

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



ITEM: 3.6
(ID # 27146)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Receive and File the Legislative Report for March 2025, [All Districts] [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and File the Legislative Report for March 2025.

ACTION:Policy

Carolina Salazar Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy

3/13/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: March 18, 2025
xc: EO

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 2025)

CSAC Letters (March 2025)

UCC Letters (March 2025)

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

- The Legislative Advocacy Team met with Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez on March 7, 2025, to update him on the latest countywide priorities.
- County leaders presented on elections, housing, and behavioral health to State Senator Sabrina Cervantes and her staff at their staff retreat on February 21, 2025.
- Representative Ken Calvert's Annual visit with RivCo took place on February 20, 2025. Supervisors V. Manuel Perez and Karen Spiegel, along with County leaders provided updates on the Fentanyl Taskforce, wildfire preparedness, County airports, Medicaid funding, and RivCoONE.
- County leaders attended Assembly Member Dr. Corey Jackson's Human Services Listening Session on February 7, 2025.

Testifying in Committee

- Flood Director Jason Uhley testified at the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, 'Is California ready for flood?' Hearing on March 11, 2025, on a panel on Urban/coastal flood protection case studies. RivCo delegation member Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, Vice Chair of the Committee.
- Deputy Director at DPSS Sandra Bowlan testified February 26, 2025, at the Budget Subcommittee #2 (Public Services) hearing on CalWORKs, Including Funding for Program Operations (called the "Single Allocation") and California's Participation in the Work and Family Stability Federal Pilot. RivCo delegation member Assembly Member Dr. Corey Jackson Chairs this subcommittee.

Capitol Advocacy Days

- 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 March 01-03, 2025.
- County Leaders were in Sacramento and Washington, DC advocating county priorities with the following associations:
 - o RivCo Department of Child Support Services Director Nicole Windom-Hurd was at the Child Support Directors Association Legislative Day in Sacramento on March 12, 2025.

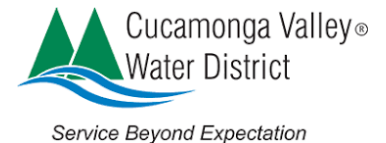
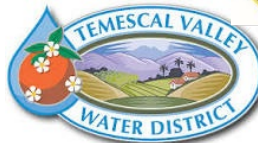
- Deputy Director of DPSS Sandra Bowlan attended California Welfare Directors Association Lobby Day in Sacramento on March 12, 2025.
- Community Action Partnership (CAP) attended the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) Conference and Advocacy Day in Washington, DC on March 19, 2025.
- Workforce Development Board attended the California Workforce Association Day at the Capitol in Sacramento on March 05, 2025.
- Veteran Services Director Greg Coffos at (CAVSO) in Sacramento on February 29, 2025.
- RUHS CEO Jennifer Cruikshank was with the California Public Hospitals Association in Washington, DC from February 24-25, 2025.
- Flood Control Director Jason Uhley joined eight other county flood control districts to advocate for funding and environmental/water quality reform in Sacramento on February 24, 2025.
- RUHS Public Health Director Kim Saruwatari was at County Health Executives Association of California Advocacy Day in Sacramento on February 05, 2025.

RivCo Bill List

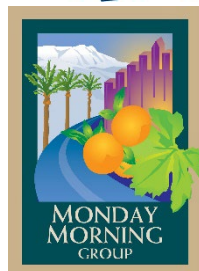
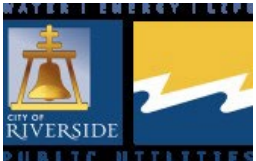
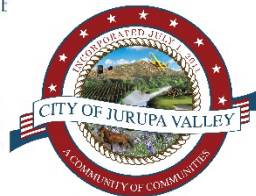
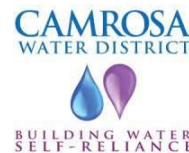
CALIFORNIA STATE ADVOCACY

2025-26 Legislative Session

- **SB 72 (Cabellero- 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.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.4 on November 01, 2022. Coalition Letter Attached.]
Impact: This bill is being proposed by the Solve the Water Crisis Coalition as a solution to creating more reasonable water targets.
- **SB 239 (Arreguin- D) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.** 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 [Per Letter Sent to Senate Local Government on February 25, 2025. Attached]
Impact: Would allow virtual participation on County appointed boards and commissions, removing barriers for participation.
- **SB 346 (Durazo-D) Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator.** The bill would assist the county's ability to collect transient occupancy taxes from short-term rentals.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Senate Local Government on March 10, 2025. Attached]



PACIFIC COAST
RENDERERS ASSOCIATION





February 12, 2025

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

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Budget Sub 2
1021 O Street, Suite 4024
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

The Honorable Steve Bennett
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub 4
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California Water Plan Budget Request – SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chairs,

The California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB), co-sponsors of SB 72 (Caballero), and the coalition of organizations above, are pleased to support Senator Caballero's California Water Plan Budget Request submitted to your respective committees on January 17, 2025.

We support the request that the 2025-26 Budget include \$6.8 million in ongoing funds for five years and \$3.4 million ongoing for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update and modernize the California Water Plan and develop long-term targets for the state's future water supply.

There is an urgent need for California to develop reasonable targets that will complement and amplify Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy and extend beyond any single Administration. Given the extreme climate impacts of the 21st century, an expanding economy, a growing population, the anticipated reductions from existing water resources, and the controls on the use of groundwater,

California must align the state's water supply strategy and policies with a complementary target that will result in an adequate and reliable water supply for the environment, agriculture, and the economy. SB 72 would modernize the California Water Plan statute and its provisions by establishing long-term water supply targets for the state to achieve and would update the requirement that state agencies develop a plan to achieve those targets in consultation with local water agencies, wastewater service providers, irrigation districts, and others.

DWR has identified the funding needed to implement the update to the California Water Plan to be \$6.8 million in ongoing funding for the first five years and \$3.4 million in ongoing funding. Without clearly defined water supply targets and strategic planning to achieve the targets, the state will continue to experience devastating water shortages in the future. Adequate funding for DWR to update and modernize the California Water Plan will help us avoid water scarcity and help to ensure a drought-proof future.

We are pleased to support this budget request and urge your consideration to allocate this funding in the 2025-26 Budget. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Andrea Abergel with CMUA at aabergel@cmua.org or (916) 841-4060.

Sincerely,

Andrea Abergel
Director of Water
California Municipal Utilities Association

Nicole Helms
Executive Director
California Alfalfa and Forage Association

Graham Knaus
Executive Director
California State Association of Counties

Todd W. Sanders
Executive Director
California Apple Commission

Tim Carmichael
President/CEO
CCEEB

Claudia Carter
Executive Director
California Association of Wheat Growers

Debbie Murdock
Executive Director
Association of California Egg Farmers

John Aguirre
President
California Association of Winegrape Growers

Julia Bishop Hall
Senior Legislative Advocate
Association of California Water Agencies

Jane Townsend
Executive Director
California Bean Shippers Association

Adrian Covert
Senior VP, Public Policy
Bay Area Council

Todd Sanders
Executive Director
California Blueberry Association

Steve Lenton
General Manager
Bellflower Somerset Mutual Water Company

Dan Dunmoyer
President and CEO
California Building Industry Association

Kristopher Anderson
Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce

Roger Isom
President/CEO
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Assoc.

Alex Biering
Senior Policy Advocate
California Farm Bureau

Daniel Hartwig
President
California Fresh Fruit Association

Chris Zanobini
President/CEO
California Grain and Feed Association

Lance Hastings
President & CEO
California Manufacturers & Technology Assoc.

Chris Zanobini
Executive Director
California Pear Growers Association

Chris Zanobini
Executive Vice-President
California Seed Association

Ann Quinn
Executive Vice President
California State Floral Association

Robert Verloop
Executive Director/CEO
California Walnuts

Ann Quinn
Executive Vice President
California Warehouse Association

Sharron Zoller
President
California Women for Agriculture

Kristine McCaffrey
General Manager
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Tom Moody
General Manager
City of Corona

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor
City of Riverside

Elizabeth Espinosa
County of Riverside

J. M. Barrett
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District

John Bosler, P.E.
General Manager and CEO
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Mark Orcutt
President & CEO
East Bay Leadership Council

Joe Mouawad, P.E.
General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water District

Jim Abercrombie
General Manager
El Dorado Irrigation District

Greg Thomas
General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Joani Woelfel
President & CEO
Farwest Equipment Dealers Association

Joe Gagliardi
Chief Executive Officer
Folsom Chamber of Commerce

Jason Phillips
CEO
Friant Water Authority

Christopher Valdez
President
Grower-Shipper Association

Paul Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District

David Pedersen
General Manager
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Matt Hurley
General Manager
McMullin Area GSA

Paul Schoenberger, P.E.
General Manager
Mesa Water District

Kevin Abernathy
Manager
Milk Producers Council

Jimi Netniss
General Manager
Modesto Irrigation District

Justin Scott-Coe
General Manager
Monte Vista Water District

Patrick Ellis
ACE/ President/CEO
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce

John Kabateck
State Director
National Federation of Independent Business

Joanne Webster
Chief Executive Officer
North Bay Leadership Council

David Guy
Executive Director
Northern California Water Association

Todd Sanders
Executive Director
Olive Growers Council of California

Kim Thorner
General Manager
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Chris Zanobini
Executive Officer
Pacific Coast Renderers Association

Debbie Murdock
Executive Director
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association

Dennis LaMoreaux
General Manager
Palmdale Water District

Jason Martin
Interim General Manager
Rancho California Water District

Jon Switalski
Executive Director
Rebuild So-Cal Partnership

Tom Coleman
General Manager
Rowland Water District

Lisa Yamashita-Lopez
General Manager
Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association

Amanda Blackwood
President & CEO
Sac Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Miguel J. Guerrero
P.E. General Manager
San Bernardino Municipal Water Department

Heather Dyer
General Manager
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

Paul Helliker
General Manager
San Juan Water District

Matt Stone
General Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water District

Chris Lee
General Manager
Solano County Water Agency

Peter M. Rietkerk
General Manager
South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Eric McLeod
Chair
Southwest California Legislative Council

Justin M. Hopkins
General Manager
Stockton East Water District

Jeff R. Pape
General Manager
Temescal Valley Water District

Matthew Litchfield
General Manager
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Fernando Paludi
General Manager
Trabuco Canyon Water District

Brad Koehn
General Manager
Turlock Irrigation District

Kirti Mutatkar
President & CEO
United Ag

Vince Gin, P.E.
Deputy Operating Officer
Valley Water

Elizabeth Howard Espinosa
UCC Advocacy Team
Urban Counties of California

Bob Reeb
Executive Director
Valley Ag Water Coalition

Gary Arant
General Manager
Valley Center Municipal Water District

Erik Hutchman
P.E. General Manager
Walnut Valley Water District

E.J. Caldwell
Acting General Manager
West Basin Municipal Water District

Valerie Pryor
General Manager
Zone 7 Water Agency

Roger Isom
President/CEO
Western Agricultural Processors Association

Dave Puglia
President & CEO
Western Growers

Sharon Haligan
Director, Administrative Services
Western Plant Health

Craig Miller
General Manager
Western Water

Norman Huff
General Manager
Camrosa Water District

Chris Berch
General Manager
Jurupa Community Services District

Brian R. Laddusaw
General Manager
Rubidoux Community Services District

James Prior
General Manager
San Gabriel County Water District

Jeff Mosher
General Manager
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Jose Martinez
General Manager
Valley County Water District

John Thiel
General Manager
West Valley Water District

Sarah Wiltfong
Director of Advocacy
BizFed Los Angeles County

Amber Bolden
Director of Communications
Black Voice News

Jeff Montejano
CEO
Building Industry Assoc. of Southern CA

Joseph Lillio
Interim General Manager
Burbank Water and Power

Melanie Barker
President
California Association of Realtors

Robert C. Lapsley
President
California Business Roundtable

Greg Johnson
President
California Farm Water Coalition

Julian Canete
President and CEO
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Jennifer Capitolo
Executive Director
California Water Association

Sheri Merrick
Executive Director
Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce

Jeremy Smith
Council Member
City of Canyon Lake

Joe Males
Mayor
City of Hemet

Natasha Johnson
Council Member
City of Lake Elsinore

Chris Barajas
Council Member
City of Jurupa Valley

Dr. Lisa DeForest
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Murrieta

Paul Leon
Mayor
City of Ontario

Daniel E. Garcia
Interim General Manager
City of Riverside Public Utilities

Connie Stopher
Executive Director
Economic Development Coalition

Ana Martin
Governmental Affairs Manager
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

Eric Keen
Chairman of Board of Directors
HDR Engineering

Jack Monger
CEO
Industrial Environmental Association

Wes Andree
Executive Director
Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center

Ana Martin
Staff Liaison
Monday Morning Group of Riverside

Judi Penman
President & CEO
San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce

Luis Portillo
President & CEO
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Aziz Amiri
CEO
San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

Adam Ruiz
Governmental Affairs Director
SRCAR

Molly Kirkland
Director of Public Affairs
Southern CA Rental Housing Association

Stephan Tucker
General Manager
Water Replenishment District

Steve Johnson
General Manager
Desert Water Agency

Erik Hitchman
Administrative Office
Puente Basin Water Agency

Melissa Sparks-Kranz, MPP
Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
League of California Cities

Dan Denham
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

David M. Merritt
General Manager
Kings River Conservation District

Steven Haugen
Watermaster
Kings River Water Association

Kat Wuelfing
General Manager
Mid-Peninsula Water District

Jennifer Pierre
General Manager
State Water Contractors

Mauricio Guardado
General Manager
United Water Conservation District

Nicole Stanfield
Public Information Officer
Santa Margarita Water District

Harvey De La Torre
General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Charles Wilson
Executive Director
Southern California Water Coalition

Glenn Farrel
Executive Director
CalDesal

Casey Creamer
President
California Citrus Mutual

Tricia Geringer
Vice President of Government Affairs
Agricultural Council of California

John Urdi
Executive Director
Mammoth Lakes Tourism

Lacy Schoen
President/CEO
Brea Chamber of Commerce

Gina Molinaro-Cardera
Board Supervisor
Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Lance Eckhart
General Manager
San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Jim Ferrin
President
California Alliance for Golf

Jim Piefer
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority

Federico Barajas
Executive Director
San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Jose Medina 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 25, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín
California State Senate, District 07
1021 O Street, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 239 (Arreguín) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.
As introduced 01/30/25– SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Arreguín:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 239, which would remove barriers to entry for appointed and elected office by allowing members of non-decision-making legislative bodies to participate in two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting their remote meeting location.

SB 239 would help address these issues by providing a narrow exemption under the Ralph M. Brown Act for non-decision-making advisory bodies that do not take final action on any legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or other entitlements. Local governments across the state have faced ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining members of the public to serve on advisory bodies subject to the Brown Act. Challenges associated with recruitment have been attributed to participation time commitments; time and location of meetings; physical limitation, conflicts with childcare, and work obligations.

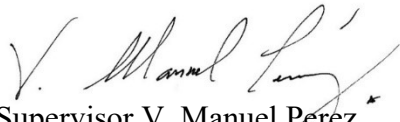
Riverside County serves over 2.4 million residents and spans 7,303 miles. We have always been challenged in recruiting and retaining a diverse group of participants to ensure that our local advisory bodies can reach a quorum. Some of our advisory bodies require participation from Blythe and the Palo Verde Valley—a three hour drive to our County Administrative Center, creating a tremendous obligation.

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. 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 disabilities, single parents,

caretakers, the economically marginalized, and those who live in rural areas with prohibitive driving distances.

This bill would improve community engagement and participation for both advisory body members and members of the public alike and provide much needed modernization for open meetings. SB 239 ensures that advisory bodies can fulfill their true purpose: to serve as the voice of our diverse communities. For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Manuel Perez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
Members and Consultants, Senate Local Government Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chairwoman, Senate Local Government Committee
1021 O Street, Room 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 346 (Durazo) - Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator
As introduced 02/12/25– SUPPORT

Dear Senator Durazo:

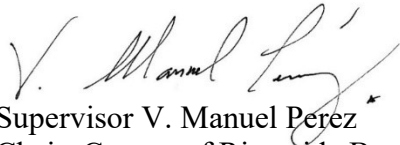
On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 346, which would significantly strengthen local tools to ensure compliance with obligatory local ordinances regarding the collection and remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT) applicable to short-term rentals (STRs).

Current statute does not reflect the evolution of the internet's use to facilitate STRs, some platform operators have continuously avoided reporting the locations of their listed STRs. At best, platform operators have selectively agreed to Voluntary Collection Agreements (VCA) with some local taxing authorities, but a consistent requirement of those agreements, is that local taxing authorities will not be able to receive the address or any personally identifying information for the listed properties. This leaves counties and cities in the untenable position of choosing between collecting some taxes through this process and trusting that is accurate and lawfully collected, or trying to pursue collection directly from property owners, which is time- and cost-intensive due to the sheer volume of listings in some jurisdictions; made worse by deliberately vague descriptions of the locations of the properties.

It is challenging for local agencies to enforce local laws on these operators. Only through continual court action, such as a subpoena, could a county tax collector force platform operators to provide critical information. This is inefficient and burdensome. By authorizing a local agency to require a short-term rental facilitator to report, in the form and manner prescribed by the local agency, the assessor parcel number of each STR listed on its website, along with any locally required permit number, SB 346 will increase TOT compliance. This legislation is vitally needed to modernize California statute and provide the tools necessary to fairly and effectively apply existing laws to evolving technologies.

The County of Riverside has been through several rounds of ordinances regarding the regulation and licensing of STRs, and our residents have the expectation that STRs will pay what is required to operate in our communities. SB 346 will help us fulfill that obligation. For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or cherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Manuel Perez", with a small asterisk at the end of the signature.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
Members and Consultants, Senate Local Government Committee
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

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District 4	V. Manuel Perez 760-863-8211
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

January 28, 2025

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

RE: AB 2448 (Jackson) — Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone: County of Riverside

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support to include the provisions of AB 2448—Assembly Member Corey Jackson’s measure that would establish an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone (EVEOZ) in Riverside County, in the state budget.

AB 2448 seeks to serve as a model that can be replicated throughout the state to ensure that all communities will share in the economic benefits of the zero-emission vehicle industry. The measure also benefits car mechanics who build and maintain the vehicles, electricians and welders who create charging stations, and software developers who design programs to operate the vehicles. The Labor and Workforce Development Agency could develop grants, tax incentives, apprenticeships, and hiring programs aimed at onboarding, training, and retaining workers creating a pipeline to sustainable jobs.

AB 2448 intends to act as a blueprint for other EVEOZ throughout the state. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests that funding of this measure be included in the state budget. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State 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 Heath Flora
Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 4730
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2025-26 Governor's Budget and County Partnership

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

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), proudly representing all 58 of the state's counties, stands ready to work with the Legislature and the Governor's Administration to develop a budget for 2025-26 that collectively addresses the needs of counties across California. There is no bigger priority for CSAC than to protect our counties, our communities, and our residents. Counties across the state continue to step up to support Los Angeles County's extensive response and recovery efforts. The heroic collective action from so many throughout our state demonstrates the resilience and solidarity of Californians during crises. As the full impact of these fires becomes clearer, CSAC understands that adjustments to the 2025-26 budget proposal will be necessary to address the long-term recovery needs of affected communities. As strong and insightful leaders of their local communities, county officials are the best resource to inform budget development conversations in the best interests of our constituents.

Acknowledging uncertainty at all levels of government

This year, we understand that state budget deliberations are occurring in the shadow of the devastation caused by wildfires and the stress of federal instability. We recognize the current environment and associated challenges of this reality, including the effects on programs that

CSAC Officers

President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

1st Vice President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

2nd Vice President
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

Past President
Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County

CEO
Graham Knaus

serve California's most vulnerable populations. Beyond the wildfire recovery in Southern California, California's fiscal condition will be greatly affected by volatility in federal fiscal policy regarding global trade, the federal-state funding relationship, and growing geopolitical instability. Nonetheless, county leaders are prepared to address the needs of their communities and meet challenges with adaptability and fortitude. Out of the ashes, there is a renewed opportunity for all levels of government in California to come together in defense of our shared priorities.

The future of the state-local relationship

Before, during, and after an emergency, counties are central to delivering the vital services Californians rely on. As such, counties are critical to ensure the state's budget plan is fiscally responsible while equipping county leaders with the tools, funding, and flexibility needed for counties to deliver priorities on behalf of the state. Finally, given the aforementioned uncertainty of funding at the federal level, it is more important than ever for the state and counties to partner, especially as it relates to providing safety net services to our vulnerable residents. CSAC believes the 2025-26 state budget should provide counties the opportunity to rebuild in the image of a future that is prepared for the ongoing realities of escalating natural disasters.

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Leadership from county officials is critical to California's success and resiliency. **Counties deliver the state's priorities.** Increasingly, as the impacts of a changing climate are intensified and counties are compelled to manage more frequent and severe emergencies, counties must do so while providing the staff and infrastructure necessary to carry out the state's programs. **Given the state's reliance on counties to deliver essential programs and services, it is in the best interest of California residents for the state to provide the support necessary to deliver in partnership for our communities.** To this end, we offer the following insights to the 2025-26 state budget:

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Under legislative leadership, California has dedicated significant and unprecedented funding to address the state's homelessness crisis. In addition, recent rounds of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program have included strong accountability requirements that are strengthening local collaboration and regional planning, as well as beginning to define roles and responsibilities. These investments and program improvements are demonstrating tangible results as individuals are being successfully transitioned into permanent housing and receiving the services they need to maintain housing.

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consultation with county leaders is essential to ensure counties are provided with the support necessary to successfully implement the new and ongoing requirements.

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CSAC appreciates the proposal's emphasis on supporting existing programs and commitments. As budget discussions progress, counties will advocate for clear implementation frameworks to achieve meaningful outcomes across California's diverse communities. Counties appreciate the continued engagement to strengthen state and local relationships, and to realize the opportunities to safeguard fiscal resources to best support the people we collectively serve.

Progress Together

The development of the 2025-26 budget is an opportunity to rebuild the state and local relationship in the image of a future wherein the state and counties are in lockstep. To this end, we look forward to a mutual commitment to embrace partnership sufficient to ensure support and resources to achieve shared priorities. CSAC will follow this letter with detailed recommendations for consideration across these critical policy areas. In the meantime, should you have any questions regarding these issues, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,



Graham Knaus

Chief Executive Officer, CSAC

CC : Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
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 5, 2025

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

RE: 2025-26 Governor's Budget Proposal and County Partnership

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 and the Legislature to develop a budget for 2025-26 that collectively addresses the needs of counties across California. There is no bigger priority for CSAC than to protect our counties, our communities, and our residents. Counties across the state continue to step up to support Los Angeles County's extensive response and recovery efforts. The heroic collective action from so many throughout our state demonstrates the resilience and solidarity of Californians during crises. As the full impact of these fires becomes clearer, CSAC understands that adjustments to the 2025-26 budget proposal will be necessary to address the long-term recovery needs of affected communities. As strong and insightful leaders of their local communities, county officials are the best resource to inform budget development conversations in the best interests of our constituents.

Acknowledging uncertainty at all levels of government

This year, we understand that state budget deliberations are occurring in the shadow of the devastation caused by wildfires and the stress of federal instability. We recognize the current environment and associated challenges of this reality, including the effects on programs that serve California's most vulnerable populations. Beyond the wildfire recovery in Southern California, California's fiscal condition will be greatly affected by volatility in federal fiscal policy regarding global trade, the federal-state funding relationship, and growing geopolitical instability. Nonetheless, county leaders are prepared to address the needs of their communities and meet challenges with adaptability and fortitude. Out of the ashes, there is a renewed opportunity for all levels of government in California to come together in defense of our shared priorities.

The future of the state-local relationship

Before, during, and after an emergency, counties are central to delivering the vital services Californians rely on. As such, counties are critical to ensure the state's budget plan is fiscally responsible while equipping county leaders with the tools, funding, and flexibility needed for counties to deliver priorities on behalf of the state. Finally, given the

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Respectfully,



Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer, CSAC

CC : Nathan Barankin, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Jamie Callahan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Christine Aurre, 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

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President Pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and
Fiscal Review
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Roger Niello
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Budget
and Fiscal Review
1021 O Street, Suite 7110
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2025-26 Governor's Budget and County Partnership

Dear President pro Tempore McGuire, Senator Wiener, and Senator Niello,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), proudly representing all 58 of the state's counties, stands ready to work with the Legislature and the Governor's Administration to develop a budget for 2025-26 that collectively addresses the needs of counties across California. There is no bigger priority for CSAC than to protect our counties, our communities, and our residents. Counties across the state continue to step up to support Los Angeles County's extensive response and recovery efforts. The heroic collective action from so many throughout our state demonstrates the resilience and solidarity of Californians during crises. As the full impact of these fires becomes clearer, CSAC understands that adjustments to the 2025-26 budget proposal will be necessary to address the long-term recovery needs of affected communities. As strong and insightful leaders of their local communities, county officials are the best resource to inform budget development conversations in the best interests of our constituents.

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Respectfully,



Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer, CSAC

CC : Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Christopher Woods, Chief Fiscal Adviser, Budget Director, Office of Senate President
pro Tempore Mike McGuire
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



February 9, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT - Senate Bill 74 (Seyarto): Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program

Dear Chair Durazo,

On behalf of the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) and the California State Associations of Counties (CSAC), we are pleased to express our strong support for Senate Bill 74, which seeks to establish an infrastructure gap-fund program to provide much-needed grants to local agencies for the development and construction of critical infrastructure projects.

As California's local governments continue to grow, so does the need for reliable and sustainable infrastructure. However, many local governments struggle to fund essential projects due to financial constraints, making it difficult to meet the demands of our residents and businesses. Senate Bill 74 will help bridge this funding gap by offering grants that support roads, bridges, water systems, and other vital infrastructure, ensuring safer and more efficient communities.

The devastating fires across the state and most recently in Southern California have shown vulnerabilities in our local infrastructures. Investing in public infrastructure is crucial to preventing fires and protecting lives. Adequate funding for fire-resistant building materials, modernized electrical grids, and well-maintained roadways ensures that both public and private spaces are safeguarded against potential fire threats. Furthermore, upgrading water supply systems, such as expanding hydrant networks and improving water pressure, is essential for effective firefighting efforts.

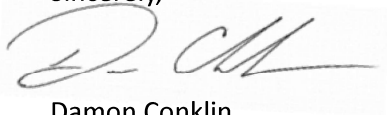
Beyond fire prevention, improved infrastructure enhances emergency response times and community resilience. Well-maintained roads and bridges allow first responders to reach emergency sites more quickly, while investments in communication systems ensure timely coordination between emergency services. Additionally, incorporating fire-safe designs in public buildings, schools, and transportation systems not only reduces the likelihood of fires but also protects vulnerable populations.

Investing in local infrastructure is crucial for economic development, job creation, and public safety. By supporting SB 74, the State of California is making a commitment to strengthening our communities and ensuring that local agencies have the necessary resources to complete much-needed projects.

For these reasons, the Cal Cities and CSAC strongly supports Senate Bill 74, and we urge the Legislature to approve this critical legislation. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact Damon Conklin at DConklin@calcities.org or Mark Neuburger at MNeuburger@counties.org

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Damon Conklin
League of California Cities



Mark Neuburger
California State Association of Counties

CC: The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Senator, 32nd District
Honorable Members, Senate Local Government Committee
Anton Favorini-Csorba, Chief Consultant, Senate Local Government Committee
Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Minority Caucus



February 9, 2025

The Honorable Dave Cortese
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7520
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT - SB 78 (Seyarto): Identifying High-Collision Locations in the State Highway System

Dear Chair Cortese,

On behalf of the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) and the California State Associations of Counties (CSAC), we are pleased to express our support for Senate Bill 78, which mandates the California Department of Transportation to identify the top 15 locations within the state highway system with the highest rate of vehicle collisions. This measure seeks to enhance public safety, promote data-driven infrastructure improvements, and benefit local governments across the state by reducing accident rates and improving traffic flow.

California's roadways are among the busiest in the nation, and high-collision locations present significant risks to motorists, pedestrians, and emergency responders. By systematically identifying these hazardous locations, Senate Bill 78 will allow state and local governments to prioritize safety enhancements and allocate resources where they are most needed. This proactive approach will lead to the implementation of targeted safety measures, such as improved signage, better road design, enhanced lighting, and other traffic-calming strategies.

The benefits of this legislation for local governments are substantial. First, local governments will experience reduced accident-related congestion, leading to improved traffic efficiency and reduced commute times for residents and businesses. Second, a decrease in collisions will lower the burden on emergency services, allowing first responders to focus on other critical community needs. Third, identifying and addressing high-risk locations will result in long-term cost savings by minimizing the economic impact of crashes, such as medical expenses, vehicle repairs, and insurance claims.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 78 aligns with California's broader transportation safety goals and Vision Zero initiatives, reinforcing the state's commitment to reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Investing in safety improvements at high-collision sites will not only save lives but also enhance the overall quality of life for communities throughout the state.

For these reasons, the Cal Cities and CSAC strongly supports Senate Bill 78. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact Damon Conklin at DConklin@calcities.org or Mark Neuburger at MNeuburger@counties.org

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Conklin".

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Damon Conklin
League of California Cities

Mark Neuburger
California State Association of Counties

CC: The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Senator, 32nd District
Honorable Members, Senate Transportation Committee
Manny Leon, Chief Consultant, Senate Transportation Committee
Ted Morley, Consultant, Senate Minority Caucus

February 12, 2025

**Federal Fund Account (FFA) Last Mile applications for the South Salinas Valley
Broadband Association submitted by the Golden State Connect Authority**

President Reynolds and CPUC Commissioners
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Reynolds and CPUC Commissioners,

I am writing to express the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) strong support for the FFA Last Mile applications for the South Salinas Valley Broadband Association (SSVBA) submitted by the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA). These projects are crucial for improving access to broadband services which have direct educational and economic benefits to the people in the historically marginalized towns in Monterey County's Salinas Valley, including Soledad, Greenfield, Gonzales, and King City. CSAC supports the expansion of high-speed internet service to all parts of the state to drive economic development and job opportunities, support county service delivery, and improve health, education, and public safety outcomes for community members. Additionally, we recognize the critical need to prioritize funding for broadband infrastructure in the state's underserved areas.

Monterey County, often celebrated as the birthplace of modern California, is a microcosm of the state's coastal and inland divide. These towns have long been overlooked in terms of infrastructure investment, particularly in broadband access, which has exacerbated the digital divide and hindered economic and educational opportunities for their residents. These realities are quantified so plainly in U.S. Census Bureau data, which indicates poverty rates in these south Monterey County communities are much higher than the state average while educational achievement rates are well below state averages. Funding these projects will ensure residents have access to the educational resources, economic opportunities, and essential services they need to allow these communities to meaningfully reverse these concerning trends.

During the pandemic, the digital divide became painfully evident as many low-income neighborhoods and communities in the Salinas Valley were left without adequate internet access. This lack of connectivity not only isolated these communities but also limited their access to essential services, education, and economic opportunities. The South Salinas

CSAC Officers

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Graham Knaus

Valley Broadband Authority was formed to address these disparities and elevate the voices of the most marginalized in Monterey County.

The South Salinas Valley Broadband Association projects aim to provide equitable broadband access to these historically underserved communities. By funding these projects, we can ensure that the residents of Soledad, Greenfield, Gonzales, King City and greater central Monterey County are no longer relegated to the back seat. Instead, they will have the opportunity to thrive in the digital age, with access to high-quality, reliable broadband service that will support public safety, education, business growth, and everyday life.

The proposed open-access fiber network by GSCA will transform broadband access for residents, businesses, and students in Monterey County. It will provide greater choice among providers, foster competition to reduce costs, and ensure reliable service. This project is vital for bridging the digital divide and promoting social and economic equity in the Salinas Valley.

I urge you to approve the FFA Last Mile grant funds for all five GSCA Monterey County applications under consideration. These projects are essential for ensuring that the historically marginalized communities in the Salinas Valley receive the support and opportunities they deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jacqueline" being more prominent and the last name "Wong-Hernandez" following in a similar style.

Chief Policy Officer
California State Association of Counties



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians



URBAN COUNTIES
OF CALIFORNIA



February 12, 2025

To: The Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

Honorable Members
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

The Honorable Dr. Corey A. Jackson
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2

Honorable Members
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2

From: Carlos Marquez, Executive Director, CWDA
Tiffany Whiten, Senior Government Relations Advocate, SEIU
Justin Garrett, Senior Legislative Advocate, CSAC
Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Legislative Representative, UCC
Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, RCRC

**RE: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY
TO KIDS (CALWORKS): RIGHTSIZE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) respectfully request an additional one-time \$245 million total funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 and updates to the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) administrative budget methodology effective FY 2026-27 for county administration of the CalWORKs program to address critical and persistent underfunding of CalWORKs program operations. This funding and update to the administrative budget methodology is necessary to 1) ensure adequate resources for county administration of the CalWORKs program to serve families in need of and entitled to CalWORKs, 2) provide services to help families overcome barriers of employment, 3) prevent county staff from being forced to reduce contact with CalWORKs clients who access employment services at a time when some may eschew access to public benefits out of fear of immigration implications for their undocumented family members, and 4) ensure that the state's participation in the Work and Family Well-Being federal pilot, in which counties are at the forefront in carrying out the work, will be successful.

CalWORKs is Essential to Supporting Children and Families in Deep Poverty: The CalWORKs program provides temporary cash assistance, education, employment, and supportive services to over 650,000 children and their families, assisting families' basic needs and progress towards self-sufficiency. California leads the nation as a model for how to leverage the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to not just support children and families in deep poverty, but to provide them lasting benefits by improving families' well-being, self-sufficiency, and outcomes. County human services agencies are at the forefront in administering the CalWORKs program on behalf of the state, from providing eligibility determination and case management, to services and supports to help families overcome barriers to employment.

County CalWORKs Administration State Budget Methodology is Flawed: CalWORKs administrative and services funding is provided in an annual Single Allocation to counties for administration of the program. The Single Allocation is largely comprised of two major components: 1) the Eligibility component, which provides counties funding to process CalWORKs applications, redetermine eligibility, and maintain cases to ensure families receive timely financial support, crucial for meeting basic needs; and 2) the Employment Services component, which provides counties funding to provide services and supports to clients in Welfare-to-Work activities, case management, and job-related supports. Moreover, the Single Allocation is fungible, meaning counties can shift funds between the allocation components as needed.

The Single Allocation budget methodology, and specifically the eligibility component, was last updated in FY 2018-19. Despite the rebase, the methodology did not fully fund the workload associated with the full volume of applications and did not provide for annual inflation adjustments, a particular problem when inflation and labor costs have been growing so rapidly. Funding for the eligibility component of the Single Allocation has fallen behind, with counties forced to overspend the statewide eligibility allocation in the past four years and instead redirect employment services funding to cover for eligibility overspending. In the most recent fiscal year, FY 2023-24, counties overspent eligibility funding by \$245 million, which resulted in the redirection of 20-percent of total employment services funding to cover for the overspending in eligibility. Had the eligibility allocation been fully funded in FY 2023-24 and employment services funding levels remained intact, funding would have gone to support CalWORKs adult recipients in obtaining and maintaining employment through services such as job preparation activities, training programs (e.g., certificate/credential programs), educational support (e.g., GED attainment or college degree programs), and supportive services (e.g., childcare, transportation). This ultimately aids families in gaining economic independence.

The 2022 Budget Act included trailer bill language requiring the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to work with CWDA and counties to reassess the budget methodology for eligibility administration of the Single Allocation every three years, beginning with the 2024-25 fiscal year. This reassessment work occurred during FY 2023-24 and resulted in the estimation that an additional \$209.1 million is needed to update for costs associated with certain components of eligibility administration: \$160.3 million to update the worker cost and \$48.8 million to fund the workload associated with all applications. We note these estimates were based on worker cost data from

Calendar Year 2023, and the gap the reassessment identified is likely to grow as worker costs increase. Despite the acknowledgement of underfunding in CalWORKs eligibility administration by the Administration through its reassessment work with CWDA, as highlighted in the 2024-25 May Revision, funding was neither provided in the 2024 Budget Act nor proposed in this year's budget.

Underfunding in the Eligibility Component of the Single Allocation Affects Employment Services

Funding: Counties are required by state and federal mandates to perform eligibility activities within a specified amount of time, but these same time constraints do not apply to employment services. Consequently, given the underlying methodology limitations and the underfunding in the eligibility administration component, counties have had to redirect funding from employment services to backfill for the overspending in eligibility. Counties' ability to provide essential support – the linkages to services and the follow through to ensure that families' needs are being met – is significantly undermined. Such services and supports include, but are not limited to, credit recovery services, which play a pivotal role in facilitating access to housing and employment; legal services which remove barriers to education, employment, and career advancement; and other tangible supports that assist with educational and employment attainment such as books, uniforms, other supplies, and transportation.

Underfunding in the Eligibility Component of the Single Allocation Compromises the State's

Participation in the Work and Family Well-Being Federal Pilot (FRA): California is one of five states in the nation to be selected for the FRA pilot to evaluate alternatives to the work participation rate (WPR). The pilot allows the state to focus the CalWORKs program on employment retention, family stability, and well-being, rather than the current federal WPR. During the six-year pilot, states will not be held accountable to the standard WPR; instead, they will focus on performance metrics such as employment rates, earnings post-TANF, and other indicators emphasizing family stability. County human services agencies are excited and invested in carrying out the pilot. A decade ago, CWDA was proud to commission the brain and behavioral science that led to the launch of CalWORKs 2.0, an evidence-based, trauma-informed initiative that proved more efficacious than the prevailing punitive, compliance-based approach from which the pilot is granting California a temporary reprieve. Additionally, the pilot will build on the state's existing data-driven, family centered program management system called California CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (or CalOAR), which was a joint county and state effort.

Implementation of the pilot is currently planned for October 1, 2025, and will require counties, who are at the forefront in carrying out the work, to effectuate new processes and program updates to engage families, so the pilot can be successful. While the details of the pilot will be determined in the coming months, the pilot will require significant staff resources and operational capacity. To effectively implement the pilot, including providing services and meeting performance outcomes, counties cannot be forced to divert funding away from employment services. It is essential that underfunding for eligibility administration be addressed so counties can fully maximize their employment services funding to implement the changes needed for a successful pilot.

Underfunding in the Eligibility Component of the Single Allocation Compromises Counties' Capacity to Allay Immigration Fears Among Mixed Household Families Through Frequent Contact:

Additionally, continued diversion of employment services funding may hobble the ability of workers to maintain frequent contact with CalWORKs clients at a time when, in the case of mixed-status households, some may choose to eschew access to public benefits out of fear of immigration implications for their undocumented family members.

Proposed Solutions – Funding Patch and Ongoing Right-Size of CalWORKs Administration Budget Methodology:

- We request inclusion of **one-time \$245 million in the FY 2025-2026 budget** to make counties whole for the underfunding of the Single Allocation. This request aligns with the eligibility overspending from FY 2023-24, based on actual county expenditures that are unaccounted for in the current budget methodology. This amount would allow counties in the short-term to meet their mandated eligibility workload as well as ensure access to services and supports that help families overcome barriers to employment.
- In addition, we request the Administration **update the Single Allocation methodology for the eligibility component beginning FY 2026-27 and ongoing** to reflect the true costs of eligibility workload. The methodology should be grounded in the reassessment completed by CDSS in FY 2023-24, which determined eligibility administration costs of specified components in the current budget methodology were underbudgeted by nearly \$210 million total funds. We note this estimate is subject to change on an annual basis based on more recent worker cost data.

Together, the one-time funding patch and adoption of the updated methodology will allow counties to serve families in need of and entitled to CalWORKs without jeopardizing counties' ability to provide services to help families overcome barriers of employment, and for counties to effectively implement the FRA pilot that cultivates and demonstrates a family centered CalWORKs program.

For these reasons, we urge your support for this request.

Sincerely,

Carlos Marquez, Executive Director
County Welfare Directors Association

Tiffany Whiten, Senior Gov. Relations Advocate
Service Employees International Union

Justin Garrett, Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Legislative Representative
Urban Counties of California

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Cc: Chris Woods, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Jason Sisney, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Elizabeth Schmitt, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Committee on Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal
Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Megan DeSousa, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Eric Dietz, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Richard Figueroa, Office of the Governor
Paula Villescaz, Office of the Governor
Kim Johnson, Health and Human Services Agency
Corrin Buchanan, Health and Human Services Agency
Jennifer Troia, California Department of Social Services
Kris Cook, HHS, Department of Finance



February 20, 2025

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

Re: **AB 418 (Wilson): Property taxation: tax-defaulted property**
As introduced 2/5/25 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee

Dear Assembly Member Wilson:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our support for your Assembly Bill 418, a measure that preserves the ability of California counties to utilize Chapter 8 sales of tax-defaulted properties. These sales are used to dispose of challenging properties or to facilitate the development of affordable housing or other local agency uses; AB 418 ensures that the owners of such properties are able to participate in an administrative process if they disagree with the tax sale value established by the tax collector and proposed for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

This important measure seeks to address the 2023 Supreme Court decision *Tyler v Hennepin County, Minnesota*, in which the plaintiff's constitutional rights were violated when Hennepin County auctioned her tax-defaulted property to satisfy the delinquent property tax debt of \$15,000. The property sold for \$40,000 and the County kept the remaining \$25,000 in excess proceeds without first affording the plaintiff the opportunity to file a claim for the excess proceeds. The Court found that the taking of the excess proceeds violated the Takings Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment.

Unlike the laws in Minnesota, California's laws require that if a property is sold at a tax auction, any proceeds from the auction that remain after all delinquencies are paid are then made available to parties of interest (i.e. the owner) of that property, and those parties have one year to file a claim for those excess proceeds. Under current law, a county is prohibited from depriving a property owner of their excess proceeds without first providing public notice and certified mailing to the last known address, notifying the owner of the existence of excess proceeds and of the one-year timeframe to file a claim.

In California, there are thousands of tax-defaulted properties that hold little to no value or otherwise present specific or unusual challenges to dispose of through a traditional tax auction. Using a Chapter 8 tax sale process to dispose of such properties can make the most sense for the local agency and for the property owner. AB 418 outlines a procedure by which California's county tax collectors will utilize during the Chapter 8 sale process to ensure that the property is disposed of in a manner that is transparent and affords property owners an administrative remedy if the property owner disputes the price set at a Chapter 8 tax sale. These additional steps, which include a hearing before the Board of Supervisors where a party of interest may present evidence to dispute the tax sale price, offers an administrative process for property owners, while preserving the tax collector's informed discretion to utilize available options to manage those properties for which appraisals are not financially feasible.

AB 418 ensures that counties can effectively conduct Chapter 8 sales without the threat of litigation and Public Records Act requests that have recently been associated with these sales. As a result, our associations strongly support this measure to address the uncertainty that currently exists and resolve this issue in a manner that ensures fairness and efficiency.

We appreciate your authorship of this important measure.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: The Honorable Mike Gipson, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
Members, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee



February 20, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 346 (Durazo): Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator**
As introduced – 2/12/25
Awaiting hearing – Senate Local Government Committee

Dear Senator Durazo:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our support for your Senate Bill 346, a measure that will strengthen local tools to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding the collection and remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT) applicable to short-term rentals.

Regrettably, the application of local TOT ordinances and collection and remittance of taxes is inconsistent and often simply avoided, even when voluntary collection agreements are entered into. Because local agencies do not have access to the address or any other personally identifiable information for listed properties, even under voluntary collection agreements, cities and counties are in the untenable position of choosing between collecting some taxes without this critical information and trusting that it is accurately collected, or trying to pursue collection directly from property owners, which is a time- and cost-intensive process that may or may not result in a fair application of local laws.

By authorizing a local agency to require the short-term rental facilitator to report, in the form and manner prescribed by the local agency, the assessor parcel number of each short-term rental listed on the site, along with any locally-required permit number, SB 346 will increase TOT compliance and ensure that local agencies are appropriately collecting tax revenue from those that are lawfully licensed short-term rental properties. Further, such authority will assist local agencies in ensuring that TOT obligations are consistent among other short-term stay facilities, like hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts, and that those

that profit from short-term rental properties are no longer able to obfuscate their location and therefore their tax obligations.

SB 346 is a much-needed effort to modernize California statute and provide local agencies with the tools needed to fairly and effectively apply existing laws to evolving technologies. As a result, we are strongly supportive of SB 346 and appreciate your leadership on this important local issue.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Local Government Committee
Ben Triffo, League of California Cities
Karen Lange, California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors

February 26, 2025

Assemblymember Alexandra M Macedo
California State Assembly, District 33
1021 O Street, Suite 5530
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Concurrent Resolution 19 (Macedo) – Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Dear Assemblymember Macedo:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing California's 58 counties, is pleased to support ACR 19, which will declare February 20th as Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. Counties recognize the need for a workforce that is inclusive of all people, especially women.

Counties rely on engineers to provide vital services, such as roads, water infrastructure, hospitals, county buildings, flood control structures and other critical infrastructure that provides critical services to the public. Counties directly employ thousands of engineers and rely on thousands more in the private sector to deliver and manage the infrastructure projects that serve the residents of California.

Counties recognize the critical contributions of women in engineering and the need for state and local government to continue their commitment to support efforts to introduce more young women to careers in engineering. Counties are pleased to support efforts to inspire more women to pursue careers in engineering. Counties broadly support increased investments to strengthen women in the county engineer workforce, expanding educational and job training pathways, and policies that can help counties more effectively recruit, hire, and retain women in county engineering roles as well as careers in other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related fields.

For these reasons, CSAC is a proud supporter of ACR 19.

Sincerely,

CSAC Officers

President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

1st Vice President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

2nd Vice President
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

Past President
Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County

CEO
Graham Knaus

The Honorable Alexandra M Macedo
February 26, 2025
Page **2** of **2**

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

Mark Neuburger

Legislative Advocate

California State Association of Counties

February 25, 2025

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, STE 6220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Concurrent Resolution 29 (Irwin) – Engineers Week

Dear Assemblymember Irwin:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support ACR 29, which will declare the week of February 16th to February 22nd, 2025 as Engineers Week.

Counties rely on engineers to provide vital services, such as roads, water infrastructure, hospitals, county buildings, flood control structures, and other critical infrastructure that provides essential services to the public. Counties directly employ thousands of engineers and rely on thousands more in the private sector to deliver and manage the infrastructure projects that serve county residents and the people of the state.

Engineers shape our world by designing infrastructure, advancing technology, and driving innovation in healthcare, energy, and nearly every aspect of our daily lives. They create safer transportation, build sustainable communities, and provide support to crucial services that we rely on every day. The contributions of engineers are vital to California's success and help the state lead on innovation.

For these reasons, CSAC is proud to support ACR 29.

Sincerely,



Mark Neuburger

Legislative Advocate

California State Association of Counties

CSAC Officers

President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

1st Vice President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

2nd Vice President
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

Past President
Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County

CEO
Graham Knaus







DESERT WATER



February 26, 2025

The Honorable Monique Limón
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 72 (Caballero) The California Water Plan: long term supply targets - **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Limón,

The California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB), co-sponsors of SB 72 (Caballero), and the coalition of organizations above are pleased to support SB 72.

California is in a race against climate change which is pressured by multi-year droughts, floods, fires, and other intensifying climate change impacts. Consequently, there is an urgent need for California to develop aspirational targets that will complement and amplify Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy and extend beyond any single Administration. Given the extreme climate impacts of the 21st century, an expanding economy, a growing population, the anticipated reductions from existing water resources, and the controls on the use of groundwater, California needs to align the state's water supply strategy and policies with a target that will result in an adequate and reliable water supply for all beneficial uses including the environment, agriculture, the economy, and all Californians. Recent research estimates a shortfall in California's future water supply between 4.6 and 9 million acre-feet annually by 2050 if the state takes no action.

SB 72 will bring the fundamental changes that are necessary to ensure a sustainable water future. SB 72 will do the following:

- Transform water management in California taking us from a perpetual state of supply vulnerability to a reliable and sufficient water supply that is adequate for all beneficial uses, including urban, agriculture, and the environment.
- Create a new “North Star” water supply planning target for 2040 that the state will need to work toward, along with a process to develop a target for 2050.
- Preserve the California way of life, supplying water to our homes and communities, habitat and environment, recreation and tourism, and business and economic success.
- Support economic vitality for all businesses, from restaurants to technology companies, and employers that depend on a reliable water supply.
- Fulfill the generational responsibility to develop a water system that will adapt to changes in the environment and allow the state to thrive now and for future generations.

The California Water Plan is the strategic plan for managing and developing water resources for current and future generations in the state. SB 72 works within the structure of the current California Water Plan, which hasn’t been meaningfully updated for decades. SB 72 updates the California Water Plan for a 21st century climate.

For these reasons we urge your support for SB 72. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Andrea Abergel with CMUA at aabergel@cmua.org or (916) 841-4060.

Sincerely,

Andrea Abergel
Director of Water
California Municipal Utilities Association

Steve Lenton
General Manager
Bellflower Somerset Mutual Water Company

Graham Knaus
Executive Director
California State Association of Counties

Nicole Helms
Executive Director
California Alfalfa and Forage Association

Tim Carmichael
President/CEO
CCEEB

Todd W. Sanders
Executive Director
California Apple Commission

Debbie Murdock
Executive Director
Association of California Egg Farmers

Claudia Carter
Executive Director
California Association of Wheat Growers

Julia Bishop Hall
Senior Legislative Advocate
Association of California Water Agencies

Natalie Collins
President
California Association of Winegrape Growers

Adrian Covert
Senior VP, Public Policy
Bay Area Council

Jane Townsend
Executive Director
California Bean Shippers Association

Todd Sanders
Executive Director
California Blueberry Association

Dan Dunmoyer
President and CEO
California Building Industry Association

Kristopher Anderson
Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce

Roger Isom
President/CEO
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Assoc.

Alex Biering
Senior Policy Advocate
California Farm Bureau

Daniel Hartwig
President
California Fresh Fruit Association

Chris Zanobini
President/CEO
California Grain and Feed Association

Lance Hastings
President & CEO
California Manufacturers & Technology Assoc.

Chris Zanobini
Executive Director
California Pear Growers Association

Chris Zanobini
Executive Vice-President
California Seed Association

Ann Quinn
Executive Vice President
California State Floral Association

Robert Verloop
Executive Director/CEO
California Walnuts

Ann Quinn
Executive Vice President
California Warehouse Association

Sharron Zoller
President
California Women for Agriculture

Kristine McCaffrey
General Manager
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Tom Moody
General Manager
City of Corona

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor
City of Riverside

Elizabeth Espinosa
County of Riverside

J. M. Barrett
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District

John Bosler, P.E.
General Manager and CEO
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Mark Orcutt
President & CEO
East Bay Leadership Council

Joe Mouawad, P.E.
General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water District

Jim Abercrombie
General Manager
El Dorado Irrigation District

Greg Thomas
General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Joani Woelfel
President & CEO
Farwest Equipment Dealers Association

Joe Gagliardi
Chief Executive Officer
Folsom Chamber of Commerce

Jason Phillips
CEO
Friant Water Authority

Christopher Valdez
President
Grower-Shipper Association

Paul Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District

David Pedersen
General Manager
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Matt Hurley
General Manager
McMullin Area GSA

Paul Schoenberger, P.E.
General Manager
Mesa Water District

Kevin Abernathy
Manager
Milk Producers Council

Jimi Netniss
General Manager
Modesto Irrigation District

Justin Scott-Coe
General Manager
Monte Vista Water District

Patrick Ellis
ACE/ President/CEO
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce

John Kabateck
State Director
National Federation of Independent Business

Joanne Webster
Chief Executive Officer
North Bay Leadership Council

David Guy
Executive Director
Northern California Water Association

Todd Sanders
Executive Director
Olive Growers Council of California

Kim Thorner
General Manager
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Chris Zanobini
Executive Officer
Pacific Coast Renderers Association

Debbie Murdock
Executive Director
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association

Dennis LaMoreaux
General Manager
Palmdale Water District

Jason Martin
Interim General Manager
Rancho California Water District

Jon Switalski
Executive Director
Rebuild So-Cal Partnership

Tom Coleman
General Manager
Rowland Water District

Lisa Yamashita-Lopez
General Manager
Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association

Amanda Blackwood
President & CEO
Sac Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Miguel J. Guerrero
P.E. General Manager
San Bernardino Municipal Water Department

Heather Dyer
General Manager
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

Paul Helliker
General Manager
San Juan Water District

Matt Stone
General Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water District

Chris Lee
General Manager
Solano County Water Agency

Peter M. Rietkerk
General Manager
South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Eric McLeod
Chair
Southwest California Legislative Council

Justin M. Hopkins
General Manager
Stockton East Water District

Jeff R. Pape
General Manager
Temescal Valley Water District

Matthew Litchfield
General Manager
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Fernando Paludi
General Manager
Trabuco Canyon Water District

Brad Koehn
General Manager
Turlock Irrigation District

Kirti Mutatkar
President & CEO
United Ag

Vince Gin, P.E.
Deputy Operating Officer
Valley Water

Elizabeth Howard Espinosa
UCC Advocacy Team
Urban Counties of California

Bob Reeb
Executive Director
Valley Ag Water Coalition

Gary Arant
General Manager
Valley Center Municipal Water District

Erik Hutchman
P.E. General Manager
Walnut Valley Water District

E.J. Caldwell
General Manager
West Basin Municipal Water District

Valerie Pryor
General Manager
Zone 7 Water Agency

Roger Isom
President/CEO
Western Agricultural Processors Association

Dave Puglia
President & CEO
Western Growers

Sharon Haligan
Director, Administrative Services
Western Plant Health

Craig Miller
General Manager
Western Water

Norman Huff
General Manager
Camrosa Water District

Chris Berch
General Manager
Jurupa Community Services District

Brian R. Laddusaw
General Manager
Rubidoux Community Services District

James Prior
General Manager
San Gabriel County Water District

Jeff Mosher
General Manager
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Jose Martinez
General Manager
Valley County Water District

John Thiel
General Manager
West Valley Water District

Sarah Wiltfong
Director of Advocacy
BizFed Los Angeles County

Amber Bolden
Director of Communications
Black Voice News

Jeff Montejano
CEO
Building Industry Assoc. of Southern CA

Mandip Samra
General Manager
Burbank Water and Power

Melanie Barker
President
California Association of Realtors

Robert C. Lapsley
President
California Business Roundtable

Greg Johnson
President
California Farm Water Coalition

Julian Canete
President and CEO
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Jennifer Capitolo
Executive Director
California Water Association

Sheri Merrick
Executive Director
Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce

Jeremy Smith
Council Member
City of Canyon Lake

Joe Males
Mayor
City of Hemet

Natasha Johnson
Council Member
City of Lake Elsinore

Chris Barajas
Council Member
City of Jurupa Valley

Dr. Lisa DeForest
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Murrieta

Paul Leon
Mayor
City of Ontario

Daniel E. Garcia
Interim General Manager
City of Riverside Public Utilities

Connie Stopher
Executive Director
Economic Development Coalition

Ana Martin
Governmental Affairs Manager
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

Eric Keen
Chairman of Board of Directors
HDR Engineering

Jack Monger
CEO
Industrial Environmental Association

Wes Andree
Executive Director
Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center

Ana Martin
Staff Liaison
Monday Morning Group of Riverside

Judi Penman
President & CEO
San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce

Luis Portillo
President & CEO
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Aziz Amiri
CEO
San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

Adam Ruiz
Governmental Affairs Director
SRCAR

Molly Kirkland
Director of Public Affairs
Southern CA Rental Housing Association

Stephan Tucker
General Manager
Water Replenishment District

Steve Johnson
General Manager
Desert Water Agency

Erik Hitchman
Administrative Office
Puente Basin Water Agency

Melissa Sparks-Kranz, MPP
Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
League of California Cities

Dan Denham
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

David M. Merritt
General Manager
Kings River Conservation District

Steven Haugen
Watermaster
Kings River Water Association

Kat Wuelfing
General Manager
Mid-Peninsula Water District

Jennifer Pierre
General Manager
State Water Contractors

Mauricio Guardado
General Manager
United Water Conservation District

Robb Grantham
General Manager
Santa Margarita Water District

Harvey De La Torre
General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Charles Wilson
Executive Director
Southern California Water Coalition

Glenn Farrel
Executive Director
CalDesal

Casey Creamer
President
California Citrus Mutual

Tricia Geringer
Vice President of Government Affairs
Agricultural Council of California

John Urdi
Executive Director
Mammoth Lakes Tourism

Lacy Schoen
President/CEO
Brea Chamber of Commerce

Gina Molinaro-Cardera
Board Supervisor
Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Lance Eckhart
General Manager
San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Jim Ferrin
President
California Alliance for Golf

Jim Piefer
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority

Federico Barajas
Executive Director
San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority

Ernesto A. Avila
Board President
Contra Costa Water District



LEAGUE OF
CALIFORNIA
CITIES



February 26, 2025

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

Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire
1021 O Street, Ste. 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
1021 O Street, Ste. 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Budget Chair Scott Wiener
1021 O Street, Ste. 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Budget Chair Jesse Gabriel
1021 O Street, Ste. 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Budget Subcommittee 4 Chair
Chris Cabaldon
1021 O Street, Ste. 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5 Chair
Sharon Quirk-Silva
1021 O Street, Ste. 4210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Ongoing Funding to Address Homelessness in the 2025-2026 Budget

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore McGuire, Assembly Speaker Rivas, Senate Budget Chair Wiener, Assembly Budget Chair Gabriel, Senate Sub 4 Chair Cabaldon, and Assembly Sub 5 Chair Quirk-Silva:

Thank you for your commitment to addressing California's homelessness crisis. Unprecedented state investments under your leadership have helped tens of thousands of Californians—more Californians than ever before—exit homelessness, access shelter and supportive services, and connect to care. Thanks to the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program, between January 2023 and June 2024, our local communities connected over 225,000 Californians to shelter, services, and housing. Over 50,000 Californians exited homelessness for good during that period through permanent housing, thanks to HHAP. Your investment in this program has, in fact, allowed California to experience smaller increases in homelessness in 2023 and 2024 than the nation experienced as a whole.

However, California continues to undergo an unprecedented crisis in the number of Californians falling into homelessness. The state's Homeless Data Integration System shows over 187,000 Californians fell into homelessness in 2023. Though our communities are serving more people thanks to your investments, we are also seeing more people fall into homelessness than ever before. The natural disaster Los Angeles County recently faced has displaced tens of thousands of residents and decreased the region's housing stock. These events will certainly worsen this crisis and put greater pressure on the rental market in Los Angeles and surrounding counties and cities.

Ongoing funding for HHAP is needed to help us avoid an even greater crisis. The undersigned local government leaders, nonprofit service providers, advocates, and people directly impacted by homelessness request you take one step further by prioritizing **ongoing funding for housing and services solutions to address homelessness of at least \$1 billion per year for HHAP, along with a seventh round this fiscal year.**

While we recognize that difficult budget decisions need to be made this year, prioritizing ongoing funding for housing and homelessness will save people's lives. Indeed, [the Sacramento Bee](#) has estimated over 5,000 Californians die each year from causes directly attributable to homelessness. People experiencing homelessness die 25-30 years younger than their housed counterparts and suffer worsening chronic health conditions the longer they are on the streets or living in shelters, exacerbated by the inability to sleep, store medications, and be safe from victimization.

We greatly appreciate the steadfast commitment you have made to funding HHAP every year over the last six years. Yet, ongoing funding does matter and is far more effective than repeated one-time commitments. Ongoing funding would result in the following:

- (1) Allow local and state agencies to reduce administrative burden by forgoing annual applications, resulting in greater efficiency and more effort and investment in programs.
- (2) Provide a more reliable source of funding to allow service providers to build capacity, support our frontline workforce with greater stability, and dedicate funding to a more comprehensive response.
- (3) Promote funding for long-term housing interventions that are difficult, often impossible, to provide with one-time funding, such as rental assistance and operating funding for permanent housing, the only evidence-based solution to homelessness.
- (4) Permit our local governments to fund operating costs for interim and permanent housing and the vital services Californians with disabilities or barriers to housing stability need to access and maintain housing stability.
- (5) Address cliffs in operating and services funding multiple Homekey projects are now facing and will allow Homekey+ projects to become more viable as well.

Put quite simply, ongoing funding would transform HHAP into a more reliable, effective program that would allow local governments to achieve greater gains.

Solving homelessness will also require addressing our housing crisis through continued significant investments in building and preserving more affordable and supportive housing and increasing housing stability by helping individuals and families maintain their housing. Our homeless response systems,

meant to be emergency responses to a humanitarian crisis, cannot solve our long-term and growing affordable housing gaps. Given the number of people falling into homelessness, we must continue to invest in affordable housing, particularly for our lowest-income populations. For this reason, we urge you to prioritize meaningful funding for affordable housing through the FY 25-26 budget.

We understand that ongoing funding provides a critical accountability tool for all levels of government to ensure the best possible outcomes from HHAP dollars. We welcome continued conversations to ensure HHAP retains these meaningful accountability provisions.

We share a vision of a state in which all Californians have an affordable place to live and can access the services and care they need. Creating ongoing funding that is at least level with \$1 billion for HHAP would be a meaningful step towards realizing that future.

Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration.

Sincerely,



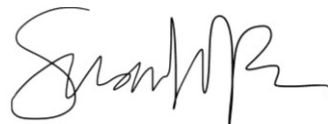
Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)



Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director & CEO
League of California Cities



Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor, City of Riverside
Chair, Big City Mayors



Susannah Parsons
All Home
On Behalf of Bring California Home

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, M.D.
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 7310
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dawn Addis
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 4260 – Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Budget Items: Request to Delay CCS Monitoring & Oversight Initiative

Dear Senator Weber Pierson and Assembly Member Addis:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, I write to respectfully request that the Legislature delay the upcoming July 1, 2025, implementation of the California Children's Services (CCS) County Monitoring & Oversight Initiative until DHCS provides adequate funding to address both existing and new responsibilities associated with operating our county CCS program on behalf of DHCS.

While the goals of the new CCS Monitoring & Oversight Initiative are commendable, we are concerned that the initiative adds a new series of requirements that counties will be unable to successfully implement and meet in the absence of adequate funding.

Counties remain committed to serving the state's most medically complex and vulnerable children and youth. We respectfully request a delay of the July 2025 implementation of the CCS Monitoring & Oversight Initiative until adequate funding is provided.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 591-5308 or jonodera@counties.org.

Sincerely,

CSAC Officers

President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

1st Vice President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

2nd Vice President
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

Past President
Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County

CEO
Graham Knaus

February 28, 2025

Page **2** of **2**



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate

CC : Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Elissa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Oigus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Patrick Le, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance (DOF)
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health & Human Services (CalHHS) Agency
Erica Pan, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of California



March 5, 2025

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 370 (Carrillo): California Public Records Act: cyberattacks
As Introduced February 3, 2025, – SUPPORT
Set to be heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee March 11, 2025

Dear Assemblymember Kalra,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and League of California Cities (Cal Cities) are pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB) 370 by Assemblymember Juan Carrillo. This bill would amend the definition of “unusual circumstances,” in the California Public Records Act (PRA) to include the inability of an agency to access its electronic servers due to a cyberattack.

The California Public Records Act serves as a vital tool for the public to hold their governments and elected leaders accountable. California’s public agencies take their responsibilities under the PRA seriously, devoting substantial resources to responding thoroughly and promptly to public records requests.

Public agencies at all levels of government have reported a significant increase in the quantity and breadth of PRA requests. A variety of public agencies reported a 73% increase in the volume of PRA requests over the past five years. A vast majority of those agencies reported receiving PRA requests that required an inordinate amount of staff time, with more than 90% reporting PRA requests that diverted local resources away from local programs and services.

These requests can be costly and time-consuming for local agencies, as they can require significant staff time to discover, review, and redact records, often requiring the specific subject matter experts on an issue to dedicate substantial time outside of their core responsibilities to ensure the agency fully responds to a PRA request. Counties have reported single PRA requests seeking decades of 911 call transcripts or decades of correspondence from local officials. One small, rural county reported a single requester who has submitted hundreds of PRA requests over the past few years, including a single request that required the county to review over 621,000 records. The county estimates that responding to a portion of the requests would cost the county over \$1.8 million and require a minimum of 34 employees working around the clock for a year to honor the request.

Furthermore, due to the modernization of how public sector work is conducted, there has been a significant increase in disclosable records (e.g., emails, text messages, inter-office direct chat messaging platforms, etc.) created by routine government work. In response, there has been a proportionate increase in the complexity and sophistication of the work necessary to respond to PRA requests due to the staff time spent searching for records and redacting material that is exempt or prohibited from disclosure (e.g., confidential attorney-client correspondence, social security numbers, criminal history, trade secrets, medical records, etc.).

The Honorable Ash Kalra

March 5, 2025

Page 2 of 3

The heightened use of the PRA – and the subsequent heightened impacts to governments – has occurred over the same period that saw local governments lose revenue sources that absorbed some of the cost pressures of PRA requests.

In 2014, California voters approved Proposition 42, which, among other provisions, amended the California constitution to discontinue the requirement that the State reimburse local governments for the cost to comply with PRA laws or any subsequent PRA laws enacted by the Legislature. Prior to Proposition 42, costs for local governments to comply with the PRA were a reimbursable state mandate for which local governments could file annual claims with the State Controller's Office.

In 2020, the California Supreme Court ruled that local agencies cannot charge for staff time and technical costs necessary to review, redact, and release public records in response to PRA requests, allowing fees to be used only for limited circumstances – including, for example, \$0.10 per page for physical copies, the cost of physical hardware used to transmit records, or the cost of data extraction. Agencies are not allowed to seek reimbursement for the significant costs that can be incurred for the time spent by legal counsel in reviewing and explaining the legality of a claim, exemptions, or redactions applicable to the request – or the staff time spent redacting private information from voluminous records requests.

AB 370 will provide some narrow, limited relief to counties when they receive PRA requests that are inaccessible due to a cyberattack. While other reforms to the PRA could both improve public access to records and reduce impacts on local agencies, we appreciate any effort to reform the PRA, including this narrow, but beneficial improvement.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC, RCRC, and Cal Cities support AB 370 and respectfully request your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Eric Lawyer
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
sdukett@rcrcnet.org



Johnnie Pina
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities
jpina@calcities.org

The Honorable Ash Kalra

March 5, 2025

Page 3 of 3

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



March 5, 2025

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O St., Ste. 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 370 (Carrillo): California Public Records Act: cyberattacks
As Introduced February 3, 2025, – SUPPORT
Set to be heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee March 11, 2025**

Dear Assemblymember Carrillo,

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The Honorable Juan Carrillo

March 5, 2025

Page 2 of 3

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For these reasons, CSAC, UCC, RCRC, and Cal Cities are proud to support your AB 370. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Eric Lawyer
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
sdukett@rcrcnet.org



Johnnie Pina
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities
jpina@calcities.org

The Honorable Juan Carrillo

March 5, 2025

Page 3 of 3

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Isaac Bryan,
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: AB 513 (Gonzalez): California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: scoping plan.
As Introduced: February 10, 2025—SUPPORT
Waiting to be heard in Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Dear Chair Bryan,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties, representing all 58 California Counties, I write to support AB 513 (Gonzalez), which would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to include the greenhouse gas emission generated from wildlands and forest fires in their state scoping plan.

CARB is required to establish a goal of reducing carbon emission across the state and develop a scoping plan that is to be updated every 5 years. The current framework for developing the scoping plan does not explicitly require the inclusion of emissions from all sources. CARB, while acknowledging the impact wildfires have on air quality and environmental health, have limited their scope to anthropogenic emission sources.

According to CARB's [Wildfire Emission Estimates for 2023 report](#), from 2020-2023, catastrophic wildfires resulting in billions of dollars in property damage and degradation of our wildlands generated upwards of 210 million metric tons of carbon dioxide and over 5,000 short tons of particulate matter. The severity of wildfires across the state has continued to intensify and impact human health. Allowing these emission sources in the scoping plan will increase cohesion in the pursuit of two of the state's major goals: reduce greenhouse gas emissions and better combat and prepare for wildfires.

To strengthen counties' disaster preparedness, CSAC advocates for CARB to include wildfire emissions in its Climate Scoping Plan. AB 513 aligns with CSAC's goal to enhance wildfire mitigation and prevention across the state and for this reason we request your AYE vote. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 662-6400 or cfreeman@counties.org.

CSAC Officers

President
Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

1st Vice President
Susan Ellenberg
Santa Clara County

2nd Vice President
Luis Alejo
Monterey County

Past President
Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County

CEO
Graham Knaus

The Honorable Isaac Bryan

March 6, 2025

Page **2** of **2**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Freeman", enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Catherine Freeman

Senior Legislative Advocate

California State Association of Counties

cc: The Honorable Jeff Gonzalez

Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Lawrence Lingbloom, Chief Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Gonzalez,
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4230
Sacramento, Ca 95814

**Re: AB 513 (Gonzalez): California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: scoping plan.
As Introduced: February 10, 2025—SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties, representing all 58 California Counties, I write to support Assembly Bill 513, which would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to include the greenhouse gas emission generated from wildlands and forest fires in their state scoping plan.

CARB is required to establish a goal of reducing carbon emission across the state and develop a scoping plan that is to be updated every 5 years. The current framework for developing the scoping plan does not explicitly require the inclusion of emissions from all sources. CARB, while acknowledging the impact wildfires have on air quality and environmental health, have limited their scope to anthropogenic emission sources.

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To strengthen counties' disaster preparedness, CSAC advocates for CARB to include wildfire emissions in its Climate Scoping Plan. AB 513 aligns with CSAC's goal to enhance wildfire mitigation and prevention across the state and for this reason we are in support of this critical measure. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 662-6400 or cfreeman@counties.org.

CSAC Officers

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Jeff Griffiths
Inyo County

1st Vice President
Susan Ellenberg
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Monterey County

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San Luis Obispo County

CEO
Graham Knaus

The Honorable Jeff Gonzalez

March 6, 2025

Page **2** of **2**

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Catherine Freeman

Senior Legislative Advocate

California State Association of Counties



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Santa Clara County

2nd Vice President

Luis Alejo
Monterey County

Past President

Bruce Gibson
San Luis Obispo County

CEO

Graham Knaus

March 6, 2025

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3220
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 72 (Caballero) – The California Water Plan: long term supply targets
As Amended: Senate March 5, 2025 - SPONSOR**

Dear Chairman Limón,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 California Counties, is pleased to co-sponsor and support SB 72 (Caballero). California must rethink planning for water supply. Counties are often the first responders when a community runs out of water due to drought or water supply disruption. CSAC supports efforts to focus the state's water supply planning across all sectors and strongly supports this piece of county disaster preparedness.

SB 72 will help achieve this goal by establishing in statute a long-term water supply target that the state can work toward as part of the California Water Plan and in partnership with local and regional water agencies and wastewater providers. This bill amplifies the Governor's recent "Water Supply Strategy" and ensures a water supply target will transcend any single Administration. SB 72 also modernizes the California Water Plan statutes to adapt to a 21st century climate. This legislation will move California from a mindset of managing scarcity to a future where there is truly sufficient water for all.

For these reasons, we support and CSAC is proud to co-sponsor SB 72. If you have any questions about our position, please contact me at 916-662-6400 or cfreeman@counties.org.

Sincerely,

Catherine Freeman
Senior Legislative Advocate



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SPONSORS - Senate Bill 496 (Hurtado): Advanced Clean Fleets

Senator Hurtado,

On behalf of the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), California State Associations of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and California Special Districts Association (CSDA), we are pleased to co-sponsor Senate Bill 496 which would ensure disaster service workers are able to effectively respond to emergency situations, create an Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Appeals Advisory Committee, and provide some much needed and common-sense reforms for compliance.

Local agencies are working diligently to reduce the carbon intensity of fleet operations while ensuring that they continue to provide the many critical services Californians rely upon for their most essential daily needs as well as their most trying times.

The ACF sets ambitious compliance deadlines for fleets to transition to an increasing proportion of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs). The ACF's ZEV transition requires access to adequate utility infrastructure for alternative fueling such as EV charging, as well as access to ZEVs that operationally can deliver the full spectrum of important and highly specialized services that fleets provide (many which are vital to the health and safety of Californians). While the ACF allows that fleets may request exemptions granting compliance flexibility in cases where, for reasons beyond their control, fleets cannot meet the compliance timetables, the ACF does not provide clarity on how such exemption requests are to be evaluated and decided upon, nor does it provide a process for any administrative review of exemption request denials by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

SB 496 establishes an Appeals Advisory Committee by which local agencies may request a review of exemption request denials. Allowing a formal appeals process ensures transparency while protecting due process for those seeking further review. In cases where a regulation allows for exemptions and extensions, best practices necessitate an appeals process. Such a process can be particularly helpful and impactful by offering clear and feasible pathways to compliance without diminishing CARB's authority as this Appeals Advisory Committee would only operate in an advisory role.

Additionally, SB 496 would update the emergency vehicle exemption, allowing those vehicles that respond to and support critical operations related to emergencies and disasters, often under austere conditions, to continue to protect our communities. Our front-line workers and the communities they

serve rely on vehicles that must be able to do the job the emergency dictates, even when the power is out. Especially given the rising toll of natural disasters in our state, we must prioritize the safety of our communities and the public servants that work around the clock through these unprecedented events.

SB 496 also modifies the requirements of the daily usage exemption, removing barriers for the applicant to comply with the mandate

Finally, this measure promotes affordability in the midst of rapidly rising cost pressures on essential local services by averting the costly acquisition of ZEVs before it is possible to install the infrastructure required to use them. The infrastructure needs to be in place before the vehicles can be purchased.

These improvements to the ACF will protect the health and safety of Californians, avoid unnecessary costs detrimental to our shared long-term goals, and ensure that local agencies can continue to work diligently to decarbonize their fleet operations and comply with the ACF without being penalized for factors beyond their control. For these reasons, Cal Cities, CSAC, RCRC, and CSDA are pleased to co-sponsor Senate Bill 496, and we urge the Legislature to approve this critical legislation. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact Damon Conklin at DConklin@calcities.org, Mark Neuburger at MNeuburger@counties.org, Staci Heaton at Sheaton@rcrcnet.org, and Anthony Tannehill at Anthonyt@csda.net.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Damon Conklin
League of California Cities



Mark Neuburger
California State Association of Counties



Staci Heaton
Rural County Representatives of California



Anthony J. Tannehill
California Special Districts Association

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, M.D.
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 7310
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dawn Addis
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 4265 – California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Budget Items: Future of Public Health & myCAvax

Dear Senator Weber Pierson and Assembly Member Addis:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, I write to respectfully provide input on key budget items of significant importance to county local health departments under the purview of the budget of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Future of Public Health

CSAC respectfully requests the Legislature sustain the critical Future of Public Health investment for local health department workforce and infrastructure included in the Governor's Budget proposal. Originally appropriated through the 2022 Budget Act, the Future of Public Health has been a critical investment in California's public health readiness and response to existing and emerging public threats. Local health departments have hired over 1,100 staff positions using these funds, leading to strengthened local programs, services, and partnerships to reduce health disparities.

California Vaccine Management System (myCAvax)

CSAC respectfully requests that the Legislature provide \$44 million ongoing General Fund for the California Vaccine Management System, also known as myCAvax. The myCAvax system was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to streamline and improve the administration and management of vaccine distribution in our state. It connects CDPH,

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Graham Knaus

March 5, 2025

Page **2** of **3**

local health departments, and providers, including hospitals and clinics, with tools and functionality.

The Governor's January Budget proposal does not include funding beyond June 30, 2025, for this system. In the absence of support for this system, counties are concerned about negative impacts to program efficiency and effectiveness, and the significant workload impacts for local health departments statewide. Starting July 1, 2025, health care providers, the state, and local health departments will return to using spreadsheets and manual calls to track vaccines distributed to providers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these requests. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 591-5308 or jonodera@counties.org.

Sincerely,



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate

CC : Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
 Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
 Elissa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
 Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
 Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
 Patrick Le, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
 Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
 Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
 Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
 Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
 Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance (DOF)
 Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
 Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health & Human Services (CalHHS) Agency
 Erica Pan, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of
California

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February 24, 2025

Re: Protect Safety Net Programs from Reconciliation Cuts

Dear California Congressional Delegation Member:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) urges you to oppose any budget reconciliation package that cuts funding for essential safety net programs that serve millions of California residents. CSAC represents the county supervisors responsible for serving local communities through a broad range of vital programs and services and committed to doing so in a manner that helps ensure the health and wellbeing of our residents. Our members are committed to serving vulnerable populations, including children and families in poverty, seniors and disabled individuals, and those in need of shelter. Our goal is to ensure that these families and individuals receive the necessary benefits for which they are eligible to provide stability and help put them on the road to self-sufficiency.

As you know, significant cuts to a wide range of mandatory safety net programs are under consideration as part of this year's budget reconciliation process. While we understand the need for fiscal discipline at all levels of government and the need to examine federal spending, we are deeply concerned by current proposals to make significant cuts to key programs, including at least \$880 billion in cuts over 10 years to Medicaid (Medi-Cal), \$230 billion in cuts over 10 years to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh), and a 10 percent reduction in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/CalWORKs) block grant. In the face of these significant cuts, the state would need to backfill billions of dollars to maintain services, potentially jeopardizing these programs, limiting their impact, and passing costs along to county governments.

Medicaid is a vital federal-state-local intergovernmental partnership safeguarding the health and wellbeing of millions of residents. California counties help finance and administer this program, which serves approximately one in three Californians, including more than five million children. California's 2024-2025 budget projects federal funding to account for \$98 billion of the total \$161 billion in Medi-Cal, or 61 percent. Cuts to Medicaid of the magnitude under discussion—whether through structural changes to its financing, reduced federal reimbursement rates, or new eligibility restrictions—would increase costs for the state and counties while leading to millions losing health care coverage if states do not backfill the loss of federal funding.

Similarly, SNAP is a strong and effective tool in the fight against hunger and poverty in California. Serving more than five million California residents in 2024 – 14 percent of the state population – SNAP provided more than \$12 billion in federal benefits redeemed at more than 28,800 retailers across the state. It is vital that the federal government maintain its partnership with the state and counties in funding this critical program, which primarily

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benefits families with children and individuals living below the federal poverty line. We oppose changes to SNAP that would reduce participation among eligible households, cut benefits, further shift costs to the state, or impose costly and unnecessary administrative requirements on the county agencies tasked with delivering the program.

California counties are also responsible for administering the TANF program, which serves 825,000 residents, 73 percent of whom are children. California is one of five states selected to pilot new, innovative metrics for TANF work and education outcomes under the bipartisan *Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023*. While our members have long called for substantive changes to TANF to modernize the program, we urge any reforms to take place in a bipartisan fashion that allows this critical resource to best meet the needs of local communities. In California, TANF primarily supports cash assistance, work activities, supportive services, child care and other programs that help vulnerable families meet their basic needs and eventually move towards self-sufficiency. Given the fact that counties contribute significant funds towards the state's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements, it is critically important that the federal government continue to pay its full share of TANF expenditures, which was \$3.6 billion in FY 2023. We urge you to protect TANF from funding cuts or programmatic changes aimed at reducing access to the program, particularly as the FRA pilots are being launched.

Cuts to these vital safety net programs would have ripple effects, leading to increased healthcare costs, higher unemployment, greater interactions with law enforcement, and rising homelessness. In addition, if the state requires counties to keep funding these services without providing alternate funding, counties would be forced to cut spending elsewhere – such as public safety, parks, and county initiatives to address homelessness. We ask you to protect these essential programs to help us preserve the well-being and stability of millions of Californians.

If you have questions about our positions, please have your staff contact Tom Joseph and Rachel Mackey, Washington Representatives for CSAC, at tj@paragonlobbying.com and rm@paragonlobbying.com.

Sincerely,



Graham Knaus
Chief Executive Officer
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

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Graham Knaus



January 8, 2024

The Honorable Damon Connolly
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1 (Connolly) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Introduced December 2, 2024)*

Dear Assemblymember Connolly,

On behalf of the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) we are pleased to **support** your bill AB 1, which would require the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to consider whether to update the Safer from Wildfire regulations to include home hardening in the regulations on or before January 1, 2030.

California has the highest wildfire risk in the US. In recent years, the state has experienced a growing number of highly destructive wildfires due to climate change and over a century of logging and fire suppression. The devastating impacts of these wildfires have led to a state-wide insurance crisis, characterized by insurance price hikes, coverage withdrawals, and instability.

In an effort to save lives, protect property and address the insurance crisis, California has prioritized efforts to prevent wildfires and reduce their severity. Additionally, home and property owners are investing in home hardening and defensible space to reduce the risk of loss due to wildfires and thereby lower the cost of wildfire disasters for communities, governments, and insurers. To support these activities, California has made significant investments in recent years through the state budget. Since 2017, the state has committed more than \$3.6 billion in investments in forest treatment alone.

Although California is making unprecedented investments in wildfire resilience, and local governments and homeowners are investing in home hardening and maintaining defensible space, the current proposed regulations by CDI only briefly mention home hardening and do not incorporate the wildfire risk reduction benefits of these activities in relation to rates. The failure to account for the risk reduction benefits of these activities contributes to non-renewals of insurance and insurers' decisions not to write new insurance for homes facing wildfire risk. At the same time, homeowners are denied



the benefits associated with the investments that have been made in hazardous fuel reduction, home hardening, and defensible space.

AB 1 would help to address the insurance crisis by improving the availability of insurance coverage for Californians.

For these reasons, our organizations **support AB 1**. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Jolena Voorhis (Cal Cities) at jvoorhis@calcities.org, Staci Heaton (RCRC) at sheaton@rcrcnet.org, Catherine Freeman (CSAC) at cfreeman@counties.org, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton".

Staci Heaton
Senior Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Freeman".

Catherine Freeman
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of
Counties

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jolena Voorhis".

Jolena Voorhis
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities

cc: Members, Assembly Insurance Committee
Kathleen O'Malley, Chief Consultant, Assembly Insurance Committee
Tim Conaghan, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



January 14, 2024

The Honorable Mike Fong
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Ste. 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Wildfires Impacting Southern California & Water Supply Management

Dear Assemblymember Fong:

On behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we recognize the immense devastation Southern California is experiencing caused by the recent wildfires. ACWA represents around 470 public water agencies throughout California that deliver over 90% of the water used for agricultural, commercial, and residential purposes. CSAC represents all 58 California counties.

Our organizations have been very engaged on these catastrophic wildfires in Southern California and have members that are on the forefront of emergency response. Our organizations are also actively engaged in retail water agency responsibilities and abilities to combat wildfires in the wildland urban interface. As you may receive questions from your constituents on this issue and might have questions yourself, our organizations are available as a resource for information and can help connect you with the appropriate staff of our members. If you have any questions, please contact those below.

Sincerely,

Julia Bishop Hall
State Legislative Director
Association of California Water Agencies
Phone: (530) 902-9746
Email: juliah@acwa.com

Catherine Freeman
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
Phone: (916) 662-6400
Email: cfreeman@counties.org



March 5, 2025

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 370 (Carrillo): California Public Records Act: cyberattacks
As Introduced February 3, 2025, – SUPPORT
Set to be heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee March 11, 2025

Dear Assemblymember Kalra,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and League of California Cities (Cal Cities) are pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB) 370 by Assemblymember Juan Carrillo. This bill would amend the definition of “unusual circumstances,” in the California Public Records Act (PRA) to include the inability of an agency to access its electronic servers due to a cyberattack.

The California Public Records Act serves as a vital tool for the public to hold their governments and elected leaders accountable. California’s public agencies take their responsibilities under the PRA seriously, devoting substantial resources to responding thoroughly and promptly to public records requests.

Public agencies at all levels of government have reported a significant increase in the quantity and breadth of PRA requests. A variety of public agencies reported a 73% increase in the volume of PRA requests over the past five years. A vast majority of those agencies reported receiving PRA requests that required an inordinate amount of staff time, with more than 90% reporting PRA requests that diverted local resources away from local programs and services.

These requests can be costly and time-consuming for local agencies, as they can require significant staff time to discover, review, and redact records, often requiring the specific subject matter experts on an issue to dedicate substantial time outside of their core responsibilities to ensure the agency fully responds to a PRA request. Counties have reported single PRA requests seeking decades of 911 call transcripts or decades of correspondence from local officials. One small, rural county reported a single requester who has submitted hundreds of PRA requests over the past few years, including a single request that required the county to review over 621,000 records. The county estimates that responding to a portion of the requests would cost the county over \$1.8 million and require a minimum of 34 employees working around the clock for a year to honor the request.

Furthermore, due to the modernization of how public sector work is conducted, there has been a significant increase in disclosable records (e.g., emails, text messages, inter-office direct chat messaging platforms, etc.) created by routine government work. In response, there has been a proportionate increase in the complexity and sophistication of the work necessary to respond to PRA requests due to the staff time spent searching for records and redacting material that is exempt or prohibited from disclosure (e.g., confidential attorney-client correspondence, social security numbers, criminal history, trade secrets, medical records, etc.).

The Honorable Ash Kalra

March 5, 2025

Page 2 of 3

The heightened use of the PRA – and the subsequent heightened impacts to governments – has occurred over the same period that saw local governments lose revenue sources that absorbed some of the cost pressures of PRA requests.

In 2014, California voters approved Proposition 42, which, among other provisions, amended the California constitution to discontinue the requirement that the State reimburse local governments for the cost to comply with PRA laws or any subsequent PRA laws enacted by the Legislature. Prior to Proposition 42, costs for local governments to comply with the PRA were a reimbursable state mandate for which local governments could file annual claims with the State Controller's Office.

In 2020, the California Supreme Court ruled that local agencies cannot charge for staff time and technical costs necessary to review, redact, and release public records in response to PRA requests, allowing fees to be used only for limited circumstances – including, for example, \$0.10 per page for physical copies, the cost of physical hardware used to transmit records, or the cost of data extraction. Agencies are not allowed to seek reimbursement for the significant costs that can be incurred for the time spent by legal counsel in reviewing and explaining the legality of a claim, exemptions, or redactions applicable to the request – or the staff time spent redacting private information from voluminous records requests.

AB 370 will provide some narrow, limited relief to counties when they receive PRA requests that are inaccessible due to a cyberattack. While other reforms to the PRA could both improve public access to records and reduce impacts on local agencies, we appreciate any effort to reform the PRA, including this narrow, but beneficial improvement.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC, RCRC, and Cal Cities support AB 370 and respectfully request your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Eric Lawyer
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
sdukett@rcrcnet.org



Johnnie Pina
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities
jpina@calcities.org

The Honorable Ash Kalra

March 5, 2025

Page 3 of 3

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



March 5, 2025

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O St., Ste. 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 370 (Carrillo): California Public Records Act: cyberattacks
As Introduced February 3, 2025, – SUPPORT
Set to be heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee March 11, 2025**

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The Honorable Juan Carrillo

March 5, 2025

Page 2 of 3

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For these reasons, CSAC, UCC, RCRC, and Cal Cities are proud to support your AB 370. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Eric Lawyer
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
elawyer@counties.org



Jean Kinney Hurst
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Sarah Dukett
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Johnnie Pina
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
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The Honorable Juan Carrillo

March 5, 2025

Page 3 of 3

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



February 20, 2025

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

Re: **AB 418 (Wilson): Property taxation: tax-defaulted property**
As introduced 2/5/25 – SUPPORT
Awaiting hearing – Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee

Dear Assembly Member Wilson:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our support for your Assembly Bill 418, a measure that preserves the ability of California counties to utilize Chapter 8 sales of tax-defaulted properties. These sales are used to dispose of challenging properties or to facilitate the development of affordable housing or other local agency uses; AB 418 ensures that the owners of such properties are able to participate in an administrative process if they disagree with the tax sale value established by the tax collector and proposed for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

This important measure seeks to address the 2023 Supreme Court decision *Tyler v Hennepin County, Minnesota*, in which the plaintiff's constitutional rights were violated when Hennepin County auctioned her tax-defaulted property to satisfy the delinquent property tax debt of \$15,000. The property sold for \$40,000 and the County kept the remaining \$25,000 in excess proceeds without first affording the plaintiff the opportunity to file a claim for the excess proceeds. The Court found that the taking of the excess proceeds violated the Takings Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment.

Unlike the laws in Minnesota, California's laws require that if a property is sold at a tax auction, any proceeds from the auction that remain after all delinquencies are paid are then made available to parties of interest (i.e. the owner) of that property, and those parties have one year to file a claim for those excess proceeds. Under current law, a county is prohibited from depriving a property owner of their excess proceeds without first providing public notice and certified mailing to the last known address, notifying the owner of the existence of excess proceeds and of the one-year timeframe to file a claim.

In California, there are thousands of tax-defaulted properties that hold little to no value or otherwise present specific or unusual challenges to dispose of through a traditional tax auction. Using a Chapter 8 tax sale process to dispose of such properties can make the most sense for the local agency and for the property owner. AB 418 outlines a procedure by which California's county tax collectors will utilize during the Chapter 8 sale process to ensure that the property is disposed of in a manner that is transparent and affords property owners an administrative remedy if the property owner disputes the price set at a Chapter 8 tax sale. These additional steps, which include a hearing before the Board of Supervisors where a party of interest may present evidence to dispute the tax sale price, offers an administrative process for property owners, while preserving the tax collector's informed discretion to utilize available options to manage those properties for which appraisals are not financially feasible.

AB 418 ensures that counties can effectively conduct Chapter 8 sales without the threat of litigation and Public Records Act requests that have recently been associated with these sales. As a result, our associations strongly support this measure to address the uncertainty that currently exists and resolve this issue in a manner that ensures fairness and efficiency.

We appreciate your authorship of this important measure.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: The Honorable Mike Gipson, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
Members, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians



February 12, 2025

To: The Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

Honorable Members
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

The Honorable Dr. Corey A. Jackson
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2

Honorable Members
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2

From: Carlos Marquez, Executive Director, CWDA
Tiffany Whiten, Senior Government Relations Advocate, SEIU
Justin Garrett, Senior Legislative Advocate, CSAC
Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Legislative Representative, UCC
Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, RCRC

**RE: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY
TO KIDS (CALWORKS): RIGHTSIZE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING**

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) respectfully request an additional one-time \$245 million total funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 and updates to the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) administrative budget methodology effective FY 2026-27 for county administration of the CalWORKs program to address critical and persistent underfunding of CalWORKs program operations. This funding and update to the administrative budget methodology is necessary to 1) ensure adequate resources for county administration of the CalWORKs program to serve families in need of and entitled to CalWORKs, 2) provide services to help families overcome barriers of employment, 3) prevent county staff from being forced to reduce contact with CalWORKs clients who access employment services at a time when some may eschew access to public benefits out of fear of immigration implications for their undocumented family members, and 4) ensure that the state's participation in the Work and Family Well-Being federal pilot, in which counties are at the forefront in carrying out the work, will be successful.

CalWORKs is Essential to Supporting Children and Families in Deep Poverty: The CalWORKs program provides temporary cash assistance, education, employment, and supportive services to over 650,000 children and their families, assisting families' basic needs and progress towards self-sufficiency. California leads the nation as a model for how to leverage the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to not just support children and families in deep poverty, but to provide them lasting benefits by improving families' well-being, self-sufficiency, and outcomes. County human services agencies are at the forefront in administering the CalWORKs program on behalf of the state, from providing eligibility determination and case management, to services and supports to help families overcome barriers to employment.

County CalWORKs Administration State Budget Methodology is Flawed: CalWORKs administrative and services funding is provided in an annual Single Allocation to counties for administration of the program. The Single Allocation is largely comprised of two major components: 1) the Eligibility component, which provides counties funding to process CalWORKs applications, redetermine eligibility, and maintain cases to ensure families receive timely financial support, crucial for meeting basic needs; and 2) the Employment Services component, which provides counties funding to provide services and supports to clients in Welfare-to-Work activities, case management, and job-related supports. Moreover, the Single Allocation is fungible, meaning counties can shift funds between the allocation components as needed.

The Single Allocation budget methodology, and specifically the eligibility component, was last updated in FY 2018-19. Despite the rebase, the methodology did not fully fund the workload associated with the full volume of applications and did not provide for annual inflation adjustments, a particular problem when inflation and labor costs have been growing so rapidly. Funding for the eligibility component of the Single Allocation has fallen behind, with counties forced to overspend the statewide eligibility allocation in the past four years and instead redirect employment services funding to cover for eligibility overspending. In the most recent fiscal year, FY 2023-24, counties overspent eligibility funding by \$245 million, which resulted in the redirection of 20-percent of total employment services funding to cover for the overspending in eligibility. Had the eligibility allocation been fully funded in FY 2023-24 and employment services funding levels remained intact, funding would have gone to support CalWORKs adult recipients in obtaining and maintaining employment through services such as job preparation activities, training programs (e.g., certificate/credential programs), educational support (e.g., GED attainment or college degree programs), and supportive services (e.g., childcare, transportation). This ultimately aids families in gaining economic independence.

The 2022 Budget Act included trailer bill language requiring the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to work with CWDA and counties to reassess the budget methodology for eligibility administration of the Single Allocation every three years, beginning with the 2024-25 fiscal year. This reassessment work occurred during FY 2023-24 and resulted in the estimation that an additional \$209.1 million is needed to update for costs associated with certain components of eligibility administration: \$160.3 million to update the worker cost and \$48.8 million to fund the workload associated with all applications. We note these estimates were based on worker cost data from

Calendar Year 2023, and the gap the reassessment identified is likely to grow as worker costs increase. Despite the acknowledgement of underfunding in CalWORKs eligibility administration by the Administration through its reassessment work with CWDA, as highlighted in the 2024-25 May Revision, funding was neither provided in the 2024 Budget Act nor proposed in this year's budget.

Underfunding in the Eligibility Component of the Single Allocation Affects Employment Services

Funding: Counties are required by state and federal mandates to perform eligibility activities within a specified amount of time, but these same time constraints do not apply to employment services. Consequently, given the underlying methodology limitations and the underfunding in the eligibility administration component, counties have had to redirect funding from employment services to backfill for the overspending in eligibility. Counties' ability to provide essential support – the linkages to services and the follow through to ensure that families' needs are being met – is significantly undermined. Such services and supports include, but are not limited to, credit recovery services, which play a pivotal role in facilitating access to housing and employment; legal services which remove barriers to education, employment, and career advancement; and other tangible supports that assist with educational and employment attainment such as books, uniforms, other supplies, and transportation.

Underfunding in the Eligibility Component of the Single Allocation Compromises the State's

Participation in the Work and Family Well-Being Federal Pilot (FRA): California is one of five states in the nation to be selected for the FRA pilot to evaluate alternatives to the work participation rate (WPR). The pilot allows the state to focus the CalWORKs program on employment retention, family stability, and well-being, rather than the current federal WPR. During the six-year pilot, states will not be held accountable to the standard WPR; instead, they will focus on performance metrics such as employment rates, earnings post-TANF, and other indicators emphasizing family stability. County human services agencies are excited and invested in carrying out the pilot. A decade ago, CWDA was proud to commission the brain and behavioral science that led to the launch of CalWORKs 2.0, an evidence-based, trauma-informed initiative that proved more efficacious than the prevailing punitive, compliance-based approach from which the pilot is granting California a temporary reprieve. Additionally, the pilot will build on the state's existing data-driven, family centered program management system called California CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (or CalOAR), which was a joint county and state effort.

Implementation of the pilot is currently planned for October 1, 2025, and will require counties, who are at the forefront in carrying out the work, to effectuate new processes and program updates to engage families, so the pilot can be successful. While the details of the pilot will be determined in the coming months, the pilot will require significant staff resources and operational capacity. To effectively implement the pilot, including providing services and meeting performance outcomes, counties cannot be forced to divert funding away from employment services. It is essential that underfunding for eligibility administration be addressed so counties can fully maximize their employment services funding to implement the changes needed for a successful pilot.

Underfunding in the Eligibility Component of the Single Allocation Compromises Counties' Capacity to Allay Immigration Fears Among Mixed Household Families Through Frequent Contact:

Additionally, continued diversion of employment services funding may hobble the ability of workers to maintain frequent contact with CalWORKs clients at a time when, in the case of mixed-status households, some may choose to eschew access to public benefits out of fear of immigration implications for their undocumented family members.

Proposed Solutions – Funding Patch and Ongoing Right-Size of CalWORKs Administration Budget Methodology:

- We request inclusion of **one-time \$245 million in the FY 2025-2026 budget** to make counties whole for the underfunding of the Single Allocation. This request aligns with the eligibility overspending from FY 2023-24, based on actual county expenditures that are unaccounted for in the current budget methodology. This amount would allow counties in the short-term to meet their mandated eligibility workload as well as ensure access to services and supports that help families overcome barriers to employment.
- In addition, we request the Administration **update the Single Allocation methodology for the eligibility component beginning FY 2026-27 and ongoing** to reflect the true costs of eligibility workload. The methodology should be grounded in the reassessment completed by CDSS in FY 2023-24, which determined eligibility administration costs of specified components in the current budget methodology were underbudgeted by nearly \$210 million total funds. We note this estimate is subject to change on an annual basis based on more recent worker cost data.

Together, the one-time funding patch and adoption of the updated methodology will allow counties to serve families in need of and entitled to CalWORKs without jeopardizing counties' ability to provide services to help families overcome barriers of employment, and for counties to effectively implement the FRA pilot that cultivates and demonstrates a family centered CalWORKs program.

For these reasons, we urge your support for this request.

Sincerely,

Carlos Marquez, Executive Director
County Welfare Directors Association

Tiffany Whiten, Senior Gov. Relations Advocate
Service Employees International Union

Justin Garrett, Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Legislative Representative
Urban Counties of California

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Cc: Chris Woods, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Jason Sisney, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Elizabeth Schmitt, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Committee on Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal
Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Megan DeSousa, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Eric Dietz, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Ginni Bella Navarre, Legislative Analyst's Office
Richard Figueroa, Office of the Governor
Paula Villescaz, Office of the Governor
Kim Johnson, Health and Human Services Agency
Corrin Buchanan, Health and Human Services Agency
Jennifer Troia, California Department of Social Services
Kris Cook, HHS, Department of Finance



February 20, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 346 (Durazo): Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator**
As introduced – 2/12/25
Awaiting hearing – Senate Local Government Committee

Dear Senator Durazo:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our support for your Senate Bill 346, a measure that will strengthen local tools to ensure compliance with local ordinances regarding the collection and remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT) applicable to short-term rentals.

Regrettably, the application of local TOT ordinances and collection and remittance of taxes is inconsistent and often simply avoided, even when voluntary collection agreements are entered into. Because local agencies do not have access to the address or any other personally identifiable information for listed properties, even under voluntary collection agreements, cities and counties are in the untenable position of choosing between collecting some taxes without this critical information and trusting that it is accurately collected, or trying to pursue collection directly from property owners, which is a time- and cost-intensive process that may or may not result in a fair application of local laws.

By authorizing a local agency to require the short-term rental facilitator to report, in the form and manner prescribed by the local agency, the assessor parcel number of each short-term rental listed on the site, along with any locally-required permit number, SB 346 will increase TOT compliance and ensure that local agencies are appropriately collecting tax revenue from those that are lawfully licensed short-term rental properties. Further, such authority will assist local agencies in ensuring that TOT obligations are consistent among other short-term stay facilities, like hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts, and that those

that profit from short-term rental properties are no longer able to obfuscate their location and therefore their tax obligations.

SB 346 is a much-needed effort to modernize California statute and provide local agencies with the tools needed to fairly and effectively apply existing laws to evolving technologies. As a result, we are strongly supportive of SB 346 and appreciate your leadership on this important local issue.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Emma Jungwirth
Senior Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Local Government Committee
Ben Triffo, League of California Cities
Karen Lange, California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors