August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 122 (Jackson)

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request you signature on Senate Bill 122 (Jackson) California Environmental Quality Act: record of proceedings. This bill would allow a lead agency, upon request of a project applicant, to prepare the record of proceeding concurrently with the administrative process. It would also provide a public database of all environmental documents and notices required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and improve the efficiency of public comments.

The Santa Barbara County 2016 Legislative Platform, adopted by the Board of Supervisors, includes the principle of Efficient Service Delivery. The principle supports efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements. For these reasons, Santa Barbara County respectfully urges you to sign SB 122.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Joseph Toney, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara
August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2729 (Williams) – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 2729 (Williams) Oil and gas: operations. AB 2729 creates disincentives for operators to maintain large numbers of idle wells and will ensure that funds are available for remediation actions.

This bill will redefine idle wells as those that have not been in use for 6 months and creates a definition for long-term idle wells as those that have been idle for 5 years or more. In addition, AB 2729 will do the following: increase idle well fees to create a stronger incentive to plug and abandon long-term idle wells, will remove the larger blanket super-bond exemptions for idle well fees, increases the initial bond fee and requires the bond to remain in place until operation has ceased and the well has been plugged, and proposes an alternative to paying idle well fees if the owner commits to an aggressive plan to reduce their inventory of long term idle wells.

There are over a thousand idle wells within Santa Barbara County. Idle wells pose significant public health concerns and a threat to groundwater. Many idle wells are near homes, agriculture, and sources of drinking water. Without proper usage or maintenance, wells can crack or disintegrate allowing contaminants such as uranium, lead, iron, selenium, sulfates and radon to leak into groundwater sources. Idle wells can also leak methane, a greenhouse gas, if improperly maintained.

Furthermore, the Santa Barbara County 2016 Legislative Platform advocates for these actions in the Oil Research & Infrastructure plank. For these reasons, Santa Barbara County respectfully urges you to sign AB 2729. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Joseph Toney, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara
August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 741 (Williams) – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 741 (Williams) Mental health: community care facilities. This bill expands the definition of Social Rehabilitation Facility to include children, thereby creating a category of licensing in state statute for children’s crisis residential services.

AB741 is aimed at addressing a critical component missing in the continuum of specialty mental health services for children and youth in California - children’s crisis residential services. This legislation would create the needed licensing category to ensure that counties and their community-based providers have the ability to develop crisis residential programs with an appropriate licensing category, to ensure children and youth access mental health services that are responsive to their individual needs and strengths in a timely manner, and consistent with the requirements of the Medi-Cal Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) program standards and requirements.

The Santa Barbara County 2016 Legislative Platform, adopted by the Board of Supervisors, includes the principle of Health & Humans Services to support efforts to maintain and enhance “safety net” services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including children. The principle supports the effort to increase timely access and levels of crisis care services for children and youth within the County.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County respectfully urges you to sign AB 741. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams
    Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Joseph Toney, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara
August 17, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1853 (Cooper)**

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request a veto on Assembly Bill 1853 (Cooper) County employees’ retirement: districts: retirement system governance, which would allow any retirement system under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) to elect to be independent districts by a simple vote by the Board of Retirement and assume specified responsibilities related to county employees.

This bill would reduce local control by allowing retirement systems operating under CERL to operate independently from its respective county without any input from the county Board of Supervisors. Retirement systems under CERL can currently modify their operating structure by pursuing legislation for the change and allows for public input. The new bill would bypass this process and remove public and local input. Furthermore, without local control and oversight by the Board of Supervisors for hiring, pay, and benefits of employees will result in increased administrative costs for the retirement systems.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County respectfully urges you to veto AB 1853. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates

cc: Assemblymember Jim Cooper, Author
    Michael Martinez, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
August 17, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1564 (Williams)

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1564 (Williams) Emergency services: wireless 911 calls: routing. AB 1564 will improve the efficiency of the 9-1-1 system by ensuring calls from a cell phone are routed to a local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) instead of the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Currently, 9-1-1 cell phone are first routed to CHP dispatch and then rerouted locally. The goal of the bill is to have calls be more appropriately routed to County or City PSAPs first. The change would allow for faster response times for first responders. Routing calls directly to local jurisdictions will save time and make emergency response more efficient not only locally but across the State. The result will be improved lifesaving outcomes.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County respectfully urges you to sign AB 1564. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Legislative Advocate
Governmental Advocates

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams, Author
Tom Dyer, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Joseph Toney, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara
August 17, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1229 (Jackson)

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 1229 (Jackson) Home-generated pharmaceutical waste: secure drug take-back bins, which would establish a duty of care for pharmacies that host drug take-back bins.

Prescription and over the counter drugs that are left over from treatment or have expired are an increasing problem. These drugs have been used recreationally and/or they are ending up in water systems impacting the environment and our water supply.

Santa Barbara County has explored the extent of this problem and in our community. In May of 2015, our Board received a report on the harmful impact of unused medications. On October 6, 2015, the Board received a report on local stakeholder outreach on this issue. The Board directed the Public Health Department to draft an extended producer responsibility ordinance for a sustainable and convenient program for the safe disposal of unused household medications in Santa Barbara County. This item will be coming before the Board soon. Passage of SB1229 will make the disposal of medications, including opioids and other controlled substances, easier and more convenient while helping to reduce the misuse of medication and the rise in overdoses deaths.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County respectfully urges you to sign SB 1229. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Legislative Advocate
Governmental Advocates

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Author
    Graciela Castillo-Krings, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
July 11, 2016

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1825 (Gordon) Vicious dogs: definition – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to support Assembly Bill 1825 (Gordon) Vicious dogs: definition. AB 1825 will provide more local control and allow shelters to follow best practices to assess dogs.

Current law mandates that the label of “vicious dog” be automatically applied to dogs seized under code Section 599aa which states “any dog seized under Section 599aa of the Penal Code and upon the sustaining of a conviction of the owner or keeper under subdivision (a) of Section 597.5 of the Penal Code.” This rule means that there is no flexibility for local shelters to assess the actual status of the dog, and even a puppy could be labeled “vicious.” The proposed legislation will remove this requirement from the law.

Many dogs seized under the penal code, such as from a breeder that is connected to animal fighting, do not pose a risk and are perfectly safe for future adoption. The legislation will protect dogs related to the penal code and give them a better opportunity to live a safe and healthy life.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County respectfully urges you to sign AB 1825. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsfb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Daniel Seeman, Deputy Legislative Secretary
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
August 2, 2015

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 741 (Williams) Mental Health: Community Care Facilities – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Ricardo Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate their support for Assembly Bill 741 (Williams) Mental health: community care facilities. This bill expands the definition of Social Rehabilitation Facility to include children, thereby creating a category of licensing in state statute for children’s crisis residential services.

AB741 is aimed at addressing a critical component missing in the continuum of specialty mental health services for children and youth in California - children’s crisis residential services. This legislation would create the needed licensing category to ensure that counties and their community-based providers have the ability to develop crisis residential programs with an appropriate licensing category, to ensure children and youth access mental health services that are responsive to their individual needs and strengths in a timely manner, and consistent with the requirements of the Medi-Cal Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) program standards and requirements.

The Santa Barbara County 2016 Legislative Platform, adopted by the Board of Supervisors, includes the principle of Health & Humans Services to support efforts to maintain and enhance “safety net” services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including children. The principle supports the effort to increase timely access and levels of crisis care services for children and youth within the County.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 741.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams, Author
    Members, Senate Appropriation Committee
    Brendan McCarthy, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
    Peter Anderson, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
August 3, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2501 (Bloom) Housing: density bonuses – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Ricardo Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose Assembly Bill 2501 (Bloom) Housing: density bonuses which would significantly modify density bonus law.

This bill would reduce local control by restricting information that local jurisdictions can request from developers and imposes shorter timelines for review and approval of density bonus applications. The intent of density bonus law is to encourage developers, through incentives and waivers, to provide a certain percentage of affordable units. Density bonus law has been amended and actions have changed into a path for developers to receive exemptions from important zoning, development standards, and design standards while providing only minimal affordable housing in return. AB 2501 would further erode the law by requiring counties to take action on a density bonus application no later than 60 days from date of application or deemed approved.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes AB 2501. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates

cc: Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Author
    Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
    Mark McKenzie, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
    Doug Yoakam, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
RE:  AB 2729 (Williams) Oil and gas: operations– SUPPORT

Dear Senator Ricardo Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to support Assembly Bill 2729 (Williams) Oil and gas: operations. AB 2729 creates disincentives for operators to maintain large numbers of idle wells and will ensure that funds are available for remediation actions.

This bill will redefine idle wells as those that have not been in use for 6 months and creates a definition for long-term idle wells as those that have been idle for 5 years or more. In addition, AB 2729 will do the following: increase idle well fees to create a stronger incentive to plug and abandon long-term idle wells, will remove the larger blanket super-bond exemptions for idle well fees, increases the initial bond fee and requires the bond to remain in place until operation has ceased and the well has been plugged, and proposes an alternative to paying idle well fees if the owner commits to an aggressive plan to reduce their inventory of long term idle wells.

There are over a thousand idle wells within Santa Barbara County. Idle wells pose significant public health concerns and a threat to groundwater. Many idle wells are near homes, agriculture, and sources of drinking water. Without proper usage or maintenance, wells can crack or disintegrate allowing contaminants such as uranium, lead, iron, selenium, sulfates and radon to leak into groundwater sources. Idle wells can also leak methane, a greenhouse gas, if improperly maintained.

Furthermore, the Santa Barbara County 2016 Legislative Platform advocates for these actions in the Oil Research & Infrastructure plank. For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 2729. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams, Author
    Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
    Narisha Bonakdar, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
    Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
August 3, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2616 (Burke) California Coastal Commission: environmental justice – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Ricardo Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose Assembly Bill 2616 - California Coastal Commission: environmental justice.

This bill would add three additional Coastal Commission Members to work directly on issues with communities that are most burdened by, and vulnerable to, high levels of pollution and issues of environmental justice. The County of Santa Barbara supports the current balance between public appointees and elected representatives. Furthermore, the County firmly considers the Commission’s ongoing purpose is to uphold access to the coast, work on issues of environmental justice, and always consider disadvantaged communities when deciding on land use issues in the coastal zone. The County does not believe nor support that the Commission should be adding commissioners for specific purposes of which the Commission should already be handling.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes AB 2616. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg  
Governmental Advocates

cc: Assemblymember Autumn Burke, Author  
Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Narisha Bonakdar, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
July 21, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1564 (Williams) Emergency services: wireless 911 calls: routing—SUPPORT

Dear Senator Ricardo Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to support Assembly Bill 1564 (Williams) Emergency services: wireless 911 calls: routing. AB 1564 will improve the efficiency of the 9-1-1 system by ensuring calls from a cell phone are routed to a local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) instead of the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Currently, 9-1-1 cell phone are first routed to CHP dispatch and then rerouted locally. The goal of the bill is to have calls be more appropriately routed to County or City PSAPs first. The change would allow for faster response times for first responders. Routing calls directly to local jurisdictions will save time and make emergency response more efficient not only locally but across the State. The result will be improved lifesaving outcomes.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 1564. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Legislative Advocate
Governmental Advocates

cc: Assemblymember Das Williams, Author
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Narisha Bonakdar, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Kerry Yoshida, Republican Consultant
Joseph Toney, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara
June 23, 2016

The Honorable Richard Pan, Chair
Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 1853 (Cooper) County employees’ retirement: districts: retirement system governance – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Pan:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose Assembly Bill 1853 (Cooper) County employees’ retirement: districts: retirement system governance, which would allow any retirement system under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) to elect to be independent districts by a simple vote by the Board of Retirement and assume specified responsibilities related to county employees.

This bill would reduce local control by allowing retirement systems operating under CERL to operate independently from its respective county without any input from the county Board of Supervisors. Retirement systems under CERL can currently modify their operating structure by pursuing legislation for the change and allows for public input. The new bill would bypass this process and remove public and local input. Furthermore, without local control and oversight by the Board of Supervisors for hiring, pay, and benefits of employees will result in increased administrative costs for the retirement systems.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes AB 1853. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates

cc:
Assemblymember Jim Cooper, Author
Members, Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Pamela Schneider, Consultant, Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Scott Chavez, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
June 23, 2016

The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1618 (Committee on Budget) No Place Like Home Program: Establishment – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Mark Leno:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose the “No Place Like Home” initiative.

The County agrees there is a significant need statewide for safe and stable housing for homeless individuals. However, this initiative will limit local control, and serve to eliminate current direct service funding by removing previously allocated Proposition 63 dollars. The initiative would repurpose and divert Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to finance up to $2.0 billion worth of bonds for counties to build and retrofit supportive housing for mentally ill and chronically homeless. The initiative subsequently requires competition for this previously allocated funding. The change has the potential to redirect $1.4 million from Santa Barbara County annually to a competitive grant program to build housing. Finally, there will be a dramatic increase of funding needs in order to maintain individuals in housing intensive and robust services, yet there is no provision in the initiative to directly fund these services.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes No Place Like Home. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates

cc:
Senate President pro Tem Kevin de Leon
Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Farra Bracht, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Kirk Feely and Joe Parra, Consultants, Senate Republican Caucus
Joseph Toney, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Jim Beall, Chair
Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 2501 (Bloom) Housing: density bonuses – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Beall:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose Assembly Bill 2501 (Bloom) Housing: density bonuses which would significantly modify density bonus law.

This bill would reduce local control by restricting information that local jurisdictions can request from developers and imposes shorter timelines for review and approval of density bonus applications. The intent of density bonus law is to encourage developers, through incentives and waivers, to provide a certain percentage of affordable units. Density bonus law has been amended and actions have changed into a path for developers to receive exemptions from important zoning, development standards, and design standards while providing only minimal affordable housing in return. AB 2501 would further erode the law by requiring counties to take action on a density bonus application no later than 60 days from date of application or deemed approved.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes AB 2501. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates

cc: Members of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
   Alison Dinmore, Consultant, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
   Doug Yoakam, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
   Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
   Joseph Toney, County of Santa Barbara Legislative Coordinator
June 13, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Transportation Infrastructure Funding – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate our support for fully funding transportation infrastructure.

The County adopted and sent a resolution to your office expressing the need and priority for sustainable infrastructure funding (enclosed). We believe that local cities and counties need the commitment of the State to ensure fully sustainable funding is identified. The Special Session has produced AB 1591 (Frazier) and SBX1 1 (Beall) that offer options for funding. The County does not have a preference on these bills, but strongly supports any plan that fully funds infrastructure and expects the State and your office to find a solution.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsfb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Enclosure: 
Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara

cc: Senator Jim Beall, 15th Senate District  
Assemblymember Jim Frazier, 11th Assembly District  
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District  
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates  
Kiana Valentine, California State Association of Counties
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE )
TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND )
SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STATE AND )
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION )
INFRASTRUCTURE ) RESOLUTION NO. 16-126

WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. has called an extraordinary session to address the immense underfunding of California’s transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties own and operate more than 81 percent of streets and roads in California, and from the moment we open our front door to drive to work, bike to school, or walk to the bus station, people are dependent upon a safe, reliable local transportation network; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara has participated in efforts with the California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities, and California’s Regional Transportation Planning Agencies to study unmet funding needs for local roads and bridges, including sidewalks and other essential components; and

WHEREAS, the resulting 2014 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment, which provides critical analysis and information on the local transportation network’s condition and funding needs, indicates that the condition of the local transportation network is deteriorating as predicted in the initial 2008 study; and

WHEREAS, the results show that California’s local streets and roads are on a path of significant decline. On a scale of zero (failed) to 100 (excellent), the statewide average pavement condition index (PCI) is 66, placing it in the “at risk” category where pavements will begin to deteriorate much more rapidly and require rehabilitation or rebuilding rather than more cost-effective preventive maintenance if funding is not increased; and

WHEREAS, the results show that the unincorporated County of Santa Barbara’s local streets have a statewide average pavement index of 59 in FY2016-17; and

WHEREAS, if funding remains at the current levels, in 10 years, 25 percent of local streets and roads in California will be in a “failed” condition; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties need an additional $1.7 billion just to maintain a status quo pavement condition of 66 statewide, and much more revenue to operate the system with Best Management Practices, which would reduce the total amount of funding needed for maintenance in the future; and
RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
Page 2 of 4

WHEREAS, models show that an additional $3 billion annual investment in the local streets and roads system is expected to improve pavement conditions statewide from an average “at risk” condition to an average “good” condition; and

WHEREAS, if additional funding cannot be secured now, it will cost taxpayers twice as much to fix the local system in the future, and will increase unmet funding needs for local transportation facilities by $11 billion in five years and $21 billion in ten years; and

WHEREAS, modernizing the local street and road system provides well-paying construction jobs and boosts local economies; and

WHEREAS, the local street and road system is also critical for farm to market needs, interconnectivity, multimodal needs, active transportation and commerce; and

WHEREAS, police, fire, and emergency medical services all need safe reliable roads to react quickly to emergency calls and a few minutes of delay can be a matter of life and death; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and preserving the local street and road system in good condition will reduce drive times and traffic congestion, improve bicycle safety, and make the pedestrian experience safer and more appealing, which leads to reduced vehicle emissions helping the State achieve its air quality and greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals; and

WHEREAS, restoring roads before they fail also reduces construction time which results in less air pollution from heavy equipment and less water pollution from site run-off; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA strongly urges the Governor and Legislature to dedicate an adequate and sustainable funding source for local roads and state highway maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure the safe and efficient mobility of the traveling public and the economic vitality of California.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA strongly urges the Governor and Legislature to adopt the following priorities for funding California’s streets and roads:

1. **Make a significant additional investment in transportation infrastructure.**
   California should commit at least an additional $6 billion annually for maintenance of transportation infrastructure; funding should remain in place for at least 10 years or until an alternative method of funding our transportation system is agreed upon.

2. **Focus on maintaining and rehabilitating the current system.**
   Repairing California’s local streets and highways involves much more than fixing potholes. It requires major road pavement overlays, fixing unsafe bridges, providing safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians, replacing storm water culverts, as well as operational...
RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE
TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND
SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STATE AND
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
Page 3 of 4

improvements that necessitate the construction of auxiliary lanes to relieve traffic congestion
choke points and fixing design deficiencies that have created unsafe merging and other traffic
hazards.

3. **Equal split between state and local projects.**
   We support sharing revenue for roadway maintenance equally (50/50) between the state and
cities and counties, given the equally-pressing funding needs of both systems, as well as the
longstanding historical precedent for collecting transportation user fees through a centralized
system and sharing the revenues across the entire network through direct subventions.
Ensuring that funding to local governments is provided directly, without intermediaries, will
accelerate project delivery and ensure maximum accountability.

4. **Strong accountability requirements to protect the taxpayers’ investments.**
Californians want assurances the government will responsibly spend transportation revenue.
Local governments are accustomed to employing transparent processes for selecting road
maintenance projects using pavement management systems, as well as reporting expenditures
of transportation funds through the State Controller’s Local Streets and Roads Annual
Report.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara County, State
of California, on this **17** day of **May**, 2016, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Supervisor Carbajal, Supervisor Wolf, Supervisor Farr,
Supervisor Adam, Supervisor Lazagnino

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ATTEST:**
MONA MIYASATO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By: **Lenzi**
Deputy Clerk

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

By: **Peter Adam, Chair**
Board of Supervisors
RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE 
TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND 
SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STATE AND 
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Page 4 of 4

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI 
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: 
Deputy County Counsel
June 13, 2016

The Honorable Kevin de León
Senator, 24th District
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: No Place Like Home initiative – OPPOSE

Dear President pro Tempore de León:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose the "No Place Like Home" initiative.

The County agrees there is a significant need statewide for safe and stable housing for homeless individuals. However, this initiative will limit local control, and serve to eliminate current direct service funding by removing previously allocated Proposition 63 dollars. The initiative would repurpose and divert Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to finance up to $2.0 billion worth of bonds for counties to build and retrofit supportive housing for mentally ill and chronically homeless. The initiative subsequently requires competition for this previously allocated funding. The change has the potential to redirect $1.4 million from Santa Barbara County annually to a competitive grant program to build housing. Finally, there will be a dramatic increase of funding needs in order to maintain individuals in housing intensive and robust services, yet there is no provision in the initiative to directly fund these services.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes No Place Like Home. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assembleynmember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assembleynmember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Farrah McDaid Ting, California State Association of Counties
June 13, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX No.: (916) 558-3160

RE: By-Right Housing proposal – OPPOSE

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose the “By-Right” housing proposal. The County agrees there is a significant need statewide for affordable housing. However, this proposal will result in a significant loss of local control, and an undetermined increase in costs to the County to establish the permitting and planning process.

The current proposal would expedite the affordable home building process and potentially waive the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. The new process may not ensure that potential hazards caused by the project are entirely mitigated. Furthermore, the proposal includes unreasonable time restrictions on local governments to complete project reviews and to making findings of consistency with general plans and zoning standards. If the local government fails to provide a written explanation why a project is inconsistent within thirty days, then the project is deemed consistent and eligible for by-right approval.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes the “By-Right” housing proposal. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Kiana Valentine, California State Association of Counties
June 13, 2016

The Honorable Autumn Burke
Assemblymember, 62nd District
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Room 5158
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 2616 California Coastal Commission: environmental justice – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Burke:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose Assembly Bill 2616 - California Coastal Commission: environmental justice. This bill would add three additional Coastal Commission Members to work directly on issues with communities that are most burdened by, and vulnerable to, high levels of pollution and issues of environmental justice. The County of Santa Barbara supports the current balance between public appointees and elected representatives. Furthermore, the County firmly considers the Commission’s ongoing purpose is to uphold access to the coast, work on issues of environmental justice, and always consider disadvantaged communities when deciding on land use issues in the coastal zone. The County does not believe nor support that the Commission should be adding commissioners for specific purposes of which the Commission should already be handling.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes AB 2616. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsfb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Cara Martinson, California State Association of Counties