – January 18, 2024 – Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our concerns with AB 797 by Dr. Akilah Weber. This measure would require the governing body of each county and city to create an independent community-based commission on law enforcement officer practices.

The fundamental goal of counties is to meet the needs of constituents. This is best achieved through healthy relationships between government and community. Whereas tensions between some law enforcement agencies and communities may have increased over the years, counties remain committed to building public trust and view community input, collaboration, and oversight as key factors. However, we have substantial concerns with AB 797 given the immediate and significant fiscal impact it will have on county government, in particular funding for essential programs and critical services in light of the state budget shortfall in the billions of dollars for the foreseeable future.

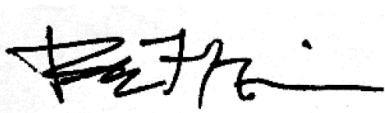
With the passage of Proposition 4 in 1979, local governments were promised reimbursement for costs associated with state-mandated programs. Then in 2004, with the approval of Proposition 1A – requiring the state to fully fund each new program or higher level of service or suspend the program or service for that fiscal year; and requiring the state to reimburse local governments for the backlog of unreimbursed state-mandated costs incurred before 2004 – it is frequently assumed that local governments are made whole for all legislation that is keyed as a state-mandated local program. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The Commission on State Mandates determines whether new laws meet the definition of a reimbursable mandate, only after a local government entity files a test claim. This process can take years to complete and not all claims are reimbursed. If the commission

does approve a test claim and adopts a reimbursement methodology, counties experience notable delays given the considerable backlog of payments to local governments. Additionally, throughout the commission’s review process while a claim is pending, local governments must still comply with new requirements regardless of the costs. According to the State Controller’s Office, the state owes counties, cities, and special districts over \$980 million in mandate reimbursements dating back to 2004, nearly \$350 million of which is for counties. To be clear, these are state-recognized costs owed for programs conducted and services rendered by local governments for all Californians, and interest on unpaid claims accrues until the claims are fully paid.

Simply put, AB 797 will easily exceed millions of dollars for counties to implement. This includes, but is not limited to, costs for establishing a new agency comprised of an executive director, independent investigators, independent legal counsel, commissioners, administrative staff, as well as office space, equipment, development of new policies, procedures, and a secure system for data retention for the commission to fulfill its duty to conduct investigations, issue and enforce compliance of subpoenas, and meet reporting requirements. Although we do not have a position on the policy, due to the mounting fiscal pressure and the increasing number of county mandates, we must share our significant concerns. To put things in perspective, there were roughly 186 bills introduced in 2023 alone that were keyed as a state-mandated local program. This only includes legislation within the public safety portfolio and does not capture all bills impacting other areas of county government.

It is for these reasons that CSAC, UCC, and RCRC have a “concerns” position on AB 797 and respectfully request that you consider the full costs for counties. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Morimune at CSAC ([rmorimune@counties.org](mailto:rmorimune@counties.org)), Elizabeth Espinosa at UCC ([ehe@hbeadvocacy.com](mailto:ehe@hbeadvocacy.com)), or Sarah Dukett at RCRC ([sdukett@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sdukett@rcrcnet.org)).

Sincerely,



Ryan Morimune  
Legislative Advocate  
CSAC



Elizabeth Espinosa  
Legislative Representative  
UCC



Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
RCRC

Cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Akilah Weber, California State Assembly

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Riverside County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 546 (Alvarado-Gil): Sales and Use Tax Law: exemption: dedicated snow removal vehicles.  
As amended January 3, 2024 – SUPPORT  
Set for hearing January 16, 2024, Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Portantino,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 546 (Alvarado-Gil), which alleviates some of the fiscal burden that local agencies are experiencing in response to the changing climate and [historic winter snowstorms in 2023](#), which prompted an emergency response from Governor Newsom.

SB 546 does this by exempting the state portion of the sales and use tax from purchases of dedicated snow removal vehicles by local public agencies between July 1, 2025, and January 1, 2030.

Counties are on the front lines of managing snowfall that accumulates on public roads and creates dangerous conditions for county residents. Snowfall of just a few inches can obstruct public roads and interfere with school bus routes, waste and recycling collection, emergency response, and generally reduce community access to basic needs. As weather patterns become more volatile and unpredictable, local public agencies will need to match the increased demand for snow removal by increasing fleets of snow removal vehicles and other related equipment.

Existing law imposes or dedicates certain state sales and use tax rates for local funding, including through the Local Revenue Fund 2011. SB 546 would specify that this exemption does not apply to those state sales and use tax rates imposed or dedicated for local government funding, including those rates for which revenues are deposited into the Local Revenue Fund 2011. CSAC appreciates Senator Alvarado-Gil's efforts in crafting SB 546 in a manner that protects local services and realignment funds while recognizing that the biggest portion (and thus biggest benefit for the buyer) is the state's share. As a result, the measure does not negatively impact county sales and use tax revenue.

SB 546 balances fiscal relief for local public agencies in the interest of public safety while preserving critical sales and use tax revenues for local governments.

For these reasons, CSAC supports SB 546 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at [elawyer@counties.org](mailto:elawyer@counties.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Eric Lawyer", written in a cursive style.

Eric Lawyer  
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil, California State Senate, District 4  
Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus



January 17, 2024



The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
California State Governor  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Proposed Elimination of Housing Supports for Foster Youth



Dear Governor Newsom,



The undersigned coalition of organizations are writing to express concern about two budget cuts included in your Administration's proposed 2024-25 budget that will increase homelessness among foster youth. These include \$18.8 million (General Fund, ongoing) for the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) Supplement and \$13.7 million (General Fund, ongoing) for the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program.



The SILP Supplement was included in the FY 23-24 budget. It will provide a supplementary payment to foster youth placed in a SILP, based on the cost of housing in the county where they live. These young people currently receive \$1,206 monthly for all living expenses: rent, food, utilities, clothing, transportation and more. Given this low rate and escalating housing costs, 1 in 5 current foster youth in California have at least one episode of homelessness between ages 18 and 21.



The Legislature and your Administration adopted the SILP Supplement for several reasons. First, it recognized the unique responsibility that California has to youth in foster care, who were placed into foster care through no fault of their own. The Legislature and Administration also understood that experiencing homelessness as a youth or young adult increases the likelihood of being chronically homeless as an adult. Finally, the policy was adopted because it achieves the important goal of reducing homelessness among youth in foster care by leveraging federal funding.



The undersigned organizations support the foster care rate reforms underway. However, their focus is on ensuring foster children and youth in family settings receive the correct level of care, such as mental health counseling. They do not address the housing affordability crisis experienced uniquely by young people who live in a SILP and they do not address the needs of young adults in foster care living independently.



## CSAC Letters



The second proposed reduction of concern is the elimination of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, which pays for supportive services for 1,300 foster youth who have a federal housing voucher specifically for former foster youth. These vouchers are known as Family Unification Program (FUP) and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers.



Prior to the creation and expansion of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, these federal vouchers were underutilized in California because there was not a source of public funding to provide the required supportive services. Since the creation and expansion of the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, the number of vouchers has increased 54% in California, bringing \$22 million in federal investment to California annually. The effectiveness of this expansion is one key reason why homelessness among transition-age youth has decreased 16% between 2020 and 2023. If this program is eliminated, this effective state/federal partnership will come to a halt and put 1,300 youth at risk of homelessness.

We appreciate the complexity of the state budget and the need to responsibly steward scarce public resources. However, we request that your Administration sustain its long-standing commitment to children and youth in foster care by revisiting these decisions and maintaining these important state investments.

Thank you for all you have done for the children and youth of California. We look forward to ongoing dialogue about these important issues in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

John Burton Advocates for Youth  
Alameda County of Education  
Aldea  
All Saints Church Foster Care Project  
Alliance for Children's Rights  
Allies for Every Child  
Aspiranet  
Association of Community Human Services  
Better Youth, Inc.  
Beyond Emancipation  
Bill Wilson Center  
Butterfly's Haven  
California Alliance of Caregivers  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
California State Association of Counties  
California Youth Connection  
Casa de Amparo



## CSAC Letters



Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families  
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara  
Children Now



Children's Advocacy Institute  
Children's Law Center of California  
Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento



Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice  
Corporation for Supportive Housing



County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles  
Creative Alternatives



Crittenton Services for Children & Families  
Doing Good Works



Edgewood Center for Children & Families  
Encompass Community Services



First Place for Youth  
Foster Care Counts



Foster Greatness  
Fostering Promise



Gather Respect Advocate Change Engage (GLIDE)  
GRACE/End Child Poverty California



Hillsides  
Hollywood NOW



Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa  
Just in Time for Foster Youth



Kamali'i Foster Family Agency, Inc.  
Lens Co



Lutheran Social Services of Northern California  
Mary's Path



Oak Grove Sanctuary Palm Springs  
Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services

Orange County United Way  
Orangewood Foundation

Peacock Acres  
Public Counsel

Reedley College  
Robles, LLC

Santa Ana Housing Authority  
Seneca Family of Agencies

Specialty Family Foundation  
StarVista

Stepping Forward LA  
Students Rising Above

Sycamores  
Tha Hood Healers

Unity Care  
Waking the Village

## CSAC Letters



Walden Family Services  
Wellnest  
Urban Strategies Council



Stepping Forward LA



**Cc:** Members, Senate Budget Committee  
Members, Assembly Budget Committee  
Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
Chris Woods, Office of the Senate Pro Tempore  
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate Pro Tempore  
Jason Sisney, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly  
Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly  
Jessica Bartholow, Office of Senator Skinner  
Tania Dikho, Office of Assemblymember Ting  
Bethany Renfree, Office of Senator Durazo  
Elizabeth Schmitt, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
Timothy Griffiths, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
Nicole Vasquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
Genevieve Morelos, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
Chantelle Denny, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
Megan De Sousa, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office  
Diana Boyer, County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Rosie McCool, Chief Probation Officers of California  
Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties  
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Lourdes Morales, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Angela Short, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Health & Human Services Agency  
Kim Johnson, Department of Social Services  
Angie Schwartz, Department of Social Services  
Jennifer Troia, Department of Social Services  
Sasha Kergan, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency  
Gustavo Velasquez, Dept. of Housing & Community Development  
Jennifer Seeger, Department of Housing & Community Development  
Pedro Galvao, Department of Housing & Community Development  
Joe Stephenshaw, Department of Finance  
Gayle Miller, Department of Finance  
Kris Cook, Department of Finance  
Kia Cha, Department of Finance  
Marlon Davis, Department of Finance  
Chris Hill, Department of Finance  
Andrew March, Department of Finance  
Blair Huxman, Department of Finance

## CSAC Letters



## FLOOR ALERT

On behalf of the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD), League of California Cities (CalCities), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representative of California (RCRC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA-IHSS), we are pleased to sponsor this important legislation and ask for your AYE vote to remove barriers to entry into civic leadership.

We and the above organizations write to express our strong support for AB 817.

- This measure would remove barriers to entry for appointed and elected office by allowing non-decision-making legislative bodies that do not have the ability to take final action to participate in two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting location.
- Local governments across the state have faced an ongoing challenge to recruit and retain members of the public on advisory bodies, boards, and commissions.

## CSAC Letters

- Challenges associated with recruitment have been attributed to participation time commitments, time and location of meetings, physical limitation, conflicts with childcare, and work obligations.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic drove both hyper-awareness and concerns about the spread of infectious diseases, as well as removed barriers to local civic participation by allowing this same remote participation. This enabled individuals who could not otherwise accommodate the time, distance, or mandatory physical participation requirements to engage locally, providing access to leadership opportunities and providing communities with greater diversified input on critical community proposals.
- Existing law (Stats. 1991, Ch. 669) declares “a vast and largely untapped reservoir of talent exists among the citizenry of the State of California, and that rich and varied segments of this great human resource are, all too frequently, not aware of the many opportunities which exist to participate in and serve on local regulatory and advisory boards, commissions, and committees.” Under the Local Appointments List, also known as Maddy’s Act, this information must be publicly noticed and published. **However, merely informing the public of the opportunity to engage is not enough: addressing barriers to entry to achieve diverse representation in leadership furthers the Legislature’s declared goals of equal access and equal opportunity.**
- Diversification in civic participation at all levels requires careful consideration of different protected characteristics as well as socio-economic status.
- The in-person requirement to participate in local governance bodies presents a disproportionate challenge for those with physical or economic limitations, including seniors, persons with disability, single parents and/or caretakers, economically marginalized groups, and those who live in rural areas and face prohibitive driving distances. Participation in local advisory bodies and appointed boards and commissions often serves as a pipeline to local elected office and opportunities for state and federal leadership positions.
- **AB 817 would help address these issues by providing a narrow exemption under the Ralph M. Brown Act for non-decision-making legislative bodies that do not take final action on any legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or other entitlements, so that equity in opportunity to serve locally and representative diversity in leadership can be achieved.**

**AB 817 IS WORKING WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL TO ALIGN ITS PROVISIONS WITH ALL OF THE TELECONFERENCING PROVISIONS THAT APPLY TO ADVISORY BODIES AS PASSED IN SB 544 (LAIRD) LAST YEAR, INCLUDING PROVIDING A PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR THE PUBLIC TO HEAR, SEE, AND PARTICIPATE FROM.**

**WE ASK FOR YOUR “AYE” VOTE ON AB 817 TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ENTRY INTO CIVIC PARTICIPATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND INCREASE REPRESENTATION ON IMPORTANT ADVISORY ONLY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.**

January 19, 2024

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Room 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Elimination of Critical Supports for Children and Youth in Foster Care: Family Urgent Response System (FURS) – OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Gabriel:

The undersigned organizations strongly oppose the elimination of dedicated supports and services for California’s children and youth in foster care as proposed in the Governor’s 2024-25 budget (more than \$70 million General Fund ongoing), especially the proposed elimination of the Family Urgent Response System (FURS). These critical programs ensure children and youth in foster care have access to the stability, trauma-informed supports, and housing they need to heal from abuse, neglect, and removal from their communities. The Governor’s proposed budget threatens to harm the very children and youth the State has a moral and legal obligation to support and protect.

Among these cuts to child welfare programs, the budget proposes to eliminate FURS (\$30 million General Fund ongoing), which was created by and for youth currently or formerly in foster care and their caregivers to provide critically needed, immediate, 24/7, individualized, trauma-informed support. Established in 2019 by Senate Bill 80, FURS consists of a statewide hotline and county mobile response systems that respond to any situation where youth or caregivers have identified the need for extra support, including those with the potential to lead to placement disruptions or unnecessary contact with law enforcement. This coordinated state and community-based solution helps preserve relationships and placements in family homes, link youth and families to longer-term supports and services, promote healing, and prevent the criminalization of youth who have experienced trauma. FURS is also a critical resource to promote stability for older youth (up to age 21) currently or formerly in foster care who are living on their own.

Since FURS launched in 2021, utilization has grown steadily with more than 11,000 calls placed to the statewide hotline. Many of those calls have resulted in an in-person response from a county mobile response team. Initial data shows that the vast majority of these calls have resulted in stabilized placements and ongoing supports for the child, youth, and/or caregiver. Moreover, there are hundreds of stories about how FURS has:

- Helped new relationships develop and grow when a child first becomes part of the family.
- Supported caregivers and youth as they work through disagreements.
- Connected youth to community-based resources and supports to meet their unique needs.
- Resolved barriers students in foster care experience attending and thriving in school.
- Ensured caregivers have access to the supports they need for the wellbeing of the children and youth in their care.

FURS plays a critical role in improving outcomes for children and youth in foster care. Eliminating this vital program will place these children and youth at greater risk of instability, disrupted relationships, loss, and re-traumatization.

We appreciate that California is facing a budget deficit. However, we must not address this shortfall at the expense of our children and youth in foster care to whom the State has a legal and moral responsibility. We strongly urge you to uphold California's duty to these children and youth and reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate funding for FURS and the other eliminated programs and services pivotal to their safety and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Organizations

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency  
Aging UP  
Alliance for Children's Rights  
Allies for Every Child  
Aspiranet  
Association of Community Human Service  
Agencies  
California Alliance of Caregivers  
California Alliance of Child and Family  
Services  
California Coalition for Youth  
California State Association  
of Counties  
California Youth Connection  
Child Care Law Center  
Children First Foster Family Agency  
Children Now  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
Children's Bureau of Southern  
California  
Children's Law Center of California  
City and County of San Francisco  
County Behavioral Health Directors  
Association  
County of Los Angeles Department of  
Children and Family Services  
County of Sonoma Human Services  
Department  
County Welfare Directors Association  
of California  
Crittenton Services

Dimondale Adolescent Care Facility  
Disability Rights California  
East Bay Children's Law Offices  
Extraordinary Families  
First Place for Youth  
Fostering Unity  
Fred Finch Youth & Family Services  
Hanna Center  
Hillsides  
iFoster  
John Burton Advocates for Youth  
Koinonia Family Services  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
LMT & Associates, Inc.  
Loyola Marymount Center for Equity for  
English Learners  
Mary's Path  
Mental Health America of San Diego County  
Pacific Clinics  
Public Counsel  
Sacramento Children's Home  
San Francisco Human Services Agency  
SEIU California  
Seneca Family of Agencies  
TLC Child & Family Services  
Trinity Youth Services  
Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services  
VOICES Youth Services  
Wayfinder Family Services  
WestCoast Children's Clinic  
Western Center on Law & Poverty

CSAC Letters



Cc: Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee, Members  
Assembly Budget Committee, Members



January 23, 2024

Governor Gavin Newsom  
 1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Protecting Funding for Transportation Infrastructure Projects**

Governor Newsom and members California Transportation Commission,

Our broad coalition of local governments, labor, employers, transportation advocates and community leaders was instrumental in the passage of Senate Bill 1 in 2017 (the Road Repair and Accountability Act) as well as Proposition 69 which constitutionally dedicated transportation funding for a broad range of transportation purposes. We share the state's transportation and climate goals. Thanks in part to our coalition's efforts, California is investing to maintain and improve our state's long neglected and deteriorating transportation infrastructure system which remains woefully underfunded and at risk of worsening.

We are writing to express our significant concern about organizations that are waging an escalating lobbying campaign pushing to significantly erode and even [eliminate funding for infrastructure projects](#) that may potentially increase vehicle miles traveled.



Every component of California's transportation system is critical to providing a seamless, interconnected system that supports the traveling public and economic vitality throughout the state. Sustainable communities cannot function without a well-maintained local street and road system that in-turn provides access for transit and active modes of transportation like bicycling and walking.

Make no mistake: this extreme approach to defund critical transportation projects is a total affront to the voters of California who have overwhelmingly and repeatedly voted – including 81% of voters who passed Prop 69 in 2018 – to dedicate transportation funding to transportation improvement and expansion projects. It's also an affront to millions of voters in 25 counties that have passed local transportation funding measures with dedicated funding to local streets and roads.

Furthermore, this dangerous approach to eliminate transportation funding will negatively impact the quality of life for tens of millions of Californians who rely on well-maintained streets and roads, safe bridges and overpasses, and navigable freeways and highways every single day. In particular, these policies disproportionately harm low-income and historically disadvantaged communities of color who have longer commutes and who can least afford the wear and tear caused by deteriorating and congested roads. To be clear, our coalition supports an “all of the above” transportation investment approach that includes continued funding for local streets and roads, bridges and overpasses, freeway and highway improvements, *and* public transportation. We strongly support transportation projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions to improve air quality and address climate change, including investments in public transit and active transportation like bike and pedestrian lanes.

Since the passage of the federal [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA) in 2021, and the state's passage of Senate Bill 1, California has made historic investments in public transportation, mass transit and active transportation, but much more must be done.

Under SB 1 funding [California has invested \\$3.5 billion](#) in planned, completed, or in-progress transit, commuter rail, bike and walking path projects in just the last five years. And California's [2023-2024 state budget](#) provides \$5.1 billion in funding for public transit — \$4 billion in Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding, and \$1.1 billion in zero-emission vehicle transit funding.

Also, while investing in transit projects is absolutely necessary, we cannot neglect other transportation infrastructure. According to [TRIP](#), a national transportation research nonprofit, 52% of California's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition. Furthermore, [Save California Streets](#), who compiles data from local cities and counties on the conditions of their local streets and roads, reported a decrease in overall road quality since 2020, resulting in the roads in 54/58 counties being graded as “at risk” or “poor.”

The overall needs of local transportation infrastructure are estimated at \$118.7 billion over the next 10 years. While SB 1 provides \$54.7 billion in funding, a shortfall of \$64 billion still exists.

Driving on deteriorated roads costs California motorists \$22 billion a year – \$808 per driver – in the form of additional repairs, accelerated vehicle depreciation, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear. These impacts disproportionately hurt low-income and disadvantaged families by taking up a larger share of their overall income.

Studies confirm long commutes on congested roads and freeways have a disproportionate impact on people of color and lower-income families. According to the [UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation](#), *“due in part to the high cost of housing near job and transit centers, many low- and moderate-income individuals are stuck with long commutes in vehicles that are older, less efficient, and costlier to maintain than the average privately owned vehicle.”*

In addition, California is leading in electric vehicle adoption – further reducing carbon emissions. Rapidly expanding our electric vehicle fleet requires continued investments in local streets and roads, bridges and highways and freeways to account for the added wear and tear caused by heavier electric vehicles.

We urge you to protect the overwhelming will of California voters and the welfare of the majority of Californians by rejecting extreme, exclusive policy proposals that would defund necessary transportation infrastructure improvements. Please continue to support “all-of-the-above”, inclusive transportation funding policies that support our state’s residents and that do not leave millions behind.

Sincerely,

Michael Quigley, Executive Director  
**California Alliance for Jobs**

Kiana Valentine, Executive Director  
**Transportation California**

Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer  
**California State Association of Counties**

Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director and CEO  
**League of California Cities**

Lisa Ann Rapp, Chair  
**The California Chapters of the American  
Public Works Association**

**CA/HI State Conference NAACP**

Brad Shelton, President  
**Professional Engineers in California  
Government**

Peter Tateishi, Chief Executive Officer  
**Associated General Contractors of California**

Yazdan Emrani, Director  
**American Society of Civil Engineers Region 9**

Jacob Sandoval, State Director  
**California LULAC**

James Thuerwachter, Legislative Advocate  
**California State Council of Laborers**

Tyler Munzing, Director of Government Affairs  
**American Council of Engineering Companies,  
California**

Jennifer Barrera, President & CEO  
**California Chamber of Commerce**

Matt Cremins, Western Region Political Director  
**International Union of Operating Engineers**

John Bly, Executive Vice President  
**Engineering Contractors Association**

Jon Switalski, Executive Director  
**Rebuild SoCal Partnership**

Rosanne Foust, President & CEO  
**San Mateo County Economic Development  
Association**

Robert Dugan, President & CEO  
**California Construction and Industrial  
Materials Association**

Emily Cohen, Executive Vice President  
**United Contractors**

Julian Canete, President & CEO  
**California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce**

Pat Fong Kushida, President & CEO  
**CalAsian Chamber of Commerce**

Tracy Hernandez, CEO  
**Los Angeles County Business Federation**

Jeffrey Ball, President & Chief Executive Officer  
**Orange County Business Council**

Nayiri E Baghdassarian, Director of Public Policy  
**San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership**

**Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce**

**San Pedro Chamber of Commerce**

Dan Dunmoyer, President & CEO  
**California Building Industry Association**

Gurbax Sahota, ACE, CEO  
**California Association for Local Economic  
Development**

Debora Howard, Executive Director  
**California Senior Advocates League**

Charlie Nobles, Executive Director  
**Southern California Contractors Association**

Mark Waronek, Chair  
**South Bay Association of Chambers of  
Commerce**

Eric Sauer, Chief Executive Officer  
**California Trucking Association**

Russell W. Snyder, CAE, Executive Director  
**California Asphalt Pavement Association**

Jim Wunderman, President and CEO  
**Bay Area Council**

Paul C. Granillo, President and CEO  
**Inland Empire Economic Partnership**

**Harbor Association of Industry & Commerce**

Cindy Bonior, President & CEO  
**Fremont Chamber of Commerce**

Nicholas Adcock, President & CEO  
**Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce**

Caren Spilsbury, Executive Director  
**Gateway Chambers Alliance**

Cynthia Murray, President & CEO  
**North Bay Leadership Council**

**Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce**

CC: Members of the California Legislature  
California State Transportation Agency

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Chuck Washington  
Riverside County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), proudly representing all 58 of the state's counties, stands ready to work with your administration to collectively address the budget problem in the best interests of California's vulnerable populations and to preserve core services.

Today, and for decades past, counties have delivered the state's priorities. As you know from your experience in local governance, counties in California serve a unique role in providing both state and local government services including behavioral health services, public health care, conducting elections, and managing local resources. Counties provide the staff and brick-and-mortar facilities necessary to carry out the state's programs. Increasingly, as the impacts of a changing climate are intensified, counties are compelled to manage emergency responses for floods and wildfires. As the state and county budgets are woven together, close collaboration and partnership are the only way to achieve our shared goals.

CSAC appreciates the provisions of the 2024-25 Governor's Budget that maintain important recent investments, particularly for behavioral health and public health. It is clear that your administration has taken care to consider the impacts of state budget reductions on California's residents and aimed to prioritize the least painful cuts. Nonetheless, some of the proposed budget-balancing solutions would have negative impacts on core state services delivered by counties.

We acknowledge the considerable work ahead and the difficult decisions that will be weighed throughout the budget development process. To prepare a budget that best supports vulnerable populations and preserves essential core services, it is critical to prioritize the needs of the services that protect our vulnerable populations, nearly all of which counties deliver on behalf of the state. Counties are the primary intergovernmental partner with the state in meeting the needs of California's communities, and the state will need county expertise and ground truth in making difficult decisions.

To this end, CSAC submits the following comments regarding the 2024-25 Governor's Budget to inform budget conversations throughout the spring and summer:

### Homelessness

CSAC remains committed to partnering with your administration to address the state's homelessness crisis and continues to advocate for a comprehensive homelessness response system as envisioned in our [AT HOME plan](#) (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation & Economic Opportunity). CSAC values your administration's partnership in 2023 to adopt accountability measures for the Homelessness, Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program that are consistent with the AT HOME plan, including collaborative regional homelessness plans, memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that outline roles and responsibilities for jurisdictions, and joint funding applications that will help further efforts toward the establishment of a comprehensive homelessness response system. While we appreciate that these provisions and many existing homelessness investments are preserved, we are concerned that the 2024-25 Governor's Budget proposal does not contain ongoing funding for the HHAP program beyond Round 5, as included in the 2023 Budget Act.

It is a fundamental truth that preventing and addressing homelessness is a core California value in perpetuity and is a responsibility shared at all levels of government. We know the homelessness crisis is not temporary and remain steadfast in our belief that a permanent homelessness program with ongoing funding is essential to allow counties, cities, and other entities receiving funding linked to responsibilities, to make multiyear investments to serve unhoused individuals, prevent more individuals from experiencing homelessness, and achieve the goals of regional plans that all counties are currently developing. We look forward to continuing discussions about the need for sustainable homelessness funding and accountability for all levels of government.

### Safety Net Services

During times of economic hardship, our state must prioritize safety net services relied upon by our vulnerable residents. If these services are cut, needy families and individuals will risk falling further into poverty. While CSAC is grateful that 2024-25 Governor's Budget proposal preserves some recent safety net investments, we have significant concerns with the proposed cuts and program eliminations within CalWORKs and foster care. These proposals will have detrimental impacts on services that help foster youth maintain housing, support individuals in obtaining employment, and provide immediate response and support for families in times of crisis.

### Housing

We cannot address the cycles of persistent homelessness or prevent vulnerable residents from falling into homelessness without building sufficient housing, particularly low-income housing. The \$1.2 billion in funding reductions for various housing programs proposed in the 2024-25 Governor's Budget would hinder our ability to address the cycles of homelessness by reducing resources local government has leveraged to provide housing services to the homeless or to encourage the construction of new housing.

Our advocacy efforts for housing will be guided by CSAC's AT HOME plan and county housing priorities. To make meaningful progress in addressing homelessness and housing affordability, it is vital to maintain funding for housing programs that support county efforts

to house homeless and at-risk individuals. To make long term progress on housing availability, the Infill Infrastructure Grant, which supports the infrastructure needed for the construction of new housing, must be continued.

SB 1383 Organic Waste Diversion Implementation

The reduction in funding for climate programs in the 2024-25 Governor's Budget includes cuts and shifts which undermine the faithful and diligent work that local government has done to carry out the state's organic waste diversion priorities. Since the passage of [SB 1383 \(Lara, Statutes of 2016\)](#), which aims to reduce emissions of short-lived pollutants, counties and cities have faced expensive logistical barriers to meet the state's organic waste goals, while balancing increased costs to California's ratepayers.

The scope and complexity of the SB1383 regulations have had extensive impacts on county budgeting, infrastructure, operations, and services, requiring multi-departmental and regional involvement. The success of local implementation of these regulations will have far-reaching impacts on waste reduction, reducing methane emissions, and overarching benefits to the climate and our communities. However, reaching these goals is difficult, if not impossible, without continued support of, and proper investments in, local government. Absent continued investment from the state, the progress made toward achieving waste diversion will stall, confidence in meeting state climate goals will erode, and ratepayers will be left with the bill.

We look forward to working together to achieve a prudent budget plan that safeguards core services and enables counties to continue in their responsibility to support all Californians.

Respectfully,



Graham Knaus  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Dana Williamson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Jason Elliott, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Christy Bouma, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Ann Patterson, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance  
Erika Li, Chief Deputy Director of Budgets, California Department of Finance



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Chuck Washington  
Riverside County



**CEO**

Graham Knaus

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins  
California Senate President pro  
Tempore  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
Senate President pro  
Tempore Designee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8610  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Committee  
on Budget and Fiscal Review  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Roger Niello  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee  
on Budget and Fiscal Review  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President pro Tempore Atkins, President pro Tempore Designee McGuire, Senator Skinner, and Senator Niello,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), proudly representing all 58 of the state’s counties, stands ready to partner with the Legislature and the Governor’s Administration to collectively address the budget problem in the best interests of California’s vulnerable populations and to preserve core services.

Today, and for decades past, counties have delivered the Legislature’s priorities for our shared constituency. Counties in California serve a unique role in providing both state and local government services including behavioral health services, public health care, conducting elections, and managing local resources. Counties provide the staff and brick-and-mortar facilities necessary to carry out the state’s programs. Increasingly, as the impacts of a changing climate are intensified, counties are compelled to manage emergency responses for floods and wildfires. As the state and county budgets are woven together, close collaboration and partnership are the only way to achieve our shared goals.

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We acknowledge the considerable work ahead and the difficult decisions that will be weighed throughout the budget development process. To prepare a budget that best supports vulnerable populations and preserves essential core

services, it is critical to prioritize the needs of the services that protect our vulnerable populations, nearly all of which counties deliver on behalf of the state. Counties are the primary intergovernmental partner with the state in meeting the needs of California's communities, and the state will need county expertise and ground truth in making difficult decisions.

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While we acknowledge the challenges posed by the significant budget problem, we believe that ongoing funding for homelessness services should be a priority for this budget and budgets in the future. It is a fundamental truth that preventing and addressing homelessness is a core California value in perpetuity and is a responsibility shared at all levels of government. We know the homelessness crisis is not temporary and remain steadfast in our belief that a permanent homelessness program with ongoing funding is essential to allow counties, cities, and other entities receiving funding linked to responsibilities, to make multiyear investments to serve unhoused individuals, prevent more individuals from experiencing homelessness, and achieve the goals of regional plans that all counties are currently developing. We look forward to continuing discussions about the need for sustainable homelessness funding and accountability for all levels of government.

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We look forward to working together to achieve a prudent budget plan that safeguards core services and enables counties to continue in their responsibility to support all Californians.

Respectfully,



Graham Knaus  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Christopher Woods, Chief Fiscal Adviser, Budget Director, Office of Senate President pro Tempore  
Toni G. Atkins  
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus  
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Carolyn Chu, Chief Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

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Riverside County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
 Speaker of the California Assembly  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
 Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Vince Fong  
 Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Speaker Rivas, Assembly Member Gabriel, and Assembly Member Fong,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), proudly representing all 58 of the state's counties, stands ready to partner with the Legislature and the Governor's Administration to collectively address the budget problem in the best interests of California's vulnerable populations and to preserve core services.

Today, and for decades past, counties have delivered the Legislature's priorities for our shared constituency. Counties in California serve a unique role in providing both state and local government services including behavioral health services, public health care, conducting elections, and managing local resources. Counties provide the staff and brick-and-mortar facilities necessary to carry out the state's programs. Increasingly, as the impacts of a changing climate are intensified, counties are compelled to manage emergency responses for floods and wildfires. As the state and county budgets are woven together, close collaboration and partnership are the only way to achieve our shared goals.

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During times of economic hardship, our state must prioritize safety net services relied upon by our vulnerable residents. If these services are cut, needy families and individuals will risk falling further into poverty. While CSAC is grateful that the 2024-25 Governor's Budget proposal preserves some recent safety net investments, we have significant concerns with the proposed cuts and program eliminations within CalWORKs and foster care. These proposals will have detrimental impacts on services that help foster youth maintain housing, support individuals in obtaining employment, and provide immediate response and support for families in times of crisis.

#### Housing

We cannot address the cycles of persistent homelessness or prevent vulnerable residents from falling into homelessness without building sufficient housing, particularly low-income housing. The \$1.2 billion in funding reductions for various housing programs proposed in the 2024-25 Governor's Budget would

hinder our ability to address the cycles of homelessness by reducing resources local government has leveraged to provide housing services to the homeless or to encourage the construction of new housing.

Our advocacy efforts for housing will be guided by CSAC's AT HOME plan and county housing priorities. To make meaningful progress in addressing homelessness and housing affordability, it is vital to maintain funding for housing programs that support county efforts to house homeless and at-risk individuals. To make long term progress on housing availability, the Infill Infrastructure Grant, which supports the infrastructure needed for the construction of new housing, must be continued.

#### SB 1383 Organic Waste Diversion Implementation

The reduction in funding for climate programs in the 2024-25 Governor's Budget includes cuts and shifts which undermine the faithful and diligent work that local government has done to carry out the state's organic waste diversion priorities. Since the passage of [SB 1383 \(Lara, Statutes of 2016\)](#), which aims to reduce emissions of short-lived pollutants, counties and cities have faced expensive logistical barriers to meet the state's organic waste goals, while balancing increased costs to California's ratepayers.

The scope and complexity of the SB 1383 regulations have had extensive impacts on county budgeting, infrastructure, operations, and services, requiring multi-departmental and regional involvement. The success of local implementation of these regulations will have far-reaching impacts on waste reduction, reducing methane emissions, and overarching benefits to the climate and our communities. However, reaching these goals is difficult, if not impossible, without continued support of, and proper investments in, local government. Absent continued investment from the state, the progress made toward achieving waste diversion will stall, confidence in meeting state climate goals will erode, and ratepayers will be left with the bill.

We look forward to working together to achieve a prudent budget plan that safeguards core services and enables counties to continue in their responsibility to support all Californians.

Respectfully,



Graham Knaus  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Jason Sisney, Budget Director, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas  
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Carolyn Chu, Chief Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Lori Wilson  
California State Assembly, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
1021 O Street, Suite 8110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2061 (Wilson) Sales and Use Tax: exemptions: zero-emission public transportation ferries.  
Notice of SUPPORT (As introduced February 1, 2024)**

Dear Assembly Member Wilson,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), are pleased to support your AB 2061, which would establish, from January 1, 2025, until January 1, 2030, a new exemption for the purchase of zero-emission ferries by public transit agencies from the state portion of the sales and use tax.

This proposal would expand on previous legislative actions to exempt from the state portion of the sales and use tax the purchase of zero-emission buses purchased by public transit agencies through AB 784 (Mullin, Chapter 684, Statutes of 2019) and AB 2622 (Mullin, Chapter 353, Statutes of 2022). Importantly for cities and counties, the bill would aid local governments in complying with California Air Resources Board regulations that require local agencies to transition to full zero-emission ferry operations by December 31, 2025. While the regulations are important to improving local air quality, they are expensive and difficult for local agencies.

The local portion of the statewide sales and use tax helps fund a broad variety of county and city services ranging from anti-poverty programs, behavioral health services, and communicable disease control to regional parks, veterans' services, and weights and measures, among a litany of programs and services. AB 2061 would specify that this sales and use tax exemption does not apply to those state sales and use tax rates imposed or dedicated for local government funding, including those rates for which revenues are deposited into the Local Revenue Funds (i.e., 1991 and 2011 Realignment).

CSAC and Cal Cities appreciate your efforts in crafting AB 2061 in a manner that protects local services and realignment funds while recognizing that the biggest portion of the sales and use tax (and thus biggest benefit for the buyer) is the state's share. As a result, the measure does not negatively impact the fiscal sustainability of counties and cities and aids local governments in improving their local air quality and complying with state regulations.

For these reasons, CSAC and Cal Cities are pleased to support AB 2061. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact us at [elawyer@counties.org](mailto:elawyer@counties.org) and [btriffo@calcities.org](mailto:btriffo@calcities.org).

Sincerely,

CSAC Letters

The Honorable Lori Wilson

February 13, 2024

Page 2 of 2



**Eric Lawyer**

Legislative Advocate

California State Association of Counties



**Ben Triffo**

Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

League of California Cities

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**Past President**

Chuck Washington  
Riverside County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Stephen Padilla  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 6640  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1032 (Padilla) Housing finance: portfolio restructuring: loan forgiveness.  
As introduced on February 6, 2023 – SPONSOR**

Dear Senator Padilla:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, is proud to sponsor SB 1032, which will give the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) the authority to forgive specific legacy loans, per HCD's discretion.

HCD administers a number of loan programs authorized by the Legislature in the 1980's and 1990's that were created to preserve existing affordable housing across the state. These programs offered loans to public housing providers (housing agencies) with terms that attempted to strike a balance between providing impactful funding and ensuring the rents charged by the housing agencies on these properties would remain affordable. All of these programs are closed and no longer offer loans.

While it was easy to obtain the loan, terms that allowed housing agencies to forgo making any payments on the loan effectively trapped these housing agencies in an endless debt cycle with no exit path. The loans were set up with the premise that the housing agencies would only pay against the loan interest. The notion being that housing entities could use excess future cash flows to pay down the principal. In reality, these affordable housing units seldom experience excess cash flows due to the rent affordability restrictions required by the loan program and the cost of maintaining the units. Given the reality of how these loans currently function, it is time to provide HCD the authority to forgive these as means to provide relief to the impacted housing agencies.

In a high number of cases, housing agencies that would benefit from loan forgiveness serve as the main affordable housing providers in their regions. Without loan forgiveness, these housing agencies will default on these loans, effectively increasing the possibility that a housing agency will need to close affordable housing sites which serve the most vulnerable residents of their communities, which will ultimately lead to more homelessness across the state.

Housing is an important element of economic development and essential for the health and wellbeing of our communities. SB 1032 would not require HCD to forgive any specific loans, but instead will give them the authority to choose to forgive certain legacy loans that are most at risk, per their discretion. Specifically, SB 1032 will allow housing providers to preserve current affordable housing units without the need to evict low-income residents out of their homes.

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) is designed to make true progress to effectively address homelessness at every level - state, local and federal. Through the AT-HOME Plan, CSAC is working to identify the policy changes needed to build a homelessness system that is effective and accountable including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. SB 1032 aligns with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar.

For these reasons, CSAC is proud to sponsor SB 1032. If you need additional information, please contact 916.591.2764 or [mneuburger@counties.org](mailto:mneuburger@counties.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Neuburger". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Mark Neuburger**  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties

CC: Alexis Castro, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Stephen Padilla  
Cece Sidley, Fellow, Office of Senator Stephen Padilla





CSAC Letters

**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Caltrans Fleet Replacement Budget Change Proposal (BCP) - Request for Reporting Language**

Dear Assemblymember Gabriel:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), are writing concerning the \$279 million Fleet Replacement BCP (Request 2660-068-BCP-2024-GB) from the Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Specifically, in the event that the Legislature approves this request, we urge that statutory requirements be added to this proposal requiring Caltrans to provide regular reports to the Legislature on its progress meeting the implementation plan outlined by the Department. We have attached draft language with reporting parameters for your consideration.

Local governments' vehicle fleets are also impacted by California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulations that Caltrans is citing as the initiating need for this BCP. The Institute for Local Government conducted a survey in September 2023 to assess a variety of factors that will impact local government's (cities, counties, and special districts) ability to implement the ACF regulations. Counties' fleet managers indicated that the implementation of the ACF regulations pose several challenges<sup>1</sup>. Many respondents indicated that ZEV versions of the medium and heavy-duty vehicles that are required, are not currently being manufactured and that pricing was not readily available for the small number that could meet their needs. Finally, a common concern for ACF implementation is on challenges with acquiring the electrical infrastructure needed (i.e. recharging capabilities & electrical utility delays) to power battery electric medium and heavy-duty ZEVs. Given these concerns, our members are interested in utilizing the data from the proposed Caltrans report to learn best practices, assess reasonable procurement timelines and determine realistic delivery estimates for charging infrastructure projects. This and other proposed reporting data elements will assist local government fleet managers in their efforts to acquire ACF compliant vehicles while managing their fleets to provide critical services to the public.

Caltrans' optimistic acquisition timelines and volumes are notable. While information on the production of ACF compliant vehicles is limited, we note that sales figures published by the International Energy Agency<sup>2</sup> indicate that Department's plans to acquire over 2,100 medium and heavy-duty compliant vehicles within two years exceeds the combined purchase of these vehicle types by European Union countries in 2022. While there is an urgent need to decrease the states greenhouse gas emissions, we believe that these estimates require careful monitoring. Further, we note that these goals would position Caltrans as a major

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Sincerely,



**Mark Neuburger**  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties



**Damon Conklin**  
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist  
League of California Cities



**Anthony Tannehill**  
Legislative Representative  
California Special Districts Association

CC: Members, Assembly Committee on Budget  
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Budget  
Shy Forbes, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Budget  
James Moore, Principal Program Budget Analyst, California Department of Finance



CSAC Letters

**California Special  
Districts Association**  
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February 13, 2024

The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett  
Chair, Assembly Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy and Transportation  
1021 O Street, 4710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Caltrans Fleet Replacement Budget Change Proposal (BCP) - Request for Reporting Language**

Dear Assemblymember Bennett:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), are writing concerning the \$279 million Fleet Replacement BCP (Request 2660-068-BCP-2024-GB) from the Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Specifically, in the event that the Legislature approves this request, we urge that statutory requirements be added to this proposal requiring Caltrans to provide regular reports to the Legislature on its progress meeting the implementation plan outlined by the Department. We have attached draft language with reporting parameters for your consideration.

Local governments' vehicle fleets are also impacted by California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulations that Caltrans is citing as the initiating need for this BCP. The Institute for Local Government conducted a survey in September 2023 to assess a variety of factors that will impact local government's (cities, counties, and special districts) ability to implement the ACF regulations. Counties' fleet managers indicated that the implementation of the ACF regulations pose several challenges<sup>1</sup>. Many respondents indicated that ZEV versions of the medium and heavy-duty vehicles that are required, are not currently being manufactured and that pricing was not readily available for the small number that could meet their needs. Finally, a common concern for ACF implementation is on challenges with acquiring the electrical infrastructure needed (i.e. recharging capabilities & electrical utility delays) to power battery electric medium and heavy-duty ZEVs. Given these concerns, our members are interested in utilizing the data from the proposed Caltrans report to learn best practices, assess reasonable procurement timelines and determine realistic delivery estimates for charging infrastructure projects. This and other proposed reporting data elements will assist local government fleet managers in their efforts to acquire ACF compliant vehicles while managing their fleets to provide critical services to the public.

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Sincerely,



**Mark Neuburger**  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties



**Damon Conklin**  
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist  
League of California Cities



**Anthony Tannehill**  
Legislative Representative  
California Special Districts Association

CC: Members, Assembly Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy and Transportation  
Shy Forbes, Consultant, Assembly Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy and  
Transportation



CSAC Letters

**California Special  
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*Districts Stronger Together*



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Senator Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Caltrans Fleet Replacement Budget Change Proposal (BCP) - Request for Reporting Language**

Dear Senator Wiener:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), are writing concerning the \$279 million Fleet Replacement BCP (Request 2660-068-BCP-2024-GB) from the Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Specifically, in the event that the Legislature approves this request, we urge that statutory requirements be added to this proposal requiring Caltrans to provide regular reports to the Legislature on its progress meeting the implementation plan outlined by the Department. We have attached draft language with reporting parameters for your consideration.

Local governments' vehicle fleets are also impacted by California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulations that Caltrans is citing as the initiating need for this BCP. The Institute for Local Government conducted a survey in September 2023 to assess a variety of factors that will impact local government's (cities, counties, and special districts) ability to implement the ACF regulations. Counties' fleet managers indicated that the implementation of the ACF regulations pose several challenges<sup>1</sup>. Many respondents indicated that ZEV versions of the medium and heavy-duty vehicles that are required, are not currently being manufactured and that pricing was not readily available for the small number that could meet their needs. Finally, a common concern for ACF implementation is on challenges with acquiring the electrical infrastructure needed (i.e. recharging capabilities & electrical utility delays) to power battery electric medium and heavy-duty ZEVs. Given these concerns, our members are interested in utilizing the data from the proposed Caltrans report to learn best practices, assess reasonable procurement timelines and determine realistic delivery estimates for charging infrastructure projects. This and other proposed reporting data elements will assist local government fleet managers in their efforts to acquire ACF compliant vehicles while managing their fleets to provide critical services to the public.

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Sincerely,



**Mark Neuburger**  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties



**Damon Conklin**  
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist  
League of California Cities



**Anthony Tannehill**  
Legislative Representative  
California Special Districts Association

CC: Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
Elisa Wynne, Chief Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
Eunice Roh, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
James Moore, Principal Program Budget Analyst, California Department of Finance



CSAC Letters

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February 13, 2024

The Honorable Senator María Elena Durazo  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Caltrans Fleet Replacement Budget Change Proposal (BCP) - Request for Reporting Language**

Dear Senator Durazo:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), are writing concerning the \$279 million Fleet Replacement BCP (Request 2660-068-BCP-2024-GB) from the Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Specifically, in the event that the Legislature approves this request, we urge that statutory requirements be added to this proposal requiring Caltrans to provide regular reports to the Legislature on its progress meeting the implementation plan outlined by the Department. We have attached draft language with reporting parameters for your consideration.

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Sincerely,



**Mark Neuburger**  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties



**Damon Conklin**  
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist  
League of California Cities



**Anthony Tannehill**  
Legislative Representative  
California Special Districts Association

CC: Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee 5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation  
Eunice Roh, Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee 5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation



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Riverside County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

February 20, 2024

California Air Resources Board  
1001 Street  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

**Subject: Concerns on the proposed Low Carbon Fuel Standards Rulemaking**

Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, I write to express concerns on the regulatory proposal by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to regulate jet fuel under the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program.

CSAC is committed to environmental stewardship and recognizes airports' critical role in a balanced transportation system. We are proud of our county airports' advances towards reducing their carbon emissions. Although we recognize how these proposed regulations support the State's broader goals for sustainability and environmental protection, the proposal to regulate jet fuel usage presents several challenges that could disproportionately affect county airports. Many county airports are not equipped with the infrastructure necessary for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and Jet A blending, nor do they have the financial resources to undertake such significant upgrades. Implementing these upgrades will negatively impact their operations and services, exposing them to be in violation of federally mandated grant assurances and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) policy.

We recognize and appreciate California's leadership in adopting SAF. However, we are concerned that the proposed regulations do not account for the significant infrastructure upgrades required for SAF and Jet A blending, particularly at general aviation airports. The logistics of transportation and storage for SAF, which differ from conventional jet fuel, pose additional challenges. Implementing this proposal could impose substantial operational burdens on county airports, potentially disrupting the progress toward our state's sustainable aviation future.

County airports play a vital role in the state transportation system and support numerous ancillary industries, it is imperative to consider the operational implications of this regulation carefully, not to mention the risk of losing federal entitlement monies by being in violation of federal grant assurance policies. We must avoid creating an aviation environment within our State where regulatory compliance costs undermine the viability of county airports. County airports are a vital part of the transportation system and delivery of emergency fire services in communities across California.

We urge CARB to reconsider this proposal, given the unique circumstances of county general aviation airports. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, we advocate for a strategy that includes grants for infrastructure upgrades and a phased implementation plan that allows county airports

to transition to SAF usage without compromising their federal obligations and operational or financial stability.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that CARB preserve the existing opt-in approach for SAF, collaborate with county airports to address the complexities of SAF integration and focus on realistic policies that facilitate a smooth transition to a greener aviation future in California.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Neuberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent than the last name "Neuberger".

**Mark Neuberger**  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties

## CSAC Letters



LEAGUE OF  
CALIFORNIA  
CITIES



Napa Recycling  
& WASTE SERVICES



[www.naparecycling.com](http://www.naparecycling.com)



February 21, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O St., Room 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
Senate President pro Tempore  
1021 O St., Room 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Request to Include SB 1383 Funding in a Natural Resources Bond**

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tempore McGuire, and Speaker Rivas:

On behalf of the above organizations, we write to request that any climate bond approved by the Legislature this year include necessary funding to support implementation of SB 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016). SB 1383 is a critical component of California's plan to combat climate change, and local jurisdictions and their local partners are on the front lines of this fight. The scope and complexity of these efforts have had an immense impact on local budgets, infrastructure, and operations, and continued state funding is needed to support our efforts.

SB 1383 implements statewide organic waste recycling and surplus food recovery to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, especially methane, while addressing food insecurity. The law set several ambitious, statewide targets to reduce the amount of organic waste deposited in to landfills in an effort to curb these pollutants. Unfortunately, the state did not achieve SB 1383's 2020 goal to divert 50% of organic waste and the 2025 goal of a 75% reduction is swiftly approaching. To meaningfully make progress towards achieving these goals, it is critical that local governments and their local partners have access to state bond funding, in addition to the significant

investments that local jurisdictions and ratepayers have made, to advance procurement of compost and mulch, ensure that all residents and businesses subscribe to compost and recycling services, provide education and technical assistance to minimize contamination in the organic waste stream, accelerate food waste prevention and edible food recovery, and more.

While we understand this is a difficult budget year, local jurisdictions are working under tight timelines to diligently build out the infrastructure and markets needed to implement SB 1383 and are in dire need of financial support from the state. The Governor's Budget proposes to help address the looming deficit by utilizing cuts, delays, and reversions to climate related programs, including those that can be used to achieve SB 1383 goals. Previous investments, including SB 1383 Local Assistance Grants and the Organic Waste Infrastructure Program, have helped expand local capacity, support infrastructure investments, and enhance educational outreach efforts. In particular, the noncompetitive nature of the Local Assistance Grants have been immensely helpful, especially for smaller jurisdictions that often do not have the resources to go after every competitive grant opportunity. However, more support is needed in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

It is widely recognized that methane is a key driver of climate change and that landfills are one of the largest point sources of methane emissions in California. Therefore, if the Legislature chooses to move forward with a bond to address climate change it is critical that funding be included to support local efforts in the implementation of SB 1383. Specifically, we support the inclusion of *at least* the two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) in AB 408 (Wilson), and deeply appreciate both Assembly Member Wilson and Assembly Member Garcia for recognizing this important issue in their respective bond legislation.

Local governments and their local partners are on the front lines in the fight against climate change, however, without state support the financial burden of organic waste targets will have to be shouldered elsewhere, leading to dramatic impacts on ratepayers and the cost of living in California. We look forward to working together to find a path forward and improving the lives of all of California's residents.

CC Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assembly  
Honorable Eduardo Garcia, California State Assembly

OFFICERS**President**

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San Luis Obispo County

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Jeff Griffiths  
Inyo County

**2nd Vice President**

Susan Ellenberg  
Santa Clara County

**Past President**

Chuck Washington  
Riverside County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1657 (Wicks) Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024  
Notice of SUPPORT (As amended April 17, 2023)**

Dear Senator Portantino:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 California counties, writes in support of AB 1657 (Wicks), which would enact the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024.

There is a significant housing shortage across the full housing continuum in California and the supply of permanent, affordable housing continues to be a considerable challenge to addressing homelessness. Many jurisdictions also lack the infrastructure needed to provide basic shelter or interim housing to the unhoused population. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, significant temporary federal and state funds were invested to increase capacity and provide housing and income protections to very low-income Californians, but many of those sources have expired or are expiring.

Siting shelters and supportive housing often draws significant resistance from community members, and counties and cities must continue to work to remove these barriers and identify and support the development of infrastructure needed to address homelessness. However, local governments do not have the tools and funding needed to develop these units to scale. Low-income housing projects are most often financed with a combination of tax-exempt bonds, federal and state tax credits, as well as other local funding sources. The state and federal sources of funding are significantly oversubscribed, which is limiting the number of projects that can go forward, especially in areas of the state that do not have large contributions from philanthropy for this purpose. Local governments have all too often seen projects stalled when local communities object to new housing, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024 (AB 1657, Wicks) comes at a crucial time for California. Historically, the state has used voter-approved General Obligation bonds to fund the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing. However, the \$3 billion in funding authorized by the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018 will be fully allocated by the end of 2024. Additionally, the Governor's budget proposes to drastically reduce - and in some cases remove altogether - funding for most of the state's affordable housing and homelessness programs, making the need for a new, stable funding source even more dire. Without greater state funding, we are further unable to draw down unlimited 4% federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, leaving billions of dollars of federal assistance on the table.

The 2024 Affordable Housing Bond Act would place a \$10 billion affordable housing bond on the November 2024 ballot to fund affordable housing development for the following four years. The bond would fund:

- \$5.25 billion for the Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), including an additional \$1.75 billion for funding for capitalized operating subsidy reserves for supportive housing units
- \$1.75 billion for the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund
- \$1.5 billion for preservation (Portfolio Reinvestment Program, Low-Income Weatherization Program, and Community Anti-Displacement and Preservation Program (CAPP), including at least \$500 million for CAPP (SB 225)
- \$1 billion for CalHome and home purchase assistance programs; and
- \$500 million for tribal housing and farmworker housing

These resources will facilitate the construction of almost 30,000 new units of deeply affordable housing, help rehabilitate (with climate-friendly sustainability improvements) 90,000 additional affordable rental homes and make homeownership possible for more than 13,000 low-income households. The new construction rental housing funds will be leveraged with private, federal, and local funds at a ratio of more than 4:1.

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan is designed to make true progress to effectively address homelessness at every level - state, local and federal. Through the AT-HOME Plan CSAC is working to identify the policy changes needed to build a homelessness system that is effective and accountable including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. AB 1657 aligns with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 1657 and respectfully urges your support. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to reach me at [mneuburger@counties.org](mailto:mneuburger@counties.org).

Sincerely,



Mark Neuburger  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties

cc: The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Assembly Member, 14<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

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Chuck Washington  
Riverside County

**CEO**

Graham Knaus

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Housing Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1032 (Padilla) Housing finance: portfolio restructuring: loan forgiveness.  
SPONSOR (As introduced on February 6, 2024)**

Dear Senator Skinner:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, is proud to sponsor SB 1032, which will give the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) the authority to forgive specific legacy loans, per HCD's discretion.

HCD administers a number of loan programs authorized by the Legislature in the 1980's and 1990's that were created to preserve existing affordable housing across the state. These programs offered loans to public housing providers (housing agencies) with terms that attempted to strike a balance between providing impactful funding and ensuring the rents charged by the housing agencies on these properties would remain affordable. All of these programs are closed and no longer offer loans.

While it was easy to obtain the loan, terms that allowed housing agencies to forgo making any payments on the loan effectively trapped these housing agencies in an endless debt cycle with no exit path. The loans were set up with the premise that the housing agencies would only pay against the loan interest. The notion being that housing entities could use excess future cash flows to pay down the principal. In reality, these affordable housing units seldom experience excess cash flows due to the rent affordability restrictions required by the loan program and the cost of maintaining the units. Given the reality of how these loans currently function, it is time to provide HCD the authority to forgive these as means to provide relief to the impacted housing agencies.

In a high number of cases, housing agencies that would benefit from loan forgiveness serve as the main affordable housing providers in their regions. Without loan forgiveness, these housing agencies will default on these loans, effectively increasing the possibility that a housing agency will need to close affordable housing sites which serve the most vulnerable residents of their communities, which will ultimately lead to more homelessness across the state.

Housing is an important element of economic development and essential for the health and wellbeing of our communities. SB 1032 would not require HCD to forgive any specific loans, but instead will give them the authority to choose to forgive certain legacy loans that are most at risk, per their discretion. Specifically, SB 1032 will allow housing providers to preserve current affordable housing units without the need to evict low-income residents out of their homes.

To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the '[AT HOME](#)' Plan. The six-pillar plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) is designed to make true progress to effectively address homelessness at every level - state, local and federal. Through the AT-HOME Plan, CSAC is working to identify the policy changes needed to build a homelessness system that is effective and accountable including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. SB 1032 aligns with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar.

For these reasons, CSAC is proud to support and sponsor SB 1032. If you need additional information, please contact 916.591.2764 or [mneuburger@counties.org](mailto:mneuburger@counties.org).

Sincerely,



**Mark Neuburger**  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties

CC: The Honorable Members, Senate Housing Committee  
Mehgie Tabar, Consultant, Senate Housing Committee  
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Alexis Castro, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Steve Padilla  
Cece Sidley, Fellow, Office of Senator Steve Padilla

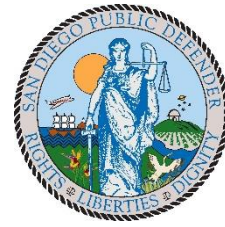


CSAC Letters



**SMART  
JUSTICE**  
CALIFORNIA

**ACLU**  
**CALIFORNIA  
ACTION**



**SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Greater than one.



**nextgen  
california** 



**BEND THE ARC**  
**jewish action**  
california

The Honorable James Ramos  
Chairman, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6  
1021 O St., Room 8310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: RETAIN FUNDING FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE PILOT PROGRAM**

Dear Chairman Ramos:

We write to respectfully urge the Legislature to retain the \$40 million enacted in last year's budget for the third and final year of funding for the Public Defense Pilot Program.

Since 2021-22, the state has dedicated between \$40 and \$50 million per year in funding for the Public Defense Pilot Program to support resentencing workloads in public defense offices following recently enacted changes to the law. This moderate, short-term investment has already yielded between \$94 million and \$781 million in cost-savings, with potential for significant additional savings.<sup>1</sup>

While we recognize that challenging decisions must be made in the wake of a serious budget deficit, we respectfully urge Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6 to support retaining the third and final year of funding to the Public Defense Pilot Program.

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<sup>1</sup> Estimated incarceration costs saved range from \$94 million to over \$781 million based on the LAO's estimated marginal cost savings of \$15,000 per released person per year, and the actual annual per capita incarceration costs of \$124,708 for 2022-23 as reported in the Governor's Proposed Budget. (Gabriel Petek, *The 2024-25 Budget: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation* 9 (February 2024), <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2024/4852/CDCR-022224.pdf>; Gavin Newsom, *2024-25 Governor's Budget: Corrections and Rehabilitation* CR-5 (January 2024), <https://ebudget.ca.gov/2024-25/pdf/GovernorsBudget/5210/5225.pdf>.)

The significant return on the state's investment in the Public Defense Pilot Program will continue in the final year if funding is maintained. Year one and two data from 13 of the 34 grant-funded public defense programs has already yielded approximately \$94 million to over \$781 million in cost savings based on data from only two of the four areas covered by the pilot program.<sup>2</sup>

These 13 programs from two of the four areas covered by the pilot program have helped 529 people obtain release or reduced sentences, saving a total of 6,267 years of incarceration time.<sup>3</sup> People of color made up 85% of the people resentenced. Without this continued funding, we fear the promises of these reforms – both in terms of the human impact and financial savings – will not be fully realized.

While states are responsible for funding the constitutional right to counsel in criminal cases, California has delegated the majority of that responsibility to the counties, who, as you know, are also struggling in this economy to maintain core government functions. Notably, the Public Defense Pilot Program is currently the only major statewide funding specifically allocated to counties for the provision of indigent defense; all other funding for indigent defense comes from the counties, or, to a small degree, outside grants. The final \$40 million installment for the Public Defense Pilot Program is a modest amount to ensure that the reforms prioritized and passed by the Legislature can continue to be meaningfully implemented as the Legislature intended.

In addition to valuable savings, this funding has resulted in critical public safety improvements at the local level. Investing in robust public defense programs helps keep our communities safe and healthy. The Public Defense Pilot Program funds have permitted indigent defense providers to hire social workers and expand their holistic defense teams, creating a continuum of care for indigent clients with psychiatric and substance use disorders, reducing the risk that these individuals will become homeless. The funds have allowed indigent defense teams to facilitate safe and successful reentry plans for individuals returning to the community after incarceration, and has also allowed indigent defense providers to reinvest in families, communities of black, indigenous and people of color, as well as immigrants, and individuals earning low incomes. Additionally, the funding has saved many California residents from deportation due to invalid convictions. This is particularly significant in a state with 11 million foreign born residents, where losing a breadwinner due to deportation often leads to impoverishment for the remainder of the family and significant state medical and assistance costs. Ultimately, cutting the third year

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<sup>2</sup> Actual savings are much higher since this data only covers individuals resentenced under Penal Code section 1172.6 (felony murder) and 1172.1 (discretionary resentencing). It does not cover Youthful Offender Parole or Penal Code section 1473.7 petitions (challenging invalid convictions based on immigration consequences). Additionally, this data does not include the savings from the Los Angeles County Bar Association Independent Defender Program or the San Francisco Bar Association

<sup>3</sup> According to data received from 13 of the 34 public defense programs spanning March 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023. The years-saved calculation is based on the first eligible parole date and does not account for milestone or other credits. Only approximately 44% of people eligible are paroled at the first parole hearing. The years saved calculation was also based on the life expectancy provided by the U.S. Social Security Actuarial Life Table. [Actuarial Life Table \(ssa.gov\)](https://ssa.gov) The 13 public defender grantees reflected in this data are from the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa (including Alternate PD Office), Los Angeles (including Alternate PD Office), Orange (including Alternate PD Office and Associate Office), Sacramento, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Yolo.

of funding will end these public safety gains, as indigent defense providers will not have the resources to provide these critical services.

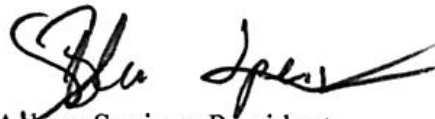
The state has already seen a significant return on its investment. We respectfully urge your support to retain the third year of funding to a program that has a demonstrated record of success.

We thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Nick Brokaw at 916.448.1222 or [nbrokaw@sacramentoadvocates.com](mailto:nbrokaw@sacramentoadvocates.com) or Mica Doctoroff at (916) 824-3264 or [mdoctoroff@aclunc.org](mailto:mdoctoroff@aclunc.org) if we can provide additional information or you have any questions.

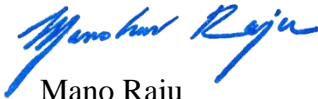
Sincerely,



Carmen-Nicole Cox  
Director of Government Affairs, ACLU  
California Action



Athene Speiser, President  
California Public Defenders Association



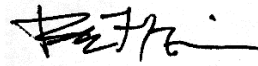
Mano Raju  
San Francisco Public Defender



Anne Irwin, Founder and Executive Director  
Smart Justice California



Paul A. Rodriguez  
Public Defender  
County of San Diego, Office of the Public  
Defender



Ryan Morimune, Legislative Advocate  
California Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California



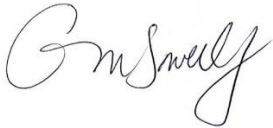
Elizabeth Espinosa, Legislative Advocate  
Urban Counties of California



Kathy Brady, Director  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center



Marie Mazzone, DDS  
Core Volunteer, Restorative Justice  
Committee  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Sowell, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Arnold Sowell, Jr., Executive Director  
NextGen California

cc. Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6  
Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6



CSAG Letters

#Oakland Undivided

MEDIA ALLIANCE



GPSN CATALYZING EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION



Communities In Schools® Los Angeles

our VOICE communities for quality education

The Children's Partnership

HEALING AND JUSTICE CENTER

LYNWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION EFF

nextgen california

DESTINATION CRENSHAW

30 YEARS COMMUNITY CLINIC ASSOCIATION CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF ADVOCACY AND SERVICE

ABC Alliance for a Better Community

common sense media

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE LOS ANGELES HARBOR

USC Annenberg

School for Communication and Journalism Center on Communication Leadership and Policy

PIQE PARENT INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION SINCE 1987

ITUP Insure the Uninsured Project

the Y YMCA

ILSR

INSTITUTE FOR Local Self-Reliance

Innovate Public Schools



PON Parent Organization Network Breaking Through Barriers

ARTS OF LA

Families In Schools+

CALIFORNIA NATIVE VOTE PROJECT

MICHELSON CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

one INSTITUTE



OAKLAND THRIVES



LIGHTHOUSE Community Public Schools WHERE OAKLAND SHINES

INNERCITY STRUGGLE Building a Movement in the Eastside

CITIZEN SCHOOLS

hack the hood

Center for POWERFUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS A catalyst for equity, access and choice



everyoneon

THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE

KAPOR CENTER

NewStart Housing Corporation

DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

RCRC

THE OAKLAND REACH

SELA COLLABORATIVE

WATTS OF POWER FOUNDATION

Parent Engagement Academy

COFEM CONSEJO DE FEDERACIONES MEXICANAS

GREATER SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tech Exchange



FRESNO COALITION FOR DIGITAL INCLUSION

UNITE LA Education Innovation Through Collaboration

United PARENTS & STUDENTS

LATINO EQUALITY ALLIANCE

ALIANZA LATINA POR LA IGUALDAD

TURN THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK Lower bills. Livable planet.

paRa los niños for the children

C for AT The Center For Accessible Technology



February 26, 2024

Assemblymember Avelino Valencia, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 7 on Accountability and Oversight  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: Assemblymembers Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Steve Bennett, Tasha Boerner, Mia Bonta, Isaac Bryan, Heath Flora, Gregg Hart, Jim Patterson, Sharon Quirk-Silva, and Jim Wood

Re: Safeguarding the \$1.5B Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative Investment in 2024

Dear Chair Valencia,

We, the undersigned organizations and leaders, **invite you to work alongside us to safeguard the \$1.5 billion allocation for the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI) in the Governor's proposed budget.**

The middle mile is linked to the backbone of the internet, ensuring whole communities and regions can connect. Without a robust middle mile, last mile connections - those to homes, businesses, schools, libraries, clinics, etc. - range from impossible to impossibly expensive. There are myriad projects across the State already underway making use of this critical resource.

If the MMBI is completed as planned (which requires the \$1.5B in the Governor's proposed budget), California's MMBI will be a future-proof network supporting connectivity in every part of the State, in all kinds of communities - urban, rural, and tribal - for decades to come. Today, 1 in 5 Californians do not have fast, reliable, and affordable connectivity. The remaining pieces of the MMBI are critical to changing that reality.

The internet is essential as a vehicle for a community's economic growth and overall wellness. As referenced in the California Broadband Council Plan, this includes:

- **Individual benefits:** Broadband access enables individuals to work, study, communicate, apply for government services, operate home-based businesses, receive emergency information, and access health care.
- **Powering the state's critical systems:** Broadband powers the state's most critical systems, from its electrical grid to its water supply systems and its public safety and emergency response networks.
- **Enabling thriving businesses:** Broadband enables communities to build thriving economies by attracting talent and businesses. It powers California's advancement and success in industries from higher education to manufacturing and agriculture and in the service economy.

Previously allocated funding has provided for 80% of the MMBI network. By protecting the \$1.5 billion investment in the Governor's current proposed budget to fully complete it, the State protects the value of its existing, encumbered MMBI investments as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of other related Broadband for All programs. To delay the completion of the entire network risks depreciating the value of the existing infrastructure and limiting the State's return on investment. Moreover, the \$1.5 billion is a commitment to equity, giving the California Department of Technology the opportunity to prioritize historically marginalized communities and regions in completing the network, as is the legislative intent of the Federal dollars funding the MMBI.

**As organizations and leaders that represent many of the most disconnected communities in California, we ask you to stand alongside us and call for the safeguarding of the critical \$1.5 billion investment in the MMBI.** By coupling the federal dollars put to use in 2021 in SB156 with additional state dollars this year, the State can stand by its commitment to closing the digital divide. There is no time to waste.

Sincerely,

Organizations

- California Alliance for Digital Equity
- Digital Equity LA
- #OaklandUndivided
- California Community Foundation
- GPSN
- Healing and Justice Center
- Media Alliance
- The Children's Partnership
- Communities in Schools of Los Angeles (CISLA)
- Common Sense Media
- Lynwood Unified School District
- Destination Crenshaw
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- NextGen California
- Our Voice: Communities for Quality Education
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor
- Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR)
- PIQE
- Alliance for a Better Community

Leaders

- Sheng Thao, Mayor, City of Oakland
- Emma Sharif, Mayor, City of Compton
- John Erickson, Mayor, City of West Hollywood
- Janani Ramachandran, Councilmember, City of Oakland, District 4
- Noel Gallo, Councilmember, City of Oakland, District 5
- Treva Reid, Councilmember, City of Oakland, District 7
- Sam Davis, Oakland Board of Education President
- Cindy Chavez, Santa Clara County Supervisor, District 2
- Al Rios, Councilmember, City of South Gate
- Eddie Martinez, Councilmember, City of Huntington Park
- Kyra Mungia, CEO, TRiO Plus

- USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy
- Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
- Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)
- Community Coalition of the Antelope Valley
- Innovate Public Schools
- California Native Vote Project
- YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
- Hack the Hood
- Arts for LA
- Michelson Center for Public Policy
- Families In Schools
- Parent Organization Network (PON)
- One Institute
- The Greenlining Institute
- A Place Called Home
- Oakland Thrives
- Watts of Power Foundation
- Center for Powerful Public Schools
- Citizen Schools
- InnerCity Struggle
- Lighthouse Community Public Schools
- EveryoneOn
- NAACP Oakland
- Kapor Center
- COFEM
- Newstart Housing Corp
- Tech Exchange
- Parent Engagement Academy
- Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Diversity in Leadership Institute
- United Parents and Students
- Rural County Representatives of California
- Oakland Youth Commission
- Fresno Coalition for Digital Inclusion
- Para Los Niños
- Latino Equality Alliance



## CSAC Letters

- Center for Accessible Technology
- SELA Collaborative
- The Utility Reform Network (TURN)
- California State Association of  
Counties
- UNITE-LA
- Access Humboldt
- The Oakland REACH



March 7, 2024

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1785 (Pacheco): California Public Records Act**  
**As introduced 1/03/24 – CONCERNS**  
**Set for hearing 3/12/24 – Assembly Judiciary Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Pacheco:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our concerns with your Assembly Bill 1785. This measure would prohibit local agencies from posting an assessor's parcel number associated with an elected or appointed official on the internet without their written permission. While we can appreciate the desire to avoid inadvertent disclosure of an elected or appointed official's address, we are concerned about counties' practical and fiscal capacity to accurately and consistently ensure that this information is appropriately redacted.

Counties share an interest in protecting personal information, including home addresses, of elected and appointed officials; we, too, are concerned about the growing hostility and intimidation of public officials across the state. All too often, the Public Records Act is abused by those who seek to harass public officials and disrupt government operations. However, as currently drafted, the provisions of AB 1785 pose a significant challenge for counties to achieve and to do so effectively would require a significant investment in staff resources and interfere with the routine work of county recorders and assessors. Further, assessor parcel numbers are often used as a property descriptor in numerous departments responsible for property-related services, like planning, building, and code enforcement, resulting in additional workload across many departments. Given the serious fiscal challenges that exist at all levels of government, we are mindful that counties are unlikely to have the necessary resources to meet this new mandate.

We understand that you are working with county recorders and assessors to mitigate some of the practical and fiscal impacts that will potentially result from AB 1785 and we support

their efforts to amend the bill. In the meantime, however, we felt it appropriate and necessary to share our concerns about counties taking on this role. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst  
Legislative Advocate  
Urban Counties of California  
[jkh@hbeadvocacy.com](mailto:jkh@hbeadvocacy.com)



Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California  
[sdukett@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sdukett@rcrcnet.org)



Eric Lawyer  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties  
[elawyer@counties.org](mailto:elawyer@counties.org)

cc: The Honorable Ash Kalra, Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Members and Consultants, Assembly Judiciary Committee



March 7, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1956 (Reyes) – Victim services  
As Amended March 4, 2024 – SUPPORT  
Set for Hearing March 12, 2024 – Assembly Public Safety Committee**

Dear Assemblymember McCarty:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) write in support of AB 1956 by Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes. This measure, upon appropriation of funds, would require the state to supplement federal support for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which provides grants for the delivery of essential crime victim services.

The VOCA Crime Victims Fund (CVF) is a non-taxpayer source of funding that is financed by monetary penalties associated with federal criminal convictions, as well as penalties from federal deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements. Deposits into the CVF fluctuate based on the number of criminal cases that are handled by the United States Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ), with Congress determining on an annual basis how much to release from the CVF to states. Last year, according to the U.S. DOJ, the CVF balance was over \$2.3 billion. Unfortunately, despite continual federal advocacy by counties and other organizations, Congress is poised to fund VOCA at \$1.35 billion through their annual appropriation bill for U.S. DOJ programs in the 2024 fiscal year. This is a substantial reduction from the previous level of \$1.9 billion in the last fiscal year, and most notably, continues the downward trend and represents a historic low.

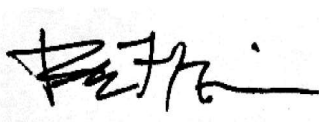
VOCA grants support a variety of locally administered victim services programs, including crisis intervention, domestic violence shelters, resources for victims of human trafficking, and programs for elder victims and victims with disabilities. VOCA grants also fund victim compensation programs, which help survivors pay medical bills and recuperate lost wages. If federal funding levels remain low and continue to shrink, victim service providers across the state will be forced to layoff staff, cut programs, and shut down operations unless there is state assistance. As a member of the California Office of Emergency Services' (CalOES) VOCA Steering Committee, CSAC will continue to focus on the most effective and impactful programming, but

ultimately, further decline in VOCA funding will reduce the number and amount of grants administered by CalOES, resulting in an immediate and direct impact on the delivery of victim services statewide.

Whereas VOCA is a federally funded program, and California is facing a significant budget shortfall, it is a sound policy decision to address funding gaps to ensure the continuity of existing victim services and preserve programs that meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable populations. Absent state support, counties will be faced with increasingly tough investment decisions in the months and years to come, which will yield a negative impact on critical, core state services delivered by counties.

It is for these reasons that CSAC, UCC, and RCRC are in strong support of AB 1956, which would guarantee a minimal level of funding to protect essential victim services in our state. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Morimune at CSAC ([rmorimune@counties.org](mailto:rmorimune@counties.org)), Elizabeth Espinosa at UCC ([ehe@hbeadvocacy.com](mailto:ehe@hbeadvocacy.com)), or Sarah Dukett at RCRC ([sdukett@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sdukett@rcrcnet.org)). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ryan Morimune  
Legislative Representative  
CSAC



Elizabeth Espinosa  
Legislative Representative  
UCC



Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
RCRC

cc: The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, California State Assembly  
Members and Consultant, Assembly Public Safety Committee

February 27, 2024

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco CA 94102

**RE: Application 23-03-003, Relief of Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) Obligation – OPPOSE**

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), I write to express opposition to AT&T's application for relief of "Carrier of Last Resort" obligations. UCC is the representative voice for state legislative advocacy for California's 14 high-population counties; just over 80 percent of the state's population reside in UCC counties. Even though UCC's membership represents the most urban of California's 58 counties, we recognize that our communities are similarly vulnerable to natural disasters, including earthquakes, wildfires, and flooding, that render cellular phone service unusable as our rural counterparts. Regrettably, AT&T's proposal leaves no California county unharmed and, as such, should be rejected.

AT&T is a "Carrier of Last Resort" and required to provide "Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS)" or landline phone service upon request to all residential and business customers within its service territory. POTS includes a uniform set of minimum service standards and regulations that does not extend to new technologies that provide similar service. We understand that AT&T's proposal requests COLR relief for over 99 percent of its service territory where it determines an alternative voice provider exists, and does not request a replacement COLR. Further, AT&T has requested expedited approval for future COLR relief through a CPUC Tier 1 Advice Letter process, which does not require CPUC approval. We are concerned that AT&T could withdraw traditional landline service to its POTS customers within six months of approval, leaving its customers scrambling to find a replacement service.

California counties are responsible for the provision of vital health and safety services that in some instances rely on the availability of reliable internet access or landline services. We are first responders who must have access to reliable 9-1-1 and 2-1-1 services during a natural disaster or electrical power outage, including the ability to send and receive alerts and notifications. POTS is the most reliable communications tool in the safety net arsenal. In addition, counties are responsible for a variety of safety net services that require an ability to contact elderly, vulnerable, or otherwise disadvantaged individuals in a timely and regular manner. In many instances, these individuals will have difficulty finding a suitable alternative service to meet their needs at a cost they can afford. The potential for some communities to fail to have an adequate replacement service, leaving them without a reliable telecommunications option, is simply unacceptable.



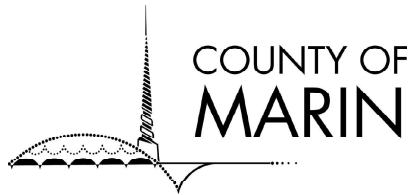
On behalf of California's urban counties, we strongly oppose Application 23-03-003, AT&T's request for targeted relief from its COLR obligations due to the negative impact on the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean Kinney Hurst", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jean Kinney Hurst  
Legislative Advocate

cc: California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)



February 26, 2024

The Honorable John Laird, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
1021 O Street, Suite 8720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund: New Entitlements for Charter Schools – OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Laird:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), the League of California Cities (CalCities), as well as the Counties of Marin and Santa Clara, we write in opposition to the Administration’s proposal to “clarify” that charter schools are eligible for Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds (ERAF). While we have yet to see the Administration’s draft trailer bill language to execute the proposal, which limits our ability to accurately assess the fiscal impact on affected local agencies that will result, we are confident in our “oppose” position. The Administration’s conceptual proposal not only directly conflicts with constitutional protections approved by voters in 2004, but will result in dramatic losses of local general purpose revenues that will affect critical local programs and services for the foreseeable future. The assertion that charter schools are entitled to ERAF and that this proposal is a “clarification” of existing law also directly conflicts with a recent appellate court decision.<sup>1</sup>

As you are aware, in the early 1990’s, the state – facing a fiscal crisis – required local governments (counties, cities, and special districts) to shift a portion of their local property tax revenues to ERAF. These funds are subsequently transferred to county offices of education, school districts, and community colleges to offset state minimum funding obligations under Proposition 98. Once school funding levels are met, any funds remaining

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<sup>1</sup> *California School Boards Assoc. v. Cohen* (2023) 2023 WL 4853693 (“CSBA”).



**Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund:  
New Entitlements for Charter Schools – OPPOSE  
Page 2 | February 26, 2024**

in the ERAF – termed “excess ERAF” – are returned to the county, cities, and special districts in the same proportion from which they were initially shifted.

The rules governing the calculation of excess ERAF, which are performed by county auditor-controllers, are enshrined in the Education Code and Revenue & Taxation Code, and subject to regular audits by the State Controller. Since 1994, when the first county experienced excess ERAF, county auditor-controllers in the affected counties have worked diligently in a transparent and collaborative manner to effectuate a complex set of calculations to ensure that property taxes are accurately allocated.

In 2004, after a lengthy negotiation between the Administration, Legislature, and local governments, Proposition 1A was considered and overwhelmingly approved by voters. Proposition 1A amended the state Constitution to bar the Legislature from “reducing for any fiscal year the percentage of the total amount of ad valorem property tax revenues in a county that is allocated among all of the local agencies in that county below the percentage of the total amount of those revenues that would be allocated among those agencies for the same fiscal year under the statutes in effect on November 3, 2004.”

When the dispute over ERAF and charter schools arose in 2021, the Legislature directed the State Controller’s Office to issue guidance to county auditor-controllers in affected counties; in that guidance, the Controller **did not** include charter schools in the allocation methodology. The California School Boards Association sued on the basis that the guidance violated the ERAF statutes, as well as the constitutional minimum funding guarantee. The trial and appellate courts rejected these arguments, finding that the Association failed to establish that the statute includes charter schools in the allocation of ERAF and that such an exclusion lowers the constitutional minimum funding guarantee.

The Administration’s proposal to “clarify” that charter schools should receive funds from ERAF would clearly violate the constitutional provisions contained in Proposition 1A, as it would reduce the total percentage of property tax revenues allocated to counties, cities, and special districts below what the laws in effect on November 3, 2004 would have provided. The Third District Court of Appeal recently determined in the *CSBA* case that existing provisions in the Education and Revenue and Taxation Codes statutes **do not** give charter schools ERAF, as reflected in the guidance from the State Controller’s Office.

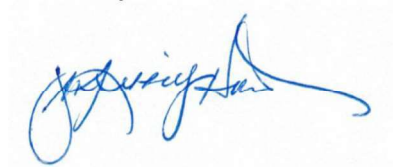
In addition to the constitutional conflict presented by the Administration’s proposal, we must point out that the fiscal and programmatic impacts of the proposal on local agencies and the communities they collectively serve would be significant. (Again, without the ability to review draft trailer bill language it is difficult to assess with precision the anticipated revenue losses that would result. However, we do know that those revenue losses would be permanent and growing.) While we appreciate the state’s difficult fiscal situation, please know that local agencies are also experiencing their own fiscal challenges; many are experiencing difficult budget deficits that will require painful reductions. When contemplating the additional impact of the Administration’s proposal, the final result will

**Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund:  
New Entitlements for Charter Schools – OPPOSE  
Page 3 | February 26, 2024**

be dramatic cuts to important public programs and safety net services precisely when they are most in need.

We respectfully urge that your subcommittee reject the proposed trailer bill language when it becomes publicly available. Please reach out if you have questions about our position.

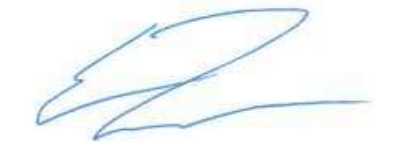
Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst  
Legislative Advocate  
Urban Counties of California



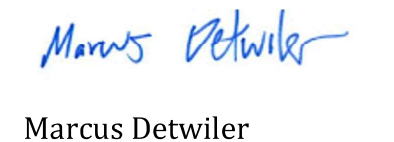
Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California



Eric Lawyer  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties



Ben Triffo  
Legislative Advocate  
League of California Cities



Marcus Detwiler  
Legislative Representative  
California Special Districts Association

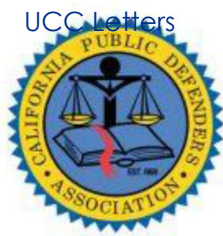


Dennis Rodoni  
President  
Marin County Board of Supervisors



David Campos  
Deputy County Executive Officer  
County of Santa Clara

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
Chris Woods, Office of Senate President pro Tem McGuire  
Misa Lennox, Office of Senate President pro Tem McGuire  
Teresa Calvert, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance  
Chris Ferguson, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance



SMART JUSTICE CALIFORNIA

ACLU CALIFORNIA ACTION



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER

Greater than one.



nextgen california



BEND THE ARC jewish action california

The Honorable James Ramos  
Chairman, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6  
1021 O St., Room 8310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: RETAIN FUNDING FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE PILOT PROGRAM**

Dear Chairman Ramos:

We write to respectfully urge the Legislature to retain the \$40 million enacted in last year’s budget for the third and final year of funding for the Public Defense Pilot Program.

Since 2021-22, the state has dedicated between \$40 and \$50 million per year in funding for the Public Defense Pilot Program to support resentencing workloads in public defense offices following recently enacted changes to the law. This moderate, short-term investment has already yielded between \$94 million and \$781 million in cost-savings, with potential for significant additional savings.<sup>1</sup>

While we recognize that challenging decisions must be made in the wake of a serious budget deficit, we respectfully urge Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6 to support retaining the third and final year of funding to the Public Defense Pilot Program.

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<sup>1</sup> Estimated incarceration costs saved range from \$94 million to over \$781 million based on the LAO’s estimated marginal cost savings of \$15,000 per released person per year, and the actual annual per capita incarceration costs of \$124,708 for 2022-23 as reported in the Governor’s Proposed Budget. (Gabriel Petek, *The 2024-25 Budget: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation* 9 (February 2024), <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2024/4852/CDCR-022224.pdf>; Gavin Newsom, *2024-25 Governor’s Budget: Corrections and Rehabilitation* CR-5 (January 2024), <https://ebudget.ca.gov/2024-25/pdf/GovernorsBudget/5210/5225.pdf>.)

The significant return on the state's investment in the Public Defense Pilot Program will continue in the final year if funding is maintained. Year one and two data from 13 of the 34 grant-funded public defense programs has already yielded approximately \$94 million to over \$781 million in cost savings based on data from only two of the four areas covered by the pilot program.<sup>2</sup>

These 13 programs from two of the four areas covered by the pilot program have helped 529 people obtain release or reduced sentences, saving a total of 6,267 years of incarceration time.<sup>3</sup> People of color made up 85% of the people resentenced. Without this continued funding, we fear the promises of these reforms – both in terms of the human impact and financial savings – will not be fully realized.

While states are responsible for funding the constitutional right to counsel in criminal cases, California has delegated the majority of that responsibility to the counties, who, as you know, are also struggling in this economy to maintain core government functions. Notably, the Public Defense Pilot Program is currently the only major statewide funding specifically allocated to counties for the provision of indigent defense; all other funding for indigent defense comes from the counties, or, to a small degree, outside grants. The final \$40 million installment for the Public Defense Pilot Program is a modest amount to ensure that the reforms prioritized and passed by the Legislature can continue to be meaningfully implemented as the Legislature intended.

In addition to valuable savings, this funding has resulted in critical public safety improvements at the local level. Investing in robust public defense programs helps keep our communities safe and healthy. The Public Defense Pilot Program funds have permitted indigent defense providers to hire social workers and expand their holistic defense teams, creating a continuum of care for indigent clients with psychiatric and substance use disorders, reducing the risk that these individuals will become homeless. The funds have allowed indigent defense teams to facilitate safe and successful reentry plans for individuals returning to the community after incarceration, and has also allowed indigent defense providers to reinvest in families, communities of black, indigenous and people of color, as well as immigrants, and individuals earning low incomes. Additionally, the funding has saved many California residents from deportation due to invalid convictions. This is particularly significant in a state with 11 million foreign born residents, where losing a breadwinner due to deportation often leads to impoverishment for the remainder of the family and significant state medical and assistance costs. Ultimately, cutting the third year

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<sup>2</sup> Actual savings are much higher since this data only covers individuals resentenced under Penal Code section 1172.6 (felony murder) and 1172.1 (discretionary resentencing). It does not cover Youthful Offender Parole or Penal Code section 1473.7 petitions (challenging invalid convictions based on immigration consequences). Additionally, this data does not include the savings from the Los Angeles County Bar Association Independent Defender Program or the San Francisco Bar Association

<sup>3</sup> According to data received from 13 of the 34 public defense programs spanning March 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023. The years-saved calculation is based on the first eligible parole date and does not account for milestone or other credits. Only approximately 44% of people eligible are paroled at the first parole hearing. The years saved calculation was also based on the life expectancy provided by the U.S. Social Security Actuarial Life Table. [Actuarial Life Table \(ssa.gov\)](https://ssa.gov) The 13 public defender grantees reflected in this data are from the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa (including Alternate PD Office), Los Angeles (including Alternate PD Office), Orange (including Alternate PD Office and Associate Office), Sacramento, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Yolo.

of funding will end these public safety gains, as indigent defense providers will not have the resources to provide these critical services.

The state has already seen a significant return on its investment. We respectfully urge your support to retain the third year of funding to a program that has a demonstrated record of success.

We thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Nick Brokaw at 916.448.1222 or [nbrokaw@sacramentoadvocates.com](mailto:nbrokaw@sacramentoadvocates.com) or Mica Doctoroff at (916) 824-3264 or [mdoctoroff@aclunc.org](mailto:mdoctoroff@aclunc.org) if we can provide additional information or you have any questions.

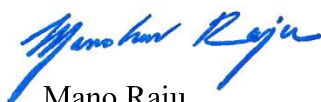
Sincerely,



Carmen-Nicole Cox  
Director of Government Affairs, ACLU  
California Action



Athene Speiser, President  
California Public Defenders Association



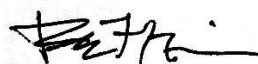
Mano Raju  
San Francisco Public Defender



Anne Irwin, Founder and Executive Director  
Smart Justice California



Paul A. Rodriguez  
Public Defender  
County of San Diego, Office of the Public  
Defender



Ryan Morimune, Legislative Advocate  
California Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California



Elizabeth Espinosa, Legislative Advocate  
Urban Counties of California



Kathy Brady, Director  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center



Marie Mazzone, DDS  
Core Volunteer, Restorative Justice  
Committee  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Sowell, Jr." in a cursive script.

Arnold Sowell, Jr., Executive Director  
NextGen California

cc. Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6  
Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 1515, Senate Bill 1516, & Senate Bill 1517 (Committee on Local Government) -  
Validating Acts of 2024  
As Introduced February 29, 2024 - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Durazo:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), we write to express our support for Senate Bill (SB) 1515, SB 1516, and SB 1517, the three annual Validating Acts of 2024.

The Validating Acts help all public agencies because they protect investors from minor and technical errors that might otherwise threaten our bonds, boundary changes, and other official acts. The bills do not correct issues of fraud, corruption, or unconstitutional acts. As in past years, the passage of the Validating Acts of 2024 will ensure that local bonds attain the highest possible ratings, resulting in the lowest possible borrowing costs for our constituents.

Furthermore, we appreciate that the full membership of the Senate Local Government Committee continues authoring these important bills as they safeguard the integrity of our state and local bonds.

For the aforementioned reasons, we support SB 1515, SB 1516, and SB 1517 and urge the Committee to move forward on this important issue. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact us at the email addresses below.

Sincerely,

**Eric Lawyer**  
Legislative Advocate  
elawyer@counties.org  
CSAC

**Jean Kinney Hurst**  
Legislative Advocate  
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com  
UCC

**Sarah Dukett**  
Policy Advocate  
sdukett@rcrcnet.org  
RCRC

UCC Letters

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo

March 7, 2024

Page 2 of 2



**René LaRoche**

Executive Director

rlaroche@calafco.org

CALAFCO



**Ben Triffo**

Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

btriffo@calcities.org

League of California Cities

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Local Government Committee